

Another great victory for world's oppressed!

Angolan liberation forces sweep away CIA puppets

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, Feb. 17—The hour of victory has at last arrived for the Angolan people.

Following a spectacular 5-day sweep through southern Angola, the determined forces of the newly born People's Republic of Angola with Soviet aid and the revolutionary presence of Cuban volunteers have successfully driven back a U.S.-sponsored offensive against Angola launched last October.

END TO COLONIALISM

At that time, the Pentagon had high hopes of establishing a neocolonial rule through its puppet forces in the strategically important southern African nation.

Now three months since independence from Portuguese colonialism on Nov. 11 and the formation of the People's Republic under the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) leadership, these hopes of Washington have been shattered with the stunning defeat of the pro-imperialist UNITA and FNLA troops, CIA-hired mercenaries, and invaders from South Africa and Zaire.

Currently, only a 50-mile-wide strip of sparsely populated land near the Namibian border remains in the hands of the reactionary, apartheid regime of South Africa, whose rulers have become increasingly alarmed at the prospect of a successful liberation struggle in southern Africa.

SPEEDY VICTORIES

During the past week, MPLA units easily moved into key southern cities, including Huambo, the so-called capital of the phony UNITA-FNLA puppet republic, and Silva Porto, the military headquarters of UNITA and South African invaders.

In liberating these cities, the MPLA "did not have one loss of life, nor anyone wounded," according to MPLA commander Luiz Fazeira, quoted in the Feb. 23 issue of Newsweek.

Speedy victories also occurred in the important port cities of Lobito and Benguela, which, along with the capture of Luso, gave the People's Republic control of the Benguela railroad, Angola's only major rail line and a vital source of revenue as neighboring Zaire and



MPLA rally in Luanda.

Zambia's only rail link to the sea.

Ahead of the MPLA advance, demoralized UNITA troops, according to the Feb. 23 Time magazine, did not prepare resistance, but instead simply tore up Benguela tracks and buried them in an attempt to sabotage the Angolan economy. Though UNITA units were heavily armed, city after city was evacuated by the puppet troops in anticipation of the MPLA advance.

Of course, the way was also paved by the en-

thusiastic support the liberation troops received from local populations, sickened by the plunder and looting of the occupying armies. In Sa da Bandeira and Mocamedes local townspeople played a decisive role in driving out puppet troops themselves as MPLA forces neared.

Ironically, Popular Movement troops neared the town of Serpa Pinto just as UNITA was announcing that city would be its new southern capital. The city is

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Ohio state workers fighting to protect standard of living

By CHERYL RAMAN

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 15—State workers here are finding their wages and benefits under attack as the assault on public employees begun in New York spreads across the country.

After one-and-a-half years without a raise, state workers were recently "reclassified." They were told to expect as much as a dollar an hour more under this plan.

But when a boss decides to reclassify workers, the chances are it's going to be down, as Ohio state workers soon found out. Unwilling to confront workers with a direct pay cut, the State of Ohio's much-touted reclassification amounted to a demotion and pay freeze for many workers and a paltry 20 cents an hour increase for others.

At the Ohio State University (OSU) library, many clerks who were affected by the plan found their old pay to be higher than top pay in their reclassified titles. These workers comprise the notorious "Level X," a category which will receive no further pay increments. Supposedly to compensate for this, they were granted longevity pay—which, as one worker with nearly ten years seniority told this reporter, amounts to 80 cents per week before taxes.

At the OSU library, workers are turning in increasing numbers to the Communications Workers of America (CWA), Local 101. To date Local 101 has proven to be a militant defender of university workers both on campus and in the library.

During recent contract negotiations a steward in the OSU laundry facility was told she would be fired if she filed another grievance. Responding to a call from her, President Jim Ervin of Local 101 went to the laundry room—and was arrested for so-called trespassing!

The laundry workers walked off the job and stayed off until he was released.

After six months of negotiations, the new contract was ratified on Jan. 11, only two weeks after a strike vote was taken to counter the administration's arrogant attitude. The right of the local president to go anywhere to settle a grievance is now included in the contract, as well as other improvements.

In the library itself, Local 101

members launched a struggle against unsafe and unhealthy working conditions. During the remodeling of the main library, dust and debris caused eye and lung ailments so serious that some clerks had to go to the emergency room for treatment. The administration's solution was to tell workers to use their sick time to go home if conditions were unbearable to them.

Fed up with losing sick time to escape hazards caused by the administration, a whole department, led by union members, walked out. The right to sign out to other locations was won, not because the administration was concerned with the health and safety of the workers, but because members of Local 101 demanded it and backed up that demand with action.

Although technically library clerks can't appeal reclassifications, union members are guaranteed that right in the contract. Stewards and active union members are helping everyone write and file appeals to fight the reclassifications. In the library alone, CWA members doubled to 60 in a week.

This growth shows workers are looking for tough, militant leadership that will fight to protect their dignity and standard of living.

'Stop war against Black America' rally draws 70

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 11—Unity and struggle were the over-riding themes emerging from a "Stop the war against Black America" rally held at St. Mary's Church here today. The rally, sponsored by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC), drew over 70 Black, Latin, and white people in one of the largest protests in this area in the growing movement against racism and police brutality.

The afternoon's program began with an opening address by Norfolk PSC activist Monica Moorehead, who explained how prisons in the U.S. are nothing more than concentration camps for the poor, especially for Black people.

Jay Lytes, an ex-prisoner and member of the Richmond branch of the PSC and Lewis Turner, an activist from North Carolina and husband of Ann Shepard, one of the Wilmington 10, both stressed the need for unity. Mr. Lytes described those who live outside the walls as "prisoners in a larger prison" who

must unite with those still in the "maximum wings."

Ms. Brooke Whiting, a leading member of the prisoner support group Action for Forgotten Women, spoke on the struggles of women prisoners in Raleigh, N.C. She described the medieval conditions and inhuman administrative policies that led to a protest at the Raleigh women's prison on June 15, 1975. One aspect of that continuing and growing fight is a \$23 million suit filed by the women against the prison administration and a demand for a court order to close the prison itself.

Norfolk lawyer Edward Delk, Virginia Beach school teacher Mrs. Isabel Zabriskie, and James Nimmo all spoke on the year-old fight to reopen the case of Clarence Morgan, a Black Virginia Beach longshoreman murdered in his own backyard by a white plainclothes cop. The Clarence Morgan Committee and the Prisoners Solidarity Committee have organized marches, demonstrations, petitioning, and confrontations with the city council, and a \$1 million suit has been filed against the city by Mrs. Naomi Morgan, Clarence Morgan's widow. Mr. Nimmo, a Morgan Committee activist, vowed that this legal action would be given weight by the continued mobilization of the people.

But the high point of the rally was without a doubt the presence of Mrs. Jesse Williams, the mother of Black political prisoner Joann Little. Before Mrs. Williams could begin to speak, the audience were on their feet, cheering in a salute to her own strength and courage and that of her heroic daughter.

Mrs. Mary Brooks, Joann's aunt, read a statement from Joann and Mrs. Williams spoke of the harassment and job discrimination she has experienced in Beaufort County since her daughter's celebrated trial. Mrs. Williams closed with a call to the militant audience to "Get involved! These prisoners have got no business being in there—let's fight to get them out!"

Angola supporters counter slanders against MPLA

HOUSTON, Feb. 11—A forum on Portugal and Angola was held tonight at the University of Houston. The meeting, sponsored by the Revolutionary Marxist Organizing Committee (RMOC), included speakers from that organization, Socialist Workers Party (SWP), and Workers World

Party (WWP).

Only the SWP speaker failed to support the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) as the only legitimate representative of the Angolan people. All the speakers were more or less in agreement on where Portugal is now—that is, that while the right wing is in control at present, the workers' movement is not dead. But the SWP supports the Portuguese Socialist Party, which the other speakers called an instrument of U.S. imperialism.

The RMOC speaker, Fred Brode, gave qualified support to the MPLA, and called the groups opposing it, the FNLA and UNITA, tools of imperialism. Alex Rodriguez of Workers World explained his party's position of unqualified support of progressive liberation movements, but added that the MPLA is especially worthy of support because of its revolutionary position and program.

Stu Singer of the SWP called the MPLA racist and capitalistic. Members of the audience of about 60 people reminded him that MPLA armed forces have entered unopposed, even been welcomed, to cities they have liberated in all parts of the country, regardless of which peoples predominate in those areas. They also told him that to call a liberation struggle "capitalistic" because it has some dealings with corporations like Gulf Oil is to make demands which even countries in much more favorable conditions haven't been able to carry out.

A Portuguese student in the audience gave some very interesting eyewitness accounts of events in Portugal and Angola. He said that people in Portugal never considered any group other than the MPLA to be seriously attempting the liberation of Angola. He also related that when he was in Angola it was only in the MPLA-controlled areas that anything resembling order or control prevailed.

Singer told him that he was mistaken in his observations, saying, among other things, that the "Portuguese government" supported the MPLA, as evidenced by the fact that they "turned things over to them" when independence came. The fact that the MPLA had defeated the Portuguese seemed to escape him. The Portuguese student asked him which "Portuguese government" he meant, since there have been six in the period since the overthrow of the fascist Caetano regime.

The MPLA Support Committee announced it would have a demonstration Feb. 28, and members of the audience expressed interest in participating.

DECLINE AND FALL

WHEN THE CLINICS CLOSE

New York Times, Dec. 22:

"Dr. Joseph T. Rowbottom 3d says that he may have to go back to collecting garbage. He does not look forward to it. But it may be the only way he can support his family without losing credit for two and a half years of work toward his specialty of oral surgery."

"Dr. Rowbottom, who was to complete the necessary three years of residency at Bellevue Hospital, is one of 120 general dentists and oral surgeons whose jobs are affected by the decision of the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation to cut out dental clinics in the municipal hospitals because of the budget crisis."

"Some dental residents due to be dropped don't even want to talk about their own careers."

"What I will do isn't important," says Dr. Irwin Levy, a second-year resident in oral surgery at Metropolitan Hospital that serves East Harlem.

"We get people who have life-threatening infections," Dr. Levy says. "We get people with debilitating facial trauma from muggings, fights and auto accidents. They have to be helped. These people are poor, they have no place else to go."

BRIBERY AS USUAL

New York Times, Feb. 13:

"Large numbers of American

businessmen believe they have not only the right but even the obligation to pay bribes and kickbacks abroad to win contracts for their companies, according to a report issued yesterday by the Conference Board.

"The Board, an independent research organization financed largely by American companies, said in its report that nearly half of United States business leaders said companies should pay bribes and kickbacks overseas if such practices were a routine method in the host country."

If bribes are good for Lockheed, they're good for the world!

BANKING ON BLOOD AND TEARS

Newsweek, Feb. 16:

"A South African bank noted for its aggressive merchandising techniques has drawn fire over its latest sales ploy. The Trust Bank of Africa set up special desks at

military medical-processing centers, offering to draw up last wills for soldiers headed for Angola."

... AND HOW'S YOUR 1931 CAR HOLDING UP?

Buffalo Courier-Express, Nov. 16:

"Jack Smith bought a 1931 black Cadillac for \$4,000 and turned it into a glittering jewel."

"The car is now covered with 23-carat gold leaf and decorated with 142 precious gems."

"The interior door handles, window cranks and knobs are 24-carat gold. The gearshift knob is platinum set with 18 rare gems."

"The carpet is mink. The brake, clutch, accelerator and starter are also covered with mink. The hub-cap medallions are 24-carat gold set with seven diamonds each."

"The car is insured for \$500,000."

—Angolan liberation

(continued from page 1)
now liberated.

Similar easy victories were scored on the northern front, where armed forces of the People's Republic cleared former FNLA strongholds of puppet troops and white mercenaries. In the oil-refining center of Santo Antonio do Zaire, MPLA troops sent FNLA leader Holden Roberto fleeing back to Zaire, where he had lived on the CIA payroll for most of the Angolan struggle against the Portuguese.

DIPLOMATIC VICTORIES

As the MPLA forces pushed forward, the Organization of African Unity formally recognized the People's Republic as the sole legitimate government of the Angolan people—despite heated protests from Zaire and the U.S. Currently, all but 11 members of the OAU recognize the MPLA-led government, and there are indications that France, England, and Zambia are reconsidering, now that the puppet troops have suffered defeat.

In the face of MPLA diplomatic and military victories, UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi tried to make a virtue of necessity by hastily announcing plans to turn to "guerrilla warfare." This thinly disguised cover for defeat is belied by the obvious fact that Savimbi's support lies more with the Pentagon and Praetoria than the Angolan people.

The arch-racist South African military command responded to MPLA successes by pulling back its troops to the area along the southern border with Namibia, a country illegally occupied by the apartheid regime.

At the same time, Sam Nujoma, the president of the Southwest African People's Organization (SWAPO), the liberation movement of Namibia, visited in Luanda for talks. SWAPO officially recognizes the People's Republic of Angola.

SOUTH AFRICA DIGGING IN

Although fearful South African rulers have indicated they might negotiate with the MPLA government, there are still 5,000 South African troops on Angolan soil, and according to a Feb. 11 Reuters dispatch, sources in Johannesburg have said South Africa is digging in, planting land mines, and beefing up units there.

Last Thursday, racist South African Premier John Vorster rammed ominous legislation through Parliament giving him

power to use the armed forces at his discretion for intervention anywhere in southern Africa "necessary to national security."

