

Sign of breakdown of capitalist system

Reveal biggest banks in serious financial trouble

1,200 march in New York to cries of 'Victory to People's Angola! U.S. out!'



See centerfold

The news that two of the largest banks in the U.S., Chase Manhattan and First National City, have piled up so many bad debts that they are under investigation by a Senate committee attempting to determine their over-all financial stability has delivered a frightening shock to the Wall Street money men. "An unhealthy trend for a capitalist economy," observed a nervous Time magazine (January 26), adding, "Chase in the third quarter reported earnings a stunning 56 percent below those of the 1974 period."

□ In an article headlined "Big Banks: How Solid?" Newsweek moaned that the revelations concerning "inadequate capital and sharp increases in questionable loans" at the second and third biggest banks in the country are "enough to send shivers across the country."

MOST BANK FAILURES IN 35 YEARS

The facts are serious enough. There were more bank failures in this country last year than at any time since 1941. And the seven most powerful New York banks have lost \$737 million in bad debts in 1975, up 350 percent over 1974.

Since the banks, under capitalism, stand at the very center of society itself, centralizing everything in their hands as agents of the fusion between industrial monopolies, high finance, and the State, one can see that the banks' problems

● What 'recovery'? ● Hard Times Conference Page 4

are not theirs alone, but a sign that the entire system is beginning to crack.

But hold it! Before anyone gets out a crying towel to commiserate with David Rockefeller and Walter Wriston, the respective chairmen of Chase and First National City, we should remember that as the heads of multi-billion-dollar institutions they will never face the kind of poverty and hardship their capitalist system has inflicted on the tens of millions of working poor and unemployed.

On the contrary, it is unlikely that a bank like First National City, with its assets of \$57 billion, will actually go bankrupt. That's not the real problem that the men in the plush board rooms are worried about. Their concern is how to find a way to unload all the uncollectable debts now owed to them for monies loaned out during the heady period of capitalist expansion between the end of World War II and the collapse of their imperialist adventure in Indochina.

(Continued on page 8)

INDEX

Vol. 18, No. 4
Jan. 23, 1976

THE STRUGGLE IN BRIEF

NY hit on strikebreaking

By DEBORAH JOHNSON
ROCHESTER, N.Y., Jan. 13—Today a busload of 50 striking workers from four area nursing homes took their struggle to the State Capitol in Albany.

The State Department of Health recently rejected a request to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates to the Lakeshore Nursing Home. Lakeshore was the first home to be struck, on November 3, by members of Local 1199, National Union of Hospital & Health Care Employees. This increase would have covered the costs of a tentative contract and ended the strike.

It's true that Robert Hurlbut, the millionaire owner of the struck homes, could well afford to pay for the contract himself. But the strikers realize that the state government has lined up solidly on the side of Hurlbut. Its recent actions,

if unchallenged, could set a dangerous precedent of overt state assistance in strike-breaking. After hours of meetings and a rally on the Capitol steps, the strikers won a promise from the Health Department to review their previously final decision.

With the financial problems of New York City on the way to being "solved" to the satisfaction of the bankers through massive layoffs and service cutbacks, the same billion-dollar banks are now pressuring the state government to adopt similar cutbacks. As in New York City, it is the most basic and necessary services which are being hardest hit, including care for the elderly. Governor Carey has announced budget plans which include a freeze on all Medicaid reimbursement rates for nursing homes, giving minimum wage workers no hope for a living wage

and patients no hope for better care.

But the state's refusal to increase Medicaid rates to settle the Lakeshore strike isn't a question of the state having no money. The cost to the state of prolonging the strike is greater than it would be to have it settled by increasing the rates. Many elderly Medicaid patients who could be in nursing homes are in hospitals because of the shortage of nursing home beds since the strikes began. Daily hospital costs are four to five times greater than nursing home costs.

When the state announced it wouldn't increase the Medicaid rate, it also said it was considering reimbursing the owners for the costs of the strike. The owners say that the strike has cost them up to

\$300,000 so far. The union estimates that the cost of the new contract would be \$100,000 for a year.

The message to all nursing home owners is clear. Medicaid will find the money to subsidize strike-breaking, but not a penny for decent wages and patient care.

The struggle of the nursing home workers here for a decent contract against both the state government and owner Hurlbut is part of a growing struggle of working and poor people throughout New York State against anti-labor, anti-human budget cutbacks. People who are being told constantly to economize, to "bite the bullet," can well understand the message on one of the placards at the Capitol-steps rally: "How do you tighten your belts on \$2.30 an hour?"

Make U.S. pay reparations to Vietnam!

By LESLIE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, Jan. 17—The Vietnam War is over. But few people will forget the infamous threat made by Col. Curtis Lemay against Vietnam. "We should bomb them back into the Stone Age!" summed up the strategy of U.S. imperialism.

True to their word, the Pentagon war machine sent wave after wave of B-52 bombers to Vietnam. They dropped the equivalent explosive power of 500 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs on that small country, or 40 tons per square mile.

Defoliants so damaged vegetation in Vietnam that it will take an estimated 100 years to return to normal. Operation Ranch Hand so devastated millions of acres of crops with the spread of deadly poisons that even now Vietnamese children are reaping birth defects from the horrible chemical bombs.

At the diplomatic table in Paris, the U.S. appeared to be "gentlemen." They made a promise, recorded in the Paris Peace Accords, to pay war reparations for the almost inconceivable damage.

To date, the U.S. has not paid a cent.

Because of this "oversight" on the part of U.S. Imperialism, a committee of progressive people has been formed who remember the debt. Here in New York, the Friendshipment Committee include Friends of Indochina, Lower East Side Mobilization for Political Action, Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Youth Against War & Fascism, Fight Back, and the Guardian.

The committee has called an important demonstration on January 27, anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords, to put pressure on the U.S. to pay its debt. The demonstration is called for noon in front of the Veterans' Administration Building at 24th Street and 7th Avenue in New York City.

The Vietnamese need funds to continue the reconstruction of their war-devastated country. But no one will forget that the debt of 250,000 children burned to death by napalm, 2 million murdered Vietnamese, and 50,000 U.S. war dead, can never be repaid.

For more information, call Friendshipment at (212) 777-2509.



Thousands of women and men march and rally in Atlanta for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. WW photo: Tom G.

3,000 in Georgia ERA march

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 10—Shouts of "Equal rights, equal pay! Ratify the ERA!" resounded through the streets of downtown Atlanta today. Over 3,000 women and men marched together to demand passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and to tell those in power that 200 years is more than enough time to wait for women's equality!

Georgians for the Equal Rights Amendment were the main organizers for this demonstration and of two previous pro-ERA marches here in 1974 and 1975. The size of the actions has doubled every year, indicating the growing support in the South for the women's rights struggle.

Women assembled here in

Atlanta from throughout Georgia and the entire Southeast. Banners and signs were carried reflecting support from several area unions, students groups, lesbians, women's organizations, airline stewardesses, and political groups.

A spirited rally at the State Capitol followed the march. Among the speakers were Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force of NOW, Kate Millett, State Senator Julian Bond, Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson, and the President of Local 1644 of AFSCME, the public employees' union here.

The organizers of the march pledged to continue their efforts until the Georgia Legislature approves the Equal Rights Amendment.

Women assembled here in

workers world
weekly newspaper

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Jan. 23, 1976

DECLINE AND FALL

OIL MONEY RESTORES SLAVE CULTURE

Buffalo Evening News, Oct. 24:

"In a bow to Old World Charm which you can hardly find any more, many socially prominent and financially dazzling families in New Orleans are spending millions restoring old mansions in the French Quarter.

"Harold and Mathilda Stream, for instance, have assembled a complex of houses so stunning and authentic—down to the last doorknob—and of such beauty and elegance that architects come from all over to inspect the lacy grillwork and admire the ravishing coral-colored buildings.

"The staff maintaining the enclave is slightly staggering, and includes round-the-clock uniformed guards. The Streams oc-

cupy their French Quarter quarters only during the high social season in the spring when hostesses received in ante-bellum costumes in their candle-lit courtyards, and tradition-bound natives travel from house to house in horse-drawn carriages. If you're going to do it, do it.

"Money seems to be no problem in the rejuvenation of New Orleans—not when you take account of the resurgence of colossal wealth from the off-shore oil industry. It's so nice to have some oil around the house."

SOARING SENATORS

New York Post, Dec. 16:

"The Defense Department spent \$106,543 during the first nine months of the year using military jets to fly Senators and Congressmen to their home districts.

"... Chairman John C. Stennis of the

Senate Armed Services Committee authorized 14 trips between Washington and his home state for himself, his wife and personal aides—a cost to taxpayers of \$42,463.

"These big guys can get a plane whenever they want it," said one high Pentagon official. "If Stennis calls up and says, 'It's a nice week-end to go South,' what do you say? Say no? That's a quick way to lose a few bucks from your budget."

COKE FOR THE HUNGRY

Associated Press, Nov. 13:

"France's health minister told a UN conference yesterday that unhealthy Western staples—soda pops and canned food—are spoiling the diets of the poorer nations."

HUAC ALIVE & SPENDING MONEY

Jack Anderson's Column, Nov. 7:

"The infamous House Un-American

Activities Committee, whose witch hunts terrorized Washington in the 1940's, simply won't let go of the public purse strings.

"This was the committee that made Richard Nixon, as a young communist-hunter, a national figure. But ... the committee became badly discredited.

"At first, its members merely changed the name to the House Internal Security Committee and dressed it in sheep's clothing. But this didn't fool the public. So the House voted last January to disband the committee altogether.

"The dethroned chairman, Richard Ichord, D-Mo., urged Peter Rodino, D-N.J., to absorb the entire staff into his own fold and to carry out the investigations.

"After months of haggling, Rodino agreed to retain eight of the subversive hunters. This will cost the taxpayers \$140,244 a year.

"What the Un-American Activities Committee really considers un-American, apparently, is cutting off their public funds."

Georgia welfare recipients:

'We're tired of the rich men's politicians'



Angry welfare recipients and supporters in Atlanta protest Georgia's proposed cuts in welfare payments which would "take the food out of our children's mouths!" WW photo: Tom G.

By JIM MCMAHAN

ATLANTA, Jan. 13—Over 150 angry welfare recipients marched on the State Capitol here today demanding an end to Georgia's drastic new welfare cutbacks. The demonstrators marched through the downtown streets of Atlanta to the gold-domed Capitol building chanting "They say cut back, we say fight back!" and "Stop the war against the poor!"

Meanwhile, on the inside, in his State of the State address, Governor George Busbee ("the bankers' buddy") called for nearly \$10 million to be cut from the already meager budget of the Department of Human Resources which administers the state's welfare program. The state has already forced starvation on thousands by limiting Aid to Families with Dependent Children to a maximum of \$32 per person each month. The national average is \$65 each.

As the marchers began their rally on the Capitol steps, the governor further displayed his

callousness toward the poor. Several of his aides ordered the lawn sprinklers turned on the already wet ground so that they drenched several elderly women sitting on the edge of the rally.

At the rally, Ms. Ethel Mathews, a leader in the Atlanta chapter of the National Welfare Rights Organization which called today's action, warned Governor Busbee and the legislators against continuing their war on the poor. She told the marchers, "We've picked cotton, scrubbed floors for 'Miss Ann,' worked hard all of our lives, and we're tired of these rich men's politicians trying to take the food out of our children's mouths!"

Mary Hougland of the Georgia Clearinghouse on Prisons and Jails told the marchers, "The only place this state makes for the poor is those warehouses they call prisons. They never put the rich in prison. But they'll throw poor people in those slave labor jobs at the county work camps and prisons, rather than give us decent jobs at good pay on the outside!"

The marchers were joined at the Capitol by members of the Georgia Poverty Rights Organization who had travelled from Waycross, Tifton, Columbus, and Augusta to lobby and rally against the cuts. One speaker called for an action at the Masters pro golf tournament in Augusta to dramatize the plight of the poor in Georgia to the whole nation.

Ms. Mathews closed the militant rally by pledging that the Welfare Rights Organization would continue to stay in the streets and march until justice is won for the poor and working people of Georgia, both Black and white.

State unable to break co-op strikers

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Jan. 20—Co-op City management has stepped up its strong-arm tactics against striking tenants by massive cuts in services, new injunctions, mounting fines, and threats of foreclosure.

