

Statement by Workers World Party chairman

NEW YORK, Feb. 14—Sam Marcy, chairman of Workers World Party, today denounced the disarming of the workers, students, and peasants of Iran as a great peril to the revolution.

"A revolution armed is a revolution defended," said Marcy. "The revolution is not over. It has passed a critical phase with the overthrow of the Shah and the Bakhtiar puppet government of U.S. imperialism. But the imperialists are regrouping."

Marcy referred to the visit by U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown to Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Middle East as an "attempt to stabilize a new axis with a view to possible intervention in Iran in the future."

"The new sugar-coated phrases of the Carter administration," said the leader of Workers World Party, "are an attempt to recoup from the stunning loss delivered by the workers, peasants, and students of Iran."

"The revolution, having accomplished one of its primary tasks, has to go beyond the bourgeois democratic phase into the socialist phase in order to guarantee the definitive defeat of imperialism. The masses who have shed their blood in the overthrow of the hated Shah-Bakhtiar regime can only be fully emancipated from ruling class oppression and imperialist exploitation by continuing the revolution until Iran is fully transformed into a socialist society."

Editorial:

A stunning blow to U.S. imperialism

The intervention of the Iranian workers, students, and peasants on a truly monumental scale: that is what broke the back of the Shah's puppet regime, that is what moved history forward at a breakneck pace in Iran over the past year against what had seemed to be deeply rooted and immovable obstacles.

The tremendous intervention of the masses was able to sweep away the carefully constructed apparatus of torture and repression set up by U.S. imperialism at the cost of billions of dollars. All the delicate negotiations, bribes, back-room deals, and promises of ultimate military support by imperialism to its puppets were impotent in the face of the deterioration of the command structure of the old regime and the determination of those who gave their lives to tear it down.

A modern army of 400,000 troops trained to be imperialism's police force in the entire Gulf area crumbled before the hurricane of the revolution.

The shock-waves of this stunning blow to imperialism will reverberate far into the future. At this very moment, Washington has sent its emissaries to the capitals of the Middle East to assess the damage. It is the closest collaborators of imperialism—especially the governments of Saudi Arabia, Israel, South Africa—who are the most shaken.

All governments are reassessing their relations to imperialism. Turkey, which the U.S. expected to use as a launching pad for a last-ditch Marine force in the Iranian crisis, wouldn't let the Marines in. This rings alarm bells in the Pentagon, which already saw Turkey as a shaky leg of NATO because of its developing workers' movement.

Morocco is wondering what to do with the Shah and his entourage who are camped out there. Sadat of Egypt agonizes out loud to U.S. journalists over how it could ever happen to someone as "sharp" as the Shah, and privately to himself if it also couldn't happen to him!

In scores of countries where the regime serves imperialist interests, every secret police agent, every sadistic torturer, every cool and businesslike cog in the machinery of repression who thought his privileged future secure now begins to nervously feel the back of his neck.

The reaction is the opposite in the camp of the oppressed. The power of the people—this is the message of the Iranian Revolution. The workers, peasants, and their allies are strong enough to overthrow the worst tyrant, backed up by the biggest world power.

In the camp of the Palestinians, of the Polisario guerrillas, of the freedom fighters of Oman, of SWAPO in Namibia, the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe, the ANC in South Africa, there is joy. A strategic prop of their oppressors has been overthrown.

(Continued on p. 8)

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Vol. 21, No. 7

February 16, 1979

25 cents

Armed masses the key to Iranian victory



The victors. These Iranian revolutionaries destroyed the fascist "Immortals" division.

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

FEBRUARY 13—A mass rising of the Iranian people has overthrown the Shah-appointed Bakhtiar regime, defeated the brutal Imperial Guard, and won over the bulk of the armed services to support the provisional revolutionary government led by the forces of Ayatollah Khomeini.

In the key battle, a combined force of air cadets and armed civilians smashed an attack by the so-called Immortal Division of elite troops. Last week the "Immortals" fascist commander, Gen. Abdul-ali Badrei, dreamed of leading his forces against what he considered "the mob." Today, Badrei is dead, executed by revolutionary justice, and his "Immortals" wilted and died in the intense heat generated by Tehran's revolutionary masses.