The same day, Vorster announced his disappointment that the U.S. hadn't supplied more weapons to "counter the Soviet-supported movement."

Vorster's claims that the U.S. government let South Africa down in its aggression against the Angolan people echo similar statements by President Gerald Ford, angered over Congress' recent cutoff of covert U.S. funding to FNLA and UNITA puppet forces. The rich U.S. master class has been deeply split over how best to maintain imperialism's interests in oil-rich Angola.

IMPORTANCE OF SOCIALIST AID

Both Ford and his cohorts in South Africa know that added to the overwhelming popular support behind the quick and victorious MPLA sweep through the south was the revolutionary willingness of Cuban volunteers to put their lives on the line for the African revolution, as well as the absolutely essential military aid given the MPLA by the Soviet Union.

For months, the MPLA has faced a combined imperialist force of mercenaries, apartheid invaders, and CIA puppets armed with Panhard tanks, helicopters, armored cars, and other weaponry capable of sowing tremendous suffering and destruction.

U.S. artillery spotter planes provided by Washington and flown by Americans have been operating over battle zones from bases in Zaire. During last week's fighting, the MPLA captured two U.S. pilots who had flown over the African country—Roger Walter Carley and Richard Fastkill—and been forced to land near Santo Antonio do Zaire when they ran out of fuel.

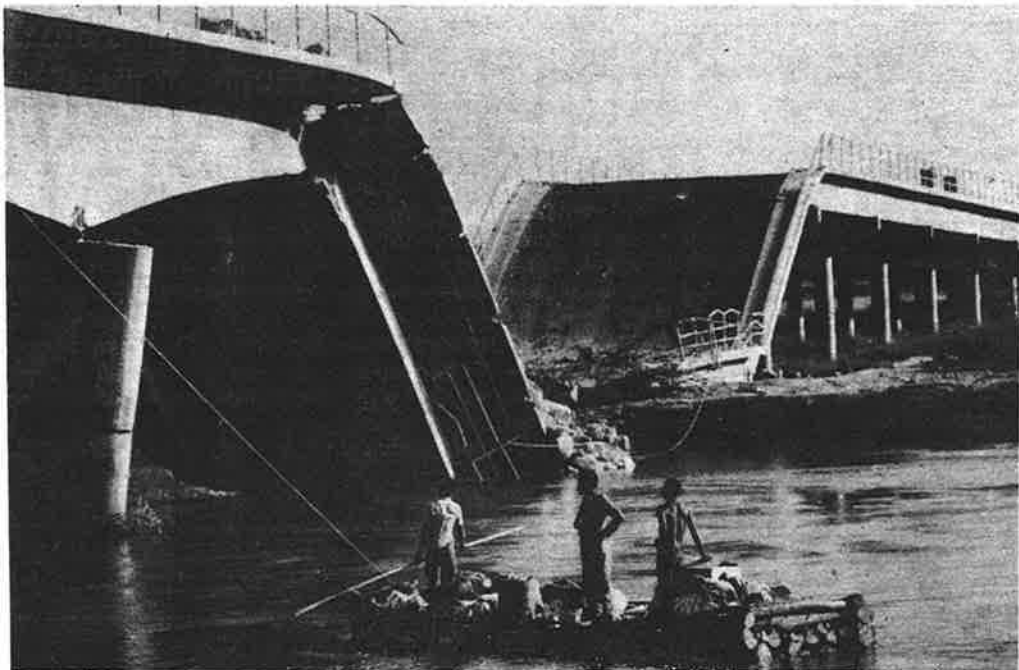
In January, the U.S. carrier Independence was reported off the Angolan coast on alert to provide tactical support for air strikes. According to the London Observer, the carrier was loaded with 90 F-1 Phantom jets, napalm, missiles, and anti-personnel fragmentation bombs.

BEHIND THE RAPID ADVANCE

Without Soviet and Cuban aid, the liberation forces would not have been sufficiently armed to advance so rapidly in the face of this weaponry poured in to the pro-U.S. forces in Angola. Without Soviet and Cuban aid, undoubtedly the MPLA would have faced a long, costly war such as the Vietnamese suffered.

Soviet guns have meant the Angolan people were spared the certainty of years of bloodshed, napalming of children, deforestation, aerial bombing, and other atrocities the U.S.-sponsored puppets and South African invaders would have inflicted.

There is a saying in Africa that as Angola goes, so goes all of Africa. With Angola's fabulous wealth no longer at the total mercy of the imperialists, the neocolonialist rulers of Zaire and Zambia, and the neo-fascist masters in South Africa and occupiers of Namibia know that their days are numbered. The rulers of these countries—as well as those in the U.S.—know that a successful liberation struggle in Angola signals the beginning of the revolution in southern Africa.



The bridge into Novo Redondo was blown up by fleeing South African troops as MPLA forces moved in to liberate the city.

'...the only way we could sell our product'

'Bankrupt' Lockheed caught in \$22M payola

By ROBERT DOBROW

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—The resignation of an Italian cabinet minister, the investigation of two generals and a Minister of Defense in Colombia, and a political crisis in Japan which could topple the government are some of the repercussions of recent disclosures detailing Lockheed Aircraft Co.'s extensive bribery of foreign executives and officials.

Lockheed, the largest military contractor in the U.S., has already admitted to a Senate investigating committee that it has shelled out \$22 million in illegal payments. A. Carl Kochian, last week's president of Lockheed, told the committee with all the forwardness of a Bible salesman, "In our judgment this was the only way we could sell our product."

PRINCE TO MAFIOSO

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, husband to Queen Juliana of Royal Dutch Shell, used his position as inspector-general of the Dutch armed forces to persuade purchases of Lockheed products. The prince, who did a short stint with the German SS in the mid-1930s, is on the board of Fokker-U.F.W. Aircraft Co., which works with Lockheed in the production of F-104 Starfighters. Last week, the Dutch Cabinet named the prince as the receiver of \$1.1 million in Lockheed payola.

Recent news of Lockheed's penetration into Japan has precipitated a Watergate-type crisis for the government there. The company's contacts included Yoshio Kodama, an ultra-rightist, underworld figure, and convicted war criminal. He got \$7.1 million as well as \$60,000 for each L-1011 jet sold in Japan. Also implicated are

former prime ministers Tanaka and Kishi, still prominent Diet members. And another lizard 'neath the overturned stone is the American Ambassador to Japan, James D. Hodgson, who before his career with the State Department was a long-time executive for... you guessed it... Lockheed!

What's at stake for the U.S. aerospace industry in Japan isn't just a few planes or replacing defective propellers. Japan plans to buy over 110 new fighters this year costing \$10-20 million each! They must pick between Grumman Corp.'s F-14, McDonnell Douglas's F-15, General Dynamics' F-16, and Lockheed's F-104.

Other admitted Lockheed payments included \$2 million to officials in Italy, \$200,000 in Colombia, \$112,000 in Mexico, and hundreds of thousands to key persons in Turkey, Nigeria, Sweden, West Germany, and Spain. In replying to a member of the Senate committee on whether this was a bribe, Lockheed's president answered, "I would categorize this more as a gift, but I don't want to quibble with you."

Lockheed also sold L-100 aircraft to the South African airline despite a U.S. arms embargo there. The license for the illegal sale was provided by the U.S. Commerce Department. In addition, Lockheed revealed paying \$10,000 to an organization in London to provide the company with intelligence on its competitors' pricing practices in Europe. According to the Feb. 7 New York Times, "at least one person in that organization was a former member of the CIA."

LOCKHEED AND THE ICEBERG

But while executive corruption—

both in business and government—is being exposed, the real significance of Lockheed's shady dealings go far beyond that. Payola on this scale becomes a disease of the system. Why are they forced to do it?

With sales of \$2.08 billion last year, Lockheed Aircraft Co. is the very essence of the military-industrial complex. The brainchild of a joint venture of the largest banks in the U.S., including Bank of America and Morgan Guaranty, it is highly subsidized by the federal government through tax writeoffs, loans, and cost overruns. Under the Emergency Loan Guarantee Act, the company is guaranteed \$250 million in loans.

In 1971 the company went bankrupt and was kept alive through massive transfusions from the government. In the midst of the disclosures of tens of millions in giveaways, Lockheed just reported to the General Accounting Office that it will be unable to pay back its \$195 million debt to the government when it comes due this year.

Lockheed, and the rest of the U.S. arms industry, are parasitic to the core, specializing in the production of new ways to create destruction. Their profits are based on the unbridled expansion over the last three decades of U.S. imperialism into every continent. However, the growth of socialist production in a third of the world, the economic development of Western Europe and Japan, and the decline of U.S. imperialism around the globe, capped by its stunning defeat in Indochina, have loosened the U.S. grip everywhere. And they have opened a period of much fiercer international competition for markets among the capitalist monopolies.

This is what ultimately lies behind Lockheed's latest woes, which are being matched by those of United Brands, Gulf Oil, Northrup, and Boeing. The trunks of money unloaded on foreign purchases by Lockheed are a reflection of the crisis of imperialism.

The resignation of Lockheed's two chief officers—a cosmetic change at the top—will in no way alter the character of the corporation as a parasitic capitalist enterprise which must constantly expand its sales and markets or die in fierce competition with its rivals. In this regard, corruption and bribery are just tools it must use in its lust for super-profits.

Its real crime is its very existence.



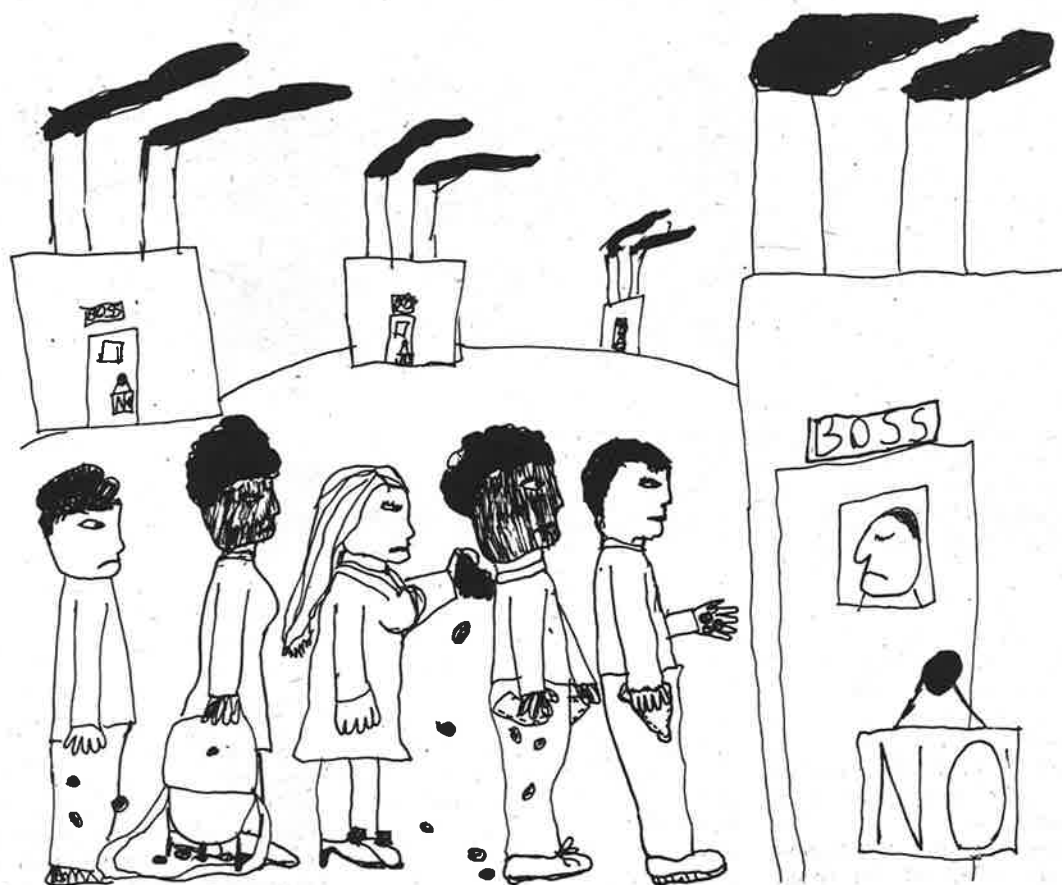
Young Pioneer of the MPLA in training in Luanda. Photo: LNS



Lockheed's royal connection: Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, here with Queen Juliana, is accused of pushing Lockheed sales for a payoff of \$1.1 million.

Grant's ordered liquidated

Creditors unaffected, workers left in the cold



Drawing by Laurie Anderson, age 8.

Graphic: LNS

What am I bid for my eye?

By G. SCHMIDT
NEW YORK, Feb. 13—We are all familiar by now with the reality of the poor and destitute of this country and the rest of the capitalist world having to sell their possessions, their sons and daughters, and their own blood bit by bit, pint by pint, in order to effect their families' survival when there is no work available to pay the bills.

Some poor people in the more technologically advanced countries have been able to raise a little money by selling their cadavers, pending the short wait for natural death, for medical research. (The well-known British actor David Niven, in his hungrier days, sold his body to a medical research institution for a few hundred dollars. Then, after his fame and fortune were established, he spent several thousand buying back legal rights to his own corpse.)