Over 85 percent of the tenants at the 300-acre complex have been withholding rents since last June when management suddenly announced a 25 percent increase in carrying charges retroactive to April.

MANAGEMENT BACKS DOWN ON LOWERING HEAT

On January 8, the New York State Division of Housing voted drastic reductions in maintenance, heat, hot water, and corridor lighting in an effort to break the back of the tenant strike.

However, it was management that had to back down on the question of lowering temperatures, after angry tenants vowed to hold a funeral for the first elderly victim of the cuts in heat—inside the Housing Commissioner's office.

According to Johnny Rogers, a Co-op City resident, the Housing Division has already laid off about 200 workers. "They've also cut services more than 46 percent in order to get even with us for striking," he said.

Rogers told Workers World that another particularly vicious tactic of the Housing Division has been to get injunctions against the more than 800 resident floor captains who collect the rent for the strike fund.

"GESTAPO TACTICS"

Co-op City strikers have denounced the "gestapo" methods in which the injunctions—issued by the Bronx Supreme Court to stop rent collections—were delivered.

According to Ben Cirlin, a tenant who was photographing Housing Division agents delivering the injunctions, he was accosted by one of the agents who threatened, "...if I took another picture of him, he would wrap my camera around my neck. He sounded like he meant it."

Co-op City Steering Committee Chairman Charles Rosen said the actions of the deliverers of the injunction represent "sheer intimidation carried out by liars and sneaks."

HARASSMENT ON TOP OF HARASSMENT

The injunctions were just the latest in a series of fines slapped on leaders of the tenants' strike over the last month. These fines range from \$5,000 a day against individual steering committee members to a lump sum of \$250,000 against the steering committee as a whole.

In addition, the Housing Commission, which currently operates Co-op City, successfully petitioned the courts for a freeze on steering committee members' bank accounts, meaning that funds can be deposited but not withdrawn.

Charging that the courts are working "in concert to bankrupt our families," Rosen said the decision for the freeze, coming on top of the ruling demanding the turnover of the rent checks, "smells like a conspiracy."

In a recent mailgram sent to New York State Gov. Hugh Carey, the tenants charged, "The corruption-tainted Bronx courts have ruled the strike illegal and our leaders are in contempt of politically appointed judges who placed onerous fines of over \$750,000 on working people."

TENANTS WIN ANOTHER ROUND

Although Con Edison had ominously announced it would begin proceedings to cut off electricity by mid-January to the 15,000 residents who live in the development, tenant militancy forced the power company to change its original position of refusing payments directly from the tenants. Negotiations between the tenants and Con Ed are currently underway.

The state had refused to pay the utility bills because it said doing so represented "a preference of

creditors." Of course, the creditors that the Housing Commission is watching out for are the powerful bondholders like First National City, other banks, and insurance companies who want to make sure they get their \$19.8 million in mortgage payments due.

Throughout the Co-op City tenants' struggle it has become

increasingly clear that the courts are functioning as an intermediary for the profit-hungry bankers and businessmen, who care nothing for the welfare of the tenants.

The militancy of the tenants in the face of the fines, injunctions, and cutbacks should be an inspiration to every tenant in New York City and across the country.

'Safety' issue used to harass Chicago cabbies

By a member of DUOC Local 777 CHICAGO, Jan. 12—Cabdrivers here are awaiting instructions on renewing their public chauffeurs' licenses for 1976, with bitterness and worry.

New and stringent regulations require 20-20 corrected vision (over-the-road truck drivers are allowed 20-40), hearing tests, and a geography test insisting on a tour-guide knowledge of the city. Many competent and experienced drivers fear the loss of their jobs.

The anger and bitterness come in the wake of a vicious publicity campaign that has painted a picture of cabdrivers as "criminals" involved in murder and drugs. Currently licensed drivers face revocation of their licenses if it turns out they have a record for felony arrests. This campaign has the stench of City Hall racism as many of these drivers are Black and Latino.

"SAFETY"—DRIVERS REALLY WANT IT

What angers the drivers all the more is that all this is supposed to bring "safety" into the cab industry. This has raised quite a few hairs on the heads of drivers who maneuver old dilapidated taxis on the city's streets.

Checker Taxi Company maintains control of and ownership in Yellow Cab Company. Together they operate 3,666 of the city's 5,000

cabs. Any driver for these companies can tell of cabs lacking side and rear view mirrors, holes in the floorboard due to corrosion, bald tires, squeaky brakes, and dozens of other mechanical difficulties. City regulations prohibit the operation of defective cabs and cabs over 3 years old. But a spot check of any Yellow or Checker garage would reveal many violations.

Not too long ago I spoke to a Checker driver who had been hired only a week before. He had had an "accident" the day before. His brakes stopped working. Several damaged cars later, and quite shook up, he came to a stop. He was fortunate, since there was no serious injuries.

Complaints to garage managers often bring counter-charges of low productivity, or the refrain, "Take it out today—I'll give you something better tomorrow."

CONTRACT RIGHTS

Safety is indeed a sore issue among drivers who are expected to make a living in moving death traps. Concern for safety has led drivers to return junk cabs to the garage and refuse the assignment of such cabs. This is possible due to provisions in the union (Democratic Union Organizing Committee Local 777) contract establishing a safety committee and stipulating that an "operable

cab" is one that meets all legal regulations.

While hundreds or even thousands of cabdrivers face a jobless future in a city with an unemployment rate of over 11 percent, the companies are going through a weak-kneed "crack-down" that won't contribute significantly to job safety—and certainly won't affect their profits which is what both the cab companies and the city machine understand best.

To date, "letters have been sent to the presidents of Checker Taxi Co. and Yellow Cab Co. asking them to examine meters on their fleets to determine whether they are recording fair prices," according to Terry Hocin, an assistant commissioner for the Department of Consumer Sales, Weights, and Measures.

Also sometime this month, a visual check of all cabs is planned over a period of 5 days in Soldier Field to verify that a cab exists for each license issued.

Such ineffectual measures amount to a high-level cover-up of the taxi companies' negligence in the area of safety. Punitive measures, such as heavy fines against the companies or a department order to replace or repair immediately all dangerous equipment, are not forthcoming from City Hall to aid the cab workers and the riding public.

Chase, 1st National in deep trouble

Ford's recovery: 'soundest' banks on danger list

By T. MITCHELL

NEW YORK, Jan. 17—The biggest banks in the country are in deep trouble, but we are being left in the dark about just how bad the situation really is.

On January 11, a Washington paper printed a front-page story revealing that the Chase Manhattan Bank and First National City Bank of New York have been placed on the "problem list" of the Comptroller of the Currency, James E. Smith. Since then, the officials of the banks, Smith himself, and the New York Times have done their utmost to hide the meaning of this report.

Smith declared that Chase and Citibank "continue to be among the soundest banking institutions in the world," but he could not explain why, in that case, he included them on the "problem list." The bank officials have refused to testify before a House Monetary Affairs subcommittee, but it is no secret what the problem is.

DEFAULT ON LOANS

The current business depression has called into question a large number of loans made by these banks. No one is sure how large the losses on these loans will be because the banks hide them on the books as collectible for as long as they can.

This much is certain:

The Chase Real Estate Investment Trust in particular has taken heavy losses over the past year. The bankruptcy of W.T. Grant left both these big banks holding enormous bad debts. The financial crisis of New York City and State has left many bonds uncollectable in the immediate future. And a host of other loans, big and small, at home and abroad, are in danger of going uncollected because of bankruptcies caused by the world-wide depression.

Again and again the people have been promised that the economic recovery would come soon, but prices and unemployment remain at intolerable levels. What can we think of the assurances of the bank?

The officials of Chase and Citibank argue that the reports which put them on the "problem list" were made much earlier last year. However, this is no reason to think

that the banks have somehow recouped their losses in the meantime, because the economy has remained down.

CLOAK-AND-DAGGER SECRECY

The Comptroller of the Currency is doing his utmost to keep secret the difficulties of the big banks, trying to protect them from a run on deposits, but there is no way he can protect them from the effects

of the depression.

At this point, we know more about the dirty secrets of the CIA than about the Wall Street banks. The way they want it, we would learn the bad news the day they close the doors. On that day, the federal insurance for depositors will mean nothing because there are no funds to cover the huge amounts involved in just these two banks, the second and third largest in the country.

One thing we can be sure of. When these two giant banks are in such serious trouble, all talk of a vigorous economic recovery is utter falsehood, designed to placate the millions who have paid with their jobs for the malfunctions of the capitalist system.

There are upwards of 10 million looking for work without success in this country, and patience has been worthless because things have not gotten any better in the job

market. January finds the economy with its customary post-holiday hangover and getting a job has gotten harder than ever.

Big business and government officials can only promise recovery for so long before results must be produced. The shakiness of the biggest banks cancels out any notion that things will get better soon. Time is running out for those who have nothing to offer but empty promises and apologies.



The economic "recovery": long unemployment lines and shakiness in the country's biggest banks.

WW photo: Larry

Big turnout forecast for Hard Times Conference

By ROBERT DOBROW

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—Organizers of the National Hard Times Conference to take place in Chicago over the January 30-February 1 weekend say they expect an impressive turnout throughout the country as preparations for the conference go into their final stage.

Hard Times Committees have been set up in dozens of cities including Ithaca, Madison, St. Louis,

Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Buffalo, Boston, Seattle, Columbus, Philadelphia, Norfolk, San Francisco, Chicago, and also in Oregon and New York. This week and last, local meetings in many areas have been organized to build for the event. A West Coast organizer told this reporter that a recent meeting in San Francisco drew over 200 people to hear Wilbur Haddock of the United Black Workers, Yvonne Goldin, and others. Buses will be coming from the Bay Area.

Marcy Isaacs, a staffer of the National Hard Times office, told Workers World that the "enthusiasm is very high." The office is a bustle of activity with many people streaming in and out taking reams of leaflets and bundles of Hard Times newsletters. The phones never seem to stop ringing.

"FIGHT FOR JOBS"

Many individuals and organizations are sponsoring the Chicago event including the American Indian Movement, Attica Now, CASA, People Against Racism in Education, Prairie Fire Organizing Committee, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, United Black Workers, and Youth Against War & Fascism, to name a small fraction of the sponsors.

According to Jim Haughton of Fight Back, a group of Black construction workers, "The main focus is really going to be the fight for jobs—a socially useful job at a decent wage for every working

person in this country—and a plan for how we are going to develop a mass movement around the fight for jobs. Fight Back got involved in the conference because of the obvious need to come up with very concrete answers about what people are going to do about the developing recession-depression in this country."

Jennifer Dohrn, a representative of the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee and a member of the National Board of the Conference, told Workers World, "Prairie Fire feels the conference offers particular significance because we recognize the real crisis in imperialism and how it's manifested in this country—the incredible squeeze of the workers, particularly Black and other Third World workers and women. Although there've been lots of struggles everywhere, in fact there hasn't been a real national focus and strategy that can unite us. The conference is a place where people can come and make their voices heard and launch a campaign to fight the depression. It is not a culmination, it is a beginning."

"CONFERENCE CAN HELP BUILD MASS MOVEMENT"

Another National Board member, Brian Becker of YAWF, told this reporter that his organization feels "the conference will be an opportunity for a coming together of hundreds of progressive groups and individuals from all walks of life who are grappling with how to respond to the economic crisis which has been

dumped onto the backs of the workers and oppressed. What is needed is the kind of mass militant response, which this conference can be the prelude to, that can challenge the ruling bosses and win victories for the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, and all who suffer exploitation and face racist and sexist oppression."

The conference agenda includes a Friday evening People's Tribunal where speakers will testify before an open mike on how the economic crisis affects them. The next morning will open with a plenary session and the afternoon will be set aside for a discussion of the Hard Times Bill of Rights. The evening will offer a cultural presentation.

Sunday morning will be devoted to workshops which will be led by a panel of representatives of particular struggles, including prisons, health, tenants, children, rural struggles, elderly, unemployed, unions, international issues, and many more.

Right now, according to conference organizers, the main thing is to fill the buses and get as many people as want to go to Chicago. "Already over eight buses are chartered," according to Ms. Isaacs, "but funds are urgently needed." Bus tickets and-or contributions can be sent to the national Hard Times offices at 156 Fifth Ave., Rm. 411, New York City 10010, or 53 West Jackson, Rm. 1601, Chicago, Ill. 60604.