The defeat of this well-trained

force, supposedly most loyal to the Shah, signalled the collapse of the entire army. The fascist general staff knew that any order to fight would only end in mass desertions.

Today, with the government in their hands and captured generals in their headquarters, Khomeini's forces asked the people to turn in their weapons. Although some weapons were turned in, thousands of people, especially the most class-conscious revolutionaries, held on to the machine-guns and rifles they had captured. They knew that as long as some generals and Savak agents were still free, as long as the army was still following orders given by those who wanted to protect capitalist property, there was potential danger for the workers and poor of Iran.

The battle began late Friday evening as seven truckloads of

"Immortals" sped from their Saltanabad barracks north of Tehran to the Farahabad air base in the east, sent to punish Air Force technicians who had demonstrated support of the revolution. The cadets were watching a TV film showing Khomeini's return from exile as the "Immortals" attacked. Escaping from the barracks under fire, the cadets assaulted the base armory, grabbing weapons and ammunition to fight off the attackers. A furious battle continued until three in the morning.

As news of the battle spread through the area, people ran to their terraces to shout out warnings and slogans. Others dashed to the streets to set up barricades. News was sent to Tehran.

At the university the People's (Continued on p. 3)

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Michigan AFSCME demands contract

Wayne County strike defies court injunction

Editor's note: As we go to press **Workers World has learned that the county has been forced to settle with AFSCME. Details of the settlement have not been made available.**

By DIANE ELLIS
 DETROIT, Feb. 10—Over 4,000 Wayne County workers, members of Michigan's Council 25 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), struck the county Wednesday with a strong show of solidarity and determination. They are currently defying a court injunction against the strike.

"If it takes six months, we'll stay out six months. They're not going to come in here until the strike is settled," one worker at the county morgue in Detroit said. The strike appears to have 100% participation by all union members.

County workers have been without a contract since June, 1978, and are demanding a 5% increase for each year of the

contract, with the county offering only 3% over 18 months after prolonged stalling and threatening lay-offs of one-third of the work force.

About 1,000 county workers rallied at the City-County Building in downtown Detroit on the first morning of the strike, and encircled the block-long building waving green-and-white picket signs proclaiming, "No contract, no work." A huge AFL-CIO van served hot coffee to the picketers. It has been stationed across from the City-County building to serve as strike headquarters.

Many city workers, who are also AFSCME members, honored the picket line the first day of the strike and stayed off their jobs in solidarity.

Court injunctions were issued against workers at Wayne County General Hospital, the county sewage treatment plants, the county jail, and the morgue on the second day of the strike, and a barrage of hysteria-inducing stories have appeared in the press. This pressure, however, has failed to force the employees back to work so far, although union leaders have made a token show of calling back their members.

At a pre-strike rally of over 1,000 cheering county workers at Detroit's Cobo Hall on the Saturday before the strike, the President of AFSCME Council 25, Bob Johnson, told the workers, "We're not going out on strike for the hell of it. The county told us they were going to lay-off a third of our members. We told them we have nothing to lose, so we might as well cut off all services."

He was referring to a press release issued the day before the rally by the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, threatening that 1,180 county employees would have to be laid off by Aug. 4 just to cover the cost of the 3% pay raise the county is offering.

The county is also demanding that required notice of lay-offs be cut from two weeks to 48 hours!

The 4,000 county workers involved include 1,100 attendants, licensed practical nurses, and others at Wayne County General Hospital, members of AFSCME Local 25; 2,000 court employees including court reporters, who are members of Local 1659; sewage treatment plant maintenance workers and engineers from Local 2962; attendants, investigators, and photographers at the county morgue and medical examiner's office; and many clerical workers from the Health Department, county clerk's office, county jail, and dozens of other county departments as well.

The Detroit press is deliberately working to build up public sentiment against the strikers, announcing every day in banner headlines that raw sewage is about to start flowing into the Detroit River and backing up into basements and streets—although they admit in fine print buried in the stories that the actual threat to public health is minimal. Earlier pre-strike stories had discounted the chances of any sewage back-up.

