

Postal workers gear for strike

By ANDY STAPP

JULY 26—The five-day wildcat at the New York Bulk and Foreign Mail Complex ended today but not until the workers had made their point: the recently negotiated contract stinks and should be scrapped.

Wildcat strikes against the contract had flared in other parts of the country as well, notably at the bulk mailing facility in San Francisco. Until the full force of the federal courts was brought to bear, these virtually spontaneous walkouts had crippled the struck facilities.

The ending of the wildcats, in which over 100 workers were fired, has not ended moves toward a strike, however. Under the new contract, which has not yet been ratified, the wage increase is only 2% for the first year, not enough even to begin to keep up with the inflation which has sent food prices zooming up 17% in the past year.

The contract, moreover, includes no improvement in the inadequate medical benefits and allows the same mandatory overtime

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Diary of a wildcat postal striker

By a Mailhandler from the Jersey City Bulk Mail Center
Friday morning, July 21:

The wildcat, which began last night here at the Bulk Mail Center, is holding firm. Hardly one car got through this morning. The radio just said that more than 1,400 workers have stayed out!

Everyone is angry as hell about the sell-out contract which has been rammed down our throats. Everyone wants to fight until we get a decent contract.

Hundreds of pickets are out on County Rd., men and women, Black and white. The signs they carry say: "200,000 jobs lost in seven years," "Bring back the 40-hour work week, no mandatory overtime," "Rank and file unite, fight for a contract," "We won't accept takeaways," "End speed-up," and "No sellout."

The supervisors scabbing inside obviously aren't getting much work done, as can be seen by the many trucks standing empty of mail sacks. During an average work day, we do at least 150,000 sacks, but all they did was about 30,000 today. All the strikers feel

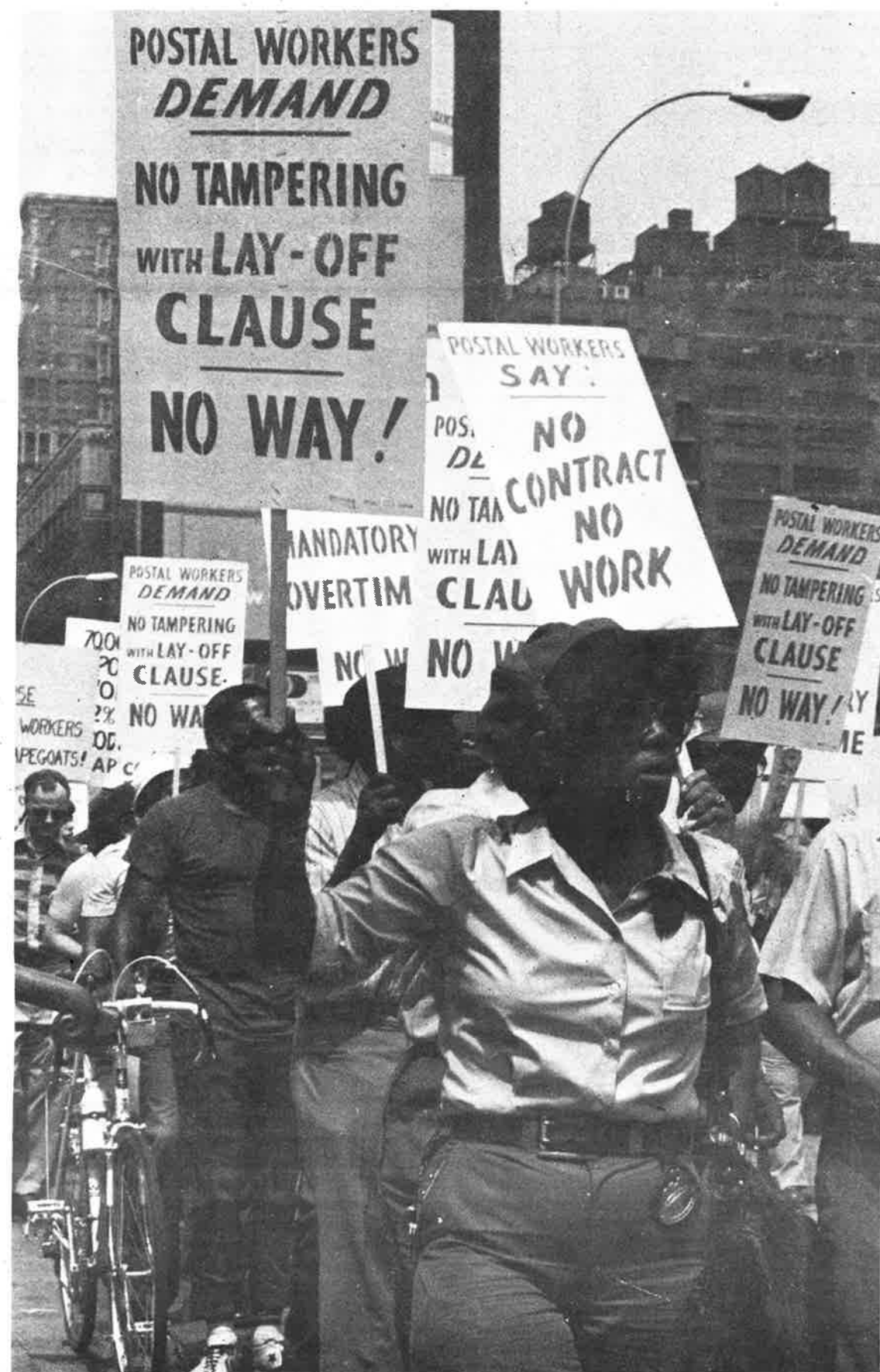
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The day before their contract expired, thousands of New York City postal workers rallied in front of the General Post Office, determined to get a liveable contract. WW photo: Bill Hackwell

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Milwaukee gay activists declare:

'We are not going back into our closets'

By JUDY GREENSPAN

MILWAUKEE, July 17—Tonight after a meeting of this city's Gay People's Union (GPU), over 30 gay women and men marched over a mile to city hall and the police station to protest simultaneous police raids last Saturday on two gay health clubs. These recent raids follow on the heels of a vicious attack by police on the Broadway Health Club, another gay facility and increasing harassment by vice squad cops in the gay bars.

OFF OUR BACKS

"I wish the vice squad would get off our backs," said Alyn Hess tonight at the GPU meeting. Hess, a member of GPU, has been working on the legal defense of the gay men who were arrested in all three raids.

"It is time for gay people to make it clear to the police department that we will not take anymore of this," Hess continued.

Miriam ben-Shalom, president of GPU and long-time gay activist discussed the history of the gay liberation movement which had its beginnings in the 1969 Stonewall rebellion. After a similar raid on the Stonewall bar in Greenwich Village, gay people battled the police for three days.

"We are not going back into our closets," ben-Shalom said, echoing the sentiments of over 50 lesbians and gay men who attended tonight's meeting. "We are going to have to take our demands into the street," she continued. The young woman urged all the people in the room to march to city hall to demand an end to police harassment.

Early Saturday, July 15, the vice squad raided both the Club Milwaukee and the Finlandia, two gay health clubs that have been in existence in this city for many years. At one of the clubs, the police put a gun to one of the attendants' heads to gain entrance. Alyn Hess, also a reporter for GPU News, was harassed and forced to leave the scene of one of the raids under threat of arrest.

Over 16 gay men were arrested on trumped-up charges and the GPU legal team was denied information as to the names of those arrested so that bail could be posted.

On May 6, when the Broadway Health Club was raided by police, doors were broken in and hundreds of dollars of damage was done by the vicious vice squad. This time round, the cops felt enough public pressure not to do any physical harm to the clubs,

only to the gay patrons who were both astonished and outraged by the raid.

GAY RIGHTS NOW

When the gay demonstrators neared city hall, they took up the chant of "Gay rights—right now!" and later upon arriving at the police station, a militant picket line was set up directly in front. Gay people and their supporters chanted, "Get the vice squad off our backs!" despite the presence of the squad and the regular

police.

Lesbians and gay men in this city, along with their straight supporters, are determined to put an end to this most vicious form of harassment. GPU is planning to sue Milwaukee police and launch a national campaign to demand the right of sexual privacy.

The gay community is determined more than ever to take its anger into the streets in bigger numbers until the struggle for gay rights and an end to police harassment is won.

Lesbian mother fights for her child

DETROIT, July 22—For over two years Margareth Miller has been fighting a custody battle to be able to have her 12-year-old daughter Jillian live with her. The Michigan Court of Appeals has ruled that Miller is an unfit mother solely because she is a lesbian.

Michigan courts have in the past ruled on custody cases based on the child's preference of where to live. But in this case, the court has ignored the expressed desire of Jillian to live with her mother. The Michigan Supreme Court recently ordered a stay of removal of Jillian from her mother until the court decides

whether to hear the case or not.

The Margareth and Jillian Defense Committee needs support. Progressive people must fight to defend the rights of lesbian mothers and their children in the face of these anti-gay attacks.

On July 30 there will be a benefit here at the Casbah bar (Plymouth at Hubbel) at 8:30 p.m. Please attend or send donations or write in support of this struggle to: Margareth & Jillian Defense Committee, 3407 Michigan Union, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109, (313) 763-4186.

New York City press covers up anti-gay assault

By PAUL WILCOX

NEW YORK, July 22—Several young thugs were arrested last week for the savage beating of six men in Central Park here. These men were assaulted with clubs and baseball bats (and five suffered fractured skulls), in an area of Central Park known as the Ramble, a popular social area for gay people.

These arrests are due in large part to the fact that one of the victims was Dick Button, former Olympic skating champion, and a \$10,000 reward had been offered by members of the Button family for information leading to a conviction for the assault.

The big business press here covered up the significance of the case as an anti-gay attack. It was only when the bigots were arrested and they themselves openly stated their anti-gay intentions that the newspapers were forced to bring this up. Of course, no questions have been asked in the ruling class

media as to why this cowardly gang had the confidence to conduct a highly-organized ambush in the early evening in Central Park and brag about it, even when they were arrested. The press has suggested that they were just young "troublemakers" who were "high on spray paint."

The city editor of the New York Post explained, "We knew it was a homosexual area, but the problem was the victims. So we decided to focus on Dick Button, the celebrity." If the Post was so concerned about the victims of the attack why is it that the paper, and the rest of the city's powerful dailies, have printed hardly a word about the need, or even the existence, of Intro 384, a bill pending in the New York City Council banning discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation. Needless to say, the big business press has also all but ignored the powerful and militant struggle of lesbians and gay men for their human rights.

THE GAY QUESTION:
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By Bob McCubbin

A material analysis of gay oppression, which traces the history of gay people from the earliest days of humankind to the present day.

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Boycott J.P. Stevens!

Who holds power? Ask Mr. Iacocca

By ELIZABETH ROSS

JULY 22—Recently Henry Ford II fired the president of the Ford Motor Co., explaining only, "I just don't like you."

Lido Anthony (Lee) Iacocca had been with the company for 32 years, and was its president for more than seven years. He had started at the bottom of the ladder and year by year clawed his way to the top. He knew all about producing automobiles, he was shrewd, he was aggressive, and his associates said of him that he had that magic quality called "charisma." With his salary and bonus combined he made nearly a million a year.

All his thousands of underlings down to the foremen on the floors stood in awe of him. They thought of him as the knights of old must have thought of their king.

And yet a man who knew much less about the ins and outs of the automobile business, who is more famous for the big parties he throws than for his knowledge, has the power to fire him without any other explanation than the incompatibility of their body chemistries.


That's because Henry Ford II is the principle owner of the Ford Motor Co., and Lee Iacocca is only its glorified manager (which, incidentally, is a blow at those theorists who hold to the doctrine that we live in a managerial society where ownership counts for very little).

Of the 500 largest industrial corporations in the U.S. Ford ranks third in sales, and last year employed 443,917 workers. (Towering above it is General Motors which employed 748,000

men and women in the same year. Those figures alone give a hint of how tense the atmosphere is, how fierce the competition to catch up with GM, how strained inter-executive relations must be at Ford.)

Presidents and other executives of big corporations may dress and eat as well as the owners do; to the workers in the shops they may appear as powerful and invulnerable as the owners; they may be the men who can give the order to lay off 20,000 or 50,000 workers or hire them again when sales are zooming.

But, with all their show of power, with all their hard-nosed know-how, they are only employees. When the real boss says, "I just don't like you," they have to go.



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Nationwide attacks under 'tax revolt' smokescreen

Municipal workers fight layoffs, wage freezes

By P. MEISNER

JULY 25—Using the so-called "tax revolt" of California's Proposition 13 as a smokescreen, the banks and big business have begun a coordinated attack on municipal workers from coast to coast in a new drive to cut all workers' living standards.