But now, due to the advances of modern medical technology, an even more horrible technique for survival has emerged. It is now possible for the poor to stave off starvation and financial ruin for a bit longer through the sale of various transplantable body organs before their death. An eye

or a kidney can be surgically removed from the still-living donor for transplantation to another individual, so that the donor, having received hard cash, can go on to pay off debts and have a "clean name."

It isn't at all far fetched or unreal.

A 43-year-old Willingboro, N.J. man has placed this advertisement in the Burlington County Times: "Selling—One eye or one kidney or both, \$10,000 each."

When interviewed by the New York Daily News, the man explained that he felt forced to this expedient for raising money because of his mounting financial problems, including his son's recent involvement in an auto accident and his wife's accumulating medical expenses. He said he works full-time and that his wife has a part-time job.

"I am not asking for handouts. My eyes and my kidneys are not handouts. Certainly these things are precious to me, but my wife and my family mean more. What I am doing is what you call ordinary fatherly love."

Ordinary parental love, perhaps, but parental love pushed to this

extreme measure by an economic system that requires more than one full-time job in a family for survival; that puts such a burden on the poor working person to pay debts, while putting none on the wealthy and their corporations who escape debts through bankruptcy proceedings; that puts such a high price on medical care, which should be free to all.

Shouldn't capitalism be dismembered instead of living human beings?

Buffalo workers forced to choose

By E.B. HARRISON
BUFFALO, N.Y., Feb. 14—Workers at the area Western Electric Co. plant were asked in 1970 to take a cut in their piece-work rates to keep the plant open. In January of this year, after reaping the advantages of six years of paying lower wages, the company—the manufacturing arm of the giant AT&T—announced its plans to close down the plant and lay off the remaining 2,000 workers.

The loss of a job is a serious matter for any working person, but here in the Buffalo area where the unemployment rate is officially over 15 percent, the layoffs at the Western Electric plant take on special significance. Rumors the plant would close circulated as early as November of last year, when the company strongly denied any intent to close and continued the construction of a new facility just outside the city. This new building, still unfinished, has now been abandoned along with the Western Electric workers.

"ECONOMIC RECOVERY" AT WORKERS' EXPENSE

While 1976 was predicted as a year of "economic recovery," the massive layoffs at Western

By T. MITCHELL
NEW YORK, Feb. 12—Federal Judge John J. Galgay today ordered the final liquidation of all assets of W.T. Grant's stores to pay off in part the stores' creditors. The order affects 24,000 workers in 359 stores, the last remaining in operation after 712 other stores employing 50,000 workers were closed out last fall under an earlier court order.

At a time when the media is full of the government's renewed promises of better times ahead, there have been no banner headlines announcing this biggest single retail bankruptcy ever. The creditors' committee holds no such hopes for Grant's stores. As Grant's lawyer told the judge, "A retailing business like this can proceed only on a team basis. But it seems now that the consensus that it continue fell apart. It is no longer a sound business venture for further investment."

The lawyer for the creditors' committee declared: "If even by 1980 Grant achieves sales of \$700 million and is one of the best-managed companies in America, it will earn only about 2 percent after taxes, or \$14 million. Yet it will still be \$1.8 billion in debt."

WHY DID GRANT'S GO UNDER?

As this admission of the creditors' committee pointed out, Grant's demise does not result from mismanagement, or even from its inability to turn a profit in the coming years after its losses of over \$130 million this year. The big financial institutions that hold the enormous Grant's debt are not just looking for profits—they want their money where their unearned income will be greatest.

Profit in many businesses surged upward at the end of 1975, but the creditors do not expect Grant's to do likewise because Grant's is a retail business catering to

customers of moderate means who themselves are not sharing in the profit recovery.

Real income of American workers is on the decline, with prices going up faster than wages since 1970. The plain fact is that working people cannot afford to buy as much as before and that is at the root of Grant's collapse, just as it is the cause of the financial difficulties of many other large retail chains including Sears and A&P.

Grant's management had been telling its workforce that things would get better next year, but the deep pessimism of the creditors shows that the big banks and financiers foresee a permanent decline in the purchasing power and living standard of the American people.

WHAT OF THE RECOVERY?

The U.S. Department of Commerce reported that profits in the last three months of 1975 were amassed at the rate of \$84 billion a year after taxes, and it is being predicted that profits in 1976 will exceed \$90 billion, greater than the all-time peak of \$87.4 billion set before the current depression hit.

As far as business is concerned, profits are the sole measure of recovery. But the catch is that these record profits are being made with fewer workers. Profits are rolling in at the expense of millions upon millions of workers who remain jobless, and it is the unemployed who will be the final judge.

The profit system is showing itself bankrupt when it comes to the fundamental need of providing a livelihood for all who want to work. While the big investors lost faith in Grant's, the unemployed will likewise grow ever more pessimistic about the system itself until they constitute a people's creditors' committee and call in the enormous human debt owed them.

Layoffs or wage cuts?

Electric last month, following the announcements of job cuts for public employees and layoffs at other area plants, have convinced many workers here that profits may be recovering—but at their expense.

The closing at this AT&T subsidiary exemplifies the type of blackmail the companies have used for years: they have held the threat of plant closings over the workers' heads as a club to end strikes and force workers to accept pay cuts.

This club came crashing down on the heads of 1,400 area W.T. Grant Co. workers and 200 more at the Sperry Rand Corp. this week, shattering any promise of economic recovery for these working families.

COMPANIES CONTINUE TO PROFIT

The imminent closing of 25 stores in the Loblaws food chain was also suddenly announced last week, threatening the jobs of another 600 workers. However, plans to take over most of the former Loblaws stores were announced by Bell's Supermarkets. Bell's is supplied by the Peter J. Schmitt distributing company, which in

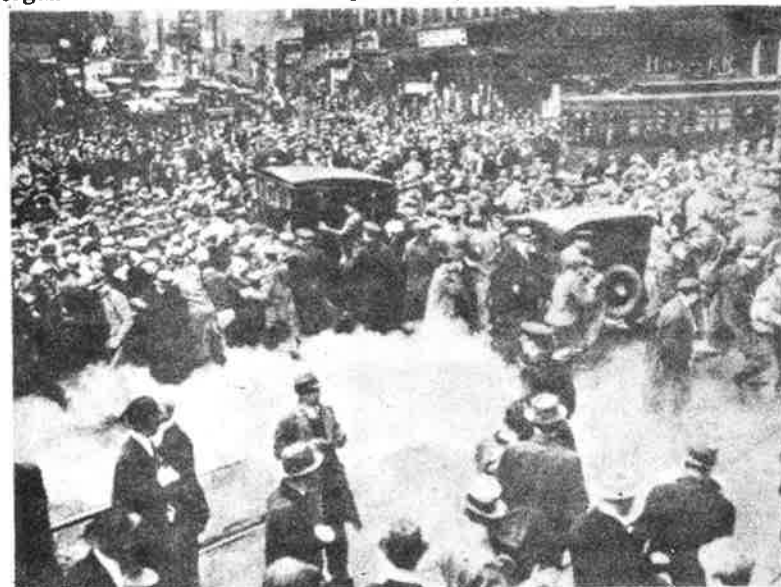
turn is owned by Weston Foods, a Toronto-based firm that also owns Loblaws.

There is one major catch, however, for the former Loblaws workers who will now be Bell's employees. Like the Western Electric workers, they will be forced to take a pay cut to "save" their jobs, while the Peter J. Schmitt Co. reaps the benefits of higher profits.

WORKING PEOPLE CAN'T PAY ANYMORE

It is reported that the closing of the Western Electric plant prompted New York Governor Hugh Carey to rescind plans for a tax increase on businesses in the state and to put the brakes on environmental controls scheduled to go into effect. These concessions to big business are only a further assault on the working people and the unemployed in the state who will pay more through further cuts in social services and even more layoffs.

The economic crisis is taking on depression proportions in this area and no amount of promises from Washington are going to satisfy working people who must feed, clothe, and shelter their families.



An unemployment demonstration of 5,000 in McKeesport, Pa., broken up by police using teargas, 1932. Photo: LNS

House committee 'exposure' of CIA ends up in vote for coverup

By MOLLY CHARBONEAU

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—When Congress began its investigation into CIA covert activities, promises abounded that Senate and House bodies would cut back the unbridled reign of the secret police agency. "Separation of powers" between Congress and the executive branch was their battle cry.

Yet when an important day of reckoning arrived on Jan. 29, the House of Representatives voted to turn over the entire contents of a 338-page House Intelligence Committee report to the Ford Administration for prepublication censorship!

Despite all the fantastic and horrendous activities of the CIA which have been dredged up for all to see, from assassinations to international bribery to barbaric military operations, the House has voted not for exposure and reform but for more coverup. These bourgeois politicians are cringing before the very super-spy menace which they alleged they were planning to cut back.

HOUSE VOTES FOR COVERUP: WHY?

Any worker who has followed the daily revelations about the CIA has seen a constant parade of bourgeois politicians, reporters, missionaries, and even the Pope implicated in an international police conspiracy which almost defies belief.

This international gang of secret police, financed and armed by the CIA's \$10 billion budget and its private arsenal which exceeds most armies, has been drawn together to serve U.S. imperialism through undermining its opponents, particularly in the popular movements that have grown up around the world.

The unanswered question is: Why has the House voted for a coverup of the CIA's crimes?

The answer is complex, but two

predominant aspects stand out.

SENATE, HOUSE, CIA: ALL SUPPORT IMPERIALISM

First, while the House and Senate have criticized many aspects of CIA activities, both congressional bodies, like the CIA itself, are loyal servants of the U.S. imperialist ruling class. Both Congress and the CIA are for imperialist plunder of workers and oppressed peoples abroad and at home. Differences between Congress and the CIA have arisen over how to best exploit the masses internationally, with Congress hitting at the police agency for the inefficiency and failure of its cloak-and-dagger methods.

If the CIA had been more successful in crushing liberation movements from Vietnam to Angola and in guaranteeing superprofits for the ruling Wall Street businessmen, it would certainly not be under attack today, no matter how barbaric its methods.

THEY CAN'T STOP GUNS WITH PAPER

Another reason for the House vote stems from the fact that even if they wanted to stop the CIA's crimes, this would require much more than an uncensored report.

The CIA is an extension of the bourgeois state apparatus. Linked directly to the Pentagon, with 250,000 employees and an independent arsenal at its disposal, the CIA constitutes an armed body of men which cannot be stopped by mere Congressional reports. The House and Senate are well aware of this, although their intention at present is not to halt but to streamline and improve CIA effectiveness.

THE CIA CAN BE STOPPED

The CIA is neither invincible nor infallible. The Vietnamese defeated U.S. imperialism despite the ferocious efforts of its open and

clandestine forces to crush them. The Angolan people led by the MPLA are currently routing CIA-backed forces in Angola.

As much as Congress tries to streamline the agency in the guise of criticism, it will be the workers and oppressed people abroad and at home who will deal the final blow to the CIA and the dying system which it serves.

Report leak stains Ford coverup

Big biz pulls strings at CIA

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—Last week portions of the suppressed report on the CIA and FBI written by the House Select Committee on Intelligence got out and were published in the press. Although major (and perhaps the most important) parts of the Pike committee's findings still remain secret, the effect of the recent disclosures was sufficient to cause Kissinger to threaten to resign again and to send Ford into a towering rage, demanding an FBI investigation of Congress.

Although the so-called Pike Papers (named after the committee's chairman, New York Representative Otis Pike) undoubtedly cover up more than they reveal, they lift the curtain just enough to confirm what progressive workers have known all along: that the U.S. secret police exists solely for the purpose of promoting the fortunes of U.S. multi-national corporate interests and that there are few crimes they will shrink from committing toward this end.

Through the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB), the big capitalist firms keep their hands directly on the levers of power in all the security agencies. The Pike committee reported that present members of the PFIAB include William O. Baker, President of Bell Telephone Laboratories; John S. Foster, Jr., Vice-President for Energy Research and Development, TRW; Robert W. Galvin, Chairman and Chief Executive of Motorola, Inc.; Edwin H. Land, Board Chairman, Polaroid Corporation; and others. Is it any wonder, then, that the Pike Papers admitted that "control of resources" was a major factor in Ford's decision to intervene in Angola?

"The main U.S. client," observes the document in its section on Angola, "is the National Front, headed by Holden Roberto."

Both Roberto's group, the FNLA, and the other counter-revolutionary organization,



UNITA, have been supplied by the CIA with "light arms, mortars, ammunition, vehicles, boats, and communications equipment," the report continues, adding, "Angola has significant oil deposits and two American multi-nationals, Gulf and Texaco, operate in the offshore area."

SPENT \$65 MILLION IN ITALY

On probing agency operations in Italy, the Pike committee found that "CIA reports total U.S. election financing over a previous 20-year period at some \$65 million. Despite this massive aid, the beneficiaries had suffered repeated electoral setbacks. American observers apparently concluded that another 'quick fix' was necessary to see our clients through the next vote."

The Pike committee also revealed that the CIA had funded a Kurdish rebellion in Iraq. The Kurds are an oppressed nation living in Turkey, Iraq, and Iran and they have long fought for self-determination. (The position of Workers World Party on all oppressed nations is to support their right to self-determination, that is, their right to choose what is best for themselves, whether it be secession and the forming of an independent state, or federation with other peoples, or assimilation or whatever.)