An earlier militant, month-long strike in January involved 150 AFSCME city workers in the Detroit suburb of Dearborn Heights. This strike barely had the sanction of Council 25, but the strikers nevertheless won their demands of 8% yearly wage increases through total and determined involvement of the rank-and-file, including sleeping-bag camp-outs at negotiations. The success of the Dearborn Heights strike has evidently set the stage for the county strike and given AFSCME members and leaders the real hope that they can win!

Calif. rally for jobs and services

OAKLAND, Feb. 6—"We shouldn't have to be here today, but we have to show them that we are standing together in the face of a malicious and concocted budget crisis," said Tim Nesbitt, representing the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 616. He was speaking at a rally of over 300 people at the Alameda County Administration Building here this afternoon.

Those 300 shouldn't have had to be there, but they were—babies and very old people; people in wheelchairs; people with guide dogs; people with jobs and people without jobs; Black, Asian, Hispanic, Native, and white people—all together to protest imminent cutbacks which would affect over 100 vital social services.

The rally was called by the Labor-Community Coalition for Jobs and Services, a group formed to fight the Proposition 13 meat-axe cutbacks. The members of the coalition include: Center for Independent Living (CIL), Inter-tribal Friendship House, Filipino Immigrant Services, Asian Health Services, Centro de Servicios, Over 60's Clinic, Bananas Childcare, and SEIU.

Kitty Cohen of CIL, a service group of disabled people, told the rally, "What we are facing here is one part of an overall assault on the poor and working people, the minority communities, the elderly, the disabled, women—to make it look like somehow we are responsible for the fact that the economy is in a mess and that people are getting less for their money and we should pay for it."

"We must stand together," she emphasized, "in large numbers, to get more people involved" and to "continue to demand full funding for all the programs."

Join the struggle!

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 and white, Latin, Asian, and Native peoples, women and men, 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.

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

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N.J. oil workers picket in Texas

FEBRUARY 6—Oil Workers on strike since Jan. 17 at Texaco's Eagle Point refinery in Westfield, N.J., took their picketline to Port Arthur, Texas yesterday and shut down the refinery there with 7,000 Texas workers refusing to cross the line.

The workers, members of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW), Local 8638, had gone on strike to protest a new contract that contains regressive provisions taking away rights and benefits that have been guaranteed in the past.

While the OCAW has reached a national agreement with the oil industry, the question of contract take-away had continued to be an issue at the Westfield refinery leading to the strike when management had refused to negotiate on the issues.

Iran Revolution blamed

U.S. monopolies cry 'shortage' despite oil glut

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

FEBRUARY, 12—Exxon, Mobil, and the other giant oil companies, intoxicated by their latest profit reports, are now trying to use the Iranian people and their revolution as a scapegoat as they push on towards their decades-old dream of shoving a \$1 gallon gasoline price down the throats of the U.S. masses.

Energy Secretary and nuclear war enthusiast James Schlesinger together with Senate Energy Committee Chairman Henry Jackson (known as the Senator from Boeing) raised the cry of

"energy crisis" last week on behalf of their "friends" in the oil industry and the military industrial complex.

They raised the threat of sharply higher gasoline and heating oil prices, bans on Sunday sales of gasoline, and other rationing as possibilities that will allegedly result from the shutoff of Iranian oil exports as a result of the revolution there.

What they purposely didn't mention was that the U.S. imported hardly any oil at all from Iran before the Dec. 26 shutoff and that the domestic supply is

currently overstocked to the point where the U.S. could go for 70 days without any oil imports or domestic oil production without a shortage.

Before the shutoff Iranian oil production accounted for only between 2.5 to 5.0 % of the U.S. oil supply.

Although U.S. oil companies controlled and profited from the distribution of Iranian oil exports, the vast majority of Iranian oil was sold to the countries of Western Europe and Japan, as well as the racist settler-states of Israel and South Africa. Iranian

revolutionary leaders have pledged to end exports to Israel and South Africa.

WHO DOES IRAN REVOLUTION HURT?

The real purpose of the "energy crisis" warning was to make the masses of poor and working people of the U.S. feel that the Iranian revolution is going to hurt their interests and thus to blame the Iranian people for higher prices and shortages. This way the oil monopolies hope they can raise their prices to the limit without resistance, as well as create popular support for any possible U.S. military intervention in Iran.