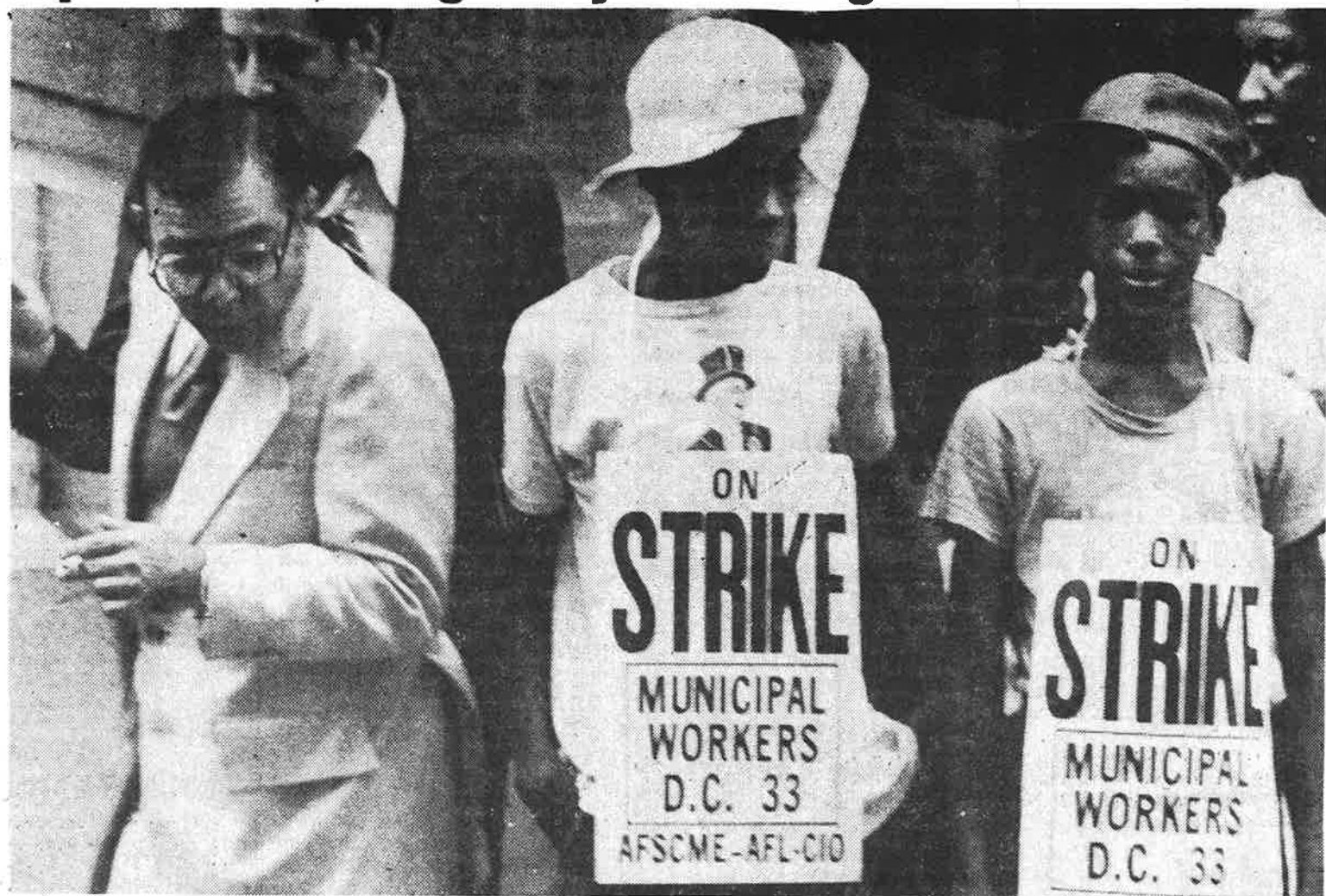
By taking advantage of the deep and legitimate resentment of the masses against high taxes, a group of rightist politicians and big landlords succeeded in duping enough voters last month to pass Proposition 13, a scheme which provides big corporations with a super tax giveaway, small home owners with peanuts, and the banker-dominated state government with an excuse for a wholesale slash of social services.

Now, claiming "tax revolt is sweeping the nation," politicians in cities such as Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Antonio have launched attacks on the municipal workers and social services in a pattern similar to the "fiscal crisis" that the banks directed against the poor and working people of New York three years ago.

WORKERS FIGHT BACK

But public workers have waged bitter struggles against many of the city governments who have threatened them with layoffs and unlivable wage proposals. Some 300 sanitation workers in New Orleans staged a wildcat strike for three days last week to protest the government's gimmick of not providing trucks in workable condition. This enables the city's sanitation department to lay off all those workers then not able to work.

In perhaps the most serious attack on municipal workers, San Antonio's city manager yesterday fired almost half of the city's 313 sanitation workers. Already 111 replacements have been hired. The workers had walked off their job



Philadelphia City Solicitor Sheldon Albert ducks as he passes pickets during the strike by municipal workers.

last Saturday demanding a 9.3% increase above their meager \$500 monthly wage. Also, the workers had been angry at the deliberate understaffing and speed-up by the city government. The latter refused to grant any wage hike higher than 6.6% (although the New York Times of July 24 admits that the current inflation rate is at least 10%) and make any concession at all on the staffing issue.

And after an 8-day strike in Philadelphia, 19,600 sanitation workers returned to work with a 7 percent wage increase the first year and another increase supposedly

tied to the cost-of-living index in the second year of the contract. However, the AFSCME unions agreed to no new hiring for at least one year and the immediate layoff of 600 workers. The agreement also does not prevent the Rizzo administration from laying off another 3,500 to 4,500 employees in the near future.

Also recently, firefighters in Louisville and Memphis have been on strike demanding a minimal wage increase to keep up with the rapidly rising cost of living.

The assault on municipal workers has also taken on the form

of city governments contracting private firms more than ever before to perform traditional public services. This often allows the cities to lay off workers with the most seniority while the work is done by private companies who in many cases employ non-union labor and usually pay lower wages and provide much less in fringe benefits.

Through the use of state and municipal bonds, banks make a profit off of the tax monies bled from poor and working people through income and sales taxes. At the same time, big corporations

benefit from the services provided by municipal governments. It is the cities that provide mass transportation to bring workers to the factories. It is the cities which keep up roads and water that make daily corporate exploitation possible. And working people are paying a larger percentage of the taxes that go to keep up these services.

The cities aren't broke. It is the banks and big corporations which siphon tremendous amounts in profits from city coffers. And they are responsible for the layoffs and cutbacks in the last few years.

And now, with a new economic crisis clearly on the horizon, the ruling class is using its collective power again against the municipal workers in the next step in its drive to put the full impact of the crisis onto the backs of all poor and working people. But the stiff resistance put up by government workers in recent weeks is a sure sign that each attack by the ruling class will be met by struggle on the part of all working people.

D.C. transit workers wildcat for six days

By SUSAN LESSER

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 26—Led by an emerging, militant rank-and-file leadership, this week Metrobus drivers and mechanics, subway operators and station attendants, shut down the D.C. transit system in a wildcat strike for six days.

The transit workers, angry over Metro's refusal to pay a 20-cents-an-hour cost-of-living increase, defied company threats of reprisals, a court order against any kind of job action, unresponsive union officials who refused to sanction the strike, and a lack of support from other unions. Though back to work today, this heroic effort on the part of the transit strikers, fighting against such heavily stacked odds, kept this city shut down for almost a week.

The wildcat action of the transit workers here is characteristic of an increasing mood among public employees whose wages and job security are under attack nationwide by all levels of government. These municipal workers are beginning to fight these attacks with or without the leadership of their union officials.

The company maintained that because the old contract expired April 30, and because the cost of living issue was currently under arbitration (Metro wanted to decrease it), they did not have to



Striking bus drivers in Washington, D.C.

pay the 20-cents-an-hour increase that was due July 1 under the old contract. This was the main issue of the strike. In addition, grievances, old and new, that led to the strike include a previous denial of a 13-cents-an-hour increase back in 1976, unsafe vehicles, racism and other forms of discrimination on the part of Metro, and the recent firing of mechanics.

Unfortunately, the union officials agreed with the bosses against the rank-and-file. At a July 17 meeting of Local 689 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents over 4,500 workers, union officials were escorted out by police after rank-and-file workers grabbed the microphone and angrily demanded that the union call a

strike.

Unable to break the strike on their own or with the aid of the union bureaucrats, the bosses went to the court and got it to order the strikers back to work or be held in contempt of court and face possible jail.

It was the intercession of the repressive apparatus of the U.S. government, through its courts, on the side of Metro, that eventually forced the workers back.

On the first day of the strike, the court order to return to work was read to the seven bus divisions by union officials. This provoked many arguments from the strikers. One driver said, "this union is pro-management. It has not represented us for a long time."

The strikers were particularly concerned about the 123 people who were specifically named and would personally receive a copy of the court order. Amnesty for all strikers became a main demand.

Additional pressure was heaped on the workers when supervisors began running some trains on Monday.

Though the transit workers have been forced to return to work with two held in contempt and 23 suspended, their wildcat, along with recent strikes by Philadelphia city workers, and San Antonio and New Orleans sanitation workers, shows that municipal workers are determined to fight against cutbacks.

Tax relief for whom?

For those wondering how the so-called tax reduction law in California, Proposition 13, works, here is an example:

The Irvine Company, which owns about 15% of Orange County, Calif., has a \$14 million-a-year tax bill. This amount will be reduced to \$6 million in the current year.

The company says that rents will not be reduced in the 11 company-owned apartment complexes—about 3,200 units.

Besides, Joan Irvine, granddaughter of the founder of the company, the owners include New York investment banker Charles Allen, Jr., and Henry Ford II.

They have not revealed how they will spend the \$8 million that would otherwise have gone to pay for schools, child care, hospitals, welfare, and fire protection for the people of the state.

Conditions have not changed since

New York City blackout rebellion of 1977



WW photo: M. Vera

Tired of oppression and grinding poverty New York City's oppressed communities took advantage of the blackout last summer to take what they needed and had long been denied.

In Atlanta

Students confront racist Regents

By ELEANOR RIGGS

ATLANTA, July 12—Atlanta Junior College (AJC) students and faculty, as well as community supporters, returned to the Georgia Board of Regents' meeting today in a continued effort to press for changes which would desegregate education in this state.

Chiding President Carter for his phony "human rights" talk, Jibari Simama, one of the five AJC faculty members denied a summer teaching contract because of his anti-racist activities, asked "Where is his concern over the beatings of Black citizens who dissent against the racist policies in the University System of Georgia? Is there concern for these victims who faced illegal brutality at the hands of state troopers?"

Simama was referring to the 26 students, faculty and community members beaten and arrested by Georgia State Troopers in two separate incidents.

On June 8, at a picket at the Atlanta Junior College commencement exercises, state

troopers arrested nine demonstrators protesting the college administration's arbitrary decision to withhold summer positions to five teachers who had challenged the state's discriminatory educational policies.

The next week, at a Board of Regents meeting, state troopers viciously attacked Black and white citizens in a hallway outside the meeting room. On TV news that night, hundreds of thousands of Atlantans viewed with shock the unleashed brutality of the police, as they beat and arrested 17 people. In both attacks, the student leadership has been targeted for particularly malicious treatment as well as being falsely charged with multiple offenses.

In the month since the racist arrests, hundreds of Atlantans have participated in community rallies, picket lines at the state capitol, and fund-raising events in support of those arrested. Court appearances have been marked by large and militant demonstrations and packed courtrooms.

On July 6, at a preliminary

hearing for the nine arrested at the graduation ceremony, the charges were dropped against four of the defendants due to the shoddily prepared state's case. Significantly, the main leaders of the students were bound over for trial on a variety of charges, including assault on an officer.

The Board of Regents refused to allow any of the students or faculty to speak at today's meeting. However, they did permit Dr. Joseph Lowery of SCLC to present a proposal for desegregation of the University System. Interestingly, the plan submitted by SCLC is remarkably similar to the one raised by students and faculty last summer. The plan calls for an end to the cultural and class prejudice of standardized tests, unequal funding to predominantly Black schools and other discriminatory practices and racist policies that currently perpetuate segregation in Georgia schools. It is this struggle for decent education and against racism that has brought Black students and faculty into direct confrontation with the state.

By RICHARD FERGUSON

NEW YORK, July 19—It has now been a year since the historical blackout rebellion of July 13, 1977, which took place in the oppressed minority communities of New York. At that time the Black and Latin communities took advantage of the power failure, took to the streets, and rebelled against hunger, poverty and unemployment.

The bourgeoisie, terrorized, tried to portray the rebellion as an evil of the blackout, with "crazed animals in the streets to terrorize and destroy." However, the extreme conditions of hunger and poverty which sparked this spontaneous uprising could not be hidden, and one year later conditions have not changed.