But when, as the report states, the Kurdish leaders took \$16 million from the CIA, which found the Kurds "a uniquely useful tool," the Kurdish struggle of self-determination became completely subordinated to the campaign by U.S. imperialism to dominate all the peoples of the Middle East.

When Wall Street decided it no longer needed the Kurds, the funds were cut off, they were defeated, and 200,000 of them became miserable refugees. The U.S. government then cruelly refused to spend one dime to help these wretched, hungry people living in displaced persons camps. Showing the utmost cynicism, a high U.S.

official told the Pike panel, "covert action should not be confused with missionary work."

All in all, the House panel found through use of such organizations as the International Police Services and the Agency for International Development's Office of Public Safety, "as many as 5,000 foreign police officers from over 100 countries, many of whom have become high officials," were trained by the CIA.

This means that most of the right-wing dictators in the various fascist police states around the world (particularly in Latin America) are little more than CIA agents.

MANIPULATING THE NEWS

In another area, the House committee reported that "the accuracy of many news stories has been undermined as a result of the CIA's use of the world media for cover and for clandestine information-gathering." "CIA acknowledges that 'stringers' and others with whom the agency has a relationship are often directed to insert Agency-composed 'news' articles into foreign publications and wire services," the committee discovered, concluding that "CIA insensitivity (!) to the possibility of its adulterating news digested by Americans is indicated by its frequent manipulation of Reuters wire service dispatches—which regularly appear in the U.S. media."

According to the Pike panel, it's all right for the U.S. secret political police to try to brainwash people in other countries—just don't do it so much here!

But it's a little late in the day for Congress to start protesting. The Pike committee admits that the CIA has grown to such monstrous proportions that "CIA personnel may be found in a host of U.S. departments and agencies, in the National Security Council, and in the White House itself. They include all types, from gardeners to typists, to intelligence analysts to practitioners of covert action," the House panel states with a note of alarm.

Nevertheless, the CIA and the rich ruling class it represents are far from omnipotent.

The congressional report notes that in Angola the CIA's "political action program included the distribution of 50,000 campaign-type buttons identifying the wearer as a supporter of Roberto's FNLA."

But in Angola today, these CIA buttons don't have many takers since virtually all of Holden Roberto's neocolonialist troops have been defeated and chased out of the country by the popular forces of the People's Republic and the MPLA.

The freest press that money can buy

By LESLIE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—Reporters on the New York Post are refusing to have their names printed above their articles for the next ten days. This action was agreed upon by Post reporters to protest the cancellation of a series of consumer articles about supermarkets.

Because of the unflattering articles, one supermarket chain had dropped its advertising in the Post and several others threatened to follow suit. The writers say that Dorothy Schiff, editor in chief and publisher of the Post, told them that the newspaper could not afford to offend newspaper advertisers and therefore cancelled the series.

TARNISHED IMAGE

Now, this is a very commendable act on the part of the writers and will certainly shed light on the lack of credibility that has extended to the newspaper industry. Skepticism about the media was further deepened by the recent revelations that quite a few reporters in major news services and broadcasting are CIA agents. Among those

exposed was NBC anchorman, John Chancellor.

WHAT'S BEING HIDDEN?

Dorothy Schiff's position is not something to skip over lightly. As editor in chief and publisher, her statement that the newspaper could not afford to offend newspaper advertisers must be taken as the policy of the New York Post.

It is the readers of the Post who have every right to be offended. Just what is it that the food monopolies don't want us to read? Although it's not in print, it takes little imagination to wonder what the supermarkets are hiding.

Is it higher pricing in poor neighborhoods? Decaying meat dyed to look fresh? Raising prices when welfare checks are due? Or plain old highway robbery, day after day?

What about the other Post advertisers? Does the phone company determine editorial policy? It's an advertiser too.

The next time the pompous Post sings the "Freedom of the Press" anthem, the editorial should be on the obituary page.



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by VINCENT COPELAND

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NY trustee not too trustworthy

Levitt runs wild pension swindle

By G. SCHMIDT
NEW YORK, Feb. 16—"The state Employees Retirement System, a seven-billion dollar funding pool intended to assure state and local government retirees their pension checks each month, is a lucrative patronage source that has profited many prominent politicians, including Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller.

"The pension system's real estate operation has allowed State Comptroller Arthur Levitt, the system's sole trustee, to dispense valuable patronage to luminaries with political connections."

These potentially explosive words began a three-day series of articles by Gerald S. Budgar of the Albany Times-Union, culminating a two-month investigation that included poring over the pension system's files to the accompaniment of much wringing of hands and gnashing of teeth by the worried bureaucrats. However, so far the exposures have been ignored by the rest of the media.

Workers World newspaper has learned that Levitt and his cronies initially allowed Budgar access to the files in the belief that he could be swamped under by the sheer

volume of the paperwork or discouraged by the complexity of the transactions contained therein. However, as the days passed with Budgar still at the job, some of Levitt's cronies began to panic and tried to restrict Budgar's access to the files.

Piling mistake upon mistake, William Volet, Deputy Comptroller, and Leon Braun, director of the real estate investment operation, tried to offer Budgar various inducements to ease up on his investigative digging—inducements like a high-paying job within Levitt's office and, upon learning that Budgar was a licensed real estate mortgage broker in the State of New Hampshire, the implied assurance that any real estate deals submitted by Budgar to the pension system for investment would be favorably considered.

Budgar, scenting blood and envisioning a Pulitzer Prize, began to dig deeper. His published findings must remove all vestiges of Arthur Levitt's reputation as "Mr. Clean" of New York State politics.

Pension system records show that it funded \$55 million of the \$110 million mortgage of New York

City's McGraw-Hill building at 1225 Avenue of the Americas in 1973 and funded \$47.5 million of the \$95 million mortgage on the Celanese building at 1201-19 Avenue of the Americas. Both buildings are located in Rockefeller Center and are partly owned by Rockefeller Center, Inc., which is in turn controlled through share ownership by a trust set up to give Rockefeller an income benefit.

NELSON ROCKEFELLER BENEFITED

Before the initial funding of the McGraw-Hill building, Levitt decided that he needed some sort of legal cover for the transaction in the event anyone should question giving pension system funds to then governor, now Vice President Rockefeller. So Levitt asked a prestigious New York law firm for an opinion of legality—the firm of Dewey, Ballantine, Bushby, Palmer, and Wood.

Now it so happens that a principal in that law firm is R. Burdell Bixby, a long-time Rockefeller acquaintance and director of his 1970 re-election campaign. Bixby

(Continued on page 8)



Following the recent wave of arrests in the Philippines, members of the Philippine Consulate in Chicago picket the Philippine Consulate in Chicago to demand an end to the

Greedy judges sue

By KENNY PETERSON

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—A group of 44 federal judges is suing the U.S. government for a raise. The district and appeals court judges, whose yearly salaries are \$42,000 and \$44,625, filed their civil suit on February 11 in the U.S. Court of Claims in Washington.

The judges are basing their civil action on a clause in the constitution which states that they shall receive "a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office." Citing a 34.5 percent drop in the value of money since 1969, the judges claim they are entitled to back pay, plus interest, to offset the effects of the inflation.

It is highly unusual for any judge to initiate a legal challenge to the government, and this action by 44 federal judges from across the country is, in fact, unprecedented.

SOMETHING TO SUE ABOUT...

If we might be allowed to fantasize for a minute, let us imagine what other issues might have brought these eminent jurists off their black-robed bottoms.

They could have sought to bring a halt to the flagrantly illegal and unconstitutional operations of the CIA, the FBI, and related agencies.

Or, in light of the crisis-level unemployment and the severe hardships being imposed on working people, one might expect that the judges would at last bring Gerald Ford and the Congress to court for failing to enforce the Full Employment Act of 1947, in which the government pledged itself to bring about full employment.

Is it too wild to imagine that the

44 jurists might challenge the government's illegal treatment of the Native American people and the colonial bondage of Puerto Rico? Or that the judges might cite Ford's connivance with the racist violence in Boston and Louisville?

But such speculation fails to understand what is really uppermost in the minds of the federal judiciary. None of these problems is troubling the collective conscience of the judges, impartial and sworn defenders of the nation's laws. Above all else, their indignation and moral energy has been aroused by what they view as an erosion of their social position—as measured in greenbacks.

APATHETIC TO PLIGHT OF PEOPLE

This attempt by federal judges to augment their already bloated salaries (their weekly earnings average \$833) can be viewed by working people and the poor only as an affront and an indecent display of judicial arrogance and greed. At a time when hunger and misery are tormenting the lives of more and more people, when government policy is to abandon programs of public health, housing, and education while more and more money is poured into the coffers of big business, the fact that the federal judiciary can find no other issue on which to confront the government than the judges' own personal enrichment will be an everlasting indictment of their disgusting venality and their case-hardened apathy towards the plight of the people.

But this will surely be no surprise to the millions of working people who have seen the courts, both federal and local, issue injunction after injunction against their unions whenever they sought to improve their meager earnings. Nor will it come as any surprise to the millions of Black, Puerto Rican, Native American, Mexican-American, and Asian-American people who have seen the courts, time after time, protect the racists and indict the victims, and defend the government's illegal occupation of Puerto Rico, the Indian territories, and the land in the Southwest belonging to the Mexican-Americans.

And for the millions of women and gay people, who are still unprotected from the sexist practices of business and government, it should be no surprise that the first and only time a group of judges presents a collective legal challenge to the government, the motivation is personal greed.

The courts, like the Congress and the executive department, are designed to serve and defend the corporations, the banks, the land-

'Apartment finders racist crooks,' say fighting Bronx residents

By KEITH KERN
NEW YORK, Feb. 16—Community groups in the Fordham-Kingsbridge section of the northwest Bronx are mobilizing to oppose the licensing of so-called apartment finders who rip off Black and Third World people.

These "apartment referral services"—as they are called by the new licensing regulations—exist because the large landlords and banks have caused a shortage of decent housing, especially in the south Bronx. After milking all the money from the buildings they own, the landlords and banks abandon them and sometimes burn them down. The people in the south Bronx, then, are forced to move out of their apartments and these "referral services" are waiting to rip them off.

These places charge \$40 for a list of apartments, most of which are already listed in the newspapers. When the apartment hunters check out the list, they find that the apartments are already rented, substandard, or nonexistent. A favorite come-on used is to list large apartments at low monthly rents and then say the apartments are already rented after the \$40 has been handed over.

Since November 1975 the "referral services" have been licensed by the Secretary of New York State's Division of Licensing. Under their licensing regulations, all listed apartments are supposed to be available as of that business day and all specifications as to size, rent, etc., are supposed to be accurate. The contract that the apartment hunter has to sign says in very small print that it guarantees nothing. But with a 2 percent vacancy rate in New York City, people are desperate for apartments and so many people sign. No money is refunded and nothing in the contract tells people where to complain.

While the licensing regulations require the applicants to show their "trustworthiness" before

licensed and to put up a \$1,000 bond, none of these places has been put out of business and very little money has ever been paid out to people who complain.

COMMUNITY ACTS TO STOP REFERRAL FRAUD

To stop these rip-offs, the Bronx Committee of Concerned Neighbors has begun a class action suit in the name of all the people ripped off against both the fake licensing process and the rip-off "referral services." Concentrating first on E-Z Apartments, one of the biggest rip-offs in the northwest Bronx, the committee has been picketing and leafleting in front of their Kingsbridge Road office, gathering signatures on petitions, and conducting a campaign to close them down. The committee and other northwest Bronx community groups have also sent a delegation to New York Secretary of State Mario Cuomo's office to demand that these rip-off places be closed down and that the people's money be refunded.

The Committee also discovered that, in addition to ripping off \$40 from people, the owner and employees of E-Z Apartments practice racial and sexual discrimination in referring people to apartments, force customers who demand their money back out of the office with attack dogs, and use racial and sexual slurs.

On one occasion, the owner and four employees of E-Z attacked the picket line with metal chairs, ping-pong paddles, and other weapons—sending one demonstrator to the hospital with a serious bump on the head. The committee returned the next day with 40 demonstrators, determined to show E-Z that the committee and its supporters stood firm in their opposition to these rip-off artists and their physical attacks.

Since then the committee has formed a coalition with other neighborhood groups to stop these profiteers. The committee's

coalition call makes clear that they and other neighborhood organizations welcome people of all ethnic and racial groups to the neighborhood and that they must make sure their first introduction to the neighborhood is not a rip-off. The call also makes clear that the same landlords and banks who drive people out of the south Bronx are responsible for the deteriorating buildings in the northwest Bronx.

The committee sees racial and ethnic discrimination as the most serious problem holding back the struggle of all poor and working people for a decent life. This discrimination is practiced by the banks and landlords who have created a shortage of decent housing, as well as by the "referral services" who rip off people. That is why, as the Committee of Concerned Neighbors makes clear in its literature, we must all join together—white, Black, Latin, Asian, and other peoples—to oppose those who are destroying our neighborhoods.



As housing deteriorates and shortages get worse, people in the big cities are being ripped off by fraudulent "apartment finders." Photo: Georganna Bastory



of the Anti-Martial Law Coalition
martial law.