Showing the real purpose of the energy crisis ravings, the New York Times admitted on Feb. 9 that, "by focusing on the oil shortage, Mr. Schlesinger hopes to build sentiment for decontrol of prices." Schlesinger, as a member of the Carter administration, is supposed to be a part of the anti-inflation effort, but by carrying out a campaign for

the decontrol of oil prices he is obviously a part of the monopoly pro-inflation effort. No one can honestly claim that the giant oil companies are having hard times. Just a quick look at the fourth quarter profits shows that Exxon boosted their earnings by 48%, Texaco by 72%, Gulf by 45%, and Atlantic Richfield by 30%.

But "inflation fighter" Carter showed himself once again to be a willing servant of the corporations in his press conference today when he said that although the danger of shortages as a result of Iran were not great, prices would have to increase and sacrifices would have to be accepted.

It is the U.S. oil companies' profits, not the U.S. domestic oil supply, that is threatened by the Iranian peoples' toppling of the hated regime of the Shah. By overthrowing the U.S. monopoly's monarchy in Iran, the Iranian people have brought closer the day when U.S. workers can topple the oil corporation's "monarchy" in the U.S.

—Armed Iranian masses

(Continued from p. 1)

Fedayeen, a leftist guerrilla organization, was about to begin a march to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the opening of the armed struggle in Iran. People ran in with the news, crying out, "It's the massacre, it's the massacre," meaning that the expected assault by reactionary elements had begun. (Le Monde, Feb. 12.)

The news electrified the crowd. For weeks they had waited under tension, hoping the Bakhtiari government would resign but expecting the worst from the generals. Millions had marched in the streets, talking to the soldiers, winning them over little by little, but not pushing the army to the final test. There were continual rumors of a coup. Was this its beginning? Whose orders would the troops follow? It was time to fight and find out.

All Tehran joined in the battle, especially the poor, the workers, the students, the youth in general. Those more conscious revolutionaries undoubtedly led the assaults, knowing to attack the police stations for weapons, to seize the national radio and TV, to stamp out the SAVAK. But the people were behind them, armed with rifles and sub-machine guns when they could get them, with pick-axes and pipes when they couldn't. As ambulances criss-crossed through the city, hundreds hopped into cars to donate blood for those

wounded in battle. Women filled sand-bags for the barricades and shelters, and poured benzine into bottles to make Molotov cocktails.

AIRMEN ENCIRCLE IMMORTALS

Meanwhile, the airmen had fought their way to rooftops surrounding the base, and supported by thousands of civilians, completely encircled the "Immortals," who were running low on ammunition. The rightists sent out an S.O.S. Four helicopters were sent to their aid, but when the people shot one down, the others were driven away. The battle was clearly going against the reactionaries.

In Tehran the guerrilla army moved almost without opposition. Parliament was seized, along with the Shah's Golestan palace. The freedom fighters captured an army and riot police base in northwest Tehran called Eshratabad, obtaining a large supply of weapons. At Khomeini's school-house headquarters, volunteers assembled weapons captured from an arms factory and handed them out to civilians.

At two o'clock Sunday afternoon, the generals, faced with defeat and fearing for their lives and for what was left of their army, announced that the army would not stop the people and would withdraw to their barracks. They were later taken into custody

at Khomeini headquarters.

VOICE OF REVOLUTION

The news was broadcast over the captured national radio, now called "Voice of Revolution." Tehran exploded in jubilation. Then came an event that is an inevitable part of every great revolution: the opening of the jails. In what the New York Post called the "biggest jail break in history," the guerrillas opened Iran's largest jail in the city of Qsar, freeing 11,000 prisoners, many political prisoners among them.

The new Iranian government consists of politicians who can be characterized most accurately as radical bourgeois nationalists. They have excellent credentials as opponents of the Shah, but are committed to defending the private property of Iran's bourgeoisie.

The workers of Iran have begun to put forth their own demands. According to today's Wall Street Journal, oil workers want to extend the power of their committees at all levels of management "to protect Iran's interests as well as those of workers in the oil industry." The union of banking employees urges that the banking system be nationalized. These demands go far beyond the tentative program being set forth by the new Cabinet members of the provisional revolutionary government.



Woman prisoner jumping to freedom from window at Qsar Prison. Eleven thousand were released.