On July 13th, at 9:30 p.m., New York experienced a city-wide power failure. At first people were puzzled as to what had happened, how broad the blackout was, and whether the power would return in ten minutes, an hour, or a day. In the severely oppressed communities, such as the South Bronx, Harlem, East Harlem, and Bedford-Stuyvesant, residents began to move into the streets. At first the numbers were small as people cautiously began to liberate goods from the small shops. Then suddenly thousands upon thousands moved into and controlled the streets.

The small shops and many markets, mainly white-owned, were liberated during the blackout mainly because they were in the vicinity. They were the most immediate targets for the decades of poverty, frustration and anger which had built up in the Black and Latin communities.

NEARLY 4,000 ARRESTED

The rebellion was put down only after the police—with their death machinery—occupied the oppressed communities. The horror stories of the arrests of nearly 4,000 are endless. Elderly women with canes, children, sick people with diabetes, epilepsy and other ailments requiring medication, were rounded up by cops using terrorist tactics and arrested.

The notorious Tombs jail, which had been shut down due to intolerable conditions, was reopened for the thousands of Black and Latin community residents that were beaten and jailed. Those arrested were packed into tiny cells in intolerable heat with just

enough food and water to survive. Many had gunshot wounds or lacerations from broken glass and received no medical attention. Several deaths occurred.

While on the outside a vicious, racist campaign was being waged by the bourgeois press to portray the blackout victims as "looters and animals." Mayor Abraham Beame, puppet of big business, met with the judges who would try the cases and urged them to give stiff penalties. The press was flooded with the words "blackout," "looters" and "destruction," instead of rebellion, unemployment and poverty. As a result, a greater percentage of those arrested during the rebellion served time in jail and were given stiffer sentences than usual.

Have the conditions which brought about the July 13, 1977, rebellion changed a year later? In a country with a military budget of close to \$130 billion, have jobs been found for those in the minority communities where the jobless rate is 40-50%?

Has anything been done about the dilapidated, rat-infested housing the poor are forced to live in? Has the almost non-existent medical care in minority communities improved?

The truth of the matter is that things are worse. The unemployment rate in the areas of Bedford-Stuyvesant, El Barrio, Harlem, and the South Bronx has risen. The tremendous layoffs, higher taxes, and crippling service cuts, which began in 1975 under the name of "default," have escalated. Misery for the poor is at an all-time high while the bourgeoisie's answer to the rebellion has been more police terror and thicker bars on the steel store gates.

As has been the case in all previous rebellions, such as in Watts, Detroit, Newark, Houston and Chicago, the rich and their press have scapegoated "communists" or maybe just "people doing strange things in the heat" as responsible. But the real reason for rebellions is crystal clear. They are a response to exploitation, oppression and misery. The July 13th blackout rebellion was only put down through sheer terror and force. However, throughout the world, any setback to the uprising of the oppressed is only temporary.

As many try to flee Duvalier's repression

U.S. to deport Haitians

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

JULY 25—Drawn by the drama of dangerous ocean-crossings in leaky boats with rotten hulls, the U.S. press has given wide coverage to the latest wave of immigration to Florida. Since last November, over 1,000 Haitians in 50 boats landed in Florida, most of them from the Bahamas, where the local government is pushing out those Haitians residing there without legal status.

Haiti is the poorest and least developed country in the Western Hemisphere. If this were not enough reason for its poor to leave, it has ruling it Jean-Claude Duvalier, a brutal dictator and puppet of U.S. imperialism.

U.S. authorities are now embarrassed to find so many thousands of citizens of their client state seeking political asylum in the U.S. Despite the obvious repression in Haiti, the U.S. has granted political asylum to only 26 Haitians since 1972 (New York Times, July 18).

This contrasts with the hundreds of thousands of counter-

revolutionary Cubans who were quickly allowed to stay in the U.S. Rev. Jean-Yves Urfe, a Haitian priest who has called a demonstration for Aug. 3 at the New York offices of the State Department and the Bahamian and Haitian consulates to the U.N., charged that "Any Cuban that lands in Florida is welcomed as a hero. But if you are a Haitian, you are suspected of lying."

Although Haiti's jobless economy is fully in the hands of U.S. bankers, the U.S. government takes no responsibility for Haiti's poor. In fact, immigration authorities in Florida are already planning to increase their forces to stop the immigration they consider illegal. They also plan to take back a small liberalization that gave some rights to those prevented from landing by the Coast Guard or arrested as they come ashore.

L.A. GRAND JURY ON UNDOCUMENTED

On the other side of the continent, a Los Angeles grand jury report said that those un-

documented workers who can show they are supporting themselves should be granted amnesty to stay in the U.S.

It's in Los Angeles county that about 700,000 non-U.S. citizens reside, mostly Mexican workers without papers and their families (El Diario, July 16). These workers make tremendous contributions to the county's economy, but are denied social services and other benefits to which they have a right.

The grand jury members said that federal legislation should include "stipulations for amnesty to protect undocumented foreigners, who face injustices if they are deported or deprived of their work and who can demonstrate that—despite their illegal state—they have not been a charge on the community." The report also pointed out the inhuman conditions that bosses force these workers to accept because of their illegal status. This is certainly a concession to the heroic struggles waged by undocumented workers against deportation.

What are they preparing for?

NEW YORK, July 24—Preparations for the next blackout are underway here. Criminal justice officials are saying they are making plans to deal with "an emergency of at least the size of last year on a citywide basis" according to yesterday's New York Times.

One might think these plans would include getting milk and other perishable food items to families whose refrigeration was off, or making sure that emergency medical care would be available for those who might need it, or making funds available to the unemployed and working people who couldn't afford to miss a day's pay.

But no, the "preparation" they're talking about is stockpiling more "helmets, nightsticks, and other riot equipment" in "pre-designated, strategically situated precincts" and auxiliary generators for the jails and special transportation to bring lawyers to

the jails. It means the police department purchasing Polaroid cameras (or maybe they already have them) like their counterparts in the apartheid South African government. (They're not talking about passbooks yet for the oppressed Black and Latin people of the U.S., just taking Polaroid pictures of people arrested with the arresting officer so that people "may be taken to court and arraigned even if the arresting officer is not there.")

Clearly, what they're really talking about is preparation for another rebellion! For the rich in this city know that if anything, conditions are worse than they were a year ago.

But all the fascist police measures in the world will not prevent the poor and oppressed people of this country from rebelling against a system which serves the rich and can't even provide jobs and the basic necessities of life for so many people.

A victory in struggle against racism

Charges against Stokes dropped

By PAULA ROESSLER

BOSTON, July 20—A blow was struck against the double standard of justice that prevails here when rape and armed robbery charges were dropped against Eugene Stokes today in Roxbury District Court by Judge Richard L. Banks. This is an important victory for progressive forces in this city.

Stokes is a 40-year-old Black man who was beaten unconscious in South Boston on May 8 by 40 racists. While recovering from his injuries he, the victim, was arrested in his hospital bed on the day of his operation, on phony rape and armed robbery charges.

In court today, the woman who had been raped clearly stated that Eugene Stokes was **not** the man who attacked her. The police and the Commonwealth had known all

along that Stokes did not fit the description she had given of her assailant. His build, height, weight, and age did not in any way fit with the description in the police report. And the police made no attempts to try to find someone who matched her description better. They showed that they couldn't care less about maligning the reputation of this man, in such an insidious way.

The City-Wide Coalition for Justice and Equality issued a press release after the probable cause hearing today at which the case was dismissed. It said:

"The City-Wide Coalition for Justice and Equality is encouraged by the dismissal today in Roxbury District Court of the frame-up rape charges against Eugene Stokes, a Black man who was

brutalized by racists and received 3 fractures to the cheekbone in South Boston on May 8, 1978.

"We are heartened that the victim of the March 23 rape confirmed in court today that Mr. Stokes was not the man who raped her.

"We continue to question police procedures in the identification of Mr. Stokes and his arrest from his hospital bed one week after he was attacked in South Boston. James Kelly of the South Boston Information Center [an organizing center for the racist group ROAR—WW] has confirmed that he had prior knowledge of the arrest."

The Coalition for Justice and Equality has been dealing with a variety of cases over the past couple of years in which victims of

racist attacks have been framed up on false criminal charges while their attackers have gone free. This procedure requires collusion among the bigots, the police, city officials and the courts; the type of collusion which needs to be exposed and stopped, if anyone is going to be allowed to live in peace and safety in this city.

In the case of Eugene Stokes, the Coalition obtained the assistance of a sympathetic experienced attorney, Barry Wilson. This multi-national, anti-racist organization began to educate the public about the case by holding press conferences, a benefit for victims of racial attacks, and held a picket line in front of police headquarters to expose the role of the police in the frame-up.

The Coalition has also organized court support for Stokes who was even forced under threat of arrest to return to South Boston (where he nearly lost his life) in order to identify a couple of his attackers who had been picked up.

On July 6, after trying unsuccessfully to move the case out of South Boston District Court, the Coalition organized a strong multi-racial delegation of supporters to accompany Stokes and his attorney to South Boston, where he was able to identify two of the three men as his attackers.

TWO ATTACKERS TO FACE COURT

Two of the men Stokes identified, Timothy Martin and Paul Riley, both of South Boston, were held over for indictment before the

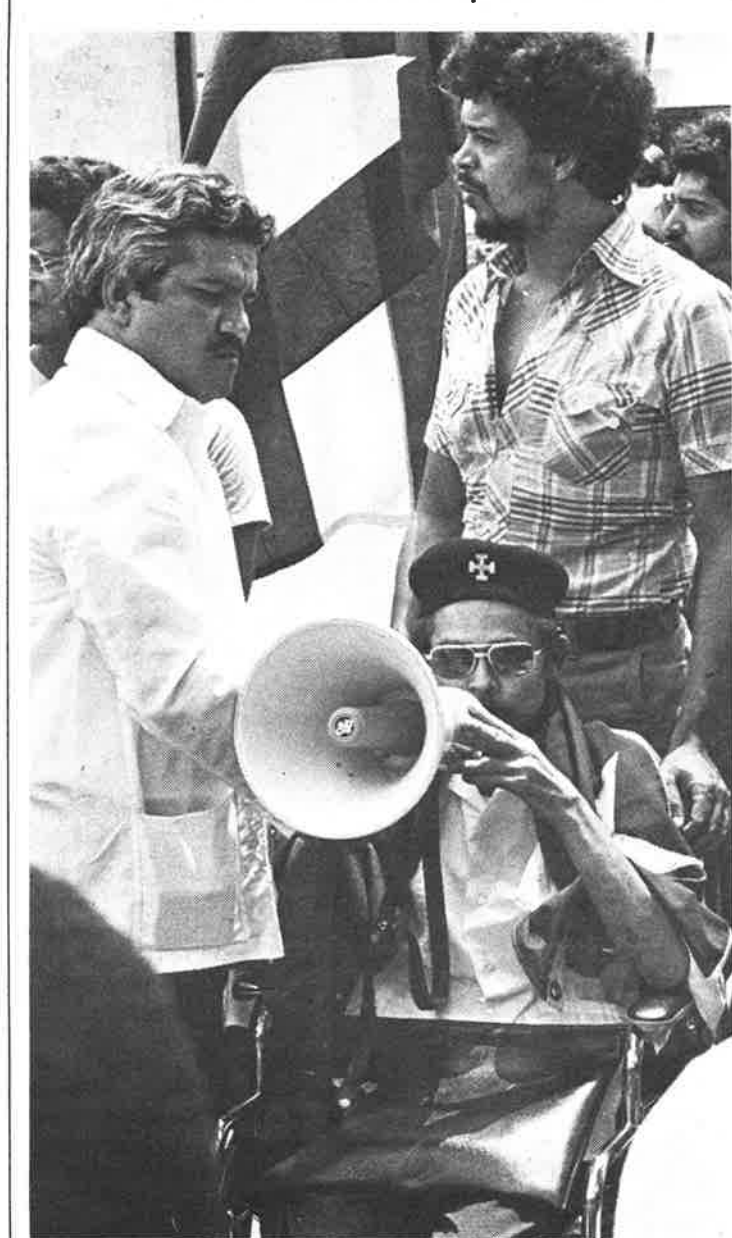
Eugene Stokes, showing his wounds.

grand jury in August. This, too, was a great victory for anti-racist forces in Boston, although it is only partial since only 3 out of 40 were arrested, and the charges against them were watered down. Instead of attempted murder, Martin and Riley were charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Eugene Stokes and his supporters could not just go to South Boston to identify these men, they had to be escorted by the Police Department, the same Police Department which is responsible for the fact that Black people cannot live, work or even go to court in South Boston in safety because it supports the bigots who are based there.

The City-Wide Coalition has shown that by keeping pressure on the police and city officials, and by educating the public at large how racism hurts all poor people and workers, and by organizing against these attacks, that progress can be made. This is the kind of work which will ultimately bring real justice to Boston for both Black and white.

Puerto Rican Nationalist speaks in D.C.