Marcos unleashes new wave of terror as

Manila workers organize, defy martial law

By MIKE SORIANO

CHICAGO, Feb. 14—Felix Manansala, a union activist at General Electric in the Philippines, was taken from his home by 15 men on Jan. 10. His arrest signaled a further wave of police repression that in the days since has seen hundreds of workers like Felix thrown into detention centers. They languish now along with thousands more who have been detained by the U.S.-supported martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos.

Felix was arrested for attempting to organize a march on the Presidential Palace demanding higher wages and an end to the no-strike law. The Jan. 25 march on the Presidential Palace never materialized, because the protest organizers were rounded up by the police.

This latest wave of police terror has as its objective the smashing of the tremendous revival of class consciousness and militant struggle among the working class of Manila, whose increased misery in the face of a severe world economic crisis has been made even worse by martial law.

Since the advent of martial law in September 1972, the cost of living has gone up nearly 150 percent while minimum wages for industrial workers remain at about one dollar a day. Daily pay for

farmworkers is half as much.

The cost of food alone has risen nearly 140 percent, causing starvation and malnutrition among the poorest: the agricultural workers and the squatters in the Manila shantytowns.

Increased taxes are also being shouldered by the poorest workers as the regime finds it necessary to raise the number of troops in the Philippine Army to 275,000 at the cost of nearly \$400 million (almost one-third of the national budget).

RESURGENCE OF STRUGGLE

All this coupled with a 25 to 40 percent unemployment rate has led to the opening of a new front of struggle against Marcos and the U.S. bosses who call the shots.

That there was a resurgence of struggle was made known to the world while President Ford dined and dined at Marcos' Presidential Palace on Dec. 6. The U.S. news accounts of the Ford-Marcos visit had to take note of a massive demonstration opposing Marcos and martial law.

Four thousand people, organized by a loose alliance of activist union locals and their supporters among the clergy, students, and squatters, assembled for a church rally the day of Ford's visit. The spirited rally endorsed the 17 demands of

the workers' federation, including pay raises, health and safety benefits, job security, an end to discrimination against women workers, the right to organize unions, and the right to strike.

Locking arms 15 abreast, the 1,000 workers and their supporters emptied the church and converged on the Presidential Palace. Police blockades prevented them from reaching Ford and Marcos. Persevering, they marched to the Plaza Miranda to hold a rally. By then the march had grown to 8,000 with the solid support of people on the streets.

WORKERS RESIST MARTIAL LAW

In the days since the march, more than 70 strikes have been reported in the textile, steel, transportation, and tobacco industries. From factory occupations (at GE) to assembly line slowdowns, the workers have begun to flex their muscles. Caught off guard, many bosses were forced to make concessions to the workers.

In an effort to intimidate the striking workers, more than 200 metal workers were arrested on Jan. 30. They were on strike against the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Construction Company, one of the 50 largest corporations in the Philippines.

Thus Marcos has once again come to the aid of his imperialist masters in the U.S. who have investments of over \$4 billion in the Philippines. This resurgence of the workers' struggle is anathema to the U.S. bosses who seek to maintain their super-profits, which have amounted to a \$4 return on each dollar invested. They seek to maintain the Clark Air Force Base and the Subic Bay naval installation as forward defense points for what is left of their empire in Asia.

The bankruptcy of the U.S.-Marcos dictatorship is further highlighted by the almost total liberation of the island of Sulu by the Moro Bangsa Army and their opening of new battlefronts in Mindanao. In addition, the New Peoples' Army continues to organize among the peasants and agricultural workers and now operates in 34 northern provinces.

The Dec. 6 march on the Presidential Palace, and the strikes today, must be conducted under conditions of complete illegality and are testimony to the new-found confidence and strength of Manila's workers. That concessions were wrested from the bosses are signs that larger victories can be won, that the political prisoners can be set free, and that U.S. imperialist domination can be ended forever.

for raise

lords, and all who exploit and oppress the people. The judges are not an independent arbiter between the classes, but an extremely reliable arm of the ruling class. Their function is to administer the coercive powers of the state whenever and wherever the struggles of the people challenge corporate rule.

They are so accustomed to defending the greed of the rich and the super-rich, it is no surprise at all they want a bigger share for themselves.

Clash in Barcelona biggest since Spanish Civil War

Fascism unable to crush Catalan struggle

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—Using clubs, rubber bullets, and tear gas, Barcelona police attacked crowds of tens of thousands of Catalan demonstrators on both Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 in what have been called the largest, most violent clashes since the Spanish Civil War.

The Catalan people, who comprise an oppressed nation occupied by Spain, won an autonomous republic in 1931 after a long struggle with the monarchy. But their republic was crushed by Franco's troops toward the end of the Civil War. However, 37 years of fascist repression have failed to crush the Catalans' struggle for

self-determination.

"Barcelona, the capital of this wealthy northeastern region of Spain, was put under a virtual state of seige as the police, in their largest display of force in memory here, sought in vain to repress the Catalan challenge to Madrid," reported the New York Times of Feb. 9.

The Feb. 1 demonstration, called by the powerful, worker-led neighborhood councils, was banned despite the organizers' request for permission to hold a peaceful march.

Defying the ban on the protest, people on foot and in motorcades from squares and plazas all over

the city converged for a march on the Palace of Justice and the Barcelona prison, but were stopped by a massive force of police.

DEMONSTRATORS FIGHT BACK

As the police attacked the procession, the marchers defended themselves by hurling stones and building barricades with overturned parked cars. Crazy riot police were seen clubbing the empty cars as well as protesters.

A well-known progressive Catholic priest, Rev. Luis Maria Xirinachs, suffered a head injury in the Feb. 1 demonstration and was again beaten and arrested in the Feb. 8 protest. Reverend Xirinachs had been conducting a silent vigil since Christmas Day in front of the Barcelona prison demanding amnesty for all political prisoners.

Rather than abandon the protest, the determined demonstrators moved from square to square holding smaller rallies while fighting off roving gangs of police.

The Feb. 8 protest used similar methods of resistance after police attacked the planned march. Barricades were built from park benches and overturned cars as police scrambled from one side of the city to another futilely attempting to disperse the demonstrations.

In one square demonstrators covered a statue of Franco with the red and yellow flag of Catalonia. "We are covering their victory with ours," explained one of the Catalans. The statue commemorated Franco's seizure of Barcelona.

FASCIST POWER ERODING

Head of State Juan Carlos's tenuous hold on power continues to erode throughout Spain, Catalonia,



Police in Barcelona brutally charge demonstrators demanding autonomy for Catalonia.

and the Basque country. The old official fascist trade unions are being overrun by the illegal workers' commissions. The workers' commissions are legitimate trade unions that have been forced to operate clandestinely under fascist rule.

The strike wave that rocked Spain last month has further strengthened these genuine working class organizations, so that at present more than 70

percent of the shop stewards in the fascist trade unions are also stewards in the workers' commissions. The few remaining fascist puppets have been defeated and even physically attacked in plant after plant.

After four decades, the Spanish workers and the oppressed people of Catalonia and the Basque nation are proving that repression can postpone but never crush the class struggle.

Death of IRA prisoner sets off mass protest

NEW YORK, Feb. 17—The starvation death of an Irish Republican Army prisoner in England's Yorkshire penitentiary on Feb. 12 has triggered an explosion of anti-Crown anger throughout all of Ireland, particularly in the six northern counties still occupied by the British military.

The death of the IRA militant, Frank Stagg, came at the end of a 61-day hunger strike he began to protest the refusal of the English authorities to move him to a prison in Northern Ireland where he would have automatically received the status accorded a political detainee.

The day after Mr. Stagg died, huge crowds of workers in the Northern Ireland city of Belfast began attacking the English colonial administration. The Ulster "government" reported 104 separate assaults against the police on Feb. 13. Police patrol

cars were seized and burned in the streets and in the city of Derry an officer of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) was shot to death.

These latest uprisings come at a very embarrassing time for the English imperialists. Only a few days before Frank Stagg died, the European Commission for Human Rights, after an investigation of English atrocities in Northern Ireland, submitted a report which found that British troops had used the most despicable forms of torture against Irish freedom fighters being held in their custody, including hooding, beating, fake executions, strangulation, deprivation of sleep, forcing water down the victim's nose, making prisoners swallow their own vomit, and other hideous methods reminiscent of the Nazi Gestapo.

—A.S.

Washington, D.C.

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EDITORIAL

Nigeria CIA target

The U.S. CIA has not gone out of the business of assassinating foreign leaders. This was brutally underscored on Feb. 14 when Nigeria's Chief of State, Murtala Ramat Muhammed, was machine-gunned to death while caught in a traffic jam.

Mr. Muhammed, while not a revolutionary socialist, had offended Wall Street by pushing a campaign of nationalizing foreign owned and run businesses, a most painful prospect for U.S. companies like Mobil Oil, Phillips Petroleum, Standard Oil of California, Texaco, Tenneco, and Gulf, all of which have heavy investments in Nigeria, the world's sixth-largest oil producer.

A more immediate threat to the U.S. ruling class is the Nigerian support to the MPLA, a major diplomatic victory for the People's Republic of Angola since Nigeria is generally recognized as the leading power in Black Africa.

As Newsweek stated nervously in its Feb. 23 issue, "After Muhammed took over, Nigeria veered sharply to the left, backing the pro-Soviet side (that is, the anti-colonialist side—WW) in Angola and often taking a sharply anti-American stance."

A month ago when Ford dispatched a message threatening the Lagos government because it was championing the MPLA, Mr. Muhammed, alerting the people to "beware" of external subversion, gave the arrogant letter to the Nigerian press which published it in full under front-page headlines of "Shut up, Ford," and "Go to Hell, America."

From that day the leader of the most populous state in Africa was a marked man.

This is not the first time U.S. imperialism has tried to reduce Nigeria to a vassal state through the use of counter-revolutionary violence. In 1967, the Pentagon, State Department, and the CIA instigated the Biafra secessionist movement, an attempt to tear away Nigeria's oil-rich eastern states in what was virtually a giant land grab by the U.S. petroleum monopolies. The Johnson administration openly supplied the secessionists with \$42 million. Not surprisingly, the so-called "Republic of Biafra" chose the New York public relations firm Ruder and Finn, Inc., as its official representative, which cynically transformed imperialism's ruthless assault on Nigeria into a "Save the Children" crusade.

Last week's attempt to make Nigeria another Chile was also foiled. Although Muhammed was brutally slain, most of the local plotters were quickly rounded up while an angry crowd stormed the U.S. Embassy chanting "CIA must go!"

The new Prime Minister, Olusegun Obasanjo, is, according to the New York Times of Feb. 16, "known to be a strong critic of United States policy in Africa, especially with respect to the black struggle in South Africa."

That the coup failed, however, in no way exonerates the U.S. secret police from their role in the assassination of yet another head of state, an act which Congress still has not seen fit to even make illegal.

Women's gains attacked

Remember International Women's Year? It officially ended only six weeks ago, after having been inaugurated in the U.S. by the President with the usual amount of fanfare accompanying hollow promises. Now the year is gone and with it, it seems, any pretense on the part of Washington to defend women's rights.

Ford has already opened a strong attack on legal abortions, a theme shared by his right-wing rival, Ronald Reagan. Daycare centers in New York City, which had led the way in providing care for pre-school children, are being slashed right and left.

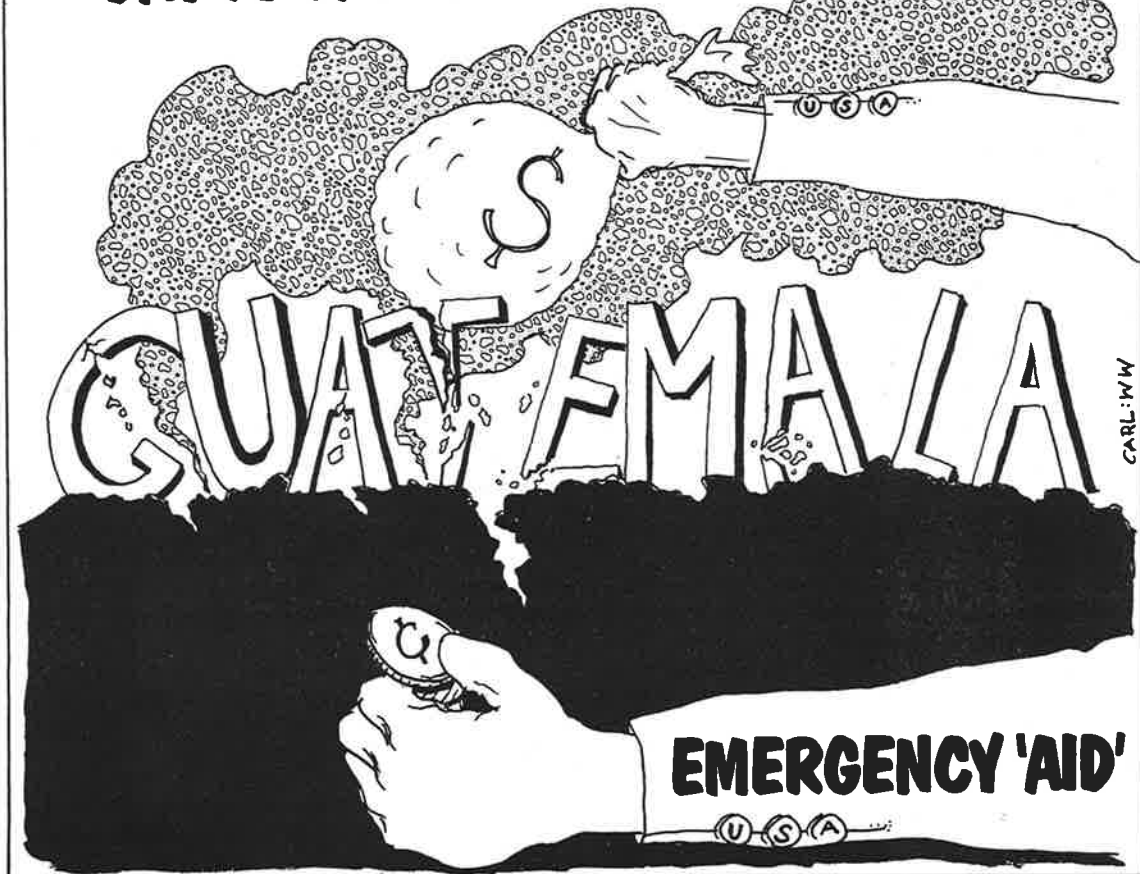
Affirmative action programs, which sought to overcome racial and sexual discrimination in jobs inherited from long decades of "last hired, first fired," are under attack as unemployment remains high and there is greater competition for jobs.