250 march in Chicago for Iran revolution



By EDDIE TORRES

CHICAGO, Feb. 3—Today over 250 supporters and Iranians marched in downtown Chicago to express their support of the struggle of the Iranian people against the Bakhtiari regime and against any U.S. intervention in Iran.

The demonstration was called by the coalition to Stop U.S. Intervention in Iran, including Iranian students and a number of progressive organizations. At a rally held by the Chicago Tribune building speakers expressed their solidarity with the Iranian revolution. The coalition plans to have further actions in support of the people of Iran and against any U.S. intervention.

Progressive Iranians in U.S. address Baltimore meeting

By DOUG LAWSON

BALTIMORE, Feb. 10—A meeting of solidarity with the struggle of the Iranian people drew over 100 people tonight to hear the latest news of the heroic struggle of the Iranian people.

The meeting, sponsored by the Committee to End U.S. Intervention in Iran, featured speakers from the progressive Iranian movement in the U.S. who described the battles between revolutionary air force troops and the Shah's elite guard. This news, only hours old at the time, drew enthusiastic cheers from the audience.

A young Iranian brother described in detail the recent heroic demonstration in Beverly Hills in which thousands of Iranians in the U.S. braved a vicious police assault.

Also featured was Gavrielle Gemma, a national organizer for the Center for United Labor Action (CULA) and a leader for the fight for affirmative action against AT&T, the telephone conglomerate which has extensive

interests in Iran. Sister Gavrielle briefly described the history of the Shah's regime and its importance to the many U.S. corporations there. She went on to explain the importance of poor and working people in the U.S. supporting the struggle of the poor and oppressed in Iran. The threat of U.S. intervention in Iran, Gemma said, requires constant vigilance on the part of progressives in the U.S. She added that very few workers in the U.S. would be willing to fight in or pay for another war. She went on to expose the "gas shortage fraud" mouthed by Carter's Energy Secretary James Schlesinger as an example of an attempt by the U.S. ruling class to turn the people of the U.S. against their brothers and sisters in Iran in the interests of the Pentagon and the imperialist corporations.

The meeting concluded with a presentation by an Iranian vocal group. Chairperson Ali Shabazz emphasized that this meeting was only a beginning in the effort to build support for the Iranian revolution.

Residents outraged as

NYC politicians kill South Bronx housing project

By NICK DE FREITAS

NEW YORK, Feb. 13—Mayor Ed Koch announced today that the \$32 million Charlotte Street housing complex, seen as the symbolic first step in the \$1.5 billion federal aid program for jobs and housing in the predominantly Black and Puerto Rican South Bronx, is "dead."

The project, which would have provided homes for about 3,000 South Bronx residents and

hundreds of construction jobs in a high unemployment and poor area, was vetoed last week by the city's Board of Estimates when "liberal" Carol Bellamy led a successful 7-4 vote against the housing project.

The federal plan, which calls for the creation of housing, jobs, and benefits for the poor who live in what has been termed New York City's "worst slum," was developed over a year ago when

President Carter, with much fanfare and full of promises, visited the "urban desert" of Charlotte Street. The President's motorcade, recalls the New York Times of Feb. 9, "passed block after block of burned out buildings, rubble strewn lots, and people shouting 'give us money' and 'we want jobs.'"

The overall federal plan calls for 27,300 additional housing units, \$135 million for stores and

industrial facilities, \$90 million for transit facilities, \$61 million for job training, and \$32 million for new parks and recreation areas.

SO FAR, EMPTY PROMISES

But so far all the talk of "millions pouring into the South Bronx" and Carter's claims to be building "a new South Bronx" have just been a series of headline grabbing promises. The poor of the South Bronx have yet to see

one penny of this "aid" invested in their community.

Fed up with empty promises, residents of the area staged a mock funeral today at the site of the defeated Charlotte housing project. The South Bronx residents, expressing anger at the Board of Estimate decision to kill the housing project, demonstrated in below-zero weather.

Julie Cherry, a long-time resident of the area, told **Workers World** that the Board of Estimates decision was "a slap in the face" to the poor of the South Bronx. "Housing," said Cherry, "is a fundamental need of our community." Pointing to the fire-gutted buildings that line the Charlotte Street area, she explained that not only are there fires regularly set by landlords who find the insurance payoffs more profitable, but in the winter sometimes whole buildings go up in flames because the people have no heat and stoves and electric appliances are used to heat the apartments.

