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workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

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Jan. 5, 1979

25 cents

Iran comes to Beverly Hills

By KEY MARTIN

JANUARY 2—Thousands of Iranian students and exiles marched on the luxurious Beverly Hills estate of the Shah of Iran's sister and mother today, laying siege to the mansion, setting fire to trash cans and battling cops amid clouds of tear gas. The angry demonstrators, who carried signs saying "U.S. Keep Bloody Hands Off Iran" and chanted "Death, Death, Death to the Shah" fought hundreds of cops for over an hour, pelting the police and the mansion with rocks as they broke through the gates. Police drove their cars into the militant crowds at high speeds in an attempt to disperse the demonstration, which was called by the Iranian Students Association (ISA).

UPI photographer Glenn Wagner said he saw bodies "go soaring over cars into the air" and others "crushed in the street" by the police cars in the attack. Police also used tear gas and

water jets from fire hoses and pursued many into side streets where beatings and arrests took place.

INJURIES, ARRESTS

ISA representatives told *Workers World* that 33 Iranians were arrested and 34 injured and taken to hospitals; that two were critically injured, including one Iranian woman who was dragged 40 feet by a police car and, as we are going to press, is undergoing emergency surgery for head injuries and was reported in critical condition.

Many of the Iranians reported hearing gunfire during the police attack. This was confirmed by ABC-TV News and West German news media but was later dropped in the bourgeois press. The police refused to allow anyone near the seriously injured Iranians and it could not be

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Cop car smashes into a woman demonstrator outside the residence of the Shah's Queen Mother in Beverly Hills.

Iranian masses push Shah to edge

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Closing half the city hospitals by 1982

NYC mayor threatens 20,000 layoffs

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By HILLEL BAILIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 31—Mayor Koch this week threatened more city workers with layoffs. As many as 20,000 will lose their jobs in the new year according to the mayor.

"My obligation under the law is to have a balanced budget," said Koch yesterday. No obligation to the poor and working people of the city was mentioned.

If the proposed cuts go through, many city services will be reduced even further. Every aspect of life in New York communities, which are already suffering from past cuts, could be affected. But health care is the main target of Koch and the bankers he represents.

PLANS TO CLOSE
HALF THE HOSPITALS

Only two weeks ago, the mayor appointed a police chief to head the city's Health and Hospital Corporation and to oversee major cutbacks of the city's hospitals. This week Martin Cherkasky, the mayor's health adviser, predicted that half of the city's 17 public hospitals would be closed by 1982. A 10% cut would start this year,

Cherkasky said.

Leaders of District Council 37, the municipal employees union, opposed the cutback scheme and demanded that Cherkasky be fired. At a press conference, Lillian Roberts, associate director of DC 37, said, "The workers are going to force their way into the hospitals" if the city tries to close them. Victor Gotbaum, director of DC 37 noted that no one consulted the union before the announcements were made about layoffs and cutbacks.

PEOPLE'S HEALTH VS.
BANKERS' PROFITS

Unfortunately, Gotbaum has taken the position that he will accept cutbacks in the form of attrition as long as there are no layoffs. Attrition means that workers who quit or retire are not replaced but no one gets a "pink slip." In practice, however, attrition still leads to sharply reduced services for the communities, speed-up for the city workers, and a weaker union which will have a tougher time fighting future cuts. Also it means higher unemployment in the city and will especially

hurt Black, Latin, and Asian workers and young people looking for work.

But even attrition is not enough for the banks who own the city bonds and who want to protect their tax-free interest at the expense of city workers and community residents. During Koch's first year in office he has faithfully

served these banks. Koch openly states his plans to meet his "obligation" to these banks with permanent layoffs and cutbacks. But the working people and communities of New York have their own obligations. Whether the people's health or the bankers' profits come first, will be determined by new struggles ahead.

Deaths follow cuts in
federal funds for abortion

By ELIZABETH ROSS

JANUARY 1—In Wichita, Ks., a young woman of 21 was told at the hospital where she went to ask for a federally-funded abortion that it was now illegal.

In desperation, she asked a friend to help her end her unwanted pregnancy. The friend told her that a douche of Drano would certainly work. So, for three days in a row she used this caustic substance, whose basic ingredient is lye.

On the fourth day she was taken to a hospital in great pain. Her kidneys weren't functioning; her reproductive organs were destroyed; a hysterectomy was urgently necessary. Her general health has probably been ruined for the rest of her life.

This is only one example of the cruel tortures tens of thousands of poor women have suffered since the "right to life" killers have whittled away at the abortion law passed by Congress a few years ago.

Since August 1977, when the federal government ordered drastic reductions in free abortions and 33 states followed suit, the number of federally-funded abortions has been reduced from 350,000 a year to less than 900 in the third quarter of this year.

The tragic irony of the case of

the young woman from Wichita, is that she misunderstood what the officials of the hospital were telling her when she went to them for help. She thought that any abortions were now illegal, not only free ones. Though perhaps it might not have made any difference in the outcome, for legal abortions now cost \$370 to \$550, which is far beyond the reach of millions of women.

WHAT ABOUT WOMEN'S
RIGHT TO LIFE?

Women are again, as in the old days before the abortion law was passed, resorting to knitting needles, bobbie pins, turpentine douches, and backroom abortionists who pack the uterus with gauze and tell their patients to go home until the fetus aborts "spontaneously."

Unless the forces of progress are able to push back this medieval legislation there will again be an estimated 200,000 illegal or self-imposed abortions every year, with all the needless suffering and deaths (deaths of useful, conscious women—not fetuses) that accompany them.

Now is the time for all honest women and men to speak out, to march, to demonstrate, to agitate against this monstrous distortion of "the right to life."

Women forced to be
sterilized to keep jobs

By JESSE LEE

JANUARY 1—Five women who were forced by American Cyanamid Corp. to get sterilized in order to keep their jobs have announced a national campaign to fight for their and other women's rights on the job.

The women, who had worked in areas of high lead exposure at an

American Cyanamid chemical plant in Willow Island, W. Va., had been given a choice by the company of being sterilized in order to avoid future possible birth defects from the lead or moving to lower paying jobs.

"They told us we could go to the janitorial department, but that if there weren't enough jobs there, some of us might have to leave," said Betty Moler, one of the women who was sterilized.

Another woman, Lola Rymer, said, "I don't think it's right that a company can tell you to do a thing like this to keep your job. I did it because I was scared and I had to have the income."

Barbara Cantwell said, "What do you have to do to hold a normal job and support your child?"

The women's union, the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers, is organizing support nationwide for the women. "These women were forced to make a Draconian choice that nobody should have to make," charged Anthony Mazzocchi, the union's vice president. "We are seeking to mobilize as broad a coalition on this one as we possibly can."

He continued, "It's an outrageous situation and American Cyanamid is not the only company that is trying to force women out of the workplace rather than clean it up. Women who have been able to enter these jobs as a result of their own struggle are now being confronted with the dismal choice of relinquishing their right to have children or their jobs."

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Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism [YAWF] participate in and organize many of the struggles described in this newspaper. All work together in these organizations—Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native peoples, young and old, gay and straight, working, unemployed, and students. We fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

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While continuing coverups in JFK, King deaths

House committee ends 'lone assassin' hoax

By P. MEISNER

DECEMBER 31—After 15 years of a government cover-up of the powerful plot which murdered President John F. Kennedy, the House Select Committee on Assassinations ended its two-year investigation yesterday conceding that Kennedy was "probably assassinated as a result of a conspiracy." However, the Committee

was quick to exonerate all government agencies from either having participated in the conspiracy or in the ensuing giant cover-up of it. The Committee thereby denied the true political character of the assassination plot—one originating from ultra-rightwing ruling class circles.

The conspiracy scenario described by the House Committee

was apparently intended to satisfy U.S. and worldwide public opinion which never believed the "official" version of the "lone gunman" theory in the Kennedy murder. The Committee concluded just last week that there was a high probability of a second gunman having fired a fourth shot from the opposite direction of the other three bullets fired at the Kennedy

motorcade. But the Committee's summary report issued yesterday still maintained that Lee Harvey Oswald fired all of those three bullets from the rear of the motorcade and within a span of less than six seconds—a virtual rehash of the long ago discredited Warren Commission report!

By not challenging the honesty and credibility of the Warren

Commission's investigation, conducted in 1964, the House Committee and all other government agencies hope to deflect any future conspiracy probe into a plot involving insignificant individuals rather than powerful political forces. In its summary, the Committee concluded that no organization whatsoever (including the Soviet and Cuban governments) was involved in the conspiracy thereby denying the possibility of a highly organized ultra-rightist plot. The report summary only conceded the possibility of "individual members" of anti-Castro Cuban organizations and of organized crime syndicates (but not of the CIA, FBI, or Secret Service) as having been part of the conspiracy.

POWERFUL POLITICAL FORCES BEHIND ASSASSINATIONS

The full Committee report is expected to be released sometime in March when it will also report its findings of a conspiracy in the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. But just as in the Kennedy assassination findings, the House Committee's version of the conspiracy against King is confined to two individual businessmen (both now dead) and members of James Earl Ray's family. This conspiracy version also excludes the involvement of government agencies and rightwing organizations. The Committee's cover-up of this plot flies in the face of the evidence which clearly points to a powerful rightwing plot. In Atlanta today, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, a former top aide of King who testified at the House Committee's hearings, told reporters:

"I feel it is most unfortunate that the committee did not find out the other conspirators, which I firmly believe included the FBI, the Memphis police, and some individuals."

Thus much of the truth behind the Kennedy and King murder conspiracies remains concealed despite the House Assassinations Committee's "new findings." The whole truth will only come out when the masses of people in the U.S. intervene directly (that is, not through capitalist government institutions) in the political struggle to expose the entire rotten edifice of U.S. capitalism which still rules to this very day by repression and assassination.

Oregon case raises important question...

Can a man rape his wife?

By NAOMI COHEN

JANUARY 1—Can a man rape his wife? Just to ask the question is to introduce an idea that is new to many people—the idea that husbands who force their wives into sexual relations, often by beating them, are actually guilty of rape.

It was this idea—already the law in all the socialist countries—that was raised in the precedent-setting case brought by Greta Rideout in Oregon recently. And although the man (husband) who beat and raped her was acquitted, the very fact that the trial took place at all will have significance far beyond the jury's decision.

WIFE SEEN AS PRIVATE PROPERTY

In the United States today, only four states—Oregon, Iowa, Delaware, and as of Jan. 1, New Jersey—even recognize the concept that a woman can be raped by her husband. In all the other states, a 17th century English common-law provision for "spousal immunity" is still in force—meaning that just by virtue of the marriage contract, a husband is immune from charges of rape by the wife, no matter what the circumstances. In effect, the law views women as the private property of their husbands.

As one woman from a home for battered women told the press just after John Rideout's acquittal on Dec. 28, when she called the police to report that her husband had raped her, they laughed and told her that was impossible, refusing to even press charges.