WASHINGTON, D.C., July 22—Today 400 people, mostly Latin, marched in this capital city of the U.S. imperialist government to demand independence for Puerto Rico and freedom for the Four Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners, in U.S. jails for a quarter of a century. Today's activity was sponsored by the East Coast Committee to Free the Four Nationalist Prisoners.

Here, Andres Figueroa Cordero, the only one of the Nationalist Prisoners who is free, addresses the crowd. Speaking in Spanish, Figueroa thanked his supporters—Black, white, Native, and Latin.

Detroit anti-Bakke protest takes the street



WW photo: Cheryl

DETROIT, July 22—Today 200 angry demonstrators took over the streets of downtown Detroit in protest of the recent Supreme Court's pro-Bakke decision. Called by the Michigan Coalition to Overturn the Bakke Decision, the protest march was co-sponsored by unionists and progressive and Black organizations. The protesters, many of whom were veterans of the April 15 demonstration against Bakke in Washington, D.C., reaffirmed their determination to beat back the effects of the Bakke decision and continue the struggle to defend and extend affirmative action.

NAACP sets campaign to defend affirmative action

By DIANE FEINBERG

JULY 24—"We are declaring war on all attempts to weaken or destroy affirmative action and civil

rights enforcement," said Benjamin Hooks yesterday. Hooks is the executive director of the NAACP, the oldest and best-known of U.S. civil rights organizations.

The NAACP had just concluded a three-day symposium, held in Detroit, on affirmative action.

Attacks on affirmative action that the NAACP said it would fight included the attachment of riders and amendments onto bills such as the Eagleton-Biden Amendment and the Walker Amendment.

The Eagleton-Biden Amendment seeks to prevent the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare from enforcing the provisions of affirmative action plans that call for busing. The proposed Walker Amendment to the appropriations bill for the Department of Labor and Health, Education, and Welfare would prohibit the use of ratios, quotas, or any numerical devices related to race, national origin, or sex in affirmative action plans by those agencies.

NAACP spokesman Hooks

presented his organization's plan for two efforts outlined in a "Manifesto for Action." Hooks said that the 450,000-member NAACP will mobilize to carry out a lobbying campaign to, he said, meet with government officials in Washington to get them to take a stand for affirmative action.

The second effort calls for a meeting with President Carter to insist he call a White House conference on affirmative action "without delay."

Hooks explained that the 1,700 local chapters of the NAACP would monitor the affirmative action programs of educational institutions, businesses, and other organizations. A national task force will be organized to coordinate the information and a legal mechanism for intervention in cases where affirmative action is threatened will be established.

"We don't think quotas are out," Hooks said when asked how the organization would measure the success of the campaign. "We will be using the only definitive, reliable standard you can use, and that is numbers."

Busing and Self-determination

By Sam Marcy

A clear and concise statement of the Marxist position on self-determination for all oppressed peoples.

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U.S. behind the scenes as

Bolivian military rigs election, stages coup



Bolivian tin miners. Militant miners called a strike protesting the right-wing coup last week.

By PADDY COLLIGAN

JULY 25—The U.S. tin stockpile, a militant miners movement, and a fascist-military alliance were vital ingredients in last weekend's right-wing coup in Bolivia.

General Juan Pareda Asbun, the Bolivian military's own candidate in the recent elections, seized control of the land-locked Latin American country following a one-day, staged "rebellion" by sections of the military that supported him. Gen. Hugo Banzer Suarez, notorious for heading a brutal, U.S.- and fascist-backed regime, graciously swore in his successor and one-time protege on July 22.

Already, his successor is following the same path. According to today's New York Times, at least 100 labor and

student leaders have been arrested.

Pareda's coup had apparently been triggered by the National Elections Court announcement that it had annulled the election results because of widespread and blatant rigging. When the tally was halted, the military's candidate had over 50% of the vote and his nearest opponent, Helnar Siles Zuazo, had 19%. (In his campaign, Siles had called for an end to Bolivia's dependence on the U.S. and other imperialist countries, and had called for the reinstatement of trade union rights.)

While Banzer might not mind seeing the country ruled by Pareda, Bolivia's 50,000 tin miners apparently do. The New York Times reported on July 23 that the miners at the Catavi mine, one of the largest tin mines in the world, had begun a 48-hour strike in support of Pareda's electoral opponent.

July is a critical month for the Bolivian economy. The U.S. announced this spring that it would release 40,000 tons of tin, Bolivia's largest single export earner, from its stockpile. "Dumping" is an economic weapon the U.S. uses to depress market prices of major exports of countries it wishes to control. The effect on the price of tin is expected to be devastating, driving it down well below the cost of production even in Bolivia where tin miners are only paid an average of \$1.50 in U.S. dollars a day. In July the Tin Importers and Producers Council will announce its decision on raising the world market price of tin as Bolivia and other producing countries have demanded. Fascist methods will be necessary if the Bolivian military tries to make the economic situation of tin miners more miserable than it is already.

WORKERS' MILITANCY WRINGS CONCESSIONS

Bolivia's recent elections, the first held in 12 years, were themselves a hard-won concession which the militance of a broad grouping of labor, church, and moderate elements had extracted from Banzer's regime. Two successful general strikes and a hunger strike involving 1,000 people late in 1977 forced some relaxation of the fascist repression which had characterized much of Banzer's seven years in power.

The regime was forced to release jailed trade union leaders and members of the Bolivian left groups including leaders of the National Liberation Army-Revolutionary Workers Party (ELN-PRT). Bolivia's guerrilla organization. Many political exiles were allowed to return, trade unions were once again made legal, and workers fired for trade union activities were reinstated. The pressure exerted by the workers' movement was remarkable since it had long been illegal and forced to operate underground.

Although the last six months have been a welcome respite from fascism, the threat of repression was never far in the background. The military continued its occupation of the most important mining centers while all the mechanisms for repression remained on the books. Student attempts to restore the university's autonomy led instead to numerous arrests and the occupation of the campus by the army.

The origins of Bolivian fascism date as far back as 1938. It was in 1971 that General Banzer ousted the popular and progressive government of General Juan Jose

24-hour general strike rocks Nicaragua

By SHARON SHELTON

JULY 24—Popular resistance against the bloody U.S.-backed tyrant, Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza Debayle, erupted again this month with mass demonstrations, land occupations, and strikes by students and workers.

So far, nine youths have been killed and scores injured by Somoza's National Guard during the latest upsurge.

On July 20 a 24-hour nationwide general strike was called by the Broad Opposition Front, a new coalition encompassing a wide range of opponents of the regime including the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), the group leading the guerrilla struggle. The strike, which successfully shut businesses and factories in Managua and

other cities, was held to protest the massacre of demonstrating high school students by Somoza's goons.

Earlier this month, 11,000 hospital and municipal workers went out, and radio workers struck after a station was shut down for broadcasting news of resistance to the regime.

100,000 TURN OUT TO WELCOME "THE TWELVE"

High school students, themselves on strike to show solidarity with political prisoners, have occupied schools and organized marches in many parts of the country, battling Guardsmen. It was during these protests that the nine youths were massacred by Somoza's U.S.-trained National Guard.

The largest of the mass anti-government demonstrations (which are taking place almost daily in major Nicaraguan cities) occurred on July 5 when a group of exiled Somoza opponents known as The Twelve returned to Nicaragua. According to the July 20 New York Times, over 100,000 people showed up against Somoza's orders to welcome the returning exiles, who represent clergy, businessmen, and other progressive bourgeois opponents of the regime and who have called for recognition of the FSLN. The crowd carried signs and banners with slogans such as "Amnesty," "Freedom for political prisoners," and "Long live the Sandinista Front."

The huge turnout was just another indication of the growing popularity of the FSLN and the

recognition of the need for armed struggle among the oppressed Nicaraguan people. The FSLN has been organizing in Nicaragua for the past 15 years and has recently led an all-out effort to liberate the country from 42 years of rule by the oppressive Somoza family and its imperialist backers.

Following the July 5 demonstration, Managua and Masaya were occupied by the National Guard, backed up by air force planes, helicopters, and armored cars, while over 40,000 people in the nearby Indian community of Monimbo held an anti-government rally. The Monimbo rally was fired upon by Guardsmen.

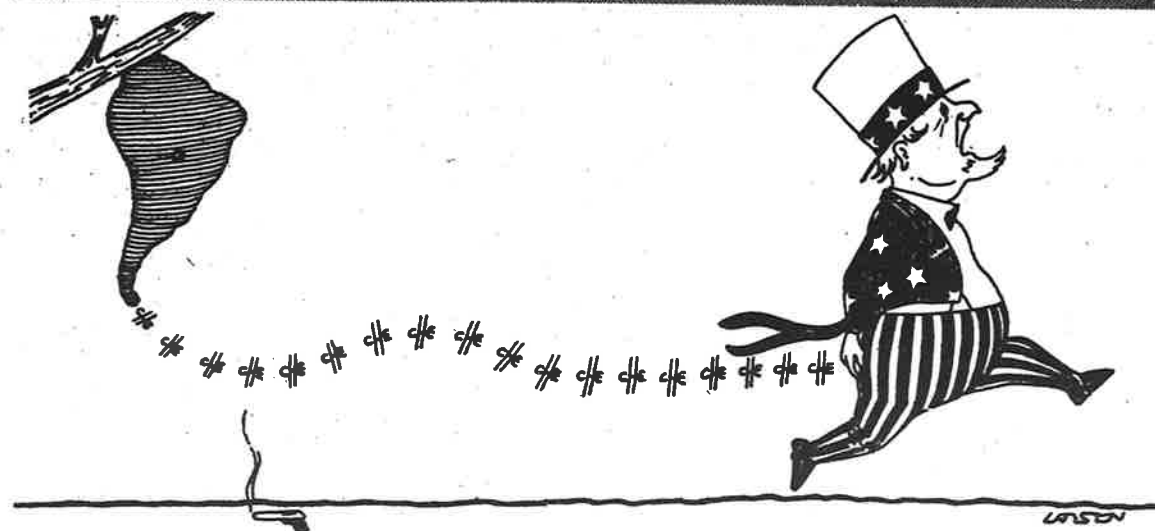
In earlier demonstrations in Matagalpa, men, women, and children took to the streets, burning Somoza supporters' cars and homes, building barricades, and returning soldiers' fire. Other clashes took place in Jinotepe, Diriamba, Tonola, and Sirama. In June a group of peasants from Tonola and Sirama occupied the home of the archbishop of Managua to demand land. In a separate incident, over 300 peasant families took over two plantations in western Nicaragua, demanding the return of land seized by landlords. Similar takeovers have occurred elsewhere.

U.S. ROLE

Although the Carter administration has tried to disassociate itself publicly from the hated Somoza regime, in reality U.S. imperialism has been Somoza's greatest mainstay. A full 80% of all foreign investments are those of U.S. corporations, and despite the fact that open military aid to Somoza has been at least formally cut off, the Carter administration just recently advanced Nicaragua a \$32 million loan. The loan will finance the building of a road through an isolated area in the northeast, an FSLN stronghold. The fact that the road will be used by the Somoza regime to transport military equipment against the Sandinistas surely was not lost on the Carter administration when the loan was given!

For 42 years the Nicaraguan people have suffered from U.S. imperialist domination and the repressive rule of the Somoza family. What worries the Carter administration is that the growing struggle against Somoza may not only topple the hated puppet, but the imperialist master behind him.

LATIN AMERICAN BRIEFS



Chile

Letelier murder

Paraguay's chief of military intelligence turned over evidence to U.S. investigators which linked Gen. Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, the former head of Chile's secret police (DINA), to the assassination of Orlando Letelier, an anti-fascist Chilean exile leader in Washington, D.C.

Prior evidence had linked Michael Vernon Townley, a U.S. electronics technician and longtime resident of Chile, and Captain Armando Fernandez Larios of the Chilean Army, to the murder of Letelier. Letelier and his assistant, Ronni Moffit, were killed when their car exploded at DuPont Circle in September, 1976.

General Contreras had requested two Paraguayan passports for the two agents to travel to the U.S. earlier in 1976. The passports were issued, although other passports were finally used for the murder trip.

Beside exposing the role of DINA and its head, the evidence also exposed how the secret police of U.S.-

supported military regimes assist each other illegally. These investigations, although carried out by U.S. authorities, have not stopped the U.S. from supplying Chile with \$60 million in military equipment this year, including 18 Hawk missiles.

Peru

Amnesty for prisoners

A growing wave of demonstrations and strikes forced Peru's military government to grant sweeping amnesty to all people convicted and sentenced for political offenses. According to labor and other progressive leaders, this could affect over 1,000 political activists and labor leaders facing lawsuits for organizing strikes which the government previously declared illegal. Although it is not certain yet that the Peruvian government will really free all political prisoners, this announcement is a victory for the progressive forces.

The government announced the amnesty in a communique July 19, which said it was in the interest of "harmony among all Peruvians."



Stephen Biko: Since his death many other Blacks have been murdered in South African jails.