The conference registration fee is \$3 to make it possible for those with limited incomes to attend.

Profiting off hunger

BUFFALO, N.Y., Jan. 8—If there is a way to make a dollar—or millions of dollars—at the expense of the poor, you can be sure that the banks and big business in this country are taking advantage of it.

For millions of unemployed and poor people, food stamps are necessary for survival. For the banks, the federal food stamp program means profits.

Recent Department of Agriculture audits of banks and other agencies that sell the federal food coupons have revealed that millions of dollars paid by food stamp recipients to these vendors have never been turned over to the government. Audits of only 18 of the 14,119 food stamp vendors across the country found that \$8.8 million was not accounted for—either temporarily diverted for the banks' own use or embezzled.

The extent of this illegal practice

of profiting off the poor is not known, and will probably never be seriously challenged by the Agriculture Department. Yet the banks have "legally" been making money by selling food stamps for years.

Every time a bank sells food stamps, it receives 75 cents. Multiply this by the number of food stamp recipients (an estimated 29 million people bought the stamps in 1975) and the banks end up making several million dollars each time stamps are sold—once a month in most cases.

Like their cohorts in the agricultural industries, who have priced food to luxury levels, these bankers are making a lucrative business of hunger. As with many of the government programs that are supposed to help the poor, it is the super-rich who are the real recipients.

Phalange forced to call on U.S. intervention

Left militia sweeping back rightists in Lebanon

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

NEW YORK, Jan. 20—Sweeping gains by the Palestinian and anti-imperialist movements in Lebanon have led the right-wing to call for U.S. intervention. The call was made by Interior Minister Camille Chamoun after being evacuated by helicopter from his seaside mansion south of Beirut.

Chamoun is the same figure whose call for U.S. intervention in 1958 led to the landing of 10,000 U.S. Marines to bolster up his right-wing government. U.S. imperialism is so discredited today, however, and so weakened by its failure in Indochina, that a repeat of 1958 is considered extremely unlikely. However, Israeli troops are reportedly massed on the border.

The military situation in Lebanon has changed rapidly in the last few days. The present heavy fighting began when combined rightist forces, with the open support of the Lebanese Army, launched an all-out military campaign aimed at crushing the Palestinian and anti-imperialist movement. But following the loss of the Dbaiye refugee camp and parts of the poverty-stricken Beirut section of Karantina, Palestinians and leftists turned back the Phalangists.

TREACHERY AT DBAIYE

The Dbaiye refugee camp, which housed 250 mostly Christian Palestinian families, had been taken by over 3,000 Phalangist troops with the aid of Lebanese Army armored cars on January 14 after 2 days of shelling.

According to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, the Dbaiye camp, which is situated in the suburbs of Beirut, was outside the main concentration of defending troops and had a limited number of camp guards in accordance with an earlier agreement with the Lebanese Army.

WAFA reports that the Palestinian Deputy Military Officer of Dbaiye was attending a meeting set up by the Army when the camp was seized. At the meeting a ceasefire without a surrender of the camp was supposedly agreed to.

But as the deputy returned to the camp he saw the gates blockaded by Lebanese Army vehicles flying Phalange flags. He was immediately placed under arrest and taken to a field in the center of the camp where all the residents were herded together by the fascists.

The Phalangists then read off names of Palestinians they wanted to come forward and proceeded to beat them with rifle butts and then run them over with a jeep. The camp deputy personally saw three men beaten to death and later heard of the additional killing of an 80-year-old Armenian man who lived in the camp.

Later he was told by his captors that bulldozers were on their way to level the camp, a terror tactic copied from the Israelis.

The choice of a Christian Palestinian camp for destruction by the "Christian" Phalange demonstrates clearly that the real aim of the rightists is not to "save Christianity" but rather to save imperialism.

ANTI-IMPERIALISTS RETALIATE

In order to prevent a repeat of Dbaiye at two other refugee camps under Phalangist seige, the anti-imperialists retaliated against

rightist strongholds to draw troops away from the camps. The seaside town of Damur, center of rightist Interior Minister Camille Chamoun's National Liberal Party militia, was encircled and partially taken by Lebanese supporters of the Palestinians.

Chamoun then illegally ordered the Air Force to bomb the leftist

attackers, blatantly defying Prime Minister Karami's orders that the military not be used to intervene.

Karami, still trying to maintain his authority, was able to arrange a ceasefire with the aid of Syrian representatives that would have lifted the siege of the two camps in return for a withdrawal from Damur.

But just as the agreement was supposed to go into effect, combined forces from the Phalange and National Liberal Party, with the aid of Army armored cars and artillery, launched a murderous assault on the Karantina section of Beirut, a stronghold of the Palestinian and leftist militias.

Discredited by the assault on

Karantina, Karami was forced to resign, leaving the government completely in the hands of pro-Phalange politicians.

FIRE AND BULLDOZERS

The New York Daily News of January 18 described the scene in Beirut: "A deep orange glow lit the downtown skyline from fires consuming thousands of huts in the shantytown Karantina quarter." The report also quoted Phalangist spokesmen as saying that bulldozers were standing by "to clear the rubble."

But despite the overwhelming force of 4,000 rightists, as of January 19 WAFA reported the area was still held by the Palestinians, who pledged to defend it at all costs.

All over the country leftist militias have counter-attacked Phalange and army positions, with the rightists being forced on the defensive.

Driven out of their homeland, and then driven out of their temporary refuge in Jordan during the infamous Black September of 1970, the Palestinian people are again the targets of a U.S.-sponsored genocidal assault.

Unlike the situation during Black September, the Palestinian people have the tremendous support of the workers and peasants of Lebanon, and the bloody fighting of the past 5 months has linked their struggles into one common battle against U.S. imperialism. By trying to crush the Palestinian movement, the U.S. may find its own presence in Lebanon crushed forever.



Moslem residents of Beirut's Karantina district are rounded up by Phalangists after a right-wing attack which left the district in rubble.

Workers defy fascist military 'draft,' wage freeze

300,000 strikers rock Spanish regime

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—Not for four decades has the Spanish working class flexed its political muscle and rocked the Spanish ruling class as it is doing today in fascist Spain. During the past week, more than 300,000 workers throughout Spain have participated in strike activity, paralyzing many industries and government services.

Just today, another 120,000 railroad workers were "drafted" into the army by the Juan Carlos dictatorship to prevent the workers from striking. Last Wednesday, the government first placed 55,000 striking postal workers in the Madrid area under military rule. Once drafted, workers are subject to court-martial should they fail to report to their jobs.

But even in the face of severe repression, the workers have taken to the streets with mass demonstrations. Strikes are officially illegal in Spain, but this has failed to intimidate the workers from striking in order to challenge the government-imposed wage freeze. The workers, however, led by "illegal" trade union organizations (the regime only recognizes the phony government-run "unions"), are demanding the immediate ouster of the architect of the wage freeze, Juan Villar Mir, the finance minister.

Other major demands include the freedom of thousands of political prisoners, many of whom are trade unionists, and the institution of political and civil liberties.

Although the greatest strike

activity has taken place in the central Madrid region, where at least 200,000 workers have been involved, other areas throughout Spain have been the sites of tremendous labor militancy and show how weak the fascist regime really is. Tens of thousands of workers in the Basque provinces, in the adjoining province of Catalonia, in the northern interior cities of Pamplona and Burgos, in the Mediterranean city of Valencia, and in the southern coastal city of Seville have struck banks, the metal industry, taxis, the telephone company, the docks, and electric power plants.

In Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, 2,000 longshoremen tied up the docks for days. Their strike just ended 3 days ago. And, according to a Reuters dispatch of 2 days ago, some 30 industrial plants, 19 banks, and the telephone company (a subsidiary of ITT) were hit with strikes and plant-gate demonstrations in the Barcelona area alone. Striking workers in Barcelona's Catalan Electric Company threatened to cut the city's power supply if the police intervened.

In Madrid, the government has been shaken by strikes in industrial plants (including a large Chrysler auto plant), the telephone company, banks, the post office, the electric utility, construction projects, aviation and electronic industries, and Madrid's subways.

Tens of thousands of workers have been on Madrid's streets for the past week. There have been numerous sit-ins and head-on

confrontations with club- and tear gas-wielding policemen. Many of the strikes in Madrid were spurred by the subway workers' strike which lasted 5 days. The workers had apparently won significant concessions from the private subway company, including a \$455 annual pay raise. But the subway bosses may have already reneged on the settlement and a new strike may be called. Many of the strikes in the Madrid area began as sympathy strikes for the subway workers.

WOMEN TAKE TO STREETS

On January 15, the regime once again revealed its brutal face by clubbing several hundred women in a peaceful march of 2,000 in downtown Madrid in protest of the country's galloping inflation. And on the same day, 140 labor organizers, mostly from the Catholic Action Workers Brotherhood, were arrested for allegedly preparing a general strike in the Madrid region. The Juan Carlos regime has also arrested many organizers of the outlawed Workers' Commission Movement, the strongest and most popular labor opposition to the government's official "unions."

The promised "liberalization" in Spain under King Juan Carlos has already proved to be a farce. Only the organized might of the Spanish proletariat and the oppressed nationalities can ever bring about any measure of even bourgeois democratic liberties. In fact, the regime has just announced postponement of national elections, in

fear of not having complete control of them.

The Juan Carlos government is still the government of Franco. It is still the government of the pro-fascist bosses backed by Washington and Wall Street. But the Spanish workers are not letting up in their struggle for political rights and basic economic demands, including the right to independent labor unions.

The surge in the class struggle has also provoked feverish activity on the part of those "liberals" and "socialists" who would derail the workers. At a meeting of social democratic party chiefs in Denmark this week, the question of Spain—and how to deal with the Communist Party there and groups to its left—was tops on the agenda.

Many of these "socialist" leaders have been exposed recently as allowing their organizations to be used as conduits for CIA funds. This shows the sophisticated character of U.S. policy toward the European workers' movements. Washington backs the most repressive regimes, but at the same time has deeply penetrated the so-called "democratic" opposition in the event that the rightists are overthrown.

In Spain, as in Portugal, the victory of the revolution will depend on the ability of the workers' parties to break definitively from bourgeois politics while developing the independent strength of the working class and its allies—a strength that has been displayed magnificently this week.

YAWF rally raises cry:

'Victory to MPLA!'

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Jan. 17—More than 1,200 supporters of the Angolan people and the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) took to the streets here today in the first major mobilization in the United States against U.S.-South African involvement in Angola.

The march through midtown Manhattan and a rally which followed were called by Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) and co-sponsored by 25 other organizations.

All along the 26-block-long march route, shoppers—both Black and white—paused to wave and listen to chants of "Vietnam has won, Angola will win!" "Jobs at home, not wars abroad," and "Victory to the MPLA!" Many joined the march as it proceeded to the rally point.

ENTHUSIASTIC, MULTI-NATIONAL RALLY

"We have called this rally for two reasons: to demand the U.S. get out of Angola and to show our support for the People's Republic and the MPLA," Sharon Chin, a YAWF member and chairperson for the rally, told the enthusiastic, multi-national audience that crowded into the Marc Ballroom at Union Square following the march.

Speaking beneath a banner reading, "U.S. out of Angola, Victory to the MPLA and People's Republic!" opening speaker Nick DeFreitas, a member of the editorial staff of Workers World, pointed out that all the billions of U.S. multinational corporations have been unable to smash the MPLA-led government "because it alone rests on the granite support of the oppressed Angolan masses."

DeFreitas explained that it was the MPLA which brought medicine and health facilities to the countryside, organized popular elections in the liberated areas, and equalized wages for Black and white Angolans.

SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE HUMANITY

"It is on this basis that they have attracted the support of progressive humanity—and this is what the rich minority, the bosses and bankers, and military men have failed and always will fail to calculate because profit and lust blinds them," he said.

DeFreitas also noted the support

given to the Angolan people by the Soviet Union, revolutionary Cuba; other liberated Portuguese colonies, progressive nations and organizations worldwide, and the African masses.

"We want to pay particular tribute to our Cuban comrades who are giving their blood for Angolan liberation, and this is true revolutionary internationalism, especially from a people only 90 miles away from U.S. imperialism," DeFreitas told the applauding crowd.