Now, in spite of the fact that the defense tried to slander and degrade Greta Rideout on the stand (gay-baiting her and bringing up the completely irrelevant fact that she had had an abortion), all in order to discredit her charges, women throughout the country are more aware of their right to fight back against such treatment.

There are now laws that are supposed to protect women from beatings by their husbands, but, just as with the rape laws, women often find that their treatment at the hands of the police and prosecutors is so cruel and insensitive that they prefer not to press charges. In particular, for Black, Latin, and other minority women, to call the police is to bring into the community and household the racist hand of the state, often with the result that the police brutalize the whole family and threaten to take the children away from the parents.

INTERVENTION OF RACIST STATE NOT THE SOLUTION

In addition, the overriding factor of racism in this society raises the danger that the call for stricter enforcement of rape laws—no matter how progressive their content may be in the abstract—will mean even more frameups and jailings of nationally oppressed men by the capitalist state.

One demand that has been raised often by women's groups is federal funding for shelters for battered women. (In 1978 Congress refused to pass legislation providing funds for such a purpose.) If these shelters were community controlled, run by and for the women they serve, they would at least offer women an alternative to calling the police and provide a place for battered women to go for protection and support.

Obviously, however, shelters for battered women are only stopgap measures in confronting a problem of massive proportions that involves the general physical abuse of women, sexual abuse, and abuse of children as well. All of these problems, of course, call into the question the whole system that breeds such violence and oppression in the home.

Thus, the case brought by Greta Rideout raises two important lessons. First, just to raise the fight against spousal immunity and challenge the concept of women as the property of their husbands is an important step. But second, her experience also shows that under the present system, women cannot rely on the state and its courts to get justice.

SOCIALIST STATE PROTECTS WOMEN

It is interesting to note that in the reporting of the Rideout case, the New York Times on Dec. 26 pointed out that spousal immunity is not a defense for rape in any of the socialist countries. For example, in the Soviet Union husbands are liable to rape charges simply on the say-so of the wife. But in addition to the fact that such laws are on the books, what makes these laws beneficial to women is that in the socialist countries the whole social structure works against the notion that women are private property. Not only do the laws protect women, but also there are mass women's federations that have the backing of the entire state to educate the population on the status and rights of women and protect them against injustice.

Women are also more economically independent because they have better educational and job opportunities and have the added benefits of free medical care, daycare, and free education for their children. Under such circumstances, the assaults on women are infinitesimal by comparison with capitalist society (in the U.S. the estimate for the number of battered women is in the millions). And where assaults on women do occur, women have legal redress without fear of abuse at the hands of the state.

This is not to say that women in the United States should not fight for progressive legislation for women and basic democratic demands, such as protection from spousal rape. Having a law on the books often provides an impetus to

(Continued on p. 5)



A Vietnamese woman captures an American airman during the war. The struggle for women's rights is a part of the fight against the whole capitalist system which nurtures women's oppression.

Printers and pressmen forced to yield by Washington Star

By L.R. JONES and M. SCHMIDT

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 1—The Columbia Typographical Union, Local 101, was forced today to sign an agreement with the Washington Star that effectively eliminates its contractual rights involving job descriptions, jurisdiction, and the lifetime job "guarantees" its members had formerly won.

The imposition of the new contract by the Star was characterized by a negotiator for the printers as "an alternative to be raped or murdered, and we chose to be raped."

How this large local union with a strong contract came to these straits is the opposite of how the newspaper and particularly pressmen's unions in New York City avoided a similar situation last year. It is the difference between unions in solidarity and unions divided.

Ever since the Washington Star was taken over by Time Inc. and

the Luce publishing empire about six months ago, management has been threatening the workers of all 11 unions at the paper. In November, management issued an ultimatum that they would totally close down the newspaper unless the unions surrendered their contractual rights.

The terms dictated by the new owners of the Star included wage cuts, moratoriums on raises, layoffs (especially in the press room and composing room), and management control of future jurisdiction in all areas of the plant.

All of the unions involved had ratified these extortionate demands by the Dec. 31 deadline, except Local 6 (Pressmen) and Local 101 (Printers).

The Star demanded that the printers accept 80 layoffs out of a workforce of 185. Management indicated it was prepared to file for bankruptcy and shut down the paper unless the printers and pressmen agreed to tear up their

old contract and accept these terms. In the face of isolation from the other unions the printers and pressmen were forced to capitulate.

UNION SOLIDARITY IN NYC STRIKE

In view of the success of the New York City newspaper unions in resisting the publishers' demands to slash the pressroom workforce in half, the situation at the Washington Star might have ended differently. In New York City the newspaper unions united in closing down the papers until a satisfactory contract was arrived at.

When a company threatens to go out of business, however, or to move to the "right to work" (anti-union) states of the Sunbelt, larger pressures must be brought to bear. The entire labor movement has a stake in restraining corporate union-busters from threatening to close down whenever they want to get around a union contract.

Camp David accord mired down

What is holding up imperialism's Mideast treaty?

By JOYCE CHEDIAC BETRIES
JANUARY 3—Why haven't Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat gone ahead and signed the so-called "peace" treaty? What is holding them up?

To answer this, one must consider that this capitulationist treaty, which betrays the Palestinian cause and lays the basis for more aggression by U.S. imperialism and its client state, Israel, has been roundly condemned by the Arab masses. This accounts for the fact that every member of the Arab League ranging from revolutionary to moderate to downright reactionary governments have all lined up together against Egypt at the recent Baghdad Conference.

There are two countries in the Middle East that are generally overlooked by the bourgeois press here when they write about "peace" treaty negotiations: Iran and Saudi Arabia. Both are supposed to be pillars of strength, but it is becoming more and more evident that they are made of straw—one is toppling and the other is living in fear of death. It is the situation of these two countries, more than any other, that is responsible for the Israeli-Egyptian treaty remaining unsigned.

The profound revolution being waged by the masses of Iran against the hated Shah and his masters in Washington has changed everything in the Middle East, and has strengthened the hand of all progressive forces in that area and maybe beyond. This revolutionary upsurge in a country so well-guarded by Wall Street and Washington shows how very fragile the position of U.S. imperialism really is.

WEAKNESS OF SAUDI MONARCHY

This precarious position of Washington and Wall Street in Iran has been discussed in the imperialist press here. However, what is just beginning to be publicized by the bourgeois news media is the tremendous weakening in the Saudi Arabian feudal monarchy. The Carter administration has wanted to build this oil-rich country with its medieval and thoroughly repressive government into a world fortress of reaction, but it is really a paper tiger. The Saudis were forced to denounce the Camp David accords and this has struck fear into the hearts of the Egyptian bourgeoisie and the Israelis and hence they haven't gone through with their treacherous mission.

In fact, when Carter was talking about ordering a Seventh Fleet aircraft carrier task force into the Persian Gulf it was as much to reassure the Saudis, whose country also borders that important body of water, as to threaten the Iranian revolution and the Soviet Union. According to the New York Times (Dec. 29), a high Carter administration official, when asked about the task force, replied, "It would reinforce a lot of shaky allies in the region."

This weakness of the Riyadh regime was pointed out in a recent article by nationally syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft, who has been on a world tour running errands and gathering information for Washington as an unofficial emissary from the Carter administration. In his column entitled "On the limits of Saudi influence" (New York Post, Dec. 22), Kraft points out as a warning the weak position of the U.S. in this country which makes up most of the Arabian Peninsula. He finds

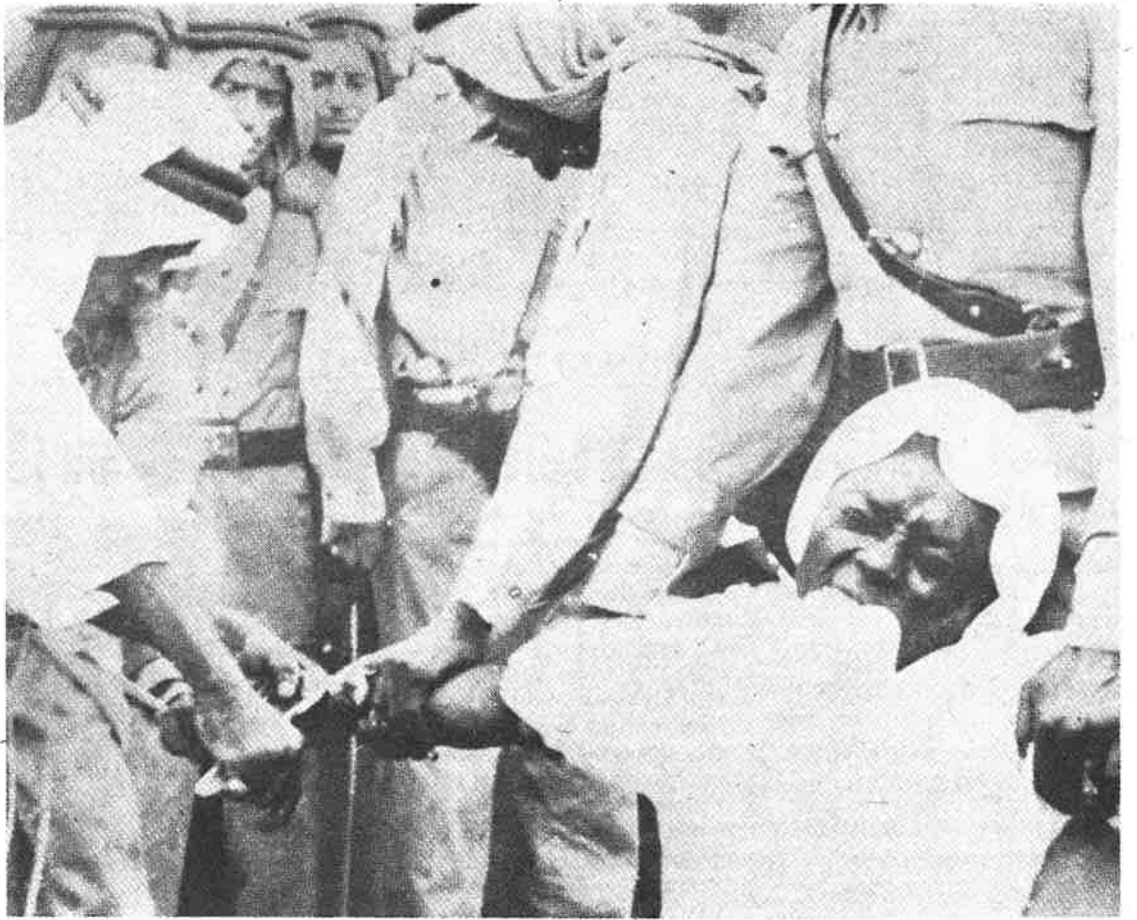
Saudi Arabia "characterized by inner weaknesses and divisions," with a small military divided into several rival bodies, and argument at every governing level, including inside the ruling royal family.

WASHINGTON'S MISTAKEN NOTIONS

Washington thought that all it had to do to make the Riyadh regime a bulwark for Wall Street's interests was to send it highly sophisticated if extortionately priced weapons. For example, last year Washington decided to sell to the Saudis 60 of the highly advanced F-15 fighter planes. However, this kind of weaponry is virtually useless against rebellions at home, and this is exactly what the Saudi royalty fears with all their hearts.