Torres and came to power at the head of a coalition of the military, the Bolivian Socialist Phalange (FSB)—the fascist party—and a center-right party. Banzer has ruled in the interest of Bolivian and foreign capital.

U.S. LURKS BEHIND THE SCENES

An event in 1976 showed how the U.S. is lurking behind the scenes in the shifting ground of Bolivian political life, being sure that "American interests" are being looked after. Juan Jose Torres, Bolivia's most widely respected leader of the popular opposition to Banzer, was living in exile in Argentina. Torres was assassinated on June 1, 1976, "at long distance" through the cooperation between the Bolivian and Argentinian fascists. Five days later Henry Kissinger, then Secretary of State in the Ford administration, visited Banzer in Bolivia, reaffirming his support after this most outrageous attack on the Bolivian popular movement. A few days later, at Torres' funeral in Mexico, Torres' widow publicly charged that Banzer and Videla of Argentina (who was installed by a U.S.-backed coup) were directly responsible for the murder of her husband.

ONE OF POOREST LATIN COUNTRIES

The Bolivian economy under Banzer has gone through a period of growth without development. Though expanding at a rate of 6.7% a year since 1971, this has largely been the result of large imports of non-productive luxury consumer goods and military hardware. The foreign debt grew from \$670 million in 1971 to \$2.5 billion in 1977, or about \$483 per person. About 30% of all of Bolivia's exports now must go to paying off this foreign debt, much of which is owed to U.S. banks who are making sure they are repaid.

The workers and peasants, mostly Native people or of mixed ancestry, are financing the high living of a tiny minority. While mining, natural gas, and oil account for 90% of the export earnings, these sectors employ only 5% of the population. Some 65%

of Bolivia's people are engaged in subsistence agriculture. The average annual per capita income is \$390. The only country in the Americas where people live more poorly than in Bolivia is Haiti.

Black prisoner tortured to death by fascist South African police

By RICHARD FERGUSON

JULY 25—Paulos Ngolosi Cane, a 22-year-old Black South African, was tortured to death by South African police on July 20.

B.S. Ngubane, the Black doctor who examined Cane's body, told newspapers he appeared to have been the victim of "systematic torture." Ngubane continued, "He was black and blue from head to toe, and there was not one square inch of unmarked skin on his body."

The murder occurred only 10 days after Lungile Tabalaza, a Black man, died after being thrown from the fifth story window of the Port Elizabeth police station. This is the same station in which Stephen Biko, a leader of the Soweto struggle, was beaten to death last September. In December 1976, a 30-year-old teacher was murdered by being

thrown down a stairwell of this same building.

Paulos Ngolosi Cane is the 45th Black person murdered in South Africa's police station in the past 16 months. Most of these murders have been carried out in the most barbaric means imaginable.

POLICE SLAPPED ON WRIST

The New York Times (July 22) ran a front page story headlined "South Africa Moves to Discipline Police." The story, dealing with the killing of Blacks by South African police, hinted the racist South African government has taken steps to punish the murderers. For instance the article stated actions would be taken against the police in the killing. These "actions" consisted in transferring the police to a different unit so they can carry out

murder elsewhere. Another step taken was to make it mandatory for what they call "questioning" to take place on the first floor so those being questioned don't "accidentally" fall out of the fifth story windows!

Even these token gestures by the fascist South African police department have only been made because of the world-wide scorn of the hated regime, and the protests of many thousands of Blacks within South Africa. These gestures are humorless jokes for the Black South Africans who are continuing to die at the hands of fascist police.

Cane's death is by no means an isolated incident carried out by a single sick pig. It is part of the organized war being carried out by the racist minority rulers of South Africa against the African masses.

Rhodesian rats leave the sinking ship (with the money)

By DIANE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, July 25—The Western imperialist press has long given aid and comfort to the hated apartheid government of Ian Smith in Rhodesia by printing verbatim all the lies that that racist system spews. This is in hope that, in one way or another, the settler regime of 280,000 colonialists can

continue its criminal exploitation and control of the lives of 6.3 million Blacks and, of course, safeguard the interests of U.S. corporations.

But, despite all their lies and propaganda, the Rhodesian fascists are losing the war. Why would high-ranking Rhodesian officials participate in a multi-

million dollar plan to divert huge sums from a secret arms-buying fund and channel it into private Swiss bank accounts **if they were winning the war?** The New York Times had to admit on July 23 that the fascists in Rhodesia are badly shaken by this very scandal—an admission that the end is near for the settler regime.

Ian Smith's government went to extraordinary extremes to hush up the scandal, which involved two of Smith's top advisors, especially through censoring the press. It is believed however, that the sum embezzled is as high as \$15 million, all of it stolen from a fund which was to buy arms to protect the sagging fortunes of the fascists! Ian Smith, pressured on this question at a news conference this week, admitted that the amount was **at least** one million Rhodesian dollars (equivalent to 1.4 million U.S. dollars).

Despite an obedient Rhodesian media, and support from the imperialist press in the U.S., it is no secret that all this takes place at a time when the Patriotic Front—composed of the Zimbabwe

(Continued on p. 8)

In Detroit, Rochester, and Buffalo

WW editor speaks on Ethiopia

Special to Workers World

DETROIT, July 22—The editor of *Workers World* wound up a three-city speaking tour on the Ethiopian Revolution here tonight. A multi-national audience of between 40 and 50 people showed deep interest in the historic changes taking place in the formerly feudal country of Ethiopia and participated in questions and discussion after the main talk by Deirdre Griswold.

Griswold visited Ethiopia in February at the invitation of the Ethiopian Revolution Information Committee and has since been writing and speaking extensively on what she was able to learn there. Her presentation included color slides of peasant and worker militias, women's associations among the peasants and the urban poor, refugees from the Somali invasion of the Ogaden, and many other scenes of life in revolutionary Ethiopia.

Like two earlier meetings this week in Buffalo and Rochester, N.Y., tonight's gathering was the first in the area to discuss the achievements and goals of the Ethiopian Revolution. Emphasis was put on Ethiopia's vital role in

the unfolding struggle in Africa against imperialist domination.

In Buffalo, the meeting was sponsored by Workers World Party and the African Liberation Support Committee, and was chaired by Brian Yamel, an active member of both organizations. A poem dedicated to the Ethiopian Revolution was read by Yusef Alhakk, who introduced his work with a call for opposition to the so-called internal settlement in Rhodesia and the attempts by U.S. imperialism to undermine the revolutions in Angola and Ethiopia.

Yusef, who is well-known in the Buffalo area both for his poetry and his active support of African liberation, is currently fighting a police frame-up on false charges of armed robbery—a police technique used many times before against political activists in the Buffalo area.

The Rochester meeting saw a capacity crowd which included leading participants in recent struggles in the Black, Puerto Rican, and Chilean communities there. The audience was particularly interested in the efforts of Ethiopian women to organize and

overcome the cruel conditions of life in the semi-feudal past.

The participation of many Black, Latin, and other oppressed peoples in all three meetings underscored the great reservoir of solidarity that exists here for the peoples of Ethiopia who are liberating themselves from class oppression and imperialist domination. As Percy Wheeler, chairman of the meeting in Detroit, put it, the struggle against racism here and the struggle of the African people for their freedom have the same enemy.



Deirdre Griswold speaking in Detroit on the Ethiopian Revolution.

ETHIOPIA: The Ethiopian Revolution and the Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism

This updated, well-illustrated, 90-page pamphlet contains reprints from *Workers World* newspaper from August 1977 to January 1978. Covers such topics as: the Somali invasion; the leadership in Ethiopia; the role of imperialism; and the Eritrean question.

Order from: World View Publishers
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EDITORIAL

Brzezinski behind the mirrors

Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's so-called national security advisor, has been conspicuously quiet lately. It is obviously part of a calculated White House strategy to maintain a "low profile" for the man most associated with an aggressive cold war policy against the Soviet Union and the seemingly limitless expansion of the U.S. weapons arsenal. But even if Brzezinski has eschewed public appearances for the present, it doesn't mean that his policies are taking a back seat. Far from it.

This week the White House announced that it had okayed a trip to China next fall for Carter's Secretary of Energy, James Schlesinger. While the visit is ostensibly to discuss U.S. "assistance" to China in developing its offshore oil fields, Schlesinger's real role is much more ominous than that of a mere technocrat in the administration. Throughout his Washington career in such varied posts as Defense Secretary, head of the CIA, and now Energy Secretary, he has stood out as, above everything else, an advocate of nuclear war. "Preventive," of course. He was even fired by Ford at one point for pressing his views a little too hard at the wrong time.

The Washington columnists Evans and Novak on June 12 explained the significance of an action taken by Schlesinger that otherwise received little press attention. It seems he injected himself into the controversy over the SALT II talks and a nuclear test ban treaty last month when he personally hand-carried a top-secret letter to President Carter. In it he aligned himself with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in opposition to a proposed five-year "zero yield" nuclear test ban treaty that had been under consideration. "That gave the military a badly needed Cabinet-level civilian to help slow the rush to a total test ban," wrote Evans and Novak. And they concluded that "Jim Schlesinger's re-entry into national security affairs transcends the test-ban treaty."

Seen in the light, then, of his role as one of the most powerful civilian advocates in the government for a right-wing militarist position, Schlesinger's selection to visit China is fraught with dangerous implications. Again and again, the bourgeois insiders speak of "playing the Chinese card," meaning utilizing their relationship with the Chinese leaders to provoke an even more direct confrontation with the Soviet Union. Certainly Schlesinger's visit to China ups the ante.

JOINT CHIEFS: "BIGGER ARMS BUDGET DESPITE SALT"

The same day that Schlesinger's forthcoming trip was announced, the new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force General David Jones, said in his first news conference that even if a new arms-limitation agreement with the Soviet Union were to go through, it wouldn't mean that the U.S. would cut military spending.

In the hall of mirrors known as the White House, the significance of much of this is left in the shade by the bright lights played on more moderate-sounding pronouncements by Secretary of State Vance, who is made to seem to have replaced hard-liner Brzezinski as Carter's right-hand man. But it is not who speaks the lines that counts. It's who writes the scenario.

Just this week, after the orgy of press condemnations around the Shcharansky trial had finally subsided somewhat, the anti-Soviet screw was given a few more turns when Carter cancelled the sale of a giant computer to the USSR, held up the sale of oil-drilling equipment, and then nixed a visit to the USSR scheduled by a group of scientists. The Carter administration next instructed one of its supposed "doves," Marshall Shulman, to lean on U.S. companies doing business with the Soviet Union, with the result that International Harvester announced it was suspending trade negotiations with the USSR. This was supposedly in retaliation for the arrest of one of its employees for violating Soviet currency regulations, but really was because of pressure from Washington to utilize the issue in its general anti-Soviet strategy. This came out in a Washington Post article of July 24, in which it was reported that the company had acted only after Shulman's pressure and a meeting between International Harvester Chairman Brooke McCormick and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

The point of all this, as far as the interests of the workers and oppressed are concerned, is that despite the shuffling of actors around, despite the shifting of the spotlight from "human rights" to the so-called nuclear balance of terror to real and manufactured spy cases (and all governments have spies, but the U.S. more than anyone else), the basic trend of U.S. foreign policy continues to be to create the tensions of a new cold war climate while using this as an excuse for ever greater expansion of the military. The impetus for it comes not out of their fear of the Soviet Union per se but out of fear of the rising revolutionary tide in the world, brought on by imperialism's continuing devastating economic crisis, in which the Soviet Union and other socialist countries have been playing a vital role in aiding young revolutionary countries and liberation movements tear off the shackles of the past.



WHADD'YA MEAN,
POLITICAL
PRISONERS?
BLACKS,
STRIKERS &
STUDENTS
ARE
CRIMINALS!

LETTERS

U.S. political prisoners

The trials and convictions of "Soviet dissidents" Anatoly Shcharansky and Alexander Ginzburg have dominated the news for the past few weeks.

Why has there been so much attention focused around the two Soviet trials? It is not because the Carter administration or the establishment media is concerned about so-called "human rights violations" in the Soviet Union, as they would like everyone to believe. The Carter administration, with the help of the establishment media, is using the Soviet trials—and the phony "human rights campaign"—as a pretext to generate an atmosphere of anti-Soviet hysteria and intensify the cold war, which could jeopardize the SALT II negotiations and agreements.

The Carter administration's hypocritical "human rights campaign" has ignored the blatant human rights violations of many (well known) Black, Hispanic, Native American, Mexican and white women and men who have been persecuted by the courts and railroaded into prison for (political reasons) speaking or acting out against human rights violations in this country.

The Carter administration's "human rights campaign" cares nothing about the hundreds of thousands of poor and working class people who fill, and languish for years in, the prisons in this country because of social and economic reasons.

A Prisoner
Richard Picariello

Repression in Mexico

Comrades,

Once again our Campamento encounters a climate of violence which is caused, as always, by the state in its eagerness to suppress revolutionary organization by one means or another.