Raising consciousness has of late been a primary activity in the women's movement, given almost exclusive emphasis by the moderate leaders especially. And certainly consciousness of the problem is an essential ingredient in any struggle. But consciousness without struggle leads nowhere.

There is certainly a changed consciousness among women and men on many issues relating to women's emancipation. Take abortion. In a national New York Times-CBS News poll reported on in the Feb. 13 Times, 67 percent of the respondents supported a woman's right to a legal abortion. Nevertheless, Ford, Reagan, and the anti-abortion groups in this country forge ahead—with the support of a large section of the wealthy ruling class.

The anti-abortion forces—swathed in a phony morality that sanctifies fetal life while in fact punishing women for their sexuality as well as ignoring every living child's right to quality food, clothing, housing, and education—must be openly and vigorously fought. So must the cutbacks in daycare and jobs for women. It will be open, militant struggle by women and men that will roll back this new offensive against women's rights.

DAY TO DAY EXPLOITATION



—Pensions

(continued from page 6)

was also named to head the state Thruway Authority by Rockefeller in 1960. As no surprise to anyone, the Dewey, Ballantine legal opinion declared there could be no question of illegality in the transactions.

According to Budgar, "Neither Levitt nor Bixby, in separate interviews, indicated there was anything wrong with the selection of Bixby's firm for the opinion."

BAILING OUT THE BANKS

"In late 1974, when depositors were withdrawing more money from savings banks than they were depositing, the pension system was used to bail four New York City savings banks out of an impending cash flow crisis by purchasing some \$60 million worth of mortgages from them," according to the Budgar report.

"This gave the banks greater liquidity, or more cash on hand, so that depositors would not be faced with an inability to withdraw monies from these institutions."

All four of the savings banks receiving pension funds—\$27 million worth of mortgages from the Seaman's Bank for Savings, \$9.8 million from the East New York Savings Bank, \$19 million from the New York Bank for Savings, and \$3.2 million from the Union Dime Savings Bank—have ties to the pension system. The son of State Comptroller Arthur Levitt is a trustee of the East New York Savings Bank. Executives of the three other banks sit on the Mortgage Advisory Committee, which must approve any investment application before the pension system can issue a mortgage commitment.

Harry Albright, Jr., state banking superintendent at the time, had initiated the bank bail-out process by calling on Levitt and on Braun, director of the mortgage operation for the pension system, and "suggesting" that "if you two (the banks and the pension system) can get together, it would be beneficial for both parties." Mr. Albright is now the president of the Union Dime Savings Bank, which was one of the bailed-out banks.

"Mortgages require extensive legal work," writes Budgar, "and Levitt has directed considerable

legal business to politically prominent law firms. Levitt has also received a considerable portion of his 1974 re-election campaign treasury from persons having connections with the system mortgage operation. Levitt designates a law firm to act as "Special Counsel" to the pension system for almost every conventional mortgage the system enters into."

THE PATRONAGE PLUM TREE

The pension system does not have to pay for this legal work, since in standard real estate practice the borrowers must pay all legal costs. So the special counsels know that they can extract maximum fees from the borrowers. Thus, the fees may range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 for a single bit of legal work.

On the list of favored lawyers affiliated with law firms consistently designated by Levitt as special counsels are: former Governor and true-blue Rockefeller man Malcolm Wilson, U.S. Senator Jacob Javits, State Senator Jack E. Bronston, Assembly Majority Leader Albert Blumenthal, state Conservative Party Chairman J. Daniel Mahoney, former New York City Rep. Herbert Tenzer, Rockefeller campaign chairman and confidante R. Burdell Bixby, and former Levitt law partner and 1974 Levitt re-election campaign director J. Jacques Stone.

Although a study of the 1974 Levitt re-election treasury shows that \$15,000 of the admitted \$80,000 raised came from persons interested in the pension system's

mortgage operations, since Levitt was considered a shoo-in, the relatively small recorded contributions must be considered only a small proportion of the overall contributions to the Democratic Party and to Governor Hugh Carey's election campaign. For instance, one of the partners with Arlen Realty in a pension system-mortgaged building at 100 Wall Street (\$20 million) is recorded as having given only \$1,000 to Levitt's campaign. Yet, one of the principals of Arlen Realty itself, which has far more than \$20 million in mortgages from the pension system, is recorded as being second only to Hugh Carey's oil-millionaire brother in contributing to Carey's campaign.

The consequences of these revelations may be relatively small in the immediate sense, since none of the larger media has picked up on the expose, as yet. Nevertheless, the report is significant in that it indicates a split in the local ruling class which is trying to discredit Levitt, for this is the most pointed and potentially dangerous attack against a politician who was formerly untouchable by scandal.

It also provides one more example to show that corruption is the rule in bourgeois politics. The whole function of the bourgeois political system is to protect ruling class privileges, with payoffs to the protectors a normal, everyday part of the business world. The fact that they do it with the people's money—in this case, state workers' pension funds—will undo the politicians and their big business masters that much sooner.

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Feb. 20, 1976

U.S. tries to dress up exploitation in Puerto Rico

Permanent 'Compact': permanent colony

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—The imperialist U.S. government and its colonial lackeys in San Juan are desperately trying to "legalize" the status of Puerto Rico as a colony under the guise of giving the island more autonomy.

After two years of "studying" the issue, a joint Puerto Rican-North American Advisory Group has produced a document which calls for a new "Compact of Permanent Union Between Puerto Rico and the United States." The group was established in 1973 and selected by then President Nixon and the puppet governor of Puerto Rico, Rafael Hernandez Colon.

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs is now going through the motions of holding hearings on the new "Compact," although the chairman of the subcommittee, California Democrat Phillip Burton, has already stated that he "intended to see the bill through."

"COMPACT" WIDELY OPPOSED IN P.R.

The "Compact" has already met far-reaching opposition throughout Puerto Rico, not only from the large and militant pro-independence forces, such as the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), but even from more moderate political elements, such as the Bar Association of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP).

The new "Compact," then, as Hernandez Colon implied in his testimony to the subcommittee, is nothing more than a cosmetic change of the present colonial status designed to stem the tide of mass resistance to the U.S. colonization of Puerto Rico. The present "commonwealth" status

(translated into Spanish as "Free Associated State") created by the U.S. in 1950 was not only a hoax on the Puerto Rican people to make them believe they had been granted autonomy from the U.S., but admittedly only a temporary solution to the status question.

But the devastating economic crisis sweeping Puerto Rico (brought on by the 2-year-old U.S. capitalist depression) and a parallel upsurge within the independence movement have discredited the colonial regime's "commonwealth" facade.

MONOPOLIES' PARADISE

Since the U.S. annexed Puerto Rico in 1898, U.S. imperialist monopolies have had a field day in plundering the Caribbean island. And while in recent years profits for the giant U.S. corporations have plummeted in many parts of the world (largely the results of the many political and military defeats suffered by Washington and Wall Street in the poor and oppressed nations), they have skyrocketed in Puerto Rico.

The rate of profit for U.S. monopolies operating in Puerto Rico is 4 times as high as it is in the U.S. In 1974, U.S. corporate profits extracted from Puerto Rico amounted to an incredible \$1.3 billion. This represented 10 percent of all profits gained by direct U.S. investment abroad, with only 6 percent of the total foreign capital investment. Only in Canada do U.S. companies make more profits, but at a much higher investment outlay. The profit rate in Canada is 4 percent compared to 16 percent in Puerto Rico.

In contrast to this super robbery of Puerto Rico's natural and human resources, the island suffers from an astronomical

unemployment rate of 40 percent. In an attempt to further depress the standard of living of the Puerto Rican working class, the new "Compact" would remove all minimum wage regulations from the island.

TESTIMONY OF CARLOS GALLISA

Perhaps the most eloquent attack on the proposed "Compact" was given at a House subcommittee hearing Jan. 20 by Carlos Gallisa, an elected legislator in Puerto Rico and member of the PSP's Central Committee.

"The best evidence of the colonial status of Puerto Rico is the fact that we are here (in Washington) today. This hearing and the jurisdiction of a congressional committee over the political status of Puerto Rico as well as the anticipated legislation for our country is an act of imperial rule over a colony.

"The political dominion that you exercise today over our people is founded upon an act of war. In 1898, the American troops invaded our country and ever since the United States Congress has exercised an absolute rule over a Latin American nation composed of 3 million Puerto Ricans living on the island and 2 million other Puerto Ricans who have been forced to migrate to the United States on account of the extreme poverty and unemployment prevailing in Puerto Rico....

"A people submitted to foreign intervention has no faculty to consent to a pact, association, or status that entails the transfer of their sovereign rights to the intervening country. Historical experience shows us that an intervening power exercises an



Atlanta demonstration calling for independence for Puerto Rico reflects widespread anger over proposed new "Compact" status. WW photo: Tom G.

overwhelming force which, in many forms and ways, terrorizes the intervened people and impedes the free expression of their will. For this reason, independence is required as an indispensable prerequisite to the exercise of self-determination. As long as Puerto Rico has not reached the full enjoyment of its rights in practice, the supposed association is a farce without value of any kind.

"Since Puerto Rico has not been independent at any time since the armed invasion by the United States, it could not have decided nor expressed anything whatsoever concerning its 'union' with the United States.... Accordingly, when the document indicates that the Puerto Rican people agree to reaffirm and consolidate 'the relation already established,' it is admitting that what is involved is nothing more than the perpetuation of colonialism. This is so because what has been established in this

bill is the 'Free Associated State' created in 1952 as a consequence of Law 600 of the United States Congress. This 'Free Associated State' has maintained intact the definition of the political status of Puerto Rico drawn up by the United States Supreme Court at the beginning of the century (in these words)... 'Puerto Rico belongs to, but is not a part of, the United States....'

"Puerto Rico is an island but it is not isolated from the rest of the world. We have the solidarity of the progressive forces of the world in our fight against colonialism. Particularly, we rely on the unconditional support of the progressive forces of this country which we are sure are going to play a major role in our inevitable victory.

"Let there be no mistake. The future of Puerto Rico is not being decided here today. The future of Puerto Rico will be decided by the Puerto Rican working masses."

WW interview with Pedro Grant

'Workers in Puerto Rico are awakening'

Pedro Grant is a coordinator for the United Labor Movement (MOU) in Puerto Rico. He is also President of the Boilermakers Union in Puerto Rico and a member of the Central Committee of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP). This interview with Grant was conducted at the Hard Times Conference by WW reporter Carl Besson and translated by Julio Ghigliotto.

What are conditions like for working people in Puerto Rico at this time?

Puerto Rico is going through a profound crisis in the economy as well as in the fiscal situation of the Puerto Rican government. Unemployment has reached 40 percent. Factories are closing and moving to other countries such as Haiti, the Philippines and Asia. The government is finding it difficult to attract North American capital as well as capital from other countries in order to establish new factories.

The government finds itself in a situation where it can no longer borrow in the U.S. market because it cannot meet its debts. The Puerto Rican government pays more than \$300 million in interest to North American bondholders every year.

In order to partly solve its fiscal crisis, the government is implementing drastic economic measures in which thousands of government workers are being left



Pedro Grant, coordinator for the United Labor Movement in Puerto Rico. WW photo: Paddy

without work. Wage increases for government workers have been frozen for the next few years. Fringe benefits such as vacations, sick leaves, and other medical benefits have also been frozen.

The government is also asking workers in private industry not to make economic demands of their bosses. It's pushing a plan whereby wages will be increased only to the extent that workers in the different factories increase their productivity.

This is an extremely grave situation for us, the workers, since we already receive low wages, and Puerto Rico has a cost of living much higher than that of any major city in the United States.

The Puerto Rican worker cannot stop demanding wage increases and other economic benefits. While wages remain frozen, the cost of living will continue to rise. The Puerto Rican government has no control over prices, since these are determined by the North American corporations which sell us 90 percent of all the products we consume.

Also, the construction industry, which was a basic industry for our country and in 1972 employed 90,000 workers, was only able to employ 40,000 workers last year. And building contractors have announced that in 1976 the work force in the construction industry will sink to 20,000 workers. No improvement is expected in this industry until after 1977, which means that towards the middle of this year we calculate that 50 percent of the nation's work force will be unemployed.