And considering how repressive this feudal regime is, these fears are well justified. The country has no constitution, no opposition party, and there is complete censorship of all publications. However, the royal family is exempt from all laws! Since the Saudi rulers consolidated their power more than 70,000 people have had their limbs amputated for various offenses, among them political resistance. With a

(Continued on p. 10)



Since the U.S.-maintained rulers of Saudi Arabia came to power, more than 70,000 people have had limbs amputated for various offenses including political resistance.

At least 134 people killed

Neo-fascist gangs provoke bloody riots in Turkey

By ANDY STAPP

JANUARY 1—At least 134 people were killed in Turkey at the end of last month and more than 1,000 injured following three days of political violence instigated by fascists.

According to the Washington Post (Dec. 24), "the trouble began Friday night when rightist Sunni Moslems, chanting 'Moslem Turkey' and 'death to the communists,' tried to prevent a funeral procession for two leftist teachers killed Thursday."

"Several people," the Post added, "also were injured in Kirikkale when demonstrators believed to be right-wing extremists opposed to Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit's People's Republican Party made a bomb attack on municipal buildings."

RIGHTIST GROUPS BEHIND FIGHTING

Most press accounts attributed the violence to the fascist National Action Party and members of the so-called Justice Party of former Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

The International Herald Tribune (Dec. 27) reports that, "Mr. Ecevit accused the rightist opposition, primarily the neofascist National Action Party, of instigating the disturbances in an attempt to topple his government."

The Tribune noted that "the deeply religious right opposes Mr. Ecevit's flirtation with the Soviet Union, while the left wants to cut all remaining ties with the West."

Despite its Social Democratic chief of state, Turkey remains a capitalist nation and continues its membership in both the NATO and CENTO imperialist pacts. Communist activity is still officially outlawed. Turkey is also a neo-colony oppressed by U.S. imperialism and the country is currently suffering 20% unemployment and an annual inflation rate of 70%.

The December issue of The Middle East magazine states that

"Turkey's foreign currency famine has reduced the average 7% growth rate of the past 15 years to some 4% last year and possibly to just over 2% in 1978."

In addition, the magazine points out that Turkish foreign debts have now hit \$11 billion, an amount the country's central bank is unable to fund; that Turkish industry is operating at a mere 55% of capacity; and that Turkey's trade deficit last year was more than \$4 billion. As in many other oppressed nations, the world capitalist economic crisis appears

to be hitting even harder than it is in the U.S. and Western Europe.

IMF ROLE IN TURKEY

In this period of increasing world crisis it is becoming more and more impossible for countries to maintain national independence while being economically chained to imperialism. The U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund, for instance, has a lot to say about how Turkey is to be run. The Nov. 17 issue of Mideast Events reports that "two senior IMF officials flew to Ankara late

last month to inspect progress.

"Observers suggest," Events continued, "that the officials will not be pleased by the fact that the government has failed to implement measures to minimize wage increases as the IMF had suggested," and that the IMF "also feared that the new tax bill, introduced to relieve the burden on the lower paid, will encourage spending."

On Nov. 3, Mideast Events had written that "foreign elements have been aggravating Turkey's" (Continued on p. 10)

Increasing troops, weapons

Carter's deadly Korean shell game

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

JANUARY 2—Back in 1976, when "Jimmy" Carter was a mere candidate for President and had not yet launched his image-building "human rights" campaign, he promised that if elected he would significantly reduce the number of U.S. ground troops in Korea.

This was a welcome thing to most of the people in this country. An Associated Press/NBC poll in March of 1978 showed that more than twice as many people (61%) favored the withdrawal as opposed it (27%).

In the past two years, it has been announced several times that U.S. troops actually were leaving Korea, and pictures have appeared in the press to prove it. So most people probably think that Carter is making good his campaign promise.

But just the opposite is true.

MORE, NOT LESS

According to the latest issue of U.S. News & World Report (Dec. 25-Jan. 1), a highly conservative news magazine, there are now more U.S. troops in Korea than there were a year ago! Today 41,600 U.S. military personnel are

occupying the southern portion of the peninsula, up 1,500 from a year ago.

"Because of irregularities in the military rotation program, the total number of American military personnel in south Korea in the 1978 Christmas season was 1,500 higher than the previous year," says the magazine, trying to explain why there are more troops although a "cautious withdrawal" of ground forces is supposed to have already begun.

This reasoning about "irregularities" sounds a little like those "seasonally adjusted" figures on unemployment that always make the picture look rosier than it really is.

But this is only half the picture. The other half is that the Pentagon has been pouring ever more expensive and sophisticated military hardware into south Korea in the past couple of years. In November, 12 F-4 fighter planes were sent there "as a symbol of a continuing and unadulterated U.S. commitment," in the words of U.S. News. Direct U.S. military aid to the Pak regime in south Korea doubled from 1975 to 1977.

Why, 25 years after the war of U.S. aggression in Korea that left that country divided into a socialist north and an imperialist neocolony in the south, is there still such a massive force of U.S. troops there?

The southern part of Korea has twice the population of the north, and a much larger army with superior weaponry. Yet the moth-eaten excuse Washington gives for the expenditure of billions of dollars (the U.S. workers' tax dollars) on having its huge military presence in south Korea is a "threat of invasion from the north."

This obviously makes no sense at all. But when the class nature of Korea's division is understood, then it becomes clear why the south has become such a military fortress and why the U.S. refuses to leave.

Korea is not only divided geographically; it is divided by two social systems. In the north, after World War II, the Korean Workers Party led by Marshal Kim Il Sung was able to overthrow the puppet regime that had worked first for the Japanese (Continued on p. 9)

Iran revolt

Masses push butcher Shah to the edge

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

JANUARY 2—Growing more and more desperate by the hour as his regime totters, the Shah and his military supporters turned the guns and tanks of the army directly on Iran's revolutionary people in a frenzy unparalleled even by massacres of demonstrators ordered by the Shah. In all, at least 2,000 were killed over the weekend.

Troops have been carrying out wholesale shootings of demonstrators throughout Iran, with the northeastern city of Mashad the center of military brutality: there alone 700 people were killed, gunned down by automatic weapons and run over by tanks, according to officials of the opposition National Front.

The decision to have troops "shoot to kill" anti-Shah demonstrators in such a massive way, besides showing the ruthless brutality of Iran's U.S.-backed ruling clique, has demonstrated to the world the courage and determination of Iran's people. U.S. television has shown films of unarmed Iranian youth facing bullets in the streets, erecting fire barricades in the intersections, and fleeing the bullets only to regroup elsewhere.

The Washington Post reported Dec. 1 that the people had taken over entire sections of Mashad: "Residents said demonstrators had taken control of most police stations in the city during the past two days, and yesterday a mob burned an army commissary after distributing its contents to people in the streets."

There were also stories that the people of Mashad were able to capture, try, and execute three agents of SAVAK, Iran's secret police known for torturing and murdering progressives.

WORKERS GAIN STRENGTH

While Iran's youth are showing

their courage in the streets, its working class, especially production workers in strategic industries, have completely stopped production. The 67,000 oil workers have remained solidly on strike, crippling the regime's finances. Bank workers have halted the flow of money. And now the airport workers and air traffic controllers have closed Tehran's airport to civilian traffic.

The growing confidence in their strength and understanding of their vital role has vaulted Iran's workers into the leading position in the revolution, although they are not yet speaking in their own name or raising their own program.

Iran's military is becoming more and more isolated as the single support of the Shah's regime. While the U.S. ruling class press has reported less on desertions in the military the past two weeks, that doesn't mean that the desertions aren't taking place. Progressive Iranian sources have informed **Workers World** that the desertions are continuing as before, and that in fact they include some officers with rank as high as colonel, indicating how the deep sentiment in the rank and file has convinced even the more privileged layers that the future of Iran lies with its people and not with the Shah.

POLITICAL MANEUVERS

With the last few attempts of the Shah to end the crisis collapsing in failure, a new try was begun last weekend with apparent U.S. backing. The Shah appointed Shapur Bakhtiar, a supposed 25-year opponent of the Shah, who at one time was a minister in the 1953 progressive Mossadegh government, in hopes that he would be able to form a civilian government palatable to the masses.

Bakhtiar immediately was branded a "henchman of American imperialists" by large

ference of the ISA (Left Platform), they were angered by the massacres in Mashad and the firing by U.S. Embassy Marines on protesters in Tehran.

Two days later in San Francisco, thousands of Iranians marched on the Iranian Consulate and the Federal Building. They were attending a convention by another association of Iranian students being held in Oakland.

These recent demonstrations have abandoned the earlier practice of wearing masks to avoid identification by the Shah's SAVAK (secret political police) which would bring sure retaliation on demonstrators or on their family or friends. "Right now in Iran the police are hiding like rats from the people," explained one marcher in San Francisco.

—Oregon case

(Continued from p. 3)

the struggle that is needed to actually enforce it. But in order to really have an effect on the status of the mass of women in this country, such demands need to be raised in the context of the struggle against the whole system of capitalist exploitation, which nurtures the oppression of women and upholds their treatment as private property. Only in this way will women be able to effectively put an end to the racism, sexism, and physical abuse that so many suffer and consign these practices to the medieval past, where they belong.



Confrontation in Tehran: increasingly the Shah's troops are deserting.

groups of protesters who took to the streets, according to today's New York Post. The National Front, of which Bakhtiar was a member, quickly expelled him. Although this bourgeois-led party also fears the workers, its leadership apparently decided that any attempt to compromise with the Shah at present would lose them all credibility among the people.

Bakhtiar represents that section of the Iranian bourgeoisie which is terrified that the workers and poor of Iran, and not they, would lead the revolution. He made his anti-communism clear, according to the Dec. 31 New York Times. "Mr. Bakhtiar said he believed one reason he had been chosen was that he had the confidence of the military. 'I think they feel I can be strong when necessary and I share their concern about the infiltration of communists in some resistance groups.'"

U.S. MOVES FLEET, THREATENS USSR

Fearing that the Iranian revolution is threatening the vital interests of U.S. imperialism to exploit the oil wealth and labor of the Middle East, President Carter has ordered a section of the

Seventh Fleet, including the Aircraft Carrier Constellation, to proceed from Subic Bay in the Philippines to the Persian Gulf. Carter had the gall to say that this aggressive move was to "prevent outside interference in Iranian affairs." U.S. officials claimed to be upset because Radio Moscow beamed a report in Persian to Iran revealing that a unit of 60 CIA and State Department specialists were working out of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. These imperialist agents are there to look for pro-U.S. politicians who can be included in a new government and help keep the Shah in power.

Pravda replied to the U.S. fleet maneuvers Jan. 1, correctly describing it as "gunboat diplomacy," carried out by those looking for ways of justifying "military interference in the internal affairs of Iran." Pravda said this threat constituted "openly provocative means directed pointedly against the USSR." (Jan. 2, New York Times.) (The Soviet Union shares a 1,500-mile border with Iran.)