"It's unbelievable," Cherry said, "but these buildings are so old, and the people so poor that when the weather drops to zero degrees, like we've seen in the last couple of weeks, people have actually frozen to death in their apartments."



People in the South Bronx holding a mock funeral at the Charlotte Street site of the vetoed housing project.

Baby freezes to death

Brooklyn Gas Co. guilty of murder

By KATHY DURKIN

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—Eight-month-old Cynthia Felicce was found frozen to death by her grandfather in her family's home in South Ozone Park, Queens, last Wednesday.

The Felicce family had been without any heat since July 1977 when the Brooklyn Union Gas Co. had turned off their gas because they had not been able to pay their gas bill for the year—it was \$1,307.30! The family, which subsists on welfare payments, has had to keep their windows padded with blankets and wear winter clothing inside their home throughout the winter. The children's feet have swollen twice their normal size from the cold.

Although the press and welfare and health department officials have tried to blame the parents for not taking proper care of their children, it is Brooklyn Union Gas Co. that is to blame for Cynthia's death. The utility company not only inhumanly has shut off the gas for the past 1½ years, but has clearly violated Public Service Commission regulations which require that a utility company notify the Utility Disconnection Project of the Department of Social Services before a shut-off is implemented if a hardship is involved—that is, if it regards heat of if there are small children in the home.

Representatives of the Utility Disconnection Project say they would have ordered the gas company to turn the gas and heat back on in the Felicce's home but they had never been notified by the gas company that the gas was turned off or that a hardship was involved.

COALITION FORMED TO FIGHT SHUT-OFFS

Within 36 hours after Cynthia's death, an emergency coalition of

70 community, labor, and religious groups was formed to protest this senseless tragedy. The coalition includes David Livingston, president of District Council 65; Sam Meyers, president of United Auto Workers Local 269, other labor and community leaders and has the support of many City Council and New York State Assembly members.

At a press conference held last Thursday, coalition spokespeople announced that they are mounting a campaign to prevent further tragedies such as this one from occurring and are calling for a demonstration on March 14 in Albany to demand an end to all utility shut-offs and to call for higher welfare allotments.

Coalition representatives said it was time to stop blaming the victims of such tragedies and to charge Brooklyn Union Gas Co. and welfare department officials with criminal negligence in causing Cynthia's death.

A staff member of the Downtown Welfare Advocate Center told **Workers World** that the press conference had resulted in a turn-around in the press coverage of this tragedy from trying to blame the child's parents for her death to calling into account those who are really responsible. Apparently, many city agencies had known about problems the Felicce family has had over the last few years and had not done anything to help them.

The problems faced by the Felicceas are not unique. Over 600,000 children in New York City live on welfare allotments. Last winter 35% of families living on welfare reported shut-offs of heat. According to the Downtown Welfare Advocate Center, a family of four receives a welfare payment for gas, electricity, and telephone of only \$15.48—or one-third of the

costs of current utility rates.

Cynthia Felicce's death and countless other tragedies could have been prevented. In this country of tremendous wealth and resources, it is totally senseless that anyone should suffer or die from a lack of basic necessities. Heat is a basic human right and not a luxury. And it is about time that Brooklyn Union Gas and all of the other utility companies be held accountable for the countless tragedies that their profit-gouging policies cause.

Protesting mass layoffs

School boycott builds in Newark

By RACHEL DUELL

NEWARK, Feb. 11—A week-long successful boycott of selected Newark public schools has become the main focus of the united labor-community fight against the layoffs and program cuts in education here.

Every indication points to a possible citywide school shutdown on Feb. 15, at which time a rally has been scheduled by the unions in front of the Prudential Life Insurance Building in Newark.

The Newark School Board calls the layoffs and cuts a "school reorganization plan." The unions which represent instructional and noninstructional workers, the parents, and their school-age children don't call it that at all. The plan—which has been fought against for two months now with large and angry demonstrations, a daylong citywide school shutdown last month, rallies, and concerted union activities—is recognized as nothing short of an attempt to destroy the school unions and to cripple vital educational programs for Newark's children.