This situation alone will not lead to what we could call a revolutionary situation, since the North American government has extended the food stamp program to Puerto Rico, which represents an influx of more than \$500 million to the island. More than 70 percent of the population is taking shelter in the food stamp program.

The economists feel that even if there is improvement in the economic crisis the U.S. is going through during 1976 and 1977, that will not be reflected in the Puerto Rican economy. Rather the Puerto

Rican economy will continue in crisis for the next three or four years.

How would you describe the situation in Puerto Rico today for the labor movement?

At this moment, the labor movement in Puerto Rico is very divided. On the one hand we have the international unions of the AFL-CIO, and on the other the independent unions. In neither group is there an organization which can say it represents a major sector of the organized working class. Within the AFL-CIO as well as among the independents unions are dispersed; there is a lot of division and misunderstanding among the leaders.

Of course, in the last few years there have been attempts to create a kind of unity between some progressive international unions and a large number of independent unions. That has been a slow and tortuous process from which it still has not been possible to pull together an organization which can claim to represent a majority of the organized workers in the country.

But there are indications that important leaders are showing interest in forming some kind of labor unity, even if it is only in action rather than in organization. We celebrated two conferences on labor unity recently under the auspices of the United Labor Movement (MOU) and what is called the National Committee for

Labor Unity. On both occasions, more than 200 leaders of different unions participated and discussed the country's economic situation, the situation of the unions, and presented what we consider immediate solutions to the crisis the country is going through.

Recently, there have been meetings between the leaderships of different organizations to approve an agenda for a series of meetings beginning the end of February at which a possibility exists for coming to an agreement on certain points for unity. This will give us a start and put us in a favorable position to confront the massive machinery developed by the government and private enterprise to combat that growing movement we call the "new unionism."

The militance of that movement has them very worried because that new unionism, composed of a group of young labor leaders, is getting the decisive support of the Puerto Rican leftist parties, especially that of the Puerto Rican Independence Party (PIP) and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP). The government, the businessmen, and the so-called "Association for Free Enterprise" consider that new alliance between the progressive union movement and the leftist parties a threat to what they call "free enterprise" and are organizing to combat us.

(continued on page 12)

Rigged elections, 1876-1976

1892—The people begin to revolt

By V. COPELAND

In order to understand why the capitalist rulers rigged the election of 1892 in favor of Democrat Grover Cleveland after having rejected him in 1888, it is first necessary to look at the tremendous Populist movement that was sweeping the country at the time.

General James B. Weaver, the People's Party presidential candidate of 1892, strongly condemned Wall Street and called for nationalization of the railroads, telegraph, and telephone monopolies and shorter hours for labor. He got the highest proportion of votes any challenger of the monopoly corporations has ever received in the United States to this day—1,041,028 out of a total of 11,774,000, or about 8.5 percent. And this was in the face of a combined Democratic and Republican campaign fund at least 100 times as great as his own.

(Eugene V. Debs, who ran two decades later, received about the same number of votes but out of a much greater total. Of course, Debs ran on a more outright socialist program based exclusively on the working class.)

THEY VOTED FOR THEIR BOSSES

The majority—or rather the voting majority—of the U.S. people had gone along with the two capitalist parties in spite of corruption and plundering, partly because they had been brainwashed and indoctrinated by big business, but also because they felt the country was going forward and their own lives were improving, regardless.

In the crucial Northeast, for example, the dollar-a-day and dollar-and-a-half-a-day workers continued to vote for the multimillionaires' candidates before 1890 because prices were going down, even if wages were not going up. The then tremendous number of farmers in this area were doing relatively well on the average. Their nearness to the growing cities gave them a guaranteed market for the surplus they grew above their own basic needs.

So the constant stories of corruption either left these farmers more or less indifferent or just moved them very occasionally to switch from the Republican to the Democratic column. The usually corrupt Democratic machines of the big cities could not always deliver the whole city along with the poor workers. But they guaranteed that no "third party" could gain much of a hearing.

REVOLT OF SOUTH AND WEST

However, in the West and later in the South a great protest

movement took hold of millions of people whose economic condition went visibly backwards during the heedless drive of big capital to push aside, crush, or freeze out small capital, including the very smallest and tiniest "capitalists"—the little farmers and desperately poor tenant farmers.

First the Grange, then the Greenback Party, then the Greenback Labor Party, Union Labor Party, United Labor Party, and finally the united "People's Party" captured the hearts and votes of these boiling mad farmers, shopkeepers, laborers, and a few larger businessmen of the almost colonially oppressed West and South.

Their anger was greatest at the railroads, which gouged them all with sky-high freight rates, even when the price of wheat and cotton was so low that country people used these commodities for firewood while city people were starving. And the labor-hating railroads were on the whole the economic base of the very same capitalists who were then ruling the country.

In the West, the people who had gone a thousand miles or more to get free land found that they did not have land enough to compete with the cattle barons and the big wheat ranchers. They found that they could only grow wheat on the barren 160 acres the government had given them—and precious little of that. Moreover, they were absolutely dependent upon the capitalist market to get every single thing they needed, including even the flour from their own wheat.

They were absolutely dependent on the railroads to take the wheat to market and equally dependent upon the banks to let them hold out till the next summer.

"SOLID SOUTH" AND BLACK FREEDOM

In the South, the freight rates were even more discriminatory, considered on a per mile basis, and the new Republican tariffs hurt the poor far more than the rich. In both South and West, these suffering people were well aware that the Democrats were now a big business party, too. And in the South it was all too obvious that the Democrats were at that time the party of the "Solid South"—that is, the party of white supremacy, and the Black tenant farmers were engaged in the growing protest along with the white.

Thus the poor middle class Black and white populists tried to take the Black Freedom struggle forward from where it had been betrayed by the ruling class Republicans a generation earlier.

The Populist storm gathered

strength over a period of 10 to 12 years. Congressmen were put in Congress, Senators in the Senate, and even governors were elected. New York City itself was hit by the wave when Henry George, the famous advocate of "free land," ran for mayor on a Labor Party ticket in 1886 and beat the Republican candidate, Theodore Roosevelt, losing by a hair to the Tammany Democrat, who, everybody knew, had stolen the election. (Frederick Engels, still alive at the time, supported Henry George.)

"WE ARE SLAVES OF WALL STREET"

Mary Elizabeth Lease, farm woman, mother of four children, and leading Populist orator, electrified more than just the Populists when she declaimed to cheering thousands:

"Wall Street runs the country. It is no longer the government of the people and for the people, but a government of Wall Street, by Wall Street and for Wall Street. The great common people of this country are slaves, and monopoly is the master. The West and South are bound and prostrate before the manufacturing East. Money rules, and our Vice President (Morton the Morgan Man—V.C.) is a London banker...."

"There are a half-million looking for work.... We want money, land and transportation.... We want the accursed foreclosure system wiped out.... We will stand by our homes and stay by our firesides by force if necessary, and we will not pay our debts to the loan-shark companies until the government pays its debts to us. The people are at bay; let the bloodhounds of money who have dogged us thus far beware!"

With the growing depression of 1892, not only the South and West but the half-starving cities of the East turned a listening ear to this flaming voice of the people.

This was the real reason, or at least the preponderant reason, why the political leaders of the capitalist class decided to go back to supporting the Democrat Grover Cleveland in 1892. They had gleaned a very golden harvest from the Republican Harrison and what was called "the billion-dollar Congress." But they were now maneuvering to hold back the wave of radical mass protest, and wondering if they might also ride the wave long enough to secure their power again, this time with their Democratic servant, Grover Cleveland.

The dirty tricks they pulled, however, and the actual rigging of the election of 1892, we will leave to our next article, "The Reformers Return."

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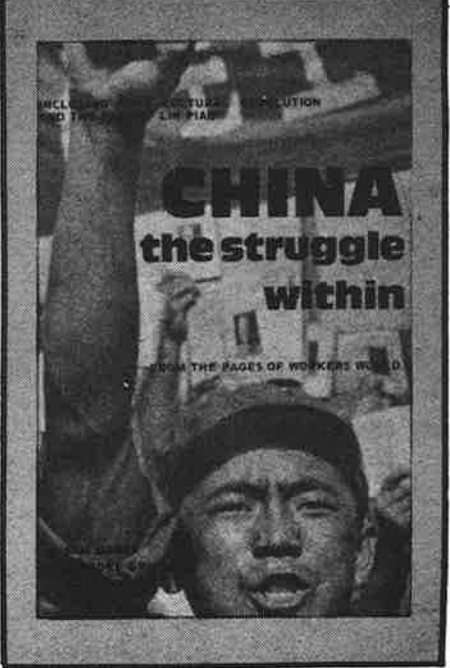
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If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

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- 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
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FOR THE BIRDS...



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POLITICAL PRISONERS



Black women imprisoned by lynch terror in Georgia

By TOM GARDNER

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 16—In a callous display of racist "justice," a Hawkinsville, Ga., judge last Thursday sentenced to prison two young Black women, Dessie X Woods and Cheryl S. Todd, for the crime of self-defense.

The two women had been convicted on Feb. 2 of killing and robbing a white insurance agent who had tried to rape them.

Dessie X Woods, a strong 30-year-old Black woman from Atlanta, struggling for the survival of herself and her two small children, was sentenced to 10 and 12 years in prison to run concurrently. Ms. Woods' appeal bond was denied by Judge James O'Connor, who ignored her plea to "please leave me free so that I can care for my children." Cheryl S. Todd, who had earlier withdrawn a motion for a directed verdict of acquittal in order to stand with her co-defendant, was ordered to serve one-and-a-half years of a five-year sentence.

How the victims of a vicious racist and sexist attack ended up being sentenced to prison was the question on the minds of most of the trial observers. But the answer to this question is not to be found entirely in the transcript of the trial.

The truth did come out in the trial, and all the evidence pointed to the innocence of the two

women. But the verdict was determined more by terror than truth. The trial and courtroom were only tools used to enforce a pattern of repression and terror directed against Black people in general and specifically against these two Black women who refused to accept their traditional place of bondage and abuse.

REIGN OF TERROR IN HAWKINSVILLE

The trial was accompanied by a conspiracy of terror against the Black community of Hawkinsville designed to discourage local support for the women and to guarantee a conviction.

Black high school students who attended the trial and marched in courthouse demonstrations were threatened with suspension and arrest, and three were suspended from school. In addition, Black members of the Hawkinsville High School basketball team got the word that if they went to the trial they wouldn't be allowed to play ball this year, thus threatening one of the few ways that many students from this area can win scholarships to college.

The "Jim Crow" atmosphere in Hawkinsville emerged strongly in the courtroom during the jury selection process. One potential juror, whom Judge O'Connor refused to strike, is a white farm-owner who reportedly used to

have a jail for the Black sharecroppers who work his land in a system that has changed little since slavery. Having dispensed with his jail, he now resorts to beatings.

One of his farm hands told a reporter that he had been beaten three times by this pillar of the community. And according to some sources, another Black farmworker, a 40-year-old man, was recently tied to a tree by this modern slaver and beaten on suspicion of being drunk.

The racism of the school system is partially explained by the fact that the father of this plantation owner is president of the local public school board. The final forewoman of the jury in this case is a teacher at the private white school, Baker Academy.

"RACISM AND SEXISM ARE THE ISSUES"

It was in this atmosphere of repression, in which Black jurors expressed a very real fear of losing their jobs, that Dessie X Woods and Cheryl S. Todd were railroaded to prison. The entire trial confirmed the analysis of the case put forth by a spokeswoman for the defense committee, Yakini Lukata. Speaking at a defense rally before the trial she explained:

"The right of women and Black women to defend themselves is a democratic right that all women should have—but due to racism, Black women have traditionally been denied that right. Some ask why we see this case as one of defense against white rape. . . . If this was just an ordinary rape and murder case, would it have brought a special prosecutor, a gag order, etc.?"

"All of the special attention on this case is a result of the racism and sexism of the criminal justice system—without this, Dessie and Cheryl would not even be coming to trial. After 200 years, only one Black woman has ever been acquitted for defense against rape by a white man—Joann Little."

She concluded, "Rape is a vicious attack no matter who does it—but the difference in this case is a political one coming from the nature of the 'justice' system in this country. As long as racism and capitalism exist . . . there will be more Joann Littles and Cheryl and Dessies . . . we must continue to fight until basic rights are guaranteed to all."

Appeal motions continue in case of East Boston anti-racists

BOSTON, Feb. 15—Pretrial defense motions in the case of eight East Boston anti-racists were to be heard on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the Misdemeanor Appeals Session of Suffolk Superior Court, 3rd floor, New Court House Building, Pemberton Square.

The eight people were arrested last Aug. 26, just a few days before the opening of Boston schools under Phase II desegregation, for being with Black families in an East Boston housing project while their homes were being stoned by 200 racist attackers. Seven of the eight were charged with "loud and abusive language" and sentenced to six months in jail in a trial before a judge and no jury. The eighth, charged with a

Martin Sostre released after spending 8 years in NY dungeons

NEW YORK, Feb. 16—On February 6, Martin Sostre, Puerto Rican nationalist and long-time fighter for the rights of all oppressed, was released from Greenhaven prison in New York State.

Governor Hugh Carey granted a Christmas amnesty to Sostre as a result of pressure exerted by those who for years fought to free Sostre, as well as from Sostre himself.