As of Jan. 2, the U.S. announced that the convoy had stopped in the South China Sea, four days sail from Iran.

Statements made by U.S. officials that they thought "the fall of the Shah was inevitable," unprinted as of today in the U.S. press, found their way into the Dec. 30 Le Monde. Nevertheless, the U.S. is officially committed to the Shah. Presidential adviser and anti-Soviet hawk Zbigniew Brzezinski warned that the fall of the Shah threatened those countries stretched "along the shores of the Indian Ocean with fragile social and political structures in a region of vital importance" to U.S. imperialism.

The goal of current U.S. policy, said a White House aide Dec. 31, is to "bend over backward to reassure a lot of jittery allies that we are prepared, if necessary, to go up in flames with the Shah." (Jan. 1, New York Times.) While this policy would be a very appropriate end for the U.S. ruling class, it would be too much to hope that U.S. imperialism would self-destruct on its own!

It is true, however, that every day that the struggle in Iran gets stronger, U.S. imperialism in turn is that much more weakened. Such a development can only bring hope and renewed vigor to the world's workers and oppressed.

—Iranian students

(Continued from p. 1)

determined if their injuries resulted from bullet wounds.

Tens of thousands have been killed by the Shah's regime in the streets of Iran—yet the workers have buried their dead and come back to struggle, facing death again and again rather than continue living under the old regime.

This will and determination to struggle was reflected in the mood of militancy and sacrifice of students and exiles here in the U.S., not only in Los Angeles, but earlier in the protests by thousands of Iranians against the Shah's visit to Washington last year, which defied every attempt by the people to put them down.

In particular, Iranian students have been angered by the massacres last week in Mashad, where Iranian armed forces bombed and burned the city prison, killing an unknown number of political prisoners rather than allowing them to be released.

DEMONSTRATIONS AROUND THE U.S.

On Dec. 26 in Atlanta, Ga., hundreds of Iranians poured into the streets bringing the cries of "Shah is a U.S. puppet" to the downtown areas of that southern city. Attending a regional con-

Michigan demonstrators charge

'Israeli terrorism, made in USA!'

Special to Workers World

ANN ARBOR, Dec. 21—On Dec. 17, over 100 people demonstrated at University of Michigan's Rackham building here to protest the visit of former Israeli foreign minister, Yigal Allon. Allon stated less than a year ago that "Once we settle in a certain place, it means that this place has become part of the state of Israel." This Zionist leader was invited to speak by the so-called Institute for Public Policy Studies.

The demonstration was sponsored by over a dozen

progressive organizations and was strongly supported by students from the University of Michigan as well as members of Detroit's large Arab community (entire communities of Palestinians have emigrated to Detroit because their villages have been razed by the Israeli army).

The following were among the slogans chanted by the marchers: "Long live Palestine, Democratic Palestine!" "Palestine to Iran, one struggle, many fronts!" "Israeli terrorism, made in U.S.A.—That's why terrorist Allon is here today!"

and "Down with the Camp David Agreement!"

Inside the auditorium, militant demonstrators engaged Allon in a heated polemic, and the university was compelled to call in a squad of helmeted, club-wielding police in order to guarantee Allon his freedom of speech at the expense of Palestine's freedom of speech. During the talk on the Middle East "peace" negotiations, the demonstrators marched one block to Hill Auditorium to politicize a commencement ceremony which was taking place.

This demonstration was a political victory for Palestinians and progressive students in the Ann Arbor area because it expressed our solidarity with the oppressed Palestinian people, expressed our condemnation of the Camp David accords, and exposed university complicity in U.S. imperialist schemes. Perhaps in the future, the university will think twice before bringing another Zionist spokesman. Better that they invite a representative of the Palestinian people to express their views.

Ethiopian Revolution & The Struggle Against U.S. Imperialism

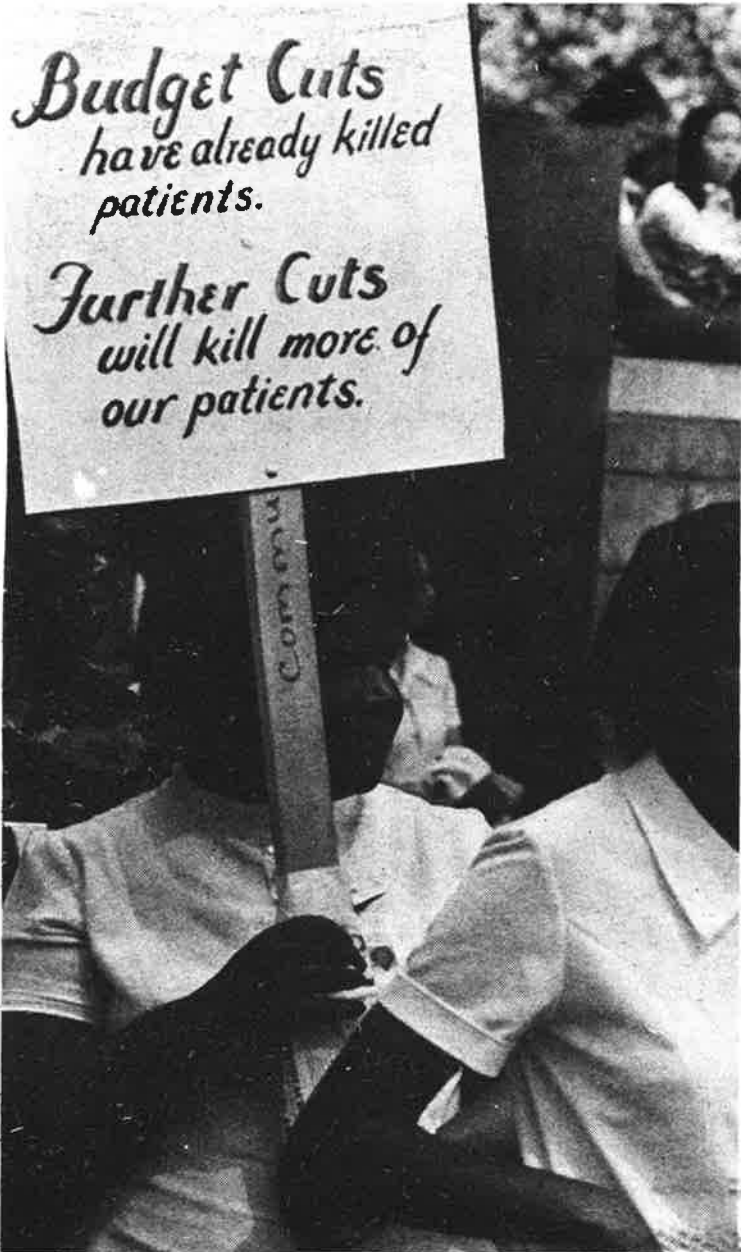
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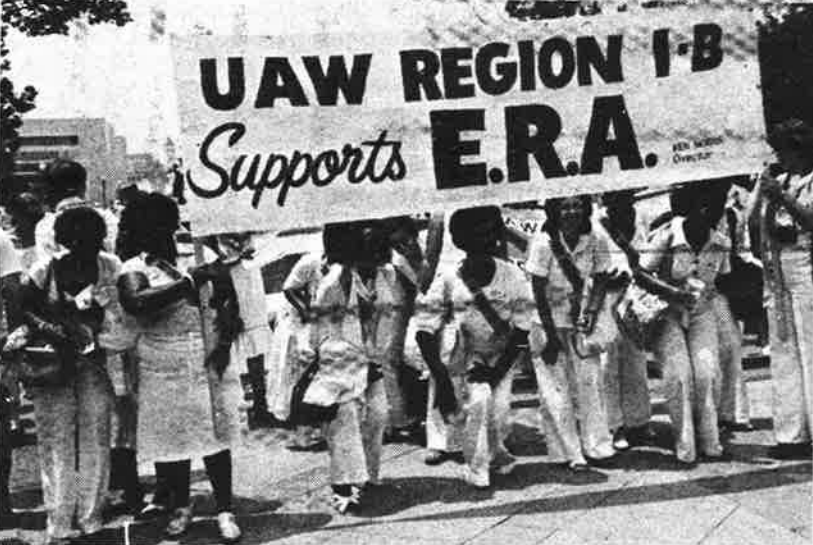
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1978

The struggle at home...

Reading counter-clockwise from above: 35,000 demonstrators in Washington, D.C., told the racist Supreme Court on April 15, "We won't go back, send Bakke back!"; Municipal workers across the country are fighting back against budget cuts; 100,000 marchers July 9 got Congress to extend the time limit on passing an Equal Rights Amendment; A new mood of solidarity swept the labor movement in sympathy with 175,000 striking coal miners and their families who weathered a 110-day strike; June 25 was Lesbian and Gay Pride Day and 400,000 turned out nationwide to demand an end to sexist oppression and bigotry.