Nearly one-fourth of the school workforce, well over 1,100 school employees, have received layoff notices. The first 65 layoffs began on Feb. 5, and included cafeteria workers. The rest of the layoffs, which include teachers and aides, are scheduled for Feb. 20 and March 7.

In the struggle against the layoffs included in the "reorganization plan," a profound and deepening unity has been developing between the parents and the unions and rank-and-file. This unity is now, more clearly than ever, expressed through organized daily boycotts of the different schools by parents and their children. The daily boycotts, planned and initiated by concerned parents, have been organized with the approval and cooperation of the affected unions, the Newark Teachers Union, Cafeteria Workers local 131, and Service Employees International Union.

Teachers and other school workers have for the most part respected picket lines of schools

mere "cutting back" in food costs. They mean a main diet of bread, potatoes, or rice; they mean poor health because of non-nutritious diet; they mean peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to dull the edge of hunger. And yet, there's all that food that costs too much to buy because of inflation.

Inflation is not a natural disaster. In fact, it is an organic outgrowth of a profit hungry system with a military defense budget of \$136 billion, a bumper crop of useless destructive weaponry. It is a system that makes it hard to buy food to live. Therefore, it is the enemy of all those who are allocating a greater and greater portion of their budgets just to feed their families.

targeted for boycott, even though the school employees face potential disciplinary action from the intransigent anti-labor board and the loss of a day's pay.

What characterizes this struggle is how the unions and community are acutely aware of the school board's most powerful potential weapon and that is to drive a wedge between labor and the community.

To date, this has not happened here. An example of the labor-community solidarity here occurred last Friday when parents planned NOT to organize a boycott on that day, so that teachers and other workers could enter the schools and pick up their paychecks.

The conscious unity, still developing between the involved community and labor organizations, has become the shared experience of the oppressed population of working and poor people here and lays a basis never to be forgotten, for the next confrontation with management, and the next.

Up and up and up and . . .

By TANA MARIE LOY

FEBRUARY 13—Food prices again showed a sharp increase with 1.3% reported for the month of January (or a staggering 16% computed on an annual basis) making it the worst increase in four years.

Economists emphasized that there was nothing "to warrant sharply higher prices, except inflation and decline of the value of the dollar." In other words, it's only the chaotic situation in the capitalist market and not any natural disasters which have brought about these higher prices.

The price increases mean that workers, particularly the poor and the oppressed, are one step beyond

Farmworker killed on picketline in California lettuce strike

By JESSE LEE

FEBRUARY 12—"It was cold-blooded murder," said a United Farm Workers (UFW) union official after the shooting death of 27-year-old Rufino Contreras, a migrant worker from Mexico. Contreras was killed by a foreman while he was picketing in an Imperial Valley, Calif., lettuce field last Saturday.

Contreras and his fellow workers, most of whom are Mexican citizens, have been on strike for the last 24 days. Some 3,000 workers walked out on Jan. 19 when contract negotiations broke down.

The union is seeking to win a wage increase from \$3.70 an hour to \$5.25. Under the current hourly pay, the average worker ends the year making less than \$5,000—hardly a living wage.

The growers have rejected the union's demands, conveniently using President Carter's 7% wage guideline as their reason. But behind this is the owner's determination to break the union.

"California agriculture is uniting against this strike," admitted Jon Vessey, one of the largest Imperial Valley growers.

For the union, it is the first

major test of the 1975 California Farm Labor Act, a law won through a decade of struggle. This act constitutes the first legal sanction of union elections for farmworkers in the U.S.

CAPITALIST STATE, KKK AID GROWERS

The murder of Contreras on Saturday came after weeks of union-busting attacks and provocations by the growers as a part of their plans to dismember the union. Nine days into the strike, two union members were hospitalized after they were struck by shotgun blasts from "security guards" hired by the Vessey Company. Since then seven other strikers have also required hospitalization because of company attacks. The growers are now demanding that California Governor Jerry Brown bring in the National Guard to break the strike!

Last week, Tom Metzger, a Ku Klux Klan grand dragon in California, announced that his band of racists would become security guards for growers. Last year the KKK set up vigilante groups that work with the U.S. border patrol to harass and attack Mexicans in the Southwest.