U.S. IMPERIALISM THE REAL ENEMY

Maritza Arrastia, a member of the U.S. Branch Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) and managing editor of the U.S. office of Claridad, emphasized the importance of learning who the real enemy is.

"The enemy of the world today is U.S. imperialism," she declared. "The enemy of the Angolan people is the enemy of the Puerto Rican people, and particularly the enemy of the people who live and work and struggle in the United States."

Another speaker, Dennis Serette, president of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, explained the importance of U.S. working people understanding that the struggle of their sisters and brothers in Angola is the same struggle as is going on here.

Paul Irish, speaking for the MPLA Solidarity Committee, said that the efforts of the Angolan people in repelling invaders from South Africa and Zaire was not a "civil war" as the U.S. press tries to make it seem.

"RIGHT ON, SISTER!"

Amidst shouts of "Right on, sister," Deirdre Griswold, editor of Workers World newspaper and National Committee member of Workers World Party, spoke of the "deep, burning anger in the Black community" that prevented the White House and Pentagon from being able to openly draft U.S. troops for action against the Angolan people.

She went on to point out the urgency of correcting false arguments put forth by some so-called leftists who do not support the MPLA-led government. First she referred to the question of Soviet aid, which she explained Workers World totally supports,

despite differences with the Soviet leadership in other areas of policy.

"We should examine the aid given the Vietnamese people by the Soviet Union as well as China," Ms. Griswold remarked. "Were the Vietnamese correct in seeking aid from the outside? Did that compromise their independence? We know of course that the Vietnamese heroically began the struggle in the south with the crudest weapons... But could they have faced B-52s, could they have faced half a million U.S. troops with small arms alone?"

She stressed that at the very foundation of imperialism is "the export of capital to reap super-profits in the oppressed countries."

"It's not just spheres of influence or some intangible sort of hegemony," she said. "Imperialism in Africa is easily identified. It is the U.S. and European corporations and financial institutions that have gained control over so much of the resources of that rich and poor continent—rich in resources but poor for the people."

Ms. Griswold referred to another false position which calls for the U.S. out of Angola, but refuses support for the MPLA, putting the MPLA on the same footing with the pro-imperialist FNLA and UNITA.

"NOW WE KNOW WHO'S WHO"

"This position completely covers up the fact that Washington has armed the FNLA and UNITA and has directed them in a bloody invasion against the MPLA. It covers up the fact that the U.S. has been supporting the FNLA since 1962," the Workers World speaker pointed out.

"This is first and foremost a struggle for national liberation against imperialism," she explained. "Even if there weren't any difference in their programs—which there is—what counts is that the MPLA is fighting against imperialism, while the others have become captives of imperialism."

Ms. Griswold was given a standing ovation when she concluded by reminding the audience that at the end of the OAU conference recently the MPLA representative remarked, "Now we know who's who."

"Well, comrades of today's demonstration and rally, we here know who's who," she said. "We

(Continued on page 8)



More than 1,200 demonstrators bring to the streets of New York MPLA!"

International mess

Many messages of support for the People's Republic of Angola and the January 17th rally were received from individuals and organizations here at home and in progressive countries. We print below the complete texts of four messages received from abroad and excerpts from messages sent by liberation movements with branches in the U.S.

From the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, Havana, Cuba

"The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution salute the committee in solidarity with the MPLA and the participants in this activity being held within the United States of America in support of the heroic struggle of the Angolan people against U.S. aggression.

"The Angolan people count on the support and militant solidarity of all the progressive forces of humanity in their struggle against the cowardly aggression perpetrated by regular forces of the racist South African regime and the counterrevolutionary forces of the FNLA and UNITA, who are agents of the CIA in collusion and with the support of U.S. imperialism.

"It is an act of major significance for the Angolan people that opposition against imperialism and racism is expressed right in the heart of American

society. Make your voices heard in condemnation of U.S. aggression against the Angolan people.

"Support the MPLA, the only representative of the Angolan people.

"U.S. out of Angola!
"Victory to the MPLA!"

From the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Korea, Pyongyang, DPRK

"To the mass rally denouncing the U.S. imperialists' aggression against the Angolan people:

"The Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of Korea extends full support to and solidarity with your courageous just struggle denouncing the U.S. imperialists' aggression against the Angolan people.

"Your struggle denouncing the U.S. imperialists' outrageous intervention in others' internal affairs and their war machinations will greatly encourage the Angolan people and all the world's peace-loving peoples.

"We wish you further success in your struggle against the U.S. imperialists' policy of war and aggression and for defending world peace."

From the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen

"On behalf of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, we wish to extend warm fraternal greetings to today's rally in solidarity with the People's Republic of Angola and the MPLA.

"The Angolan people are carrying out a true national liberation struggle, a successor to the long years of heroic guerrilla warfare against Portuguese colonialism.

"Now U.S. imperialism through massive aid to its paid mercenaries and assisted by racist South Africa is trying to impose a neocolonial regime on the Angolan people.

"This can never be allowed to happen! Victory to the People's Republic of Angola! Long live the Angolan people's struggle for true liberation!"

From the Democratic Republic of East Timor

To Our Friends in the United States:

I was asked by my comrade and



A packed rally listens to speakers condemn U.S. and South African intervention against the People's Republic of Angola and to messages of solidarity with the MPLA from around the world. WW photo: Fabian



rk the chants "U.S. out of Angola," "Victory to the
WW photo: Paddy

sages of solidarity

long-time good friend, Jose Ramos-Horta, Minister of External Relations and Information of our beloved and young Democratic Republic of East Timor, to write a few words as a message of solidarity to the people of America and to all those anti-imperialist forces gathered on January 17 to support the struggle of the People's Republic of Angola.

It was with great emotion that we heard about the growing wave of sympathy and solidarity among the people of America for the people of the Democratic Republic of East Timor. The people of East Timor are living through the bloodiest and most heroic period in our history. For nearly 500 years our people have suffered and fought the brutality of Portuguese colonialism. Uprisings against foreign domination have taken place throughout our fatherland and many thousands of Timorese patriots have paid with their blood and lives the high price of the struggle for national liberation. In 1912, a great Timorese nationalist, Dom Boaventura, led a war of resistance against the Portuguese colonialists that lasted for many years and cost thousands of lives. Between 1942 and 1945, East Timor was invaded by the Japanese imperialists and up to 50,000 Timorese patriots were massacred. More recently, in 1959, another pro-independence uprising took place, but again it was put down by the colonialist Portuguese power.

In August 1975, naive puppets of Indonesian sub-imperialism attempted to seize power, to eliminate the only true nationalist movement, FRETILIN, and to transform East Timor into a neocolony, a paradise for American, Australian, and Japanese corporations. This time, the people of East Timor, under the correct leadership of FRETILIN, successfully crushed the traitors. But after UDT-Apodeti was defeated and driven out of East Timor, the Indonesian generals started sending their troops to invade our territory, burning houses and crops, killing unarmed women and children. Since Sep-

(Continued on page 9)

From the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S.

"The Union of Vietnamese in the U.S. wants to take this opportunity to express its solidarity with and support to the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola. The struggle of the Angolan people for total liberation from colonialism and U.S. imperialist intervention and for national independence is just. It deserves and enjoys sup-

port from progressive peoples around the world.

"We are certain that the struggle of the Angolan people, under the leadership of the MPLA, will triumph, and will create another victory of the oppressed people against U.S. imperialism."

From Eritreans for Liberation in North America

"EFLNA would like to communicate its unflinching stand on the side of the workers and peasants, as well as all patriotic forces of Angola, to which the MPLA has become their one and only vanguard.

"For the Eritreans and their vanguard, the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Forces, there is no justification for neutrality in Angola. Two sides completely opposite in nature have emerged. The progressive MPLA, on whose side revolutionary Vietnam, Korea, Cuba, Mozambique, etc., have been lined and the FNLA, UNITA-Zaire Axis to whom fascist South Africa and the whole Imperialist and Zionist worlds have become their closest mentors. No possible third way exists."

From the Organization of Arab Students in the U.S. and Canada

"The recent victories of the MPLA constitute a setback to South Africa-CIA aggression against Angola. An independent revolutionary Angola is bad news to Zionist Israel and the fascist, rightist Falangists in Lebanon. We trust the struggle of the Angolan masses and the Palestinian and Lebanese revolutionaries will smash the forces of fascism and racism."

From the Iranian Students Association (World Confederation)

"The people of the world are waging a courageous struggle against imperialism led by the U.S. The revolutionary forces in Iran have always supported the people's anti-imperialist movement throughout the world. Iranian Student's Association in NY, member of the World Confederation of Iranian Students, firmly supports the Angolan liberation struggle led by the MPLA and all people's movements for liberation and independence.

"Down with imperialism, number 1 enemy of the people of the world!"

People's Angola routing counter-revolutionary forces

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—On January 16 a reporter from the United Press International (UPI) asked Jose Ndele, the "Prime Minister" of the pro-imperialist UNITA organization, for his assessment of what course the war in Angola was taking. Ndele answered, "I don't know. I haven't listened to the Voice of America or Radio South Africa yet."

Embarrassing as this must have been for the "Prime Minister" to admit, even worse was yet to come. The terse news reports that began trickling into Western capitals on Friday morning telling of setbacks for the counter-revolutionary armies in Angola had by that evening reached tidal wave proportions in their description of the total defeat of puppet troops in northern Angola. By day's end, the Associated Press was conceding glumly that the rightist FNLA forces throughout the north were "rapidly losing ground and approaching total collapse."

The same source also revealed that Secretary of State Kissinger had informed the NATO council in Brussels that "Zaire military resistance has all but collapsed." Zaire has received at least \$19 million in military hardware from the Pentagon this year, weapons that were immediately sent into the Angolan fighting. "That kind of transfer is illegal under American law, but it has been done before," wrote the New York Times last Sunday.

ZAIRE SOLDIERS CAPTURED

The weekend offensive of the MPLA liberation forces representing the People's Republic of Angola "captured 2,000 National Front (FNLA) soldiers, and many of them were Zaire regulars," admitted the AP on the first day of the MPLA advance, a spectacular drive that liberated the cities of Ambriz, the military headquarters of the FNLA, and the port of Ambrizete, chasing the reactionary invaders right back to the Zaire border.

BBC correspondent Jane Bergerol, following the liberation army through northern Angola, said, "The major complaint of the people was the lack of food after

the FNLA army passed through, feeding off the land and killing livestock. Villagers also wanted transportation to take them to homes they fled during heavy fighting in the area. Another request the Prime Minister (MPLA leader Lopo De Nascimento) heard was for weapons to defend themselves should the FNLA try to return." Stung by his army's failure, Paulo Tuba, a member of the National Front's political bureau and one of a dozen National Front officials who sit with UNITA in a joint 24-member council of traitors, threatened to turn loose fascist mercenaries to commit acts of terrorism against those progressive countries that have supported the MPLA.

"Congo-Brazzaville and Guinea and others have embassies abroad," Tuba told the New York Times (January 15). "They have airlines," Tuba continues. "The Russians have embassies in Africa. We can find money to pay foreign commandoes to attack them," he said, adding that the FNLA plans a campaign of terrorist violence against the populace of Luanda in retaliation for their strong support for the MPLA. "We are prepared to plastic (bomb) movies, markets and public places," Tuba threatened, observing "plastic is easy to buy in Europe."

It is obvious that plentiful CIA financing has provided the counter-revolutionary groups in Angola all the funds they need. Vast amounts of cash alone, however, have not been sufficient to win them the war, and both UNITA and the FNLA have therefore invited the South African racists to come in and prop them up. Using C-141 transport planes supplied by the U.S. government, South Africa has sent 6,000 troops into Angola, as well as 500 tanks and two wings of jet fighter-bombers that operate out of Zaire. Following the rout of their allies in the north, 5,000 more South African troops were put on alert.

RACIST INVASION STIRS AFRICA

"Independent Angola has been invaded by South Africa, and its government is also now being

attacked with American money, American arms, and by Americans and other Western mercenaries," Tanzanian President Nyerere stated bluntly last week.

According to the New York Daily News of January 19, "Military observers say that, if South Africa pulled out now, taking its firepower, military know-how and logistical support, the National Union (UNITA) probably would collapse within weeks."