WW photo: Deirdre Griswold

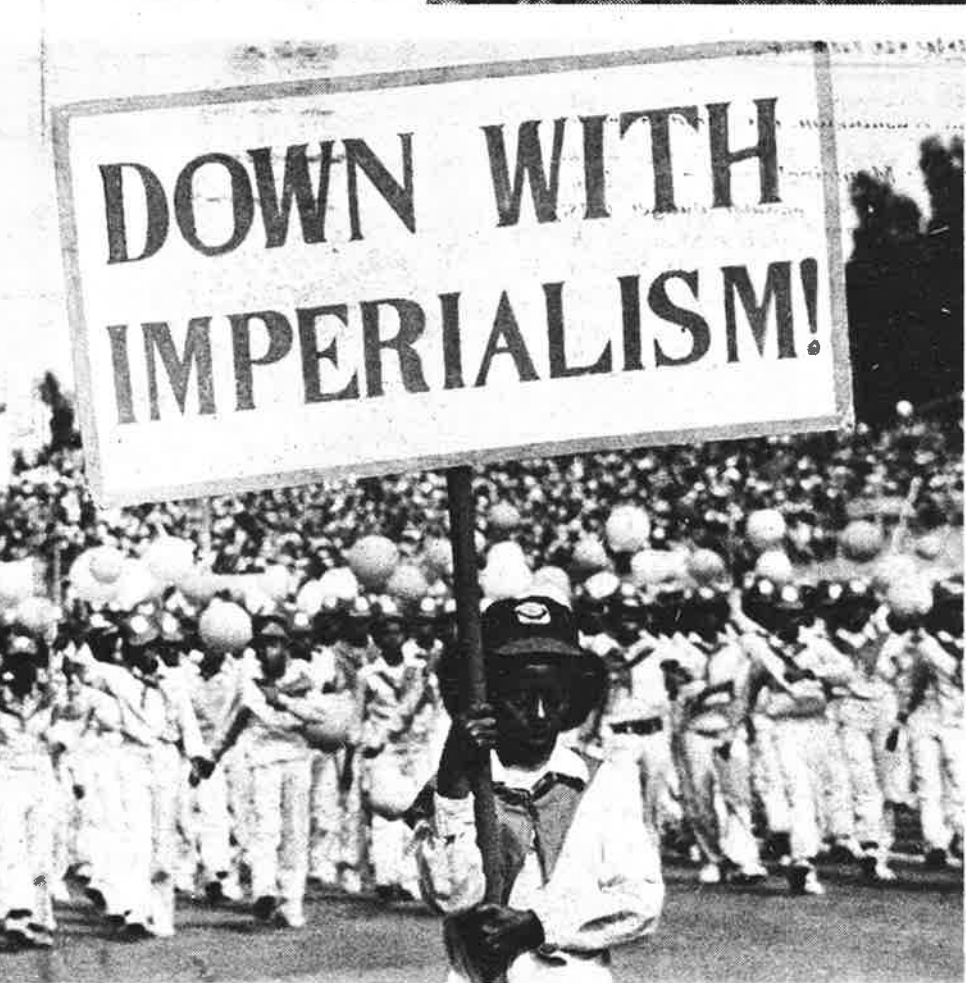
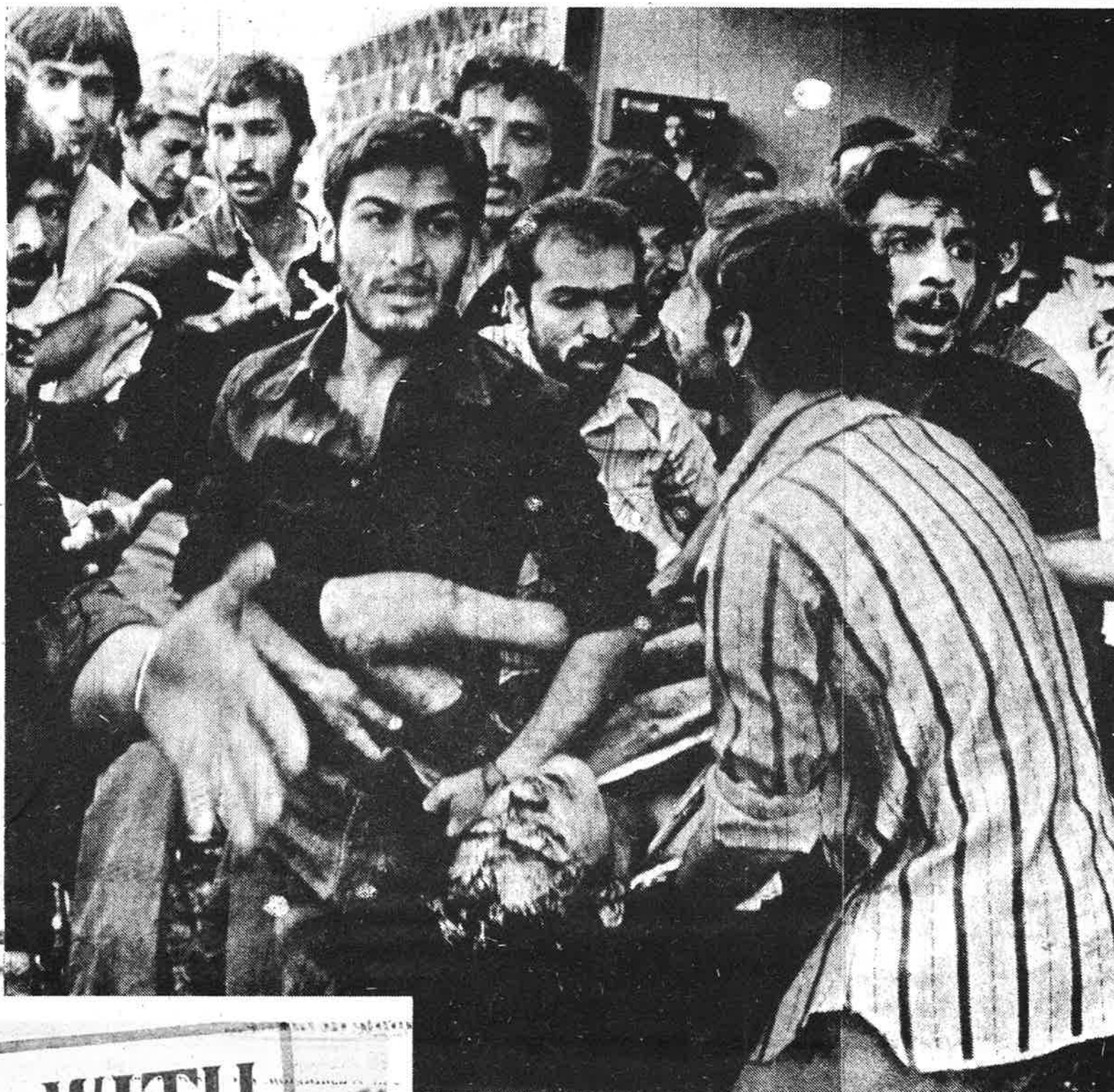


WW photo: Philip Renard

Photo:



WW photo: Fabian



...and abroad

Reading clockwise from above: Courageous protests against the hated Shah escalated into a revolutionary struggle for power in Iran; U.S. tanks on a NATO exercise rumbled through a West German village as the imperialists revved up militarism; Sandinist guerrillas prepared for the mass uprising against Somoza in Nicaragua; South African paratroops slaughtered men, women, and children in Angola in their continuing dirty war; Ethiopia celebrated its fourth anniversary of revolution with an imperative from the world's oppressed.



oto: Afrique-Asie



EDITORIAL

All the King's tanks, all the King's men...

The virtually complete shutdown of Iranian oil production last week may prove to be the decisive development in undoing the hated U.S.-puppet regime of the Shah.

Threats and arrests, attempts at scabbing by the Shah's Navy and U.S. oil company executives, all backfired as Iranian oil workers answered each act of repression with an act of resistance.

By putting their collective power into action, the Iranian working class struck a blow not only for their own interests, but for the interests of the world's workers and oppressed as well.

Apologists for the imperialist ruling classes have tried for years to propagate the myth that workers today are not the revolutionary force that Marx and Engels described 130 years ago, that today's workers are well-paid, bought off, better educated, identify with the middle class, and are small in number due to the growth of technology and automation.

The Iranian oil industry is highly automated, and still the workers shut it down. They were offered big wage increases if only they'd end their strike, yet they repeated that the only way to end their strike was to end the rule of the Shah. The U.S. oil companies tried to woo the more skilled workers to break with the refinery and other production workers and return to their jobs, but they remained united.

Although the Iranian working class is fighting as part of a broad national struggle of the entire Iranian people, the vital economic power that the workers have given to what up to now has been a national, bourgeois democratic struggle, must eventually be turned into political power and leadership for the workers if the struggle is to succeed in its ultimate goal of breaking U.S. imperialism's stranglehold.

In the age of imperialism, the national democratic revolution in oppressed countries is directly linked to the socialist revolution. The real ruling class of Iran are the owners of the U.S. oil monopolies, whose fortunes make the much-publicized wealth of the Shah look like chicken feed.

The dynamic and decisive role the Iranian workers have played in the struggle against the U.S. oil monopolies and their hired king proves that the space age has not done away with the class struggle. It is still the workers who produce all of society's wealth and in exchange under capitalism are left with nothing except their "right" to sell their labor. The working class today, in oppressed countries such as Iran as well as imperialist countries such as the U.S., is a mighty force to be reckoned with, and a force which will ultimately turn the profit system from the oppressor of millions into the subject of history lessons.



Fidel Castro in 1958.

—Layoffs in Detroit

(Continued from p. 12)

record "to denounce Carter's proposed budget as anti-people, anti-city, anti-poor, and anti-union." They are also demanding: "Cut the military budget not essential city jobs and services, and make the banks and the big corporations fulfill their responsibilities to the people of this

country by spending part of their profits to improve the cities."

AFSCME leaders in Detroit have said they will demand no layoffs of AFSCME workers when they meet with the City. A program of action to mobilize the rank-and-file and the community behind these demands is urgently needed.



Havana, January 1, 1959:

"Workers—Assure the Victory of the Revolution!"

Twenty years ago, on Jan. 1, 1959, troops of the Rebel Army under the command of Fidel Castro marched into the capital city of Havana from which the dictator Fulgencio Batista had just fled. Their victory over the Batista forces marked the culmination of a guerrilla struggle that had begun just three years earlier with a small band in the Sierra Maestra.

While the Cuban Revolution still faced long years

of struggle, and the decisive break with U.S. imperialism was yet to come, the date Jan. 1, 1959, marked the defeat of the old state apparatus. As the following two documents of the revolution show, the revolutionary forces would make no compromise with the Batista dictatorship, and called on the masses, particularly the workers, to ensure its total overthrow.

December 31, 1958

Instructions of the General Headquarters to All Commanders of the Rebel Army and the People

Whatever the news from the capital may be, our troops should not stop firing at any time.

Our forces should continue their operations against the enemy on all battlefronts.

Parleys should be granted only to those garrisons that want to surrender.

It seems that there has been a coup d'etat in the capital. The conditions under which that coup took place are not known to the Rebel Army.

The people should be on the alert and should follow only the instructions of our general headquarters.

The dictatorship has collapsed as a consequence of the crushing defeats suffered in the last weeks, but that does not mean the

Revolution already has triumphed.

Military operations will continue until an express order is sent from this headquarters, which will be issued only when the military forces that have arisen in the capital place themselves unconditionally under the orders of the Revolutionary Command.

Revolution, yes! Military coup, no!

Military coup behind the backs of the people and the Revolution, no, because it would only serve to prolong the war!

Coup d'etat in agreement with Batista, no, because it would only serve to prolong the war until the people obtain total victory!

After seven years of struggle, the democratic victory of the people has to be absolute, so that never

again will there be in our fatherland another March 10.

No one should be confused or deceived!

To be on the alert is the order!

The people and very especially the workers of the entire Republic should listen attentively to Rebel Radio and rapidly prepare all centers of work for the general strike. And as soon as the order is given they should begin it, if it should be necessary to stop any attempt at a counterrevolutionary coup.

The people and the Rebel Army must be more united and more firm than ever in order not to let the victory that has cost so much blood be snatched from them!

Fidel Castro
Commander in Chief

January 1, 1959

General Strike Proclamation

To the Cuban people and especially to the workers:

A military junta in complicity with the tyrant has taken power in order to assure the escape of Batista and the principal murderers and to try to block the revolutionary movement from taking power.

The Rebel Army will continue its resolute campaign, accepting only the unconditional surrender of the military garrisons.

The Cuban people and the workers should immediately prepare to initiate a general strike throughout the country on January 2 to support the revolutionary forces and guarantee the total

victory of the Revolution.

Seven years of heroic struggle, thousands of martyrs whose blood has been spilled in every corner of Cuba, cannot serve those who were accomplices of the past regime by allowing them to continue holding power in Cuba.

The Cuban workers led by the workers' section of the 26th of July Movement today should take over all the labor unions controlled by the former government, and the workers should organize in all factories and working centers in order to start the total paralyzation of the country tomorrow morning.