Clemency was granted on an unserved four-year sentence that grew out of Sostre being framed-up on assault for resisting an illegal and degrading rectal search by three prison guards. One week before the clemency order, the New York State Parole Board granted Sostre parole on the balance of his 20-30 year sentence on a frame-up drug conviction, of which he had served eight years.

Buffalo authorities had used the phony charge that Sostre had sold \$15 worth of heroin to close down his Afro-Asian book store, which had been a center for Black and anti-war activism during the Black rebellions in Buffalo in 1967. The man who testified in court that he bought heroin from Sostre, Arto Williams, later signed an affidavit swearing he had lied because the police offered to drop charges against him in exchange for his perjured testimony.

In a press conference held Feb. 9 in New York City after his release, Sostre said that he must report regularly to parole officers



Martin Sostre, free after 8 years. Photo: LNS

and secure permission for any travel outside the state for the balance of his unserved prison term—until 2001. However, he added that he wasn't taking a vacation from struggle now that he was out of jail. "The struggle for human rights doesn't stop at the prison gate," he said.

Sostre plans to concentrate on the struggle to secure bail for the Wilmington 10, and the struggle for the freedom of the five Puerto Rican Nationalists who have been in U.S. federal prisons for over 20 years. He is in the process of raising funds to open a movement bookstore in New York City.

Chicano activist sentenced to 6 years in Denver frameup trial



Juan Haro

BULLETIN

DENVER, Feb. 18—Juan Haro, a leader in the Chicano-based Crusade for Justice, was sentenced today to six years in federal prison. He has been convicted on four counts of possession of hand grenades. Haro is out on bail pending appeal.

Juan Haro is a long-standing Chicano activist in Denver presently working with the Crusade for Justice and a former candidate for mayor with La Raza Unida Party. In addition to the charges for which he was just sentenced, he goes to trial again on April 19 with co-defendant Antonio Quintana on conspiracy to bomb a Denver police station on Sept. 17, 1975.

During a press conference after his conviction on Jan. 22, Haro said that he had been "found guilty by a court of law, but not by a court of justice." He said that the government's case against him was a political frame-up and that the conviction would be appealed.

According to the prosecution's story, which was presented in his trial by a police agent, Haro had been transferring grenades preparatory to an anticipated Sept. 17 attack on a Denver police station to coincide with a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Denver that week. Upon cross-examination, the accusing witness admitted his testimony was influenced by large amounts of money and immunity from prosecution on several charges pending against him in and around Denver.

Free Juan Haro!

Allen L. Lamar fighting racism of Texas Prisons from inside the walls

From James Jackson, Houston, Texas:

Allen L. Lamar, No. 195136, is a Black prisoner incarcerated in the Texas Department of Correction (TDC). He has been in TDC approximately nine years on a 25-year sentence for an alleged armed robbery. Lamar has continuously contested the validity of his imprisonment. He has striven patiently and vigorously to legally aid many of his fellow prisoners in the pursuit and struggle to regain physical liberties.

While many of the several States of the Union have (one way or another) officially abdicated practices and policies of racial discrimination, TDC has maintained and continued them, against which Lamar as well as other Black and Mexican inmates, who comprise the larger percentage of TDC, have suffered egregious effects, continuously, e.g.:

The Administration of Texas Department of Corrections is substantially white in employment; all or most of the high offices occupied in the administration are white; white, Black, and Mexican inmates are discriminatorily assigned to cells in which they live, i.e., no white inmate or Mexican inmate is assigned to live with Black inmates and vice-versa; likewise, white inmates are rarely assigned to live in cells with Mexican inmates.

Customarily and practically white inmates are assigned better jobs than Black and Mexican inmates (unless the job is an inmate police job: turn-keys, floor-boys, etc.).

Black and Mexican inmates are more frequently disciplined (falsely and unwarrantedly) disproportionately than are white inmates, etc.

Inmate Allen L. Lamar has lived with these socially obnoxious

treatments and conditions unwillingly for approximately nine years, conditions and treatments which offend the spirit of goodwill and destroy any expectation of favorable results.

Against such racial discriminatory practices and policies Allen L. Lamar has sued TDC Board Members in federal court. This case, in which the United States Department of Justice has intervened, has now been pending in court approaching four years without favorable effect to the class of prison inmates on whose behalf Lamar has brought the suit. However, the suit is scheduled for a pretrial conference on Feb. 13. But unless you the taxpayers take a conscious interest in this suit, the court is liable to prolong it thus causing the continuation of racial discrimination as it presently prevails unrelentingly.

Lamar is indeed a political prisoner whose struggle for social reform in the institutions of the public is equally recognizable as Martin Sostre, Lee Otis Johnson, George Jackson, Eldridge Cleaver, to name a few; because Lamar has struggled and suffered to ameliorate the plight of minority peoples, i.e., the Black and Mexican and Indian Americans and all other minority peoples.

We and Allen L. Lamar invite all correspondence concerning the racial discrimination in TDC. We further request your invested interest in the trial of the civil rights suit in Allen L. Lamar et al. vs. H. H. Coffield, Chairman of Texas Board of Corrections; pretrial conference to be held Feb. 13. We shall keep you informed on further proceedings in this suit.

Send all letters and monetary contributions to Representative of the State of Texas (Ms.) Eddie Bernice Johnson at P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78767.

U.S. corporations make every day a tragedy

Guatemala's unnatural disaster and U.S. 'aid'

From the Latin American Solidarity Group

ATLANTA, Feb. 9—On the news every night we have seen one of the most tragic and awful events in recent history. Over 18,000 people left dead, hundreds of thousands more homeless, injured, and starving.

The disastrous effects of the earthquake in Guatemala have touched the sympathies of people all over the world. But the TV news broadcasts have also revealed to the world the poverty, misery, and oppression that define the daily lives of most of Guatemala's people.

The U.S. government has made a big deal about sending \$1.5 million, five doctors, and one field hospital to Guatemala. Is this a sincere effort to alleviate suffering or an insulting publicity stunt?

What about the daily misery before and after the earthquake that is routine for the poor and hard-working people of Guatemala? What is the true role of the U.S. in this daily "unnatural disaster" of life in Guatemala?

NORMAL MISERY IN GUATEMALA

One reason that thousands of the injured are today going without help and die when they might have been saved is the severe lack of medical care in that impoverished country. Nationally, in Guatemala, there is an average of only one doctor for every 3,600 people. But 80 percent of these doctors reside in the capital city, which leaves the ratio in the countryside one doctor per 23,000 people.

Of course, even if there were more doctors, the vast majority of the people could not afford their services. Over 70 percent of the people of Guatemala receive an average annual income of \$42 per year or less. The average daily pay for farm workers is 80 cents per day.

But many cannot even find jobs at these starvation wages; unemployment is over 30 percent and underemployment near 60 percent. In Guatemala City, the capital, 54 percent of the women who can find jobs work as domestic servants for the wealthy of Guatemala and U.S. executives. Guatemala's own capitalist class is small and largely dependent on U.S. banks and companies. Five percent of the people there get 34.5 percent of the total national income, and only one percent of the population owns 80 percent of the land.

What all these figures add up to is a life of daily disaster for the people of Guatemala. Seventy-five percent of all Guatemalan children are under-nourished, and 9 out of every 100 children born there die in infancy (the highest infant mortality rate in the hemisphere). For those who survive infancy, the average life expectancy is 49 years of age.

When the people try to organize against this oppressive life they



Guatemala's natural disaster was made unnaturally tragic by the desperate poverty of the vast majority of the people—the poor housing, the lack of medical services, the high price of available food.

are met with repression, murder, and prison from a government that now uses the facade of phony "elections" to cover its real dictatorial nature. Under this heavy repression, for instance, only 1.2 percent of the workers have been able to successfully unionize. Recently, however, Guatemala has seen a wave of successful strikes by teachers and other public employees, and the people are continuing to organize a resistance to their exploitation.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISASTER

Between 1944 and 1954, the elected government in Guatemala tried to institute certain reforms in order to build a nationally stable economy. Although led by the national bourgeoisie, these reforms granted a measure of important democratic rights, such as freedom of speech, the press, the vote, the right to organize and strike. Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, elected president in 1950 by 63 percent of the vote, expanded the reform policies of his predecessor, Jose Arevalo. In 1952 a mild agrarian reform law was passed to distribute unused land to landless peasants, while fully compensating the absentee owners of the land.

But U.S. companies wanted no part of even this moderate reform program. When the Arbenz government began to distribute 400,000 acres of the United Fruit Company's vast holdings in Guatemala to 100,000 peasant families, the U.S. government acted swiftly. The Arbenz government was labeled "communist" and marked for overthrow.

A right-wing Army colonel, Castillo Armas, trained at Ft. Leavenworth, Ks., was rushed back to Guatemala along with CIA-

trained mercenaries launched from Honduras to overthrow the democratically elected Arbenz government. When students and workers responded with mass demonstrations, the universities were seized by the military and the CIA ordered bombings of the workers' sections and villages where the people resisted the coup.

A military dictatorship owned and sponsored by the U.S. was installed over the blood of thousands of slaughtered patriots, unions were outlawed, martial law declared, and as in other countries of Latin America and around the world, the U.S. companies followed. U.S. companies were invited by the new "friendly" government to invest in Guatemala with complete tax exemptions. Long-term mineral rights were granted to U.S. oil and mining companies. Since the coup, the natural and human wealth of the Guatemalan land and people has been drained by U.S. profiteers while hardly a penny has been returned to the country for much-needed hospitals, schools, housing, and living wages.

WHO PROFITS FROM GUATEMALA'S MISERY?

U.S. companies control 86 percent of the total foreign investment in Guatemala, and the profits stolen from Guatemala by U.S. corporate giants since 1954 would run in the billions of dollars.

So what does the million dollars now returned in the form of "emergency aid" mean? Is this the generous Uncle Sam with the heart of gold helping out his less fortunate neighbors? Sure, just like that Christmas turkey that some employers (though fewer these days) still give after working you to death all year for their profits. The U.S. government's aid might

be compared to the generosity of a thief who taps his neighbor's water well dry and then hands him back a glass of water when his house catches fire.

Of course the millions of dollars should be sent, and a lot more, but it should go directly to the people and not to line the pockets of some corrupt dictators, as most U.S. aid does. But is it really a matter of "giving" aid? Or isn't it more like returning a small portion of what has been stolen and is still being stolen every day?

For example, in one year, 1971, Texaco and Miles Pharmaceutical Labs each made more than \$1,200,000 in clear profits from their Guatemalan operations. In the same year, Exxon, Bank of America, and IBM combined to make over \$1 million in profits from Guatemala. Phillip Morris and Max Factor combined also to make over \$1 million. And Goodyear Tire Co. made \$750,000. So in just one sample year, eight U.S. companies (out of the 77 large U.S. companies operating there) made a combined profit of about \$4 million from Guatemala.

If the Guatemalan people had just been able to tax that profit by 25 percent, they would have already had the million dollars that the U.S. now claims to give out of "humanitarian concern." But the people don't control the government of Guatemala. The U.S. banks, companies, and government control it, and are responsible for the massive poverty, and denial of health care, education, food, and progress that the people so desperately need.

HUMAN LIFE NO CONCERN TO WASHINGTON

The insulting "gift" of \$1.5 million, which rightfully belongs to the Guatemalan people anyway

(plus a lot more), is nothing more than a cover for U.S. capitalism's true role in fostering misery as a way of life in Latin America. The U.S. has spent many more millions in bringing about death and destruction to the peoples of Latin America than it even pretends to spend on "constructive aid."

The most recent case in point is the approval of a \$70 million loan to the murderous military junta of Chile. Where was U.S. "aid" when the democratically elected Allende government in Chile was combating illiteracy, unemployment, housing shortages, and attempting to uplift the living standards of the workers and poor?

The U.S. at that time was devoting all of its energies to sabotaging the Chilean economy while sending arms and money to the Chilean military as part of a now-public scheme to overthrow the government. It is now an undisputed fact that the U.S.-CIA engineered and financed the Sept. 11, 1973, coup in Chile and aided in the slaughter of 35,000 Chilean people by the junta of fascist generals who promised loyalty to U.S. companies.

The Chilean coup alone, as well as the continuing massive U.S. aid to the blood-stained junta, are clear enough proof that every action of the U.S. in Latin America, from the colonial exploitation of Puerto Rico to the bloody rape of Chile, is designed to increase the profits of U.S. multi-national companies while perpetuating the "unnatural disaster" of poverty and misery for the millions of workers and oppressed.

—Pedro Grant

(continued from page 9)

What is the role of the AFL-CIO in Puerto Rico?

The AFL-CIO in Puerto Rico today practically dedicates itself to just maintaining its existing membership. They have been organizing practically no new workers. They do not participate in the political life, in the problems of our country. They don't take part in the progressive currents that are coursing through our country. They don't unite with the movement for unity. In practice, they are satisfied with maintaining the status quo. They don't want to commit themselves to anything in any manner in Puerto Rico.

If they continue like that, I believe that the AFL-CIO unions will practically disappear in our country. The workers in Puerto Rico are already awakening, and now they are not satisfied dealing only with the economic question; instead, they are becoming more interested in the ideological questions and in seeing their unions more involved in the problems of the community such as the economic crisis, crime, the drug problem, the problem of education.