Even the most reactionary newspapers, then, must acknowledge that UNITA and the FNLA are nothing but miserable stooges of the worst racists on the African continent!

In this light one can easily see how critical is the aid from the socialist camp, especially the USSR and Cuba, which have respectively sent weapons and troops to help the People's Republic of Angola prevent a U.S.-South African takeover.

PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM

The January 11 issue of the Cuban newspaper Granma quotes Fidel Castro as saying at the

(Continued on page 9)

Women inmates stage solidarity hunger strike

Women in Dorm C, the segregation unit of the Women's Prison in Raleigh, N.C., went on a hunger strike January 16 to show their support of Dessie X Woods and Cheryl Todd, two Black women in Georgia who are facing a murder charge for having defended themselves against rape by a white man posing as a detective.

The imprisoned women extended their hunger strike through Saturday, the 17th, in solidarity with the MPLA and the demonstration supporting the Angolan people organized in New York City by Youth Against War & Fascism.

Their sacrifice was deeply felt by the New York rally, and the audience gave them a standing ovation when news of the hunger strike was announced.



Rally speakers [left to right]: Dennis Serette, Paul Irish, Maritza Arrastia, Sharon Chin, Deirdre Griswold, Nick DeFreitas, and Larry Holmes.
WW photo: Fabian

EDITORIAL

—Banks

(Continued from page 1)

\$1 TRILLION SQUANDERED ON WAR

Even the ruling class admits that nearly \$1 trillion was squandered on that war, money which the bankers then considered a "sound investment" to be recouped later in super-profits sweated out of the labor of millions of conquered Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian wage slaves of U.S. imperialism. As everyone now knows, all that money taken from the people in taxes, supplemented by bank loans to the government to fuel the Pentagon, went down the drain because, much to the horror of the bankers, the heroic people of Southeast Asia won the war!

Hence the brutal assault directed by the banks against the working class here in the U.S., as in the case of New York City. Denied an imperial triumph in Asia, the bosses have tightened the screws on "their own" workers. Despite the undeniable great wealth in this country, with its vast natural resources and skilled working class, imperialism in a time of shrinking empire cannot provide enough jobs, has driven millions more into a lifetime of marginal employment, and is hence reaping the financial chaos that comes when people by the millions just can't pay their bills. And this is just the beginning.

As Sam Marcy, the Chairperson of Workers World Party wrote in this paper last August 27: "What is really important today, nearly a year after the Franklin National Bank collapse, is that the very banks who were so generous in offering their transfusion to the Franklin National are themselves in trouble."

Capitalism has lurched from depression to bloody war to depression—and now even a permanent war economy can no longer quicken its pulse. Out of the growing suffering of the working and unemployed masses will come a revolutionary workers' movement for the total reconstitution of society on a socialist basis.

Chilean fascism: total economic chaos

A new political maneuver against the masses in Chile has begun. The Christian Democratic leader Eduardo Frei, whose party can only be considered an accomplice to the military takeover that installed the present murderous dictatorship, has begun to speak in mildly critical tones against the gorilla regime. Called the "man from Washington" by Chile's most militant and perceptive Resistance fighters (see interview on facing page), Frei speaks of "democracy" but remains a deadly enemy of the working class. He is now being cultivated by U.S. imperialism as a possible replacement for the junta, which has done its job of plunging a knife into the workers' movement.

And no wonder that Washington is looking beyond the junta. For today in Chile economic conditions are so wildly unstable that even the most repressive regime cannot last long. It is hard to imagine how people are able to survive the devastating inflation.

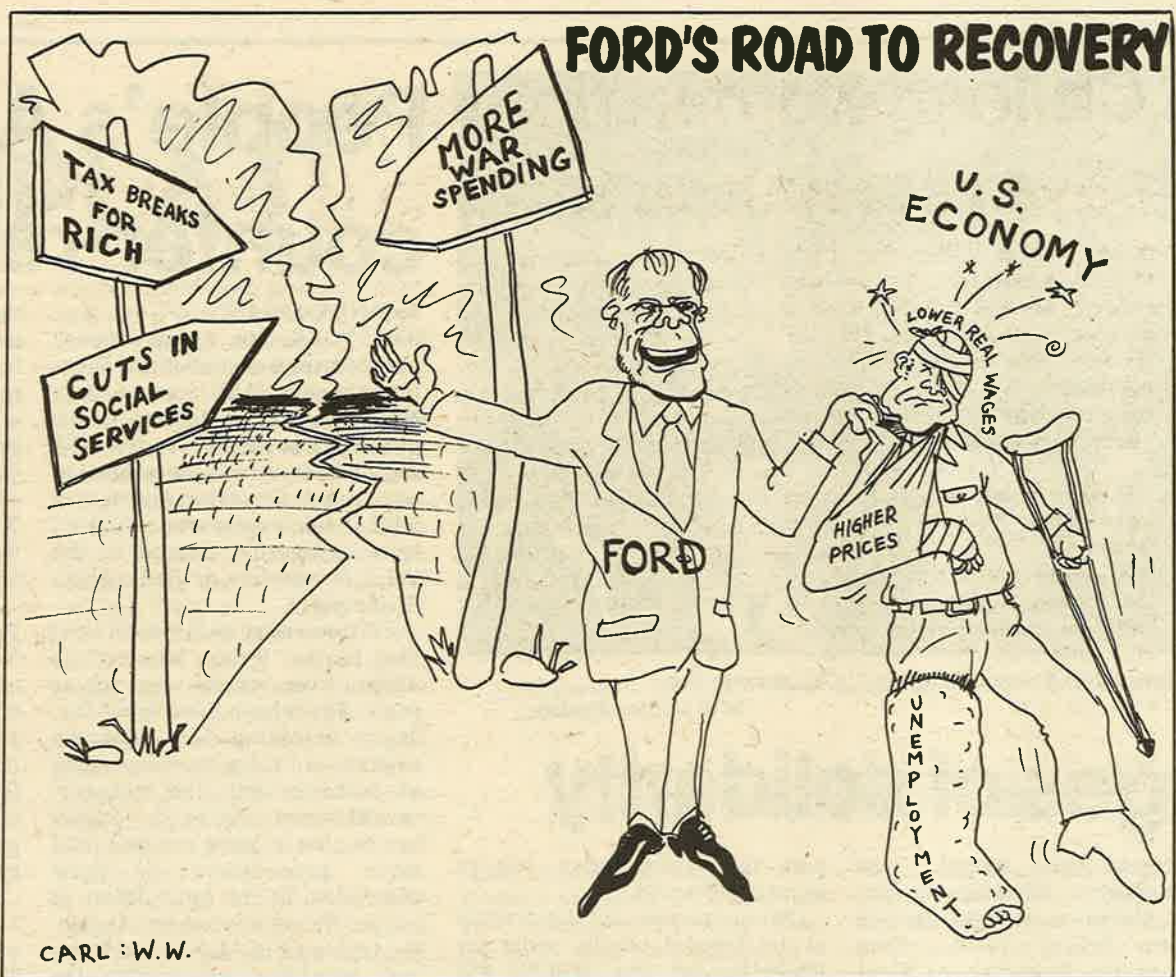
Take these astounding figures, published in the Manchester Guardian (weekly edition) of January 18:

From last January to September, prices, which went up 375 percent for the year, outpaced wages by more than 50 percentage points. Since the generals seized power in 1973, the price of bread has risen 13,563 percent, milk 11,328 percent, sugar 26,566 percent, and transport 9,900 percent!

This is despite a massive infusion of imperialist financial "aid" reaching over \$1 billion last year! The U.S. share was \$661 million, up from \$54 million the year before, according to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a Western group.

U.S. imperialism is openly and secretly spending incalculable sums to try and prop up puppet dictatorships around the world, but it is reaping only a deepening of the capitalist economic crisis, which is again breaking out at home in the impending bank disaster described above.

Don't forget to subscribe!



ZANLA woman: 'Only way to fight imperialism is with a gun!'

By JOYCE BETRIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—The white settler state of Rhodesia, which rivals South Africa in its fascist treatment of the black majority, is carrying out a growing war against black people fighting for their liberation. The Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) is one of the groups spearheading this liberation struggle, and ZANLA is its military arm.

On January 10, Sarudzai Churucheminzwa, a woman liberation fighter in ZANLA, spoke before an audience at the Women's School in Brooklyn. She described the goals of her party as "a free, socialist, democratic Zimbabwe."

"The only way to fight imperialism is with the gun," said Ms. Churucheminzwa. "Our people have always fought back for as long as the colonialists have been in our land. The enemy is imperialism and capitalism ... and is not based on color."

RACIST "DETENTE" STRATEGY

Ms. Churucheminzwa and other members of ZANU also condemned the "detente" strategy initiated by South African Prime Minister Vorster and sanctioned by the USA and Great Britain that is intended to neutralize the liberation struggles in southern Africa and pave the way for further capitalist expansion. Last year Vorster pressured the head of Rhodesia, Ian Smith, into abandoning his self-defeating position against black majority rule and agreeing to enter into negotiations with the African National Council, a group of all the black Zimbabwean organizations.

In addition, the government of Zambia was pressured to cease support of ZANU and to urge the black leaders to settle peacefully with the white racist settler regime.

The result was a wave of repression against ZANU last spring. On March 18, 1975, ZANU chairman Herbert Chitepo was assassinated. That same month, Zambia President Kaunda smashed ZANU headquarters, based in Zambia, arrested 1,400 ZANU members, and closed off the border to ZANU guerrilla fighters.

Many of the political prisoners were tortured, and some of them are still in detention.

SUPPORTS MPLA

Because the FNLA and UNITA in Angola have formed alliances with racist South Africa, ZANU can never support these groups, the speaker explained. Therefore ZANU recognizes the MPLA as the legitimate power in Angola.

In the zones liberated by ZANU the party does not just give military training, but is also conducting educational programs to fight illiteracy. ZANU has built clinics, and is presently implementing an agricultural program.

Life is very different for women in the liberated areas than in other parts of Zimbabwe still under the regime's control. In ZANLA, Ms. Churucheminzwa said, "What men can do I can do.... ZANLA women have seen that our traditional way of living must be changed.... In non-liberated areas women are oppressed by the traditional customs, especially forced marriages."

Ms. Churucheminzwa joined ZANLA because there were no jobs, and she wasn't permitted to continue her schooling. "Even though whites are only 4 percent of the population, whites can go to school free, but blacks must pay." A law prohibits all but a tiny percentage of blacks to advance past a certain educational level. "Blacks in the countryside make \$68 a year, while whites make \$5,000 yearly." Labor unions are outlawed.

Between 200 and 300 men and women join the army of ZANU every week. "Even children are running away from school to join." In order to keep up, equipment of all sorts is needed, especially medicine, clothing, books, and radios for communication.

Ms. Churucheminzwa urged people in the U.S. to help the struggle in Zimbabwe by forming committees to raise funds for supplies. A possible goal of 1,000 sneakers was used as an example of what people can contribute. Those who would like to help can contact ZANU, 89-09 162nd Street, Jamaica, N.Y. 11432.

—Angola rally

(Continued from page 6)

are Black, we are Latin, we are Asian, we are white, but we are united on this question. We are united in the struggle against imperialism and we want to join together with millions outside of this room to support the liberation struggle of the Angolan people and to bring our own struggle against U.S. imperialism that much closer to the day of victory!"

SOLIDARITY MESSAGES

Messages of solidarity with today's rally, read by Larry Holmes of YAWF, came from the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution in Cuba, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of East Timor, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Also, the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S., Eritreans for Liberation in North America, the

Organization of Arab Students in the U.S.A. and Canada, and the Iranian Students' Association (World Confederation).

Groups and individuals co-sponsoring the rally and demonstration included Attica Now; Carlos Feliciano; Committee in Solidarity with the Korean People; Committee to Support the PFLO; Dennis Serette, President of the New York Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Eritreans for Liberation; Friends of Indochina; the Guardian; Iranian Students Association (World Confederation); Joe Walker, Black journalist; Liberation Support Movement; MPLA Solidarity Committee; and New York City Hard Times Committee.