Batista and Mujal have fled. But

their accomplices have stayed; they control the army and the labor unions. A coup d'etat to betray the people cannot be permitted. To do so will only prolong the war. Camp Columbia must surrender in order to end the war. This time nothing and no one can impede the triumph of the Revolution.

Workers: This is the moment for you to assure the victory of the Revolution.

Cubans: For freedom, democracy, and the triumph of the Revolution, support the general revolutionary strike in all the territories that have not been liberated.

Fidel Castro

1978 Year of the rank and file

By KENNY PETERSON

Two strong and opposing currents swept over the labor movement in 1978. One, emanating from the summits of the capitalist class, was aimed at weakening organized labor wherever possible. The other, emerging from the depths of the rank and file, aimed at overcoming the barriers that have long stood between the workers and their aspirations for a better life.

The clash of these two currents resulted in many bitter struggles, revealing an insurgent rank and file determined to overcome the traditional authorities of management, the courts, and the conservative labor officialdom.

A MONUMENTAL STRIKE

The year began with continuing layoffs by the steel plants around the Youngstown area. At the same time, new year's day 1978 marked the beginning of the fifth week in the coal strike, a monumental strike which was to last 110 days and which eventually began to threaten the entire structure of "labor-management relations" built up in the post-Second World War period.

The defiance by the coal miners of the coal bosses, of Carter, the federal courts, and their own top leaders electrified the entire labor movement. By early March, a spontaneous movement towards concrete solidarity with the miners, which drew the labor bureaucrats in its tow, began to transform an atomized and lethargic union movement into a united and active force. Caravans of rank-and-file workers bringing support to the miners, as well as other forms of assistance, upset the traditional passivity and disunity which has long afflicted not only the trade unions, but the working class as a whole.

Even the musty chambers inhabited by George Meany and other top officials of the labor movement were bestirred by the activity below. The miners' struggle breathed new life into the traditional pattern of union activity, broadening it into a political movement of the working class against the capitalist state. Although the strike was settled while this was yet at an embryonic stage, it was a clear and unmistakable harbinger of a long overdue resurgence of labor.

TREND CONTINUES

Rank-and-file insurgency was a trend which continued throughout the year. In the summer postal workers challenged their top leaders, compelling them to renegotiate their contract with the Postal Service. Despite court injunctions and threats by Postmaster General Bolger, there were wildcats on the east and west coasts, and an opposition movement was forged which brought the rank-and-file revolt right into

the national conventions held by the two major postal unions.

In New York City, an insurgent movement of rank-and-file transit workers succeeded in temporarily blocking the union hierarchy from imposing a lousy contract. And at the crucial start of the Guild strike against the New York Daily News, the rank and file of the drivers' union literally fought on the barricades against the decision of their union president directing them to cross the strikers' lines. This rank-and-file rebellion not only saved this strike from being broken, but averted a Washington Post-type defeat later when the pressmen were forced to strike all three major dailies.

Rank-and-file insurgency was not limited to an internal union struggle with a conservative and corrupt bureaucracy. Workers also defied the strike-breaking attempts of the government and the courts. Municipal workers, teachers especially, were forced on strike all over the country and were jailed in record numbers. In Bridgeport mass arrests failed to break a teachers' strike, and the National Guard in Memphis could not overawe striking firefighters. A timely threat of a city-wide general strike by the rest of labor compelled authorities in both Bridgeport and Memphis to beat a hasty retreat.

The successful defiance by the mine workers of the Taft-Hartley injunction proved to be a durable example for labor to follow. The miners' insistence that the right to strike was inviolable was eagerly endorsed by labor everywhere. In September, railroad workers gave the country a brief but overwhelming demonstration of their awesome power in a solidarity strike on behalf of a small, embattled local union on the N&W



Striking miners' picketline in Virginia last winter during the 110-day walkout.

Line.

In these and the many other struggles in 1978 labor gained valuable experience and learned much. The main lesson, that solidarity and determination pay off, was hammered home during many strikes. At the same time, the role of the government as strikebreaker of last resort was laid bare.

OSHA CRIPPLED

In April, 51 construction workers were killed when their scaffold collapsed. It was a tragedy which stunned the entire country. The next month, however, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that safety inspectors from OSHA could be denied entrance to unsafe worksites by management. This ruling compels OSHA to obtain search warrants in court, crippling

the agency's already inadequate enforcement powers.

In June the U.S. Senate killed labor law reform, effectively denying millions of workers legal protection of their right to organize. In the same month California enacted Proposition 13, signalling a new offensive against municipal workers and all social services. Recent developments in Cleveland, Newark, New York City, and elsewhere confirm that this trend is accelerating.

Throughout the entire year and continuing into 1979, working and oppressed people endured rising prices, growing environmental pollution, speedup and harassment on the job, mass layoffs and persistent unemployment, unending oppression of Black, Latin, Asian, and Native workers, denial

of women's rights, growing persecution of gay people, and an utter disregard for disabled and handicapped people.

In October Carter invoked his so-called wage and price guidelines. That workers' living standards and not inflation is the main target of Carter's program quickly became obvious.

It became clear in 1978 that the corporations and the government were going over to a confrontation strategy in regard to labor. This has opened many eyes, and together with the year's many bitter struggles it has produced a rank-and-file ferment. Everything long taken for granted is being re-evaluated. At the rank-and-file level, there is more consciousness of the need to prepare, to organize, and to reach out for support.

A BALANCE SHEET

A balance sheet of the year's gains and losses would be very instructive. It would show, for example, that where the labor movement lost ground, the struggle was conducted by the union bureaucracy in reliance upon politicians and lawyers with the rank and file excluded from the fight. The defeats on labor law reform and occupational health and safety fall into this category. Also, the continuing mass layoffs and service cutbacks, as well as Carter's first steps towards full wage controls, have evoked no strategy from the labor officialdom for a coordinated and systematic counter-attack involving the millions of rank-and-file workers.

On the other hand, where the labor movement registered significant gains, it was clearly because of a **determined, angry, and united rank and file** throwing its weight into the scales. An increasingly **insurgent** rank and file prevented the strikebreakers and union-busters from having a field day in 1978.

The struggles of 1978, and the lessons which working people are still drawing from them, point the way for a more effective, more widespread response by labor in the coming year. In the context of economic collapse, many of the gains won by labor can only be of a temporary character. But what is really enduring in labor's balance sheet, what is the **real fruit of labor's struggles**, lies in the growth of unity and cohesiveness among the workers. This is the one absolutely indispensable ingredient for full and complete emancipation of all workers and all oppressed people.



Postal workers rally in New York City last July.

WW photo: Bill Hackwell

—Korea

(Continued from p. 4)

colonial occupiers of Korea and then was ready to become servants of U.S. capital.

The Korean revolutionaries overturned the landlords, the industrialists, the rich merchants, and the privileged colonial officials. And a new government was erected which was based on the Korean workers and peasants.

But in the south, through a series of maneuvers and military moves by the U.S. imperialists and their allies, the **Japanese imper-**

ialists (who had just been their **rivals** in the war), the same old ruling class was preserved. Yet so revolutionary were the Korean masses, that these collaborators with imperialism were in great danger of being overthrown and Korea reunited on a socialist basis.

It has been to prevent this revolutionary reunification of Korea that successive U.S. imperialist administrations in Washington have been willing to pour down the drain the dollars—and lives—of the people in the U.S. And all this has gone to keep

the most cruel regimes in power in south Korea, real police states where any demonstration of opposition is met with the billy club, the machine gun, the police informer, and the torturer. It is also a regime that enables foreign corporations and banks—mostly U.S. and Japanese—to make tremendous profits off the cheap labor and abundant natural resources of the country.

THE SPECTER OF ANOTHER IRAN

Carter knows just as well as his predecessors that hatred of oppression and exploitation is so great in the south that a revolutionary movement would spring up

as soon as the pressure was eased. That is why they are refusing to carry out any real withdrawal of U.S. troops, and instead are continuing to bolster the dictator Pak Jung Hee's army.

All of this is done while the State Department makes its usual talk about encouraging "democratic elements" in the south. They do have the example of what has happened to the Shah of Iran to worry about!

And just as in Iran, it's the masses in south Korea who by their militancy, courage, and unity are capable of—and will—render impotent the best-supplied puppet army and topple the puppets of imperialism.

Buses going to Tyler

Jan. 15 Texas rally to support prisoners' suit

By NICK DE FREITAS
DECEMBER 31—The Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) in Texas is organizing a demonstration for Monday, Jan. 15, in Tyler at the Federal Courthouse to show support for a prisoners' suit against inhuman conditions in the Texas prison system. A picketline

will begin at 9 a.m.

The PSC, which recently issued a call for all progressive people to join this important demonstration, is demanding: a victory in the Ruiz v. Estelle anti-prison suit, no retaliations by prison officials against prisoners who testify in the suit, and that the recent frame-up

charges against David Ruiz, a leader in the prisoners' legal battle against the prison system, be dropped.

Buses going to Tyler are being organized in Houston, Austin, and Dallas.

The Ruiz v. Estelle case is a class action suit in which Texas' 25,000 prisoners have charged the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) for the systematic brutalization of its prison population.

The biggest class action suit ever filed in the state's history, Ruiz v. Estelle has received such widespread support that since the testimony began Oct. 2, it has led to work stoppages in prison, demonstrations in the streets of Texas, and a thorough exposure in the courts of the true nature of the TDC.

PRISONERS FACE REPRISALS

Since the suit was launched, an overwhelming force of repression has been unleashed against all the prisoners directly involved in the suits. Those prisoners who testified as to the conditions of prison "life" were punished with harsh reprisals.

When the prison population of several jails went on a work stoppage the first day of the suit, the solidarity of the prisoners' peaceful action was crushed by club-wielding guards.

A hated target of the prison officials, Ruiz now faces an additional 20 years in prison on false charges brought against him by the Harris County sheriffs earlier this month as an attempt to intimidate him.

The PSC has charged that state officials are trying to discredit Ruiz, hoping to undermine his testimony which incriminates the TDC.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN TEXAS?

If there are any real human rights crusaders in the White House, as it is sometimes claimed,

if there are indeed those in Washington who think it inhuman to incarcerate human beings in over-crowded hell-holes and filthy cages where rats and roaches run rampant, where the people are given food not fit for animals, and where prisoners are subjected to the most brutal and dehumanizing systematic physical and mental torture at the hands of sadistic gun-toting prison guards, these human rights "champions" need not look any further. For these conditions are not just limited to the blood-stained dungeons of

Pinochet in Chile or the torture chambers of the Shah in Iran but they can be found right here in Jimmy "human rights" Carter's own backyard!

For information on the buses to Tyler: in Dallas call People United for Justice for Prisoners (214) 352-8847; in Austin call Prisoners Solidarity Committee (512) 443-2059; in Houston call Prisoners Solidarity Committee (713) 759-9714. To help the Ruiz case write Houston PSC, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Tx. 77052.

Court bars Oakland affirmative action program

DECEMBER 28—The California Court of Appeals ruled yesterday that an affirmative action hiring program for the Oakland Fire Department is illegal because of so-called "reverse discrimination."