The situation in the Campamento 2 de Octubre [a squatters' encampment on the outskirts of Mexico City—WW] has taken an extremely difficult turn—last June 17 we once again became victims of repression. On this day, 500 "granaderos" (riot police) assisted by the judicial police, invaded our district and destroyed 50 homes belonging to residents of the Campamento and robbed these families of their few goods.

Using tear gas, physical blows,

and gunshots, they attacked the crowd of over one thousand people who had assembled in the central square of our community; they invaded our offices and stole approximately one half million pesos worth of typewriters, cameras, a photocopying machine, a calculator, cinematographic materials, cash, and all the records pertaining to our community (census, financial records, etc.)

As a result, 2 comrades are dead and ten have been jailed. At this moment our comrades are being tortured in order that they confess to having destroyed property, despoilation of property, assaulting police, and other charges which they have never committed.

Monday June 26th, nearly 3000 children and adults mobilized for a protest march to demand that President Jose Lopez Portillo free our imprisoned comrades. During this march we were intercepted by the granaderos who dispersed us with physical blows. At this point a still undetermined number of youth from the community have disappeared.

Comrades, at this time we are trying to mount a large national and international campaign, and we have received support from many organizations. We ask you to dispatch telegrams to the Mexican

government, demanding freedom for our jailed comrades.

The address to which telegrams should be sent is:

C. Lic. Jose Lopez Portillo, Plaza de la Constitucion no. 1, Palacio Nacional, Mexico 1, D.F.

Finally, we are preparing a hunger strike.

Francisco de la Cruz Velasco
Salvador Albarran V.

On internationalism

My congratulations and deep appreciation to Fred Goldstein for his magnificent article on Socialist Aid to Africa in the June 16th publication. At a time when the events in Africa are moving so quickly and our minds are continually forced to battle the news in the capitalist press and some of the more "progressive" papers that are mulling around it is most timely to stop a moment and return to the basics of international revolution. Goldstein's article should be an inspiration to all progressive writers who may have forgotten or lost touch with the many readers who are not in constant day to day contact with the numerous revolutionary events taking place throughout the world.

D.N.S.
Eugene, Ore.

—Rhodesia

(Continued from p. 7)

African Peoples Union (ZAPU) and the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU)—is winning the war.

PATRIOTIC FRONT ADVANCES

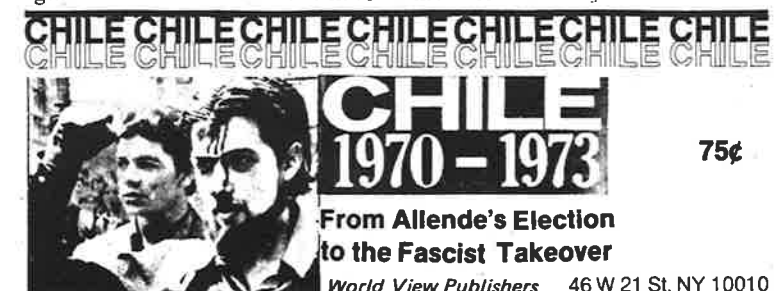
The Patriotic Front is inflicting casualties three times as high as last year in this year's battles. Much of the country is already liberated and those fascists huddled in the capital of Salisbury shook in their boots as fascist forces and guerrillas battled in the nearby Black townships of Highfield and Mufakose this week. It is the first time in the history of the fight for freedom that battles have

been fought in the vicinity of Salisbury.

Meanwhile, the Rhodesian economy, propped up by U.S. and British imperialism, is straining under the weight of a losing war.

Just as in South Vietnam under the Thieu government and Cuba under Batista's dictatorship, when the final anticipation of ultimate collapse came, the puppets of imperialism salted away all the money they could grab so that their nests would be well feathered when the time came to run.

For a century the Black masses of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) have struggled, suffered, and sacrificed under colonial domination. Today the people and their armed vanguard stand on the horizon of history. It is a short distance from there to Salisbury.



China and Vietnam

Two aspects of the struggle

By SAM MARCY

JULY 21—There are two charges made by the Chinese leaders against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) which have gone unanswered by those in this country who ought to know better.

One of these charges relates to the aid that the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) gave to Vietnam over a period of many years. The PRC leaders say that China gave Vietnam aid which totalled more than \$18 billion. Unquestionably, this is a considerable sum coming from a socialist country whose own economic problems have been enormous and where industrialization is still in its early stages of development.

What is pernicious about the way in which this is raised is that it seeks to present the SRV in the role of an ungrateful ally which, instead of being thankful for the aid, is pouring out the vials of its wrath upon its benefactor.

The Chinese leaders also embellish their own role as donor of the aid. The way they present the question, one is led to the inescapable conclusion that the aid was granted strictly out of unilateral proletarian internationalist considerations.

VIETNAM'S AID GIVEN IN BLOOD

There is, of course, no need to in any way impugn the motives of the PRC leaders who extended considerable material, technical, and military aid to Vietnam over the years, especially the very early years of the struggle first against the French imperialists and later against the U.S. But there is a conspicuous feature which the present PRC leaders, particularly Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping who brought the matter of Vietnam's assistance to public discussion in an interview in Bangkok, neglect to mention and which rounds out the two-way character of the assistance. If we view it from both sides, rather than from just the Chinese side of giving assistance, we can easily see that in the final analysis Vietnam may have contributed much more to China's defense against U.S. aggression than the \$18 billion in material aid it received from China.

Vietnam, in fact, acted as a **military buffer between U.S. imperialism and the PRC**. One only has to look through the leading newspapers of the world, especially those in the U.S.—the imperialist press as well as the working class press—to readily see that China was the basic target of U.S. imperialist designs in Asia at the time.

In our own press, both *Workers World* newspaper and the *Partisan*, the magazine of Youth Against War & Fascism, we carried extensive articles during the early period of the Vietnam war which exposed and attacked U.S. imperialism for its designs against China. Our press graphically portrayed the maneuvers of U.S. imperialism as using Southeast Asia as a stepping stone in order to attack China.

This theme, namely that the predatory appetites of U.S. imperialism were not confined to Southeast Asia alone, was on the minds of many progressives and anti-war activists during that period. The defeat of Vietnam, it was often expressed in both print and in speech, would ultimately result in attack against the PRC.

The stubborn persistence and struggle which the Vietnamese put up against U.S. imperialism saved many lives for China—no one

really knows how many. Such was the character of the valiant revolutionary struggle carried out by the Vietnamese against a seemingly omnipotent colossus. Vietnam held U.S. imperialism at bay and thereby thwarted an attack against China. This is absolutely incontestable. Much precious blood was lost in the struggle.

Therefore the efforts of China, Vietnam, and Cambodia (today Kampuchea), not to speak of the assistance given by the Soviet Union despite obstacles put up by the PRC leaders in the way of that aid, contributed tremendously to the victorious struggle.

Some Chinese leaders have frequently alluded to the tremendous aid they gave to the Democratic Republic of Korea by their revolutionary intervention during the U.S. aggression against Korea. They frequently say that it was their intervention that prevented a confrontation during the Korean War between the U.S. and the USSR. (See Han Suyin, *The Morning Deluge*.)

That may very well be: there is certainly no reason to doubt it. But just as the PRC acted as a buffer between U.S. imperialism and the Soviet Union during the Korean War, so Vietnam did the same during the aggression by the Pentagon in its war in Southeast Asia.

QUESTION OF INDOCHINESE FEDERATION

The other charge is made by the Kampuchean leaders, but is so often repeated approvingly by the Chinese press that one may fairly conclude that it is also a charge made by the PRC leaders. This is the one which refers to the "ambitions of the Vietnamese to create a federation" with Kampuchea and Laos and thereby swallow them all up, reducing them to the domination of the Vietnamese.

If one strips the allegation of the vitriolic rhetoric with which it is clouded, the charge in essence is that the Vietnamese favor or favored at one time a federation of the Indochinese people. Everyone knows that Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam were originally all together in the struggle against U.S. imperialism and that at one time there was an Indochinese Communist Party to which all three belonged.

But leaving all this aside, the issue that revolutionary Marxists must address themselves to is whether it is wrong or criminal to espouse a federation of socialist states.

Not according to Marxist-Leninist principles.

There is absolutely nothing wrong in seeking to establish a federation of the Indochinese people on a socialist basis or a federation of Southeast Asian states on the same socialist basis, or for that matter a federation of Caribbean states. Domination, seeking hegemony, trying to subordinate one state to another is of course reactionary and must be vigorously fought to the end. But federation in principle, that is federation per se, does not necessarily lead to hegemony or domination.

On the contrary, the pursuit of world socialism dictates the need for greater and greater cooperation among socialist states. This is an elementary proposition of Marxism which can scarcely be denied by anyone who claims to be for the transformation of capitalist society into a socialist commonwealth of humanity.

It is an economic necessity.

It is imperialism which divides, splits up not only nations and whole countries, but hemispheres as well, and literally cuts them to pieces.

SOCIALISM REQUIRES GREATER COOPERATION

In the age of the atom and space satellites, the tremendous growth of the productive forces makes it not only possible but urgent for the cooperation of the socialist community on the basis of a federation. Not immediately, certainly not at a time when parts of the socialist community are in widely separate areas of the world, such as for instance Cuba and the USSR or Vietnam.

But there is no Marxist precept, no overriding economic or political basis for opposing a federation of the Caribbean states, for example, were they all socialist in character. Such a federation, were there no obstacles in the way, would not only be efficient economically but would be of tremendous assistance politically and socially.

A federation on a regional basis should be conceived if it is

politically viable and acceptable by all on a fraternal socialist basis as a stepping stone to a larger federation.

Those who espouse world socialism could not possibly oppose a world socialist federation which is a stepping stone to a world socialist order, but must look forward to it. Federation and national sovereignty are not antithetical but complementary in character. What is needed is proletarian internationalism as the cement to weld such a federation.

When President Tito was still a revolutionary in the early 1940s he proposed a Balkan federation. Although it was opposed by the USSR at the time for other reasons there was no opposition among the Communist parties to federation in principle. In fact, much good might have come out of it had it been carried out in the spirit of socialist solidarity and proletarian internationalism and not conceived of as an instrument directed against the USSR or any other socialist state, had it been done in collaboration with the USSR and moreover in a system of a socialist commonwealth which could also

encompass the USSR and other socialist states.

FEDERATION AND NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

It is instructive here to report on a statement made by Dimitrov, head of the Bulgarian party which he made in an interview while on an official visit to Romania.

He was asked, "It is rumored that a federation of Balkan nations and a federation of the areas of Eastern and Southeastern Europe to include Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland is imminent. In the event of such federation being created, will other countries from these regions also be able to join it?"

He replied, "The question of a federation or confederation is premature for us. It is not on the agenda at present, and therefore this question was not a subject of discussion at our conferences. When this question matures, and it must inevitably mature, then our peoples, the nations of people's democracy, Romania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Albania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, and Greece—mind you, and Greece!—will settle it. It is they who will decide what it will be—a federation or confederation, and when and how it will be formed.

"I can say that what our peoples are already doing greatly facilitates the solution of this question in the future. I can also emphasize that when it comes to creating such a federation or confederation, our peoples will not ask the imperialists, and will not heed their opposition, but will solve the question themselves, guided by their own interests bound up with the interests and international cooperation necessary to them and to other nations."

This statement was made by Dimitrov in January, 1948, and printed in Pravda.

Although Pravda on Jan. 29, 1948, reprimanded Dimitrov for this, it was clear that it was not because of opposition in principle to federation but due to the breach between the USSR and Yugoslavia.

Federation and national sovereignty or national independence are not polar opposites. The need to safeguard the national independence, the national integrity of small nations must be guarded at all times. But this does not at all exclude the growing need for cooperation and ultimately for federation in order to promote world socialism.



"Vietnam acted as a military buffer between U.S. imperialism and the Peoples' Republic of China." Above, Vietnamese liberation forces fighting the U.S. aggressors.

Laos takes stand backing Vietnam

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

JULY 25—With the Socialist Republic of Vietnam under increasing pressure and attack from the leaders of both China and Kampuchea, the government of Laos this week issued a statement strongly asserting its solidarity with Vietnam.

Kaysone Phomvihane, the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and head of the Laotian Communist Party, wrote a letter to Vietnamese Communist Party leader Le Duan and Prime Minister Pham Van Dong which was then followed by a strong editorial in Sieng Pasason, the newspaper of the Laotian Communist Party.

In the letter, Phomvihane said

of the Vietnamese people, "We once again reaffirm that we always stand by the struggle to defend their independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity against threats, pressure, trouble-making, provocation, violation, slander and sabotage, committed by the imperialists and the international reactionaries."

"We support Vietnam's stand on the settlement of differences between countries by negotiations on the basis of sincerity and mutual respect," he added. Vietnam has made many offers to the Kampuchean leaders to negotiate a resolution of the border dispute that has led to an intense war along the border between the two countries, but Kampuchea has turned down

these offers.