Also, the Organization of Arab Students; People's Democratic Association; Prairie Fire Organizing Committee; Progressive Greek Students; Puerto Rican Socialist Party; Southern Africa Committee; Third World Newsreel; Union of Vietnamese in the U.S.; Venceremos Brigade; and Workers World Party.

Chilean woman fighter in U.S. says resistance to junta is growing

Maria Stella Dabancens is a Chilean Resistance fighter who recently made a speaking tour of several Southern cities. This interview with Maria Stella was conducted by Workers World reporter Tom Gardner in Atlanta earlier this month.

Q. How would you sum up the years with President Salvador Allende?

A. Allende, with the backing of the Unidad Popular (the Popular Unity—a coalition of left parties) was elected President as a socialist, taking office in 1970. But not all the government was socialist. The bourgeoisie still held power in the Congress and they controlled the military. Allende saw his administration as paving the way toward socialism, not achieving socialism in one term.

During his 3 years, in the face of a U.S. economic blockade and sabotage by the CIA, Allende was able to make important gains for our people—better housing, jobs, food, education, and democratic rights. He also made mistakes in assuming that socialist gains could be secured under the constitution and that the military would remain neutral as long as he stayed within the legal framework. But, of course, as we know now, the CIA and the Chilean bourgeoisie, using the military, were conspiring all along to overthrow the democratically elected Allende government. Allende was assassinated during the right-wing coup because of his socialist beliefs.

WORKERS FOUGHT BACK HEROICALLY

Q. What was the response of the people to the right-wing coup?

A. That was a very difficult time . . . it was like a .22 pistol against machine guns, tanks, and airplanes. One comrade who was in a factory then told me they used nuts and bolts with elastic bands as slingshots against tanks and guns. In another plant, two workers teamed up on a forklift, piling steel on it to make a "tank," with one worker driving and the other behind the steel shooting with a pistol.

With such determination to fight for socialism, imagine what the workers could do if properly armed and equipped! As it was, we were not sufficiently armed and prepared and suffered many losses. The workers' movement was set back, but not defeated.

Q. Were you captured?

A. Yes, three times. I was interrogated and tortured many times with electric shocks and beatings. My husband and I were tortured in front of each other. These tortures are given naked, and all the DINA (the Chilean gestapo) would sit around trying to make it into a striptease show. Many women prisoners were raped and many have died in the torture chambers. We were finally released, along with Laura Allende, as a result of the international solidarity campaign. We were exiled, and I am now working for the Resistance on the outside.

Q. Is there now a unified Resistance in Chile against the dictatorship?

A. Yes, definitely. The left forces have been working for unity and have agreed on a platform originally advanced by the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary

Left) right after the coup. That platform, which has strong support among the working class and people as a whole, calls for: (1) the defense of social, political, and individual rights and liberties; (2) the defense of the living standards of the masses; and (3) the defeat of the dictatorship, the punishment of the murderers, the establishment of a new government, and the calling of a new Constitutional Assembly of all the people to chart Chile's future course.

RESISTANCE IS GROWING

Q. How strong is the Resistance movement at this point?

A. The Resistance is growing, particularly among the workers and peasants. Right after the coup we said, "The junta is very strong and the Resistance is very weak." Now we say, "The junta is growing weaker, and the Resistance is growing stronger."

The workers' and peasants' movement is growing stronger not only because of the work of the Resistance, but also because of the repression. The people are tired of burying their beloved, and they are now standing up. We have a phrase that says, "Let us convert our tears into revolutionary work and our hate into greater struggle until we win the final victory."

Q. What about the Resistance support movement on the outside?

A. We have been working for unity on the outside as on the inside. All the parties have divided up the practical tasks, and we are working together. And the international solidarity campaign has had a great effect in supporting the struggle inside Chile.

But there are still different theories of revolutionary strategy. Some think we can work with the entire Christian Democratic Party, whose anti-communist leadership originally supported the bloody coup. Others argue that we should work only with the anti-dictatorship, anti-imperialist forces in the ranks of the Christian Democrats.

**EDUARDO FREI—
"MAN FROM WASHINGTON"**

Q. What is the strategy of the Christian Democrats?

A. The leaders of the Christian Democrats have their own idea of being a "third force" between the dictatorship and the left. Since September, they have been sending their best lobbyists and diplomats to Washington to talk with Senators and Congressmen in order to get support for themselves in opposition to the junta.

What may well happen, as in Greece, is that the junta will be overthrown with the support of the U.S. government. They will then call for a "democratic election," perhaps even with the participation of certain sectors of the left. Of course the left will not be allowed to organize. The Christian Democrats' leader Eduardo Frei, the "man from Washington" as we call him, will have to win because no one else will be allowed to. They will continue to use the military to repress the left, but they would then have a better so-called "democratic" face to show the world.

Q. Why would the U.S. support this "third force" alternative?

A. Because the junta is isolated. It has no popular support but survives only by repression. It has created a more than 400 percent inflation rate, massive unem-

ployment, hunger and malnutrition. Workers all over the world have refused to handle any goods traded with the fascist junta. Worldwide sanctions against the junta are hurting the U.S. economically and embarrassing it politically. The U.S. needs a face-changing operation for its Santiago government so that Chile will once again be a profitable place for U.S. companies to invest.

But no matter what "dirty tricks" they try or how much repression they use, we will fight on to final victory and self-determination for the Chilean people!



Maria Stella Dabancens, Chilean Resistance fighter and former prisoner.
WW photo: Tom G.

—E. Timor message

(Continued from page 7)

tember, the East Timor leaders have had to call the people to take up arms once again and fight a new enemy—the sub-imperialist Indonesia. On December 7, the military junta of Jakarta launched an all-out war against the young Democratic Republic of East Timor.

The first wave of assault was crushed by FRETILIN forces and on Christmas Day, in a desperate attempt to control East Timor, the Indonesian generals poured in 30,000 paratroopers and marines under cover of naval and air forces. Despite this criminal aggression and Indonesian military strength, the nationalist forces of the Democratic Republic of East Timor remain in control of 85 percent of the territory. Indonesian forces occupy only two towns, Dili and Baucau. But at this very moment FRETILIN guerrilla units have infiltrated the occupied Indonesian positions and fierce fighting is going on. I am glad to announce that three villages have just been recaptured by our patriotic forces—Liquica and Maubara, along the north coast 15 and 20 miles from Dili towards the West, and Bazartete, just 10 miles from Dili, in the surrounding mountains.

The aggressors have already suffered up to 15,000 casualties, killed or wounded. But the East

Timorese people are paying a very high price. Up to 10,000 Timorese children, unarmed women, and aged people have been massacred by the Indonesian forces in a period of 4 weeks. Our crops have been burned and hospitals have been under fire, causing hundreds of patients to die in their beds. A naval blockade by 30 Indonesian warships prevents any humanitarian assistance from reaching East Timor. There is not a single doctor in East Timor and the FRETILIN health centers have run out of medicine.

Hundreds of U.S.-made weapons have been captured from the Indonesian forces. We appeal to our brothers and sisters in America to help stop U.S. involvement in East Timor in a way by proxy. The blood-thirsty Indonesian generals are killing our people with American-supplied weapons. There is no doubt that the war of aggression against the Democratic Republic of East Timor has been paid for by the American taxpayers. We appeal to the people of America to stop the U.S. government from supplying the deadly war machines to the military junta of Jakarta.

The People of East Timor are determined to fight until the last Indonesian soldier is expelled from our territory. Our struggle is also the struggle of all dominated and exploited people around the world. It is a common struggle against a common enemy. Our defeat will be the defeat of all progressive forces around the world. Our victory will be another step forward in the march toward the national liberation of all oppressed people.

A luta continua,
Patria ou morte,
Venceremos!

Alarico Fernandes, member of the Central Committee of FRETILIN, Minister for Internal Affairs and Security of the

Government of the Democratic Republic of East Timor.

(Editor's note: The struggles in Angola and East Timor bear striking similarities. Both were Portuguese colonies for over 400 years. Both declared their independence in November 1975. Both have since been invaded by neocolonialist forces in the pay of U.S. imperialism masquerading as defenders of "legitimate" national movements. And both the MPLA and FRETILIN have won the support of the masses through organizing the people to combat illiteracy and disease and through arming them politically and militarily.)

—Angola

(Continued from page 7)

recent Party Congress in Havana, "Some of them (the imperialists) wonder why we help the Angolans, what interests we have there. They are accustomed to thinking that whenever a country does something, it is in pursuit of oil or copper or diamonds or some other natural resource.

"No! We are not after material interests and logically the imperialists do not understand this, because they are exclusively guided by chauvinist, nationalist, and selfish criteria. Thus when the imperialists ask us what are our interests, we will have to say, 'Look, read a manual on proletarian internationalism so that you may understand why we are helping Angola.'"

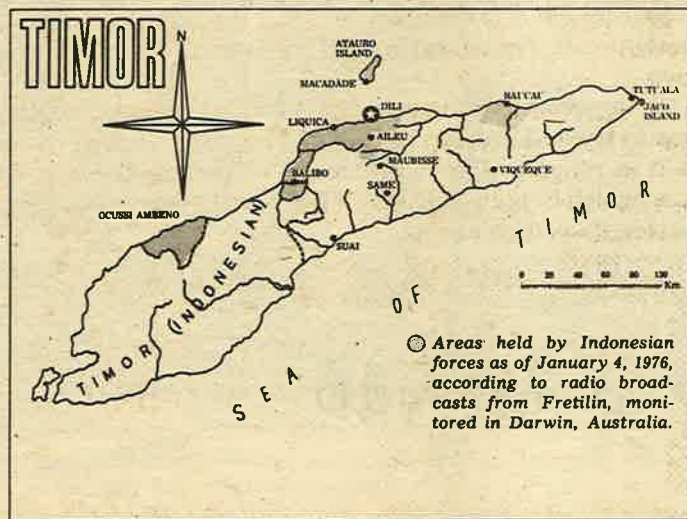
Of course, one can be sure that no matter how many books they read, the U.S. ruling class will never comprehend working class solidarity against the oppressors. What they can understand, however, are the concrete defeats being handed out to them and their quislings on the battlefields of Angola, and last week's lesson was a painful one indeed!

Was it an oversight?

NEW YORK, Jan. 21—In the two issues of the Daily World which have appeared since Saturday's major demonstration and rally here in solidarity with the liberation struggle in Angola, the paper has failed to make any mention of this event. The Daily World is the newspaper of the revisionist U.S. Communist Party.

It has, however, quoted extensively from New York Representative Bella Abzug who not only opposes U.S. intervention in Angola but also calls for the Soviet Union and Cuba, who have supplied material assistance and troops, respectively, to get out.

Saturday's demonstration, which received the support of a broad spectrum of organizations and the solidarity of several organizations in the socialist countries, emphatically supported the MPLA and the aid it has received from the Soviet Union and Cuba.



Rigged elections: 1876-1976

1880: Chester A. Arthur— Candidate for prison, successor to the Presidency

By V. COPELAND

As we noted last week, every schoolchild knows about the assassination of President James A. Garfield by a disappointed office seeker who was convinced that Garfield, the "reformer," would ruin the spoils system.

But very few schoolchildren know very much about his Vice-President and successor, Chester A. Arthur, who became President and kept the job for nearly 4 years.

One of the very few Presidents who couldn't get the renomination of his party, Arthur is treated as a nobody in the history books. And there is a very good reason for that. Bourgeois history has to cover up the fact that he was one of the most venal and crooked politicians of the Gilded Age.

MAKES DALEY AND DESAPIO LOOK GOOD!

Richard Daley, the master mechanic of modern-day machine politics in Chicago, or the now-paroled Carmine deSapio, polished purveyor of tombstone votes in New York State, would be angels of purity in the White House compared to Chester A. Arthur. And no self-respecting ruling class political caucus would run either of them for President—not because of their crookedness, but for fear they would steal directly from public funds, rather than preside over others doing it in the stately fashion Presidents are supposed to do.

But the Republican strategists of 1880 had to run Arthur as "reformer" Garfield's second man, mainly because the New York State political machine could not be left out while the Ohio machine was cut in. Some of the biggest New York capitalists, it is true, felt perfectly confident and comfortable working through the Ohio Republican machine. But the New York State machine was exceedingly powerful in its own right and delivered a crucial number of electoral votes for which it demanded payment.