The court used the U.S. Supreme Court's Bakke decision as the basis for giving the stamp of approval to continued racism in hiring and promotions at the fire department. Although the court admitted there had been discrimination in the fire department, it ruled that the Bakke decision has outlawed programs guaranteeing that jobs will be given to those who have been denied them in the past because of race.

This expanded use of the Supreme Court's Bakke decision, which some have argued would only apply to education, is a part of the drive to eliminate the civil rights gains of the past decade. A similar case involving a lab technician named Brian Weber is currently before the Supreme Court. The Weber case threatens all programs that are aimed at ending generations of racism in hiring and promotion in the U.S.

—Saudi Arabia

(Continued from p. 4)

population of 8 million, there are thousands of political prisoners, including oil workers arrested for their role 25 years ago in the heroic 1953-54 strike against ARAMCO, the Arab American Oil Company, jointly owned by Texaco, Exxon, Standard Oil of California, and Mobil. (This company, by the way, has de facto control of most of Saudi oil.)

Out of fear of proletarianizing and radicalizing the population, the rulers in Riyadh, who themselves live in the most sumptuous palaces, have deliberately pursued a policy of not bringing rural Saudis into the 20th century. Much of the native population is spread out in agriculture and herding. Illiteracy is 85% and life expectancy of the average person is only 30-40 years. Where is the much-touted Saudi modernization? Riyadh could at least bring modern sanitation into the villages, but doesn't want to. The masses of people have not benefited at all from the petrodollar. In fact, Kraft points out in his column that the monarchy has its cliques riddled with acute antagonisms over this very question of how much (if at all) to involve the Saudi rural population in the industrial development of the country.

Motivated by the fear of developing an indigenous working class, the Saudi monarchy relies on a large workforce from abroad. At least a full half of the labor force is not Saudi. Egyptians and Palestinians hold down most of the professional and clerical jobs—and certainly the large number of progressive Palestinians alone in the work force must send chills up and down the spines of those who reside in the royal palaces. Northern Yemenites, Indians, Pakistanis, and contract laborers from Taiwan and south Korea do the heavy work. The diverse contract labor force in Saudi Arabia reflects the monarchy's fear of engaging the rural population into industry because once they're industrialized they are no longer dependable.

Clearly there is much reason for the Saudi masses and the immigrant workforce to rebel, and their Iranian sisters and brothers are

setting a fine example of how to do it. And this, and nothing else, may be responsible for behind-the-scenes maneuvers by the Saudi monarchy this week to woo Sadat further away from the capitulationist peace treaty—at least for the moment. According to Monday's New York Times, "The growing instability in Iran appears to be putting pressure on Saudi Arabia to help end Egypt's isolation from the Arab countries that are opposed to its peace talks with Israel." However, whatever direction these two reactionary regimes may take in the near future one thing is certain: the pressure of the masses—both Arab and Iranian—carries a weight not felt in this part of the world in many a year.

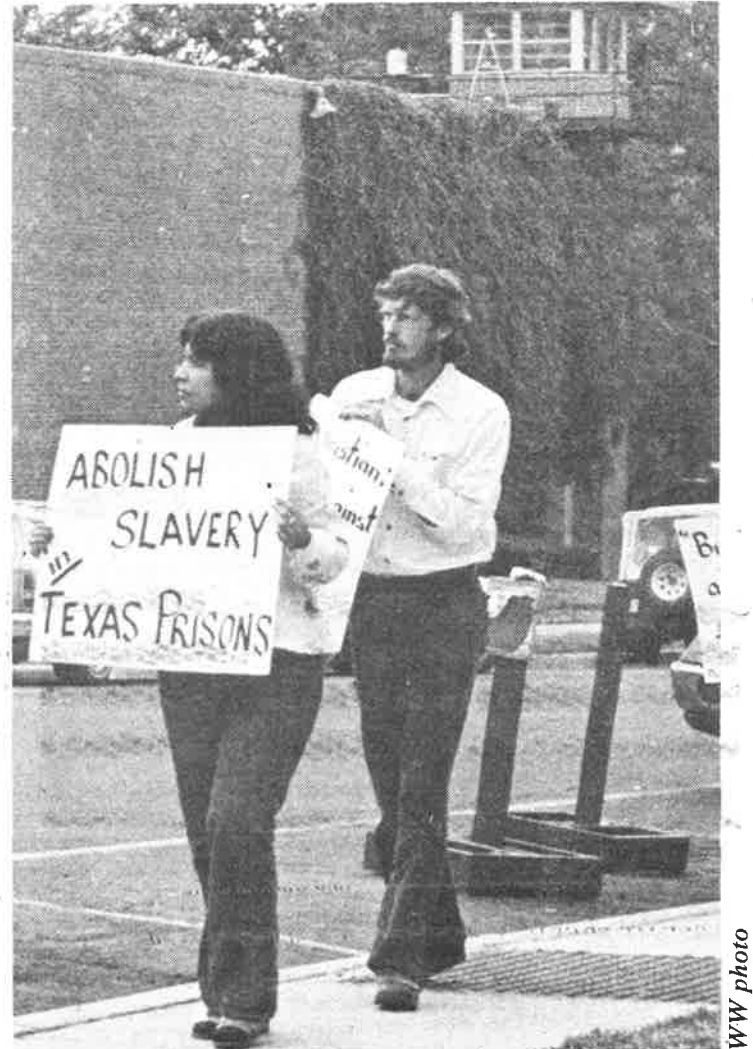
—Turkey

(Continued from p. 4)

divisions" and cited both the Iranian secret police, SAVAK, as well as the U.S. CIA. With the U.S. ruling class stepping up its cold war drive against the Soviet Union, one can be sure that every effort is being made to bind Turkey closer than ever to the reactionary NATO alliance. All around the world, in fact, the imperialists are scheming day and night to reduce every government they can into the status of total puppets.

Unfortunately Prime Minister Ecevit's decision to declare a state of martial law in the wake of the rioting can only strengthen the hand of the fascists, since the Turkish military high command is notoriously ultra-rightist and pro-U.S. imperialists. Over the last two decades more than 15,000 Turkish military officers have been trained in the United States and at U.S. bases abroad.

The real bulwark against the fascists in Turkey is the Turkish working class and its allies among the city and rural poor. And despite decades of repression directed against them, the working people of Turkey show no signs of flagging in the struggle. This is more true now than ever as the rebellious masses in Iran set such a heroic example to all the oppressed in the Middle East, an example that must be particularly inspiring to the poor and the workers in neighboring Turkey.



WW photo

Demonstrating support for the struggle in the Texas prisons.

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A New Year of struggle!

Victory to the TDC prisoners!



Working ceaselessly like the galley slaves on the centuries-old prison ships, Black prisoner-slaves have incorporated the history of resistance to the prison system in their songs. With no substantial property to pass on from father to son, for more than a century, the prisoners have passed their message of freedom from ear to ear in songs and stories that reflect their continuing struggle in the TDC today. The songs, sung since the first slave ship brought its human cargo in chains from Africa, and the resistance of the prisoners remains the sole property of the oppressed.



Well I'm gonna write
my MAMA;
And tell her [if] she wanna
SEE ME FREE [free, alive!]
Mama, just send me
a box a **CARTRIDGE**,
Mama, 'n' a **FORTY-FIVE**
Captain, don't you
never feel **SORRY**,
sorry, Captain, for a
LONGTIME MAN.
He say, "Little boy, I don't
never feel **SORRY**,
OH SORRY, Little boy, till
I DRIVE YOU DOWN."
If I had my German Luger,

oh my Luger, just
one round a ball,
Man, I'd leave here walkin'
I wouldn't run at all...
Well, I heard the reports
of a pistol, whoa man,
down the right-a-way
Hm hm, must a been my
partner, hm hm hm,
tryin' a make a getaway.
Well I never got worried
never got worried, 'till I
cross the line.
Got to thinkin'
about dog sergeant and
the twelve bloodhound...

JANUARY 1—The Texas prisoners are fighting with every ounce of their strength to bring the racist, intolerable Texas Department of Corrections (TDC) to its knees.

This year, on Oct. 2, the largest federal civil rights suit ever filed against a state prison system, Ruiz v. Estelle, entered the machinery of the courtroom to challenge the TDC on a full range of incredibly brutal and inhuman practices. It is a case of the oppressed versus the state.

Also this fall some 4,000 Texas prisoners rose up in strike and in that way eloquently testified in support of the case despite cruel reprisals.

The result of the courageous testimony of the prisoners has been to reveal staggering neglect and physical brutality against the prisoners by the prison administration.

The TDC, the largest state prison system in the U.S., holds 24,500 prisoners, and according to a recent national study, the prison population is at 240 percent of capacity.

Savage repression against prisoners began almost as soon as the prison began operation in 1849. In 1868, the Texas Legislature actually leased out the prisoners for more than a decade to a private operator, Ward, Dewey, and Company, for \$35,000. Conditions under the lease system forced many prisoners to sever their Achilles' tendon and there were 382 escapes in 1876.

In the 1870's, two famous Native, Indian chiefs—Santanta and Big Tree—were imprisoned. In 1887 a nine-year-old Black child was sentenced to the prison for supposed 'robbery'.

Over 100 years of unpaid labor have been wrested by the force of the state from the Black, Chicano and white prisoners of the TDC system. They have been forced to clear woods, pick enormous quotas of cotton, and carry out other back-breaking labor under the searing sun over Texas.

The southern plantation has remained as a financial institution in prisons in the south. For many years the men were forced to march miles to the fields to work under gunpoint, then forced to march miles back for a meal and back to the fields again,

from dusk to dark.

Some were freed by death, but the prisoners have never been resigned to the slavery. The history of thousands and thousands of prisoners risking their lives to make a get-a-way attests to that.

The eyes of prisoners in concentration camps across the U.S.

are locked on the TDC struggle. Their victory would advance the struggle of all those who strain and toil both inside the walls and out. The fight to bring down the prison walls is part of the fight to bring down the whole system of exploitation and oppression.

Victory to the TDC prisoners—your battle is ours!

Stop the Death Penalty!

Determination to stop the death penalty has deepened this year in response to a coordinated attempt by the right-wing to reinstate it, menacing the lives of 342 sisters and brothers on death rows across the U.S. One-half of those prisoners are Black and all are poor. Activists in the movement to stop the reinstatement of the death penalty have pointed out that this right-wing campaign is being stepped up by the ruling class who wants to use the death penalty as a club over poor and working people who cannot tolerate the current economic crisis much longer. No cop, judge or prison guard should be entrusted to take the life of any oppressed person. End the death penalty!

Imani (Johnny Harris)

National and international support for Imani, who faces possible execution in Alabama for his organizing efforts in prison, won two temporary stays of execution. The demonstrations, petitions, and massive letter and telegram campaign on his behalf must continue until Imani is free. For more information write: The Committee to Defend Imani (Johnny Harris) and Stop the Death Penalty, PO Box 46, - Atlanta, Ga. 30301.