The editorial in the Laotian paper pledged "deep sympathy and full support for the correct stand and attitude of the Vietnamese Government and people" and condemned "big-power chauvinism and narrow nationalism."

In the long struggle against first French and then U.S. imperialism in Southeast Asia, the parties of Laos and Vietnam developed strong bonds of solidarity which included much military cooperation against the common enemy. China assisted this struggle at that time, and correctly directed its propaganda against the designs of imperialism, a position which has been reversed by the present Chinese leadership.

Including nuclear plant takeovers in 3 states

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day actions planned

By JESSE LEE

JULY 24—On August 6 and 9, 33 years ago, the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki killing more than 300,000 persons. "The impact of the bomb was so terrific," the New York World-Telegram reported at the time, "that practically all living things, human and animal, were literally seared to death by the tremendous heat and pressure, engendered by the blast."

Anti-war activists have turned the days of August 6 and 9 into a yearly reminder of the horrors of nuclear weapons.

This year, actions are being planned in over 20 cities in the U.S. organized largely by the Mobilization for Survival which is a loose coalition of religious,

pacifist, anti-capitalist, and anti-nuclear power groups, most of the protests will combine an opposition to both nuclear weapons and nuclear power plants.

In three states, occupations of nuclear power plants similar to the Seabrook, N.H., action where more than 1,000 were arrested last year, are being planned. In Oregon, a takeover is set for the Trojan plant; in California the Diablo Canyon power plant will be the occupation site; and in Pennsylvania, a similar protest is set for the Burwick station.

Anti-nuclear mobilizations will be held from Bethlehem, Pa., to Omaha, Neb., from Hartford, Conn., to Seattle, Wash.

"The momentum against nuclear madness is continuing to build," Bob Moore, national secretary for the Mobilization for

Survival told **Workers World** today as he continued to list city after city where actions are being planned. "I'm sure there will be more, we just haven't heard about them all yet," he said.

Although for many demonstrators the main focus will be the life-threatening hazards of the power generating plants, it is important that the organizers chose the symbolic days of August 6 and 9. Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day will be a chance to speak out against the stepped-up war rhetoric of the Pentagon and the Carter administration, and to say no to such horrors as the neutron bomb.

In 1945, the U.S. became the first and only country to ever use a nuclear bomb. And no one could fail to notice that the racist U.S. imperialists chose an Asian nation

as the target for this weapon of mass murder.

A WARNING TO LIBERATION STRUGGLES

While the physical targets for this act of racist genocide were the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in one way these were not the main targets since secret negotiations for Japan's surrender had begun three weeks before. The main target in Washington's view was the Soviet Union and China where the Eighth Route Army, under the leadership of Mao Tse-tung, was gaining wide support. The bomb was dropped as a warning to peoples all over the world that the U.S. intended to be the dominant world power.

Every year since 1945, there have been repeated calls by political and military leaders in the

U.S., and only in the U.S., to use nuclear weapons against people all over the world. Even today, the U.S. president and his advisors are debating nuclear war strategies.

Had the Soviet Union not developed its own nuclear capabilities, it can only be speculated how far the Pentagon would have gone in its drive for imperialist domination.

Surely, if the U.S. alone had nuclear weapons for the last three decades, the Washington militarists would have used them time and time again. It is only the ability of the USSR to retaliate with equal force that has created the balance that has prevented the U.S. from doing to Vietnam, Korea, and Cuba what it did to Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

—Property tax cut

(Continued from p. 12)

have resulted in the elimination of over 600 teachers and school staff. These layoffs will mean drastic increases in classroom size in the fall and the elimination of nearly all special programs in the public schools, reducing them to little more than jails for poor children—where they must go every day, but where they are denied their right to learn.

Contrary to their claims, however, these tax breaks have not stopped Bethlehem Steel or N.Y. Telephone Co. or the other multi-million dollar corporations from raising their prices or laying off more workers.

They mean only more profits for the already super-wealthy at the expense of poor and working people. And as very concrete examples, they show what a bill like Proposition (Catch) 13 would really mean.

—Postal worker

(Continued from p. 1)

that keeps some postal workers at the job sixty hours a week. These exhausting work hours are one contributing cause to the high number of serious accidents among postal workers.

CARTER'S ANTI-LABOR OFFENSIVE

How did such a bad contract get signed? Essentially Emmet Andrews, the national president of the American Postal Workers Union, simply collapsed in the face of government coercion. The Carter administration had launched a two-pronged offensive accusing the postal workers of making "inflationary" demands on the one hand, and threatening to jail strikers on the other.

Ninety thousand troops were mobilized, and the government trotted out five U.S. Code 7311, which permits "imprisonment for a year and a day" as well as a \$1,000 fine against those who strike against the government.

Andrews simply caved in, signing one of the worst contracts offered to a union in recent history. If this contract goes through, the country's half million postal workers will actually take a substantial cut from what they had won before.

The government aims to break the postal workers first, then go after the other unionized workers in the contract talks coming up earlier next year. Carter wants to get the postal contract ratified and then use it as a precedent in putting the squeeze on the unions in general.

The postal workers, however, don't want a settlement that makes them lose money, not to mention the continuation of the grinding overtime. That is why they rebelled at the bulk mailing facilities where the workers have some of the hardest and most oppressive jobs.

The wildcats propelled some of

the union officials into motion. Moe Biller, the president of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) Metro Local, said of Andrews, who signed the contract, "He feels the might of the U.S. government on his side." And that's the truth. By signing such a rotten deal, Andrews abandoned the workers and made himself a stooge of the Carter administration.

The New York Metro Area Postal Union (of the APWU) voted unanimously at its meeting on July 24 to hold a strike vote in the near future. President Biller has, so far, recommended a yes vote. If the New York and New Jersey workers go out it could trigger a general postal strike all across the country. Such a development would be a proper answer to Carter's attempts to make the postal workers' settlement a model for future anti-working class offensives.

—Diary

(Continued from p. 1)

very up about the wildcat, despite obvious attempts to intimidate us.

Postal inspectors are filming the pickets from inside the facility. Everyone knows what that means!

Most of the afternoon shift stayed out and the workers who drove by waved and shouted encouragement to us.

Monday morning, July 24:

This morning was D-day for busting the strike. They came down to the lines and read an injunction to us over the bullhorn: "You are in violation, blah, blah, blah. It's a federal offense to be picketing. This demonstration is against the law. You are to disperse immediately."

And with that the Jersey City cops went into action, slowly pushing us back while the workers yelled "Bad contract, no work!" and other things.

Our picket line has moved back on the road about 500 feet from the entrance gate. Word is out that

there have been firings.

Last night the government got subpoena out against individual workers. One guy, married with two kids, told me that an inspector and a foreman just about broke his door down last night at 3:00 a.m. trying to serve a subpoena on him. Not surprisingly it scared his family pretty badly. A couple of dozen workers have been ordered to appear in court this afternoon.

Despite all this harassment, our line is still holding and absenteeism inside is about 80%. Pretty good, considering all the pressure that is being brought on us.

Of course, people don't want to get fired, but as one fellow worker told me, "We can go now or later but if we strike now we go fighting and we've got a better chance." He added that "The coal miners got what they wanted and we can get what we need."

Our strike has forced some of the union leaders to support us and denounce the bad contract signed in Washington.

Monday afternoon in Federal District Court

Judge Lacey looks agitated. Last night he signed a restraining order against 63 strikers.

The courtroom is filled with workers, although many ordered to appear haven't shown up. A lawyer is trying to explain that the Norris-LaGuardia Act protects workers against strike-breaking injunctions and Judge Lacey explodes, "Workers employed by the U.S. are forbidden to strike!"

"I am not deciding the merits of this," he barked at the frightened attorney, and added with rising indignation, "The critical issue is whether the laws of the U.S. will be obeyed."

Flushed and rambling, Judge Lacey proceeded to denounce the 1947 coal strike (!), and then said that our wildcat and "a strike that has erupted in the post office in San Francisco," was "causing irreparable and immeasurable injury" to the "well-being of the nation."

Not surprisingly, Judge Lacey

continued the restraining order for one week, admonishing the workers in the courtroom that "Participation in this strike is indeed a crime."

Tuesday morning, July 25:

The pressure is beginning to tell and the repression is having its effects. At least 80 workers have been fired.

Nevertheless, 40% of the workers stayed out this morning. Last night at a meeting of the American Postal Workers Union, the local president, Mo Biller, came out for a strike later in the week.

As far as this wildcat goes, those of us still out aren't certain we can continue much longer, but if we have to go back, those of us who haven't been fired yet will go in determined to push as hard as possible to a "yes" vote to strike again soon.

And, hopefully, the next strike will be fully backed by the union.

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

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

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

ATLANTA—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, GA 30301. [404] 523-8990.

BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 416 N. Howard St., Baltimore, MD 21201. [301] 837-3929.

BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston St., Room 204, Boston, MA 02116. [617] 247-1778.

BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 170 Franklin St. [Crosby Bldg], Room 410, Buffalo, NY 14202. [716] 855-3055.

CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605. [312] 922-0326.

CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 12576, East Cleveland, OH 44112. [216] 371-9293.

DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, Third Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. [313] 962-4979.

GREELEY—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 1863, Greeley, CO 80632. [303] 356-9408.

HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052. [713] 759-9463.

MILWAUKEE—Workers World Party, 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, WI 53202. [414] 224-0422.

NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010. [212] 255-0352.

NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, VA 23509. [804] 627-0870.

ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State St., Rochester, NY 14614. [716] 546-6429.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, 932 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20001. [202] 347-0138.



Wildcat postal strikers picket outside bulk mail facility in Jersey City.

WW photo: G. Dunkel

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Struggle unearths 'book' on Attica never opened

By BRIAN JAEKLE

BUFFALO, July 15—Last year New York Governor Hugh Carey granted full pardons to persons charged with crimes stemming from the Attica Prison rebellion which occurred in September of 1971. Of course, this pardon was intended to absolve the police, and thereby the state, of any guilt for the brutal murder of 43 people. And while all the cops are exonerated Attica Brother Dacajeweah remains in prison. It is obvious that the ruling class would be delighted if everyone would forget the heroic rebellion at Attica. In fact, one of Carey's stated reasons for granting the pardons was to "close the book" on Attica. However, it was recently disclosed that one of the books on the Attica uprising has never been publicly opened.

Recently the Buffalo Evening News, in several articles, reported on the existence of a secret investigative report on the Attica rebellion. The Albright-Vestner investigation was secretly conducted during the immediate aftermath of the rebellion by two of then Governor Rockefeller's assistants.

On July 1, the Buffalo Courier Express reported that the 65-page final draft of the report was completed and in Rockefeller's possession as early as November, 1971. The Courier also points out

that Rockefeller hired the McKay Commission to conduct another (and extremely expensive) investigation and he withheld the Albright-Vestner report from the McKay Commission.

Also, when U.S. congressional hearings were being conducted to determine whether Rockefeller should be allowed to become vice president nearly three years later, this secret report was again withheld from probing authorities.

SUIT FILED BY ATTICA SURVIVORS

Now, almost seven years later, 11 survivors of the massacre at Attica have legally forced the state to disclose the contents of the secret report. The top-secret handling of the Albright-Vestner report raises some interesting questions. Perhaps the contents of the report do not say what Rockefeller wanted to hear—perhaps the report reveals some aspects of the brutal truth about the racist massacre.

The entire contents of the Albright-Vestner report should be made public by September, 1978. That is when the 11 survivors of the Attica rebellion will be going to trial in their lawsuit against the state. However, one can only hope that the truths contained in this report (if there are any) will actually be printed for the public. As of this date, the Courier



The outright murder of 43 people during the raid on Attica by Rockefeller's stormtroopers was met with outrage across the country. Here, members of Rochester's oppressed community attend the militant funeral for fallen Attica Brother Elliot "L.D." Barclay.

Express has printed excerpts from the secret report containing only statements made by prison guards or cops.

The Attica rebellion clearly represents the tremendous will of oppressed people to struggle against their oppressor even

under the most adverse conditions. The Attica rebellion exposed to the world the role of prisons in capitalist society as concentration camps for poor and oppressed people. And no report compiled by the bourgeois state will point out the objective truth

about Attica. And "the book" will never be closed on Attica until the prison walls have been torn down and people are no longer imprisoned for the "crime" of being poor.

**Free Dacajeweah!
Free all political prisoners!**

'Panama' back in court

NEW YORK, July 13—Puerto Rican activists Vicente "Panama" Alba, Alfredo Gonzalez, and Jose "GI" Paris were forced again today to return to court to face bogus charges stemming from a courtroom incident where a court cop recognized Panama for his political activities and later arrested him and his companions.

Gonzalez and Paris must

return to court again on July 28 and Panama faces a September court date. Charges against a fourth man, Ponce Laspira, were dropped.