Moreover, the New York political rascals, Democratic or Republican, were now either abject servants or respectful satellites of the all-important railroad-banking fraternity of the state, and even a thoroughly discredited scoundrel like Arthur could do a lot of good for big business in Washington.

(It should be firmly kept in mind that the New York-Ohio axis directly controlled the Presidency from 1876 to 1923 with the exception of Benjamin Harrison of Indiana and Woodrow Wilson of New

Jersey. And this was not so much because of the concentration of peoples as the concentration of capital in those states.)

Arthur had been Collector of the Port of New York, a position which in those days entitled the officeholder to tremendous commissions, not always legal. For example, he received a large percentage of every cargo grossly or slightly misstated in its bill of lading. Arthur was accused of making millions out of this device.

The job also entailed the appointment of well over a hundred juicy positions and the building of a considerable political machine for himself and his friends. His conduct was so raw that at one time even the obliging President Hayes had had to fire him.

Senator Sherman, a disappointed Presidential candidate himself, called Arthur a "burlesque" as a running mate.

Nevertheless, the tremendous public outcry at Garfield's assassination—especially considering that the assassin had cried out "I am a stalwart (the name for Arthur's faction in the Republican Party) and Arthur is President now!"—compelled Arthur to put on a more solemn front and even put a few more jobs under Civil Service.

In the "comedy of reform" that

ensued, Arthur played his role with a skill derived from years of back-room deals on a different stage. He played one faction against another—turned his back slightly upon his own previous buddies and, says one early biographer, "impressed himself upon the minds of important businessmen especially as the most effective President since Lincoln." (This would have been laughed down uproariously by the cynical associates of the Stalwart President. But of course the "important businessmen" did get along quite well with him.)

In order to deodorize his administration somewhat, Arthur went after an especially odorous "Post Office Ring" which had been organized by a section of the Republican Party to raise funds for its machine.

This investigation was considered all the more statesmanlike of Arthur since he himself had been one of the main original organizers of the ring.

However, after two interminable jury trials, both with as much publicity as possible in these pre-television days, the former pals of Arthur were found not guilty.

Arthur himself lives on in a statue in Madison Square Park in New York City.

Next: Grover Cleveland, the honest hangman.



Buycentennial Sellabration



By BEVERLY SLAPIN

It's time to roll out the red, white, and blue carpet—or maybe green would be a more appropriate color. The Buy-Centennial is here.

Two hundred years after the signers of the Declaration of Independence decided to "establish commerce" for themselves, we are being bombarded by the greatest and most tasteless commercial promotion in history.

Buy-Centennial souvenirs of the "Revolution"—from red, white, and blue hamburgers to star-spangled toilet seats to Bicentennial cigar boxes to American eagle-decked dog collars—are here to remind us that patriotism is good for business.

PAWNS OF BICENTENNIAL

Patriotic publishers are releasing a deluge of colonial cookbooks, calendars, children's books, and cartoons; and TV and radio commercials are extolling the virtues of "revolutionary" laundry detergent, toilet paper, floor wax, and toothpaste.

Bicentennial toys are also hot items. There are "frontier" play sets; Dolly Madison, George Washington, and Daniel Webster dolls; and, for the Have-Everything Crowd, an \$18,000 chess set in silver and gold plate starring Betsy Ross and Paul Revere, with Indians as pawns, vs. King George and Queen Charlotte with tea chests for pawns.

Women are also being used as pawns to celebrate the Bicentennial. The Bicentennial Revue at the Americana Hotel in Miami has, as the grand finale, a nude Statue of Liberty—on roller skates, yet. And the Fontainebleau Hotel down the street is showing a gala history of American costumes (all costumes stop at the waist, of course.)

Not to be outdone in the contest of poor taste, the government has a lavish plan to turn the space center at Cape Canaveral into a Bicentennial extravaganza.

The plan is to erect 14 mammoth geodesic domes to house displays

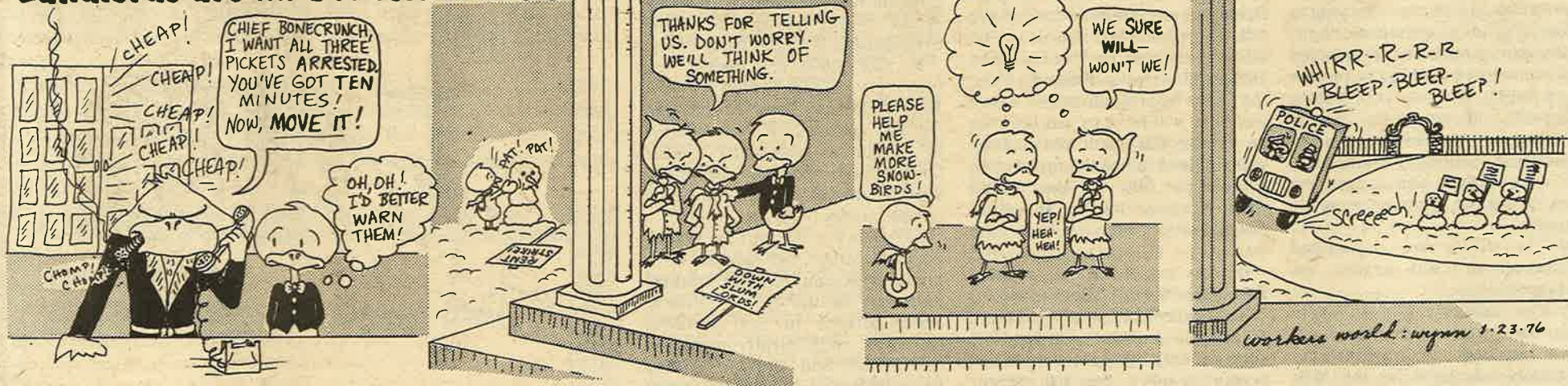
Get in the struggle with Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party!

Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism are organizing and responsible for many of the struggles you read about in the pages of this paper. These groups are made up of women and men, Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native American, young and old, straight and gay, working, students, and unemployed, who fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

ATLANTA—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Georgia 30301
BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 2402 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21218
BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston Street, Room 204, Boston, Mass. 02116, (617) 353-1400
BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 730 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14202, (716) 855-3055
CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, Illinois 60605.
CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 2576, East Cleveland, Ohio 44112, 451-9538 or 231-8456
DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, 3rd floor, Detroit, Michigan 48226
HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052
MILWAUKEE—Workers World Party, 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, 224-0422
NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 West 21st Street, New York, N.Y. 10010, (212) 255-0352
NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, Virginia 23509, 627-0870
PHILADELPHIA—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 9894, Philadelphia, Pa. 19140
RICHMOND—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 12132, Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 353-9937
ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14614 (716) 546-6429
WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, care-of P.O. Box 1117, Washington, D.C. 20013

Landlords are ...FOR THE BIRDS



POLITICAL PRISONERS



ATMORE-HOLMAN APPEAL

By TOM GARDNER

ATLANTA, Jan. 9—"Society has rejected the death penalty...even when it was on the books, public decency would not allow its use since 1967." With these words, Louisville attorney Bill Allison asked the Alabama Court of Appeals to reverse the death penalty conviction of Johnny "Imani" Harris.

Imani was convicted by an all-white, all-male jury in Bay Minette, Ala., of killing a guard-hostage who died when the Atmore Prison warden and guards rushed prisoners protesting conditions in Atmore's segregation unit.

In the incident, which took place 2 years ago on January 18, 1974, Chairman of the Inmates for Action Chagina (s.n. George Dobbins) was murdered by prison officials. No one has been charged with Chagina's death. But of the prisoners charged (the Atmore-Holman Brothers), two have received life sentences, one a death sentence, others a total of 205 years, and one, Frank X Moore, was hanged in his Escambia County cell before trial.

It was charged by defense attorneys that the only reason Imani was indicted is because, under an old Alabama law, a prisoner serving a life term and then convicted of first-degree murder can be given the death penalty. For the purpose of reviving executions in Alabama, Attorney General Bill Baxley reportedly singled out Imani, the only lifer involved in the seizure of the hostages, for prosecution under this primitive statute. Imani's name had not been mentioned in any of the statements given by officials after the incident, and this law had never been used before in Escambia County under many similar situations.

Attorney General Baxley, however, in an ambitious move to ride Governor Wallace's racist coattails, not only prosecuted Imani personally, but declared in his demagogic summation to the jury, "It would have been proper to set up a machine gun, give them (the protesting prisoners) 5 minutes to come out, and then go ahead and cut them down."

FREE DAVID FINE!

NEW YORK, Jan. 19—David Sylvan Fine is being held in Madison, Wis., where he faces charges stemming from the bombing on August 24 of the Army Mathematics Research Center located on the University of Wisconsin Campus. David could spend the rest of his life in jail if convicted.

David Fine was a tireless fighter in the struggle against the U.S. aggression in Indochina and he was active in support of oppressed people within the U.S. He was arrested in San Rafael, Cal., on Jan. 8, 1976 after spending 5½ years underground.

A year of intense anti-war protests against the Army Math Research Center involving thousands of Madison residents preceded the bombing, which came in the early morning hours of a night when school was not in session and few people would be on campus. In spite of a warning phone call made to the police, the

Baxley guaranteed Imani's conviction by striking off the jury panel the only four Blacks who were called on the jury roll of 100 citizens. Defense Attorney Clint Brown of Mobile, Ala., argued to the appellate court that when Blacks constituted only 4 percent of the potential jury roll, while making up 18 percent of the population of Baldwin County, where the trial took place, this under-represented Blacks by 81.5 percent and should be grounds for reversing the conviction.

BLACK JURORS EXCLUDED

Attorney Brown argued further that the entire procedure for selecting grand jury members in Escambia County, where the indictments were handed down against the prisoners, was illegal and unconstitutional. He pointed out that while Black people make up 27.2 percent of the Escambia County population, they are only 10.6 percent of the jury list. Women who make up 50 percent of the county, are only 35.5 percent of the jury list. Brown cited precedents to show that not only was the jury selection process and composition illegal, but also that the failure of the trial judge to allow a pretrial hearing on the issue is sufficient grounds for reversal.

RACIST USE OF DEATH SENTENCE

A representative of the State Attorney General's office, arguing clumsily for the state, asked the judges to ignore the growing sentiment against the death penalty. In a statement that starkly revealed the racist use of the death penalty, Assistant Attorney General Eric Bowen stated, "This worldwide trend against the death penalty that Mr. Allison referred to is in countries like England and France where they have a homogeneous society with less violence, but our society is different and we have to deal with the violence."

If Bowen's statement was not clear enough that the Alabama government sees the death penalty as a weapon against the oppressed Black minority in that state, the facts make the point

building was not evacuated and one man died in the blast. Karl Armstrong is serving a 25-year sentence at Waupun State Prison in Wisconsin on charges resulting from the Army Math bombing.

The Army Math Center was hated by progressive people as it was directly involved in developing technology used by the Army to kill thousands of Indochinese people in the Vietnam war. Technology developed by Army Math was also used by the CIA and the Bolivian Army to find and assassinate Che Guevara.

David comes from a poor family and has been declared indigent by the court. On the other hand, the government has unlimited funds with which to prosecute the case against him. In order for David to have an adequate defense, thousands of dollars are necessary. Please make contributions payable to: The David Fine Freedom Committee, P.O. Box 93, Madison, Wisconsin.

unmistakably clear. Defense Attorney Allison cited statistics to show that "80 percent, 126 out of 156, of all people executed in Alabama between 1920 and 1970 have been Black."

All the justices on the Appeals Court, except one, were appointed or approved by George Wallace. One of them, John DeCarlo, is managing Wallace's current Presidential campaign as he did in 1968 and 1972 to earn his seat on the bench.

KKK AT NAPANOCH

By PETE PERKINS

NEW YORK, Jan. 13—Napanoch prison has become increasingly notorious in recent months as a haven for some 3 or 4 dozen known or suspected members of the Ku Klux Klan among the 400 guards employed there. By contrast, only 12 of the guards are Black or Latin, and 85 percent of the prison population is either Black or Latin.

The most infamous Klansman at Napanoch is Earl Schoonmaker, Grand Dragon of the New York State KKK who was employed as a teacher.