Graham & Allen

Ernest Graham and Eugene Allen on death row in California, were framed for the Nov. 27, 1973, death of a prison guard at the Deuel Vocational Institution [prison] in Tracy, Calif.

Like Brother Imani both Graham and Allen were targeted by guards for the prosecution because they are known as tireless organizers in the prisons.

To support Graham and Allen or for more information contact: Graham and Allen Defense Committee, 3931 Opal Street, Oakland, Calif. 94609.



Well I asked the captain,
asked the captain, "Did
the payroll come?"
What the hell you care,
partner, I don't owe you none."
Sure like to see the governor
Governor Connally, I don't
have my fare,
Hmmm, sure like to see you
Governor, we don't have
no payday here.
Captain settin' over yonder
under the shade...
He don't do nothin'...

but a he gets paid...
You know I work
seven days in a row...
Two sacks a Durham and
a one picture show...
Everytime buddy
everytime, partner,
man, I go to pee,
Mmmm, chills and fever
come down on me.
I went to see my doctor,
boy, he said, "I can't tell,
You may get better but
you can't get well..."

Made a pair of shoes.
Had a heel in the front
Like the heels behind...
Well you never could tell
Whichaway John's goin':
Well I'm long gone,
yes long gone...
Like a turkey through
the corn with my
long clothes on.
Give me two, three minutes
Let me catch my wind...
Give me four, five minutes,
Be long gone again...



"The boss packs a big horse pistol, and he think he bad, I take it in the mornin', if he makes me mad."
—TDC worksong

Social services will be cut

Hundreds of Detroit city workers face layoff

By DIANE ELLIS

DETROIT, Dec. 28—Today, the city of Detroit announced the layoffs of 348 full-time employees from the Fire, Sanitation, Health, Recreation, and smaller departments.

Over the past several years, Detroit residents and workers have become accustomed to similar announcements, but there is one ominous difference between these layoffs and previous rounds of cutbacks: they are expected to be long-term, probably permanent. And they are only the beginning.

"Hundreds more" layoffs are expected over the coming months, according to Mayor Coleman Young, as a combined offensive from the federal government, the banks, and the police is stepped up against the residents and workers of this largely Black, working-class city.

This round of layoffs will not affect the Police Department at all, although Young has blamed the cutbacks on huge wage settlements recently awarded to the police in arbitration decisions.

SOCIAL SERVICES TO BE AFFECTED

The layoffs will mean the closing of two fire stations and 100 of the city's 175 school recreation programs (the Detroit school system has already lost most of its regular sports as a result of previous Board of Education cutbacks.) Layoffs of public health nurses and clerical staff in the

Health Department will mean a reduction in nursing services to the elderly.

Previously, the city government in Detroit was able to hire back most of its laid-off workers after a short period through the use of

federal and state funds. About one-quarter of the City payroll has been dependent on CETA funds, for instance. But no more.

The current layoffs result in part from previous cutbacks in federal and state funds going to Detroit,

but also from cuts due to Carter's new budget. After Mayor Young and the mayors of several other large cities met with Carter earlier this month about his budget, Young had warned that it would mean "disaster" for the large cities and massive layoffs for Detroit. Carter's budget proposals include huge cuts in employment programs including CETA, in economic and housing development aid, and transportation subsidies, among others.

These cutbacks are coupled with a proposed increase in the military budget of \$10 billion, up to a staggering \$122 billion.

While Detroit unions, with AFSCME at the forefront, had been victorious this past November in staving off the passage of a Proposition 13-type "tax limitation" amendment, the "tax-freeze" Headlee Amendment squeaked by. It is being used as a convenient excuse by the banks to charge huge rates of interest on city bond sales (loans the city uses to finance improvement projects).

In a recent sale of two Detroit bond packages, a syndicate of banks headed by Citibank of New York City was the sole bidder on one group. The syndicate is charging 8.33% (or \$3.57 million) in interest.

Three million dollars is exactly how much Detroit is "saving" through this round of layoffs!

Like many other large cities, Detroit has been hit with arbitrators' decisions to award huge

wage settlements to the police, although its police are already the highest paid in the country. A recent wage package of \$20 million will raise the pay of Detroit police from 12-14% a year, according to the Mayor! Yet when Emergency Medical Service technicians went to the arbitrator to ask for parity with the firemen in their department, they were turned down.

These settlements were coupled with recent stories in the Detroit press whipping up a hysteria about "street crime" in the event of police layoffs, and calling for an end to residency requirements for the police, to insure that non-resident white cops would not get laid off. As a result, no police have yet been laid off.

Clearly, the government feels it will need a large, well-paid, racist police force to beat down and repress the residents of Detroit as they are hit with heavier and heavier attacks from the government, the banks, and the auto companies, which are also laying off.

"MAKE THE BANKS PAY"

Just as they did in the recent victorious campaign against the Tisch tax limitation amendment in Detroit, the city's unions and community organizations can and must begin to fight these attacks. AFSCME Local 457 representing workers at Detroit General Hospital and the Health Department has already gone on

(Continued on p. 8)

Michigan 'Ratepayers Revolt'



DETROIT, Dec. 21—In the wake of federal deregulation of natural gas prices and the granting of three multi-million-dollar rate hikes to the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company over the last two months, 75 angry senior citizens, ADC mothers, autoworkers, and other community members demonstrated at the headquarters of the Gas Company in downtown Detroit here today.

This "Ratepayers Revolt" demonstration was called by the Michigan Coalition on Utilities and Energy and demanded "Ban Utility Shut-offs" and "Stop Rate Increases." In two short months, the Michigan Consolidated Gas Company won a \$19.7 million increase, then went to court and got \$22.9 million more, then passed on an automatic 10% increase to consumers, and now has filed for another \$102 million!

Cleveland: The struggle over Muny Light

By AL NORMAN

CLEVELAND, Dec. 24—Hours before Cleveland was to default on the money it owed to the banks, Cleveland Trust offered to bail out the city if Cleveland would sell its Municipal Light plant, known here as Muny Light.

Cleveland Trust, the 30th largest bank in the country, even hinted that it would help raise some \$50 million in bonds if Muny Light were sold and other "budget trimmings" (layoffs) were made.

The customer waiting in the wings to buy Muny Light was the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI).

But under pressure from the banks, Cleveland's mayor, Dennis Kucinich, who won his election by campaigning to keep Muny Light, compromised, calling for a referendum to decide Muny's fate. He also proposed the referendum take up a 50% increase in the city income tax to raise the funds demanded by the banking establishment.

The struggle over Muny Light is certainly not the crux of the present crisis in Cleveland. But it does expose the class nature of that crisis.

CEI SABOTAGE

The Muny Light system was built 64 years ago by the populist Mayor Tom L. Johnson, to provide

electricity to the city residents at reduced rates. This was in direct competition to CEI, whose customers were charged a rate 20% higher.

CEI, like most utilities, wanted a monopoly, which would insure higher profits, and, consequently, did all it could to sabotage the Muny Light plant.

Muny Light, growing old, became a victim of the worsening financial condition of Cleveland. Needed repairs and renovation could not be made, often times thwarted by CEI's opposition to the selling of city bonds.

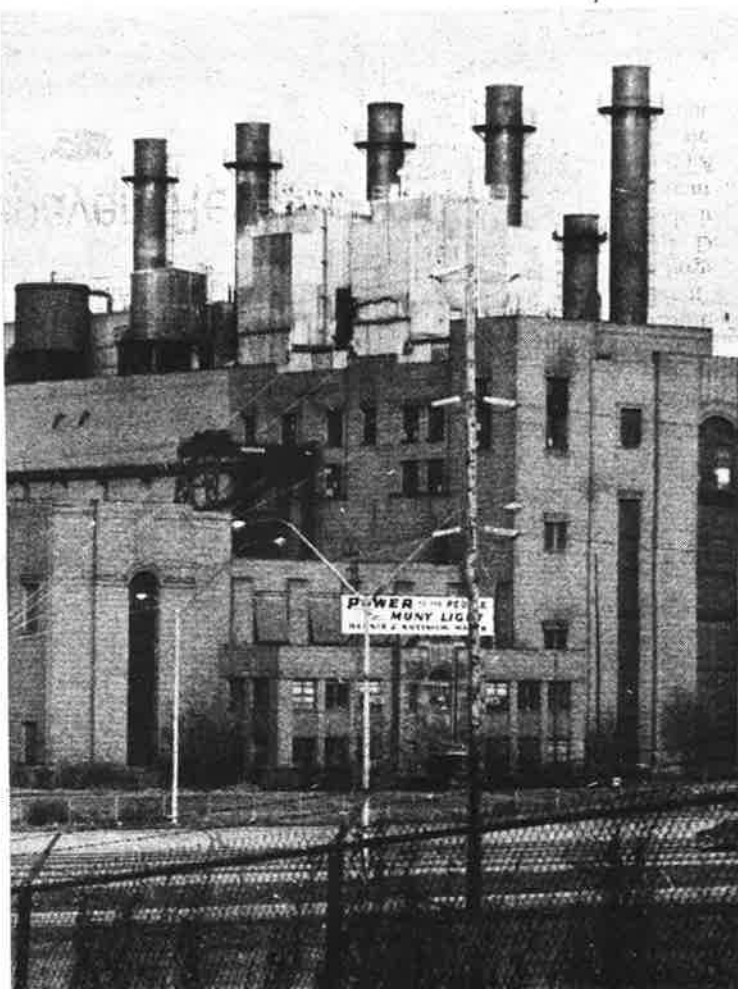
Unable to properly produce its own power, Muny Light bought electricity from CEI, but sold to Muny Light customers at a reduced rate. During this time, CEI caused scattered power failures for Muny Light customers, and prevented Muny Light from obtaining electricity from elsewhere.

A \$325 million lawsuit is in the courts against CEI, supported by the U.S. Justice Department's anti-trust division.

Why do the banks want the city to sell this plant? What interests do they have in CEI?

COZY RELATIONSHIP

A look at the board of directors of CEI reveals that of its 11 members are seven men who also warm the seats in the board rooms



Cleveland's Municipal Light plant: can the banks force the city to sell it?
WW photo: Al Norman

of Cleveland Trust, Central National Bank, and National City Bank. Joining them are fatcats from Sohio, Reliance Electric, Harris Corporation, and the large department store Higbee's.

The board of Cleveland Trust is not much different. Sohio, Reliance and Higbee turns up again, along with their electric cronies from Republic Steel, Warner & Swasey, Eaton, Sherwin-Williams Paint, Timken, and others. These industrialists and bankers share the board rooms of many more corporations and financial institutions.

The struggle between the bankers and the people of this city will soon move into the electoral arena. Late in February, voters will be asked to decide if the city should sell Muny Light. A vote of "No, don't sell it" will in reality be a vote against the bankers.

Of course the electoral arena is not the only avenue upon which people may open a struggle against the rich interests that dominate Cleveland. In fact, although elections do give the people some say, big money tends to carry the day in ballot-type struggles, and while this is no reason for progressive people to boycott such struggles, in truth the really decisive battles are ultimately fought out in the neighborhoods, the streets, in the factories, and workplaces.