At a press conference held outside court today attorney William Kunstler said that the charge of possession of a weapon in the Bronx courtroom (a felony), "is a fake, a fraud and a fabrication." Kunstler today filed a motion to drop the charges.

Panama, a member of the Union of Patriotic Puerto Ricans and the Committee to Free the Four Nationalist Prisoners, explained that this is the second attempt by the government to arrest him using "FALN member" and "terrorist" accusations to cover a lack of any evidence.

SUPPORT DEMONSTRATION

The front page of the New York Daily News today blared sensational headlines about a so-called bomb factory allegedly run by the FALN (a Puerto Rican pro-independence organization to which the big business press here has attributed a number of bombings) in an attempt to intimidate those struggling for freedom for Puerto Rico and against racism here. However, despite the hysterical headline 50 people, mostly Puerto Rican, came out today to picket in front of the Bronx Supreme Court where Panama appeared. Flags of Puerto Rico flew and chants and placards in Spanish and English

called for independence of Puerto Rico from U.S. imperialism and freedom for Panama, GI, Gonzalez, the Four Nationalist Prisoners and all political prisoners.

Panama explained the present government campaign against the Puerto Rican independence movement comes at a time when that movement is growing rapidly and when support is growing for the unconditional release of the Four Nationalist Prisoners. He said that the U.S. government sees these developments as obstacles to making Puerto Rico the 51st State.

CRISIS OF IMPERIALISM

This fighter for Puerto Rican independence explained that the repression included grand jury witchhunts, the imprisonment of Puerto Rican and Chicano activists, and in Puerto Rico, the disappearance of Nationalist Party member Pinto Gandia and the assassination of Juan Raphael Caballero, a labor organizer. Panama came to court today with 130 pages of FBI documents from the "counter-intelligence" program COINTELPRO.

"This harassment is going on at a time when U.S. imperialism is in deep crisis," Panama said, and every worker and the poor and oppressed especially are being forced to bear worsening living conditions."

Panama concluded, "But wherever there is oppression, there will be resistance," and Puerto Rico will be free.

Newton wins two legal victories

By DEE KNIGHT

NEW YORK, July 25—Huey P. Newton and the Black Panther Party (BPP) won a pair of victories recently in their battle against frameups and harassment by the police. Two weeks ago, a Santa Cruz (California) County Judge dismissed assault charges against Huey and Robert Herd, also a BPP member. The charges were dropped after the alleged "victim" in the May 11 nightclub incident, Kenny Hall, told the judge he had started the fight, and had been drinking for more than three hours when it happened. At the time, a waitress at the club had admitted that Black

people were "not welcomed" there.

In Oakland, where Huey faces frameup charges of attempted murder and assault, his lawyer Michael Kennedy won an appeal to separate the charges. This is important in a jury trial, since prosecutors will often try to convince a jury to find the defendant guilty on a lesser charge even if there is a lack of evidence on all charges. Huey maintains that the current charges are part of a concerted effort by the police to destroy him and the Black Panther Party.

The trial on the assault charges will begin Aug. 21 in Oakland.

Robert Herd still faces the charge of illegal possession of a weapon in connection with the Santa Cruz incident according to BPP spokeswoman Jonina Abron.

These and other attacks have hurt the party, Abron said. "But our programs are still going strong and will continue," she said. Recently in its Food for Senior Citizens Program, the party gave out more than 400 bags of groceries in the Oakland Black community. And a special summer program for youth is in session at the party's Learning Center in East Oakland. The program has attracted over 600 people.

State may move for another trial

Ella Ellison released from prison

By PAULA ROESSLER

BOSTON, July 20—Ella Ellison was released from jail today, where she has spent four years, on \$1,500 bail. Yesterday, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court unanimously decided that Ella Ellison's constitutional rights had been violated by the prosecution. District Attorney Newman Flanagan, who had withheld evidence which might have cleared her. They reversed the murder conviction and life sentence that had put this now 29-year-old woman, the mother of 4 children in jail. The court also noted "the thinness of the case" against her.

The two principal witnesses who had testified against her in 1974 had told at least four different stories about the robbery and shooting that they were arrested for five years ago. When they were first picked up they made no mention of a woman being involved. By naming Ellison as the driver of "the get-away car," the witnesses, Nathaniel Williams and

Anthony Irving were able to plea bargain for lighter sentences.

In September of 1976, Williams and Irving admitted at a hearing on a motion for a new trial for Ella Ellison that they "had invented a girl driver" to minimize the charge against them. Despite the recantation, Superior Court Judge Roger J. Donahue denied Ellison's request for a new trial.

Although Ella Ellison has basically been cleared of the frame-up charges against her and is now back with her children she must wait for the prosecutor, the same Newman Flanagan who has been out to get her with a vengeance to decide whether or not to bring her to trial again.

What the state should do is compensate Ellison and her family for the injustice they have perpetrated and the suffering they have inflicted on her. Although there is no amount of money that could compensate for the pain and suffering they have already caused, Ella Ellison should at least be



Ella Ellison

awarded enough money to make herself and her children live in comfort and security for the rest of their lives.

Women's prison strike

NEW YORK, July 14—Some 350 out of 450 prisoners at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility for Women held a one-day strike on July 10 to protest increased beatings and harassment by guards and prison administration. The strike, reports the Solidarity with Sisters Inside Committee, followed months of filing grievances that were ignored by the Bedford Hills administration and the Department of Corrections in Albany.

The women list eleven demands and grievances including: a public investigation into the racist and brutal conditions at Bedford Hills; an end to the physical abuse against all women prisoners; an end to riot-equipped guards;

illegal keeplocking (24 hours a day in a cell); a rollback in commissary prices; an end to interference with mail, and others. One demand specifically called for a substantial increase in the wage scale (presently 35 cents to \$1.15 a day) and that all women at the prison for one year must be paid the maximum wage.

The prisoners at Bedford Hills have a history of struggle that goes back for decades. Recently, Black and Latin women prisoners spent a month in court attending hearings on a lawsuit they had filed against the use of male guards at the prison, whose presence led to increased beatings and sexual harassment.

'Best in the country' say racists

Buffalo mayor praised by KKK



photo: Gail G.

Anti-racists marching through Buffalo last month. The struggle against racism continues.

Property tax cut in western New York aids corporations at workers' expense

By E. B. HARRISON

BUFFALO, July 21—Who gains the most from property tax cuts and who really loses has been clearly revealed by the after-effects of recent restrictions on the taxing powers of nearly 50 New York State municipalities.

On May 9, the New York State Court of Appeals, in a ruling commonly known as the Hurd decision, threw out a 1976 state law that allowed cities to exceed constitutional limits on taxing powers. Immediately, Bethlehem Steel Corporation and three major utility corporations, including New York Telephone, an AT&T subsidiary, sought refunds totalling in the millions of dollars on taxes they had paid "in protest." Bethlehem Steel and New York Telephone are the largest taxpayers in Lackawanna and Buffalo, respectively.

Bethlehem Steel, which pays two thirds of all Lackawanna's property tax, is also seeking a 40% reduction in its \$40.6 million assessment on the basis of abandonment of numerous facilities in recent months at the Lackawanna plant. In the fall of 1977, Bethlehem laid off 2,500 of its workers, abandoning them to a future of unemployment and poverty.

The company is currently in court to get a refund of nearly \$1.4 million under the Hurd decision. The other 8,200 residential property taxpayers in the Steel City would average only \$130 apiece, as revealed by recent manipulations of Lackawanna school officials to avoid paying the refunds.

By levying a special tax to finance the refunds, Lackawanna school officials in effect have cancelled out the \$2 million-plus gap the refund would have left in this year's school budget. Yet,

despite this "paper change," the future for the city's thousands of schoolchildren, primarily Black, Puerto Rican, Arab, and poor white, the sons and daughters of the steel company's workers and tenants, remains bleak as the reduced tax rate goes into effect.

MA BELL GETS \$750,000

Through court actions in this city, National Fuel Gas Corp. and Niagara Mohawk Power Corp., along with N.Y. Telephone, have sought over \$1.3 million in taxes they had paid "under protest." N.Y. Telephone alone is slated to receive over \$750,000 in refunds. The three "public" monopolies are under pressure from the city's

Common Council to return these monies to utility customers in the form of a rebate.

Admitting that it is highly unlikely that the utilities will pass their tax savings on to customers, local politicians have also proposed increasing the city tax levied on the "public" utilities. However, as past history of these greedy monopolies demonstrates, they would most likely use this tax increase as another excuse to raise their rates.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS CUT

Buffalo workers are already feeling the effects of the reduced property taxes to the large corporations as the school budget cuts

(Continued on p. 10)

Yusef Alhakk, target of police repression

Black activist faces frameup

Special to Workers World

BUFFALO, July 13—Racism and repression instigated by the wealthy have been gathering steam on the heels of the economic downturn. In a racist society any Black person is fair game for police harassment and repression.

The bigoted police very frequently try to pin unsolved crimes (some of which the police commit) on the first Black person they see. Or they attempt to frame up a political activist.

Yusef Alhakk faces just such a situation here in Buffalo. Yusef has been falsely charged with three armed robberies and faces half a century in jail. He has already spent three and a half months in jail while waiting for a bail reduction (his original bail was an outrageous \$50,000).

Yusef, a Muslim convert, is a

poet and a participant in the Nia writers workshop of the Buffalo African Cultural Center. A member of the Buffalo Islamic Society, he works through his mosque with Attica prisoners, by visiting them, helping with religious training, language study, grievance procedures and re-entry aid.

The fact that Yusef is also a political person makes this much more than a simple case of mistaken identity. As a young man he visited Martin Sostre's revolutionary bookstore in Buffalo's Black community; he worked in the civil rights movement; demonstrated in anti-Vietnam War protests; worked in the Committee to Clear Kenneth Johnson (a Buffalo Black man framed-up on rape charges); campaigned for Arthur Eve, a

Special to Workers World

BUFFALO, June 21—At noon today a picket line and street meeting was held in downtown Buffalo to explain the racist, anti-poor implications of the Bakke case. Brian Yamel, representing the Buffalo Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision and the African Liberation Support Committee, the two organizations that called the activity, addressed the downtown crowd and stressed the need to organize and fight back.

This was another in a series of activities called to combat the rising tide of racism and repression. In an attempt to blame the economic crisis on those who are hurt most by it—the poor—the super-rich people who own the country have instigated a campaign of racism and violence. These bigots have been emboldened by the recent reactionary Supreme Court decision in favor of Bakke.

BIG BANKS TO BLAME

Buffalo, like most cities, is in hock up to its ears to the major banks. The well-paid politicians pour millions of dollars into unneeded and unwanted construction projects like convention centers, football stadiums, marinas, etc. Such projects become immense sources of profit for the banks that provide the construction loans while the interest rates on these long-term loans drain the cities' coffers.

But on projects like low-income housing, jobs, cheap and efficient mass transit, and better health care, the bankers and politicians are silent.

The fiscal crisis in Buffalo and other cities is not because there is not enough money. It is due to too much of working people's tax money going to the banks.

RACIST DRIVE LAUNCHED

To carry out this policy of rob-the-poor-to-help-the-rich, a racist drive against the oppressed communities is being orchestrated

and carried out. At a public hearing in Buffalo Mayor James Griffin's office on July 19, Ku Klux Klan spokesman Robert Karnath praised Griffin as "the best mayor in the country." That this vile racist, representing a viciously anti-Black, anti-labor, anti-poor organization, was even allowed into the mayor's office is a crime in itself. However, from the KKK's point of view, their evaluation of Griffin is accurate.

Griffin won the mayoral election in a hysterical, racist smear campaign against a Black candidate, Arthur O. Eve. Since then, the Griffin administration has embarked on a course of economic sanctions, coupled with unbridled police repression, against the Black community.

For example, \$40 million in Federal Mortgage Assistance funds recently became available to Buffalo. This money, inadequate though it is, could have been used to help rebuild and refurbish the decaying inner city where Black, Hispanic, and other poor people are forced to live.

Instead Griffin contemptuously allocated all of the funds to his own district in South Buffalo and the well-to-do University District.

These kinds of policies, coupled with redlining by the banks and block-busting attempts by unscrupulous landlords, place the crushing burden of the financial crisis onto the backs of the poor. This economic blockade of the Black community feeds inflation and produces staggering unemployment while simultaneously slashing health care, education, and other essential services.

To further secure his policies, Griffin has purged Black people from the city payroll. Of 52 top-level appointments made by Griffin, only two are Black.

Griffin's and his banker-bosses' economic and social program is buttressed by the brutal police force which behaves like an occupying army in the oppressed communities, insuring that the program of the rich gets carried out. Any resistance is smashed.

It is against this backdrop of organized racism that the Buffalo Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision and the African Liberation Support Committee are attempting to broaden the organized anti-racist struggle. Both groups are planning more activities. The NCOBD can be reached at (716) 856-1311 and the ALSC at (716) 855-3055.

WW editor
speaks in
Buffalo on
Ethiopia