SIMONE AND JORDAN

John Simone and Reginald Jordan are two Latin prisoners at Napanoch presently locked up in "segregation" (the box) on charges of assaulting a prison guard. On December 16, they had been accused by this guard of using too much sugar in their coffee in the mess hall. After this provocation, a near riot took place.

John Simone, a survivor of the Attica massacre and a prisoner

By JOANNE GAVIN

HOUSTON, Jan. 16—A jury of six men and six women split right down the middle today when it failed to reach a verdict in the frame-up robbery trial of former civil-rights leader Lee Otis Johnson.

Defense lawyers Robert Turner and Brady Coleman called it a victory and said that it means that at least half the jury took the law literally and refused to convict when they had a reasonable doubt that the two prosecution witnesses (both white) had correctly identified Johnson as the man who robbed them.

Lee Otis himself said that he had expected an acquittal, but was satisfied with a mistrial. He said that had expert witness Bob Buckhout been allowed to testify on the social and psychological aspects of eye-witness identification, even more jurors may have been for acquittal. Johnson also felt that some of the jurors wanted him in prison regardless of guilt or innocence because of his interracial marriage and because they remembered him as an "agitator" in the 1960s.

Judge Garth Bates and Assistant D.A. Henry Oncken—called Colonel Sanders and Oinken by the defense committee—were not only out of their class, they were out of another period of history. They are so accustomed to running a kangaroo court—a conviction factory—that they made no attempt to be subtle. Bates sustained every one of Oncken's objections and overruled every one of the defense's objections—a 100 percent record.

Mr. Fred Sessions, business agent for the Laborers' Union, testified that Lee Otis had been with him all day on the day of the robbery, going from one job site to another in search of work. Mr. Sessions knew Lee Otis only through the union and did not know that he was charged with robbery until he heard it at the trial. He is Black, and it is significant that the all-white jury accepted his testimony, rather than that of the prosecution's lily-white trio of witnesses.

Lee Otis testified last and Oncken browbeat him with repetitions of the same questions. The defense's objections to this were, of course, overruled. Johnson's last words on the stand were, "I have had 7 hours sleep since Monday, and y'all have done it intentionally!" As he left the stand, he fell to the floor, apparently with some kind of seizure. (He has a heart murmur, ulcers, and other health problems which have had no medical attention in the year he has been in jail.)

He was taken to a hospital, given token examinations and declared able to stand trial. It was at about this point in the trial that even the Iranians on the defense committee, who have seen the greatest injustice, expressed shock at the kind of trial Lee Otis was getting. They said Bates and Oncken would do well in the courts of fascist Iran.

Friday saw closing arguments and the case went to the jury, which deliberated for 4½ hours before declaring itself hopelessly deadlocked.

ATLANTA HELLHOLE

By DONNA LAZARUS

ATLANTA, Jan. 8—On December 31, disclosures in the Atlanta Constitution revealed that deplorable conditions continue at the Atlanta City Jail despite a \$222,000 emergency allocation 6 months ago. Described as a "dungeon," "unsafe," and "stifling" by the bourgeois press, the building is officially considered substandard by the state and the Fulton County Health Department. Department of Corrections Director J.D. Hudson admits the jail is "squalid" and "unfit for human habitation."

The average population is over 330 prisoners, although according to state standards the population should be no larger than 160.

The Georgia Department of Human Resources is holding up specifications for roofing, ventilation, and elevators while broken and unusable showers on the women's floor mean they must bathe on another floor. The two elevators break down almost daily.

Prisoners will not have hot, clean food until food services equipment "on order" arrives. A smoke-detection and fire alarm system required by law have not been installed. State mandated fire walls block natural ventilation. Vermin abound in the building. Accused felons are housed in tiny cells with no lights where they may have to spend up to 5 months before transfer or release.

Clearly, it is criminal that these wretched conditions are allowed. Perhaps the most blatant example of official callousness is the statement that there is "no

money" for a doctor or paramedics to attend the prisoners yet the City Council Public Safety Commission is spending \$20,000 on a "study" of space in the jail.

It is an outrage that poor and oppressed people are thrown into government-run institutions where they are denied the most basic human rights while subjected to daily deprivation and degradation. Fourteen prisoners have died in the Atlanta City Jail since 1972, and still medical treatment is denied to the thousands housed within its walls each year. The only remedy for this rotten hellhole is to tear it down!



WW photo: Joanne [inset]



Lee Otis Johnson talks to reporters after jury announced it could not reach a decision on phony robbery charges. Johnson was arrested on the day his wife and daughter Jennifer [inset] were to come home from the hospital. WW photo: Debbe Sharpe

Detroit's parents uniting against racist organizers

Black woman speaks out on busing

DETROIT, Jan. 15—Gloria Cobbin is an elected member of Detroit's Region Two School Board. She is a Black woman, a working mother of two, who has a long history of involvement in Black community affairs and in the trade union movement. *Workers World* interviewed her about the initiation of busing in Detroit.

WW: City-wide busing in Detroit will begin January 26, but some busing has already taken place in Detroit. Could you tell us about the reaction to that busing?

Cobbin: Detroit has had busing for 4 years, as a part of the public middle school magnet program. This has been on a voluntary basis, and the reaction to that busing was very good. Region II started busing in September of last year at South-Western High, where the ninth grade was moved from a predominantly white to a predominantly Black school. But there had been staff work done before, and the reaction was not bad.

PLANS TO PREVENT RACIST VIOLENCE

WW: What plans are being made

now to prevent a flare-up of the racist violence that occurred in Boston and Louisville?

Cobbin: In Region Two, we have our own monitoring system and are working through the School-Community Relations Council which has representatives from every school in the region. They are organizing parents of bused students to get them acquainted with parents of students in the receiving schools, to make the transition easier. There will be welcoming committees of parents greeting the bused students at the schools, from the first day of busing. We plan to have trial runs of the buses so the parents can follow the route and see just where their children are going.

WW: You mentioned at one time that there were meetings of people within Region Two who were against busing that had quite large turnouts. Would you say, though, that the number still wasn't as great as the people participating in the parent-to-parent programs?

Cobbin: People came from all over the country to those meetings—maybe they didn't even have kids in the school involved. But they created the illusion that

no one is going to accept busing, when that's really not what the parents feel. People before had volunteered to send their children to the magnet middle schools by bus, they had no problem with that. But now, with all this controversy, some of the people are saying, "Well, I don't want busing," when maybe their kids have been bused 2 or 3 years already.

ANTI-BUSING GROUPS LED BY BIGOTS

WW: What kinds of people do you feel are behind the anti-busing groups like MAD (MAD is Mothers Alert Detroit, the most publicized anti-busing group in Detroit.)

Cobbin: The whole busing thing is about bigotry. That's why we have it. If the whites didn't mind having their children around Blacks, we wouldn't be in this situation now. That's why they moved away. White parents are doing most of the screaming, because their children are being taken out of the neighborhood school and being sent to a school that is predominantly Black and because they are bigots. The reason they moved was to get away from Blacks and now they gotta go back with Blacks and that's why they're screaming.

Groups like MAD are motivated by racism—there's no question about it.

WW: Do you think the press in Detroit has given adequate coverage to the Black community's views on busing?

Cobbin: The press listens to the people who scream the loudest, and right now the whites are doing most of the screaming. The other thing you have to deal with with the press—they report what they want. If the press is white, they're not interested in what Blacks think.

They're interested in what white parents feel about busing; they're not interested in what I feel about busing. So, because you haven't heard about any protests or anything like that from Blacks, it's simply because white people control the press and they report what they want to print.

PONTIAC CALM, NO LONGER "NEWSWORTHY"

WW: In spite of Irene McCabe and the National Action Group, who were nationally-known anti-busers and racists several years ago in Pontiac, Michigan, busing has proceeded very well in Pontiac. Can you tell us anything about that?

Cobbin: Among other things, they built a new facility in Pontiac as a result of the busing issue.

Three of the schools decided instead of building three separate facilities that they would build one. It accommodates students in grades 1-4. They have Blacks, whites, Latinos, and other minority groups that go there and they come by bus. It's completely community-oriented and it's open 12 hours a day. You can use the facility for community meetings. They have an adult continuing-education program with a daycare facility, and it uses a special individualized learning system. There is a dental facility and a doctor there, a food co-op, a parent-tutoring program, etc. While Irene McCabe was out there hollering and screaming about busing, you didn't hear about these other people that were working on building this kind of center.



In the first Detroit demonstration to oppose U.S. intervention in Angola, members of Workers World Party, the Yes I Can Mission, and Eritreans for Liberation braved freezing temperatures in a march through the downtown area on Jan. 12. Passers-by cheered on chants of "U.S.-CIA-South Africa out of Angola" and one bus driver, with a load of passengers, stopped his bus to express his solidarity and to take leaflets from the demonstrators.

WW photo

Busing in Detroit begins January 26

Come to a public rally: 'Say NO to racism'
special guest speakers:

Bill Roundtree—national organizer of the
December 14 March Against Racism in Boston

Gloria Cobbin—Detroit Region 2 school board member

Sunday, January 25, 7 p.m.

229 Gratiot at Broadway, 3rd floor, Detroit

For more information call (313) 962-4979

Insecticide paralyzes chemical workers

Kepone poisons 60 mile area of Virginia

By JESSE LEE

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 9—What has been described as the worst ecological disaster in the nation's history has recently been exposed in Virginia.

Kepone, a pesticide, was produced for 16 months in Hopewell, Va., in a building that was originally a gas station. The 149 people who worked there had been assured that Kepone was safe. They worked without protective clothing. Liquid waste was on the floor and ground outside, and dust dispersed by the dryers resembled a small blizzard. The chemical found its way into the James River and was carried as far as the Chesapeake Bay.

Many of the 149 workers from the plant are now unable to perform even simple tasks because of their reactions to Kepone. Their families have also been poisoned. A sewage treatment plant worker has been

hospitalized for Kepone poisoning.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Life Science Products, a company set up by two Allied Chemical executives to produce Kepone, dumped its waste products uncontrolled into Hopewell's sewage system. After one month of the plant's operation, the digesters at the city sewage treatment plant were knocked out. A Health Department memo of Dec. 10, 1974 stated they had considered shutting down the Kepone production but that "at the same time economics was brought up." (Virginia Pilot, Jan. 6, 1976.) The "economics" was the profit-hungry Allied Chemical Corp., a part of the Rockefeller empire.

The result has meant disaster for thousands of people. The disabled workers are now receiving only workmen's compensation. And the full extent of the poisoning has not

been revealed. It has been 5 months since tests were made on the citizens of Hopewell.

Dr. John Knelson of the Environmental Protection Agency has said, "There is no evidence that exposure to the concentration of Kepone we have found will cause health problems. On the other hand, there is no evidence that it will not."

This callous lie is meant to cover up the extent of the poisoning. Medical tests have shown that it takes only a small amount of Kepone to cause cancer.

Because of the uncontrolled dumping of waste products from the plant, Kepone has been found up to 60 miles from Hopewell. The governor of Virginia was forced to close the James River, the state's most vital estuary, up to the Chesapeake Bay. The James supports a multi-billion-dollar inland fishing industry and sup-

plies seed oysters for the Chesapeake Bay. The ban on all fishing has put 3,000 people out of work.

Allied Chemical is the criminal responsible for this crime. Allied developed Kepone. Two Allied Chemical executives set up Life Science Products at a time when government regulations on pesticides were getting slightly stricter. They set up the separate operation as a legal loophole to avoid federal regulation of Kepone production. C.L. Jones, a former Allied plant manager in Hopewell, worked in 1974 as a liaison between the city and its industries. He assured the city that Kepone was not dangerous.

COLLUSION BETWEEN ALLIED AND "PUBLIC SERVANTS"

When the city decided to monitor the level of Kepone being

discharged into the sewers and river, Allied offered to perform the tests. The results were predictable—there was nothing to worry about.

The State Water Control Board's chief enforcement officer, Ray Bowles, had worked for Allied for 17 years. His job is to keep the waters from being polluted. He had been warned by one of his staff in 1974 of the situation in Hopewell, but refused to do anything.

The obvious collusion between Allied Chemical and the government officials who were supposed to protect the public interests is behind this disaster.

Allied must be forced to pay—for the lives of those who have been incapacitated, for the thousands whose jobs have been eliminated, and for the extensive clean-up operations that must be performed to make Virginia safe from Kepone poisoning.