Lettuce contracts make up one-fourth of all the pacts farmworkers have with the growers, and it is clear that the bosses have chosen the lettuce industry, a traditional UFW stronghold, for a major attack on the very life of the union.

When the farmworkers first began organizing in the 1960s, the fight was for recognition of collective bargaining rights for the workers. Now, with 100,000 members the union is fighting to use this newly won legal right (which many industrial and craft workers got generations ago, but which is not yet basic right for all workers in the U.S. despite Carter's boasts to the world about so-called advances here).

The farmworkers have shown that they are determined to win, and the picketlines have remained strong despite the threats, despite the neo-fascist KKK, and despite the brutal murder of young Rufino Contreras.



The farmworkers have been fighting for their rights for generations.

To defend affirmative action

Anti-Weber actions planned

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—On Jan. 24, the Affirmative Action Coordinating Center (AACC)

sponsored a meeting here to plan a national rally and conference against the case of Brian Weber.

Weber, a racist lab technician in the Grammercy, La. plant of Kaiser Aluminum, has filed suit aimed at abolishing a job training program that was instituted to overcome inequality at the mill by setting aside one-half the training positions for Black workers and women. Previous to this, not one craft position at the mill had gone to a Black worker. Nor was there any job training program for the other workers, so, in fact, all gained by the implementation of the plan.

Following the January meeting of the AACC, another meeting was held early this month to plan for an anti-Weber conference in March. Attending this session were representatives of the National Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, Women for

Racial and Economic Equality, the Guardian, Center for United Labor Action, and various community and trade union groups. Supported by 64 labor, civil rights, and women's groups, the AACC has filed a brief before the U.S. Supreme Court arguing against Weber's suit.

Other groups have filed similar briefs against Weber, one of the most important being a joint amicus curiae brief sponsored by the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the United Farm Workers of America, the United Mine Workers, the National Education Association, the International Woodworkers of America, the United Auto Workers, the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers, the International Union of Electrical Workers, and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees.

In ruling on Jose Torres case

Texas courts okay murder by cops

By JUAN GUZMAN

AUSTIN, Feb. 6—In a ruling issued yesterday by the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, the court in essence gave police officers an open hand to assassinate oppressed people by refusing to alter the "hand slap" sentence issued to three Houston cops who brutally and sadistically murdered Jose Torres, a Houston Chicano.

The court in a 2-1 majority rejected the Justice Department's request to issue a "writ of mandamus" ordering the Houston Southern District Court to stiffen the sentence of former officers Terry Wayne Denson, Stephen Orlando, and Joseph James Janish. These cops had been charged with drowning Jose Torres in the Buffalo Bayou in Houston.

HOW MURDER TOOK PLACE

On May 5, 1977, Jose Torres was arrested for being drunk. Torres was taken to the police department, but was not locked up, because he had been beaten, apparently by police officers. The officers were told to take Torres to a hospital. Instead they took him to the Buffalo Bayou where they brutalized him and then drowned him. Three days later Torres was found dead.

Judge Irving L. Golderg, dissenting in the opinion, called the incident "flagrant and violent breach of the law by those charged with enforcing it."

In the opinion by the circuit court of appeals, Judges James C. Hill and Robert A. Ainsworth, admitted that U.S. District Judge Ross E. Sterling of Houston had surpassed his authority to suspend the sentence of the policemen. The circuit court also admitted the district court error was reversible by issuing the writ, but it refused to do so.

The cops had originally been tried in state court in Huntsville, Texas, where they received one-year probation sentences for misdemeanor negligent homicide. Their sadistic murder could have been punished by life

imprisonment, but the court chose to be lenient to the police. This should be no surprise since both the courts and the police are lackeys of the bourgeoisie.

MASS PRESSURE LED TO FEDERAL SUIT

The indictment in federal court had been issued only after mass pressure from the people. Federal law allows a judge to suspend sentences in cases like this one where the maximum penalty is less than death or life imprisonment.

Incredibly, the reason given by the circuit court for its hand slap to the police and refusal to withdraw even their probation was that it would "work hardship on the defendants and their families."

But what about Jose Torres? And what about his family and the misery they have suffered as a result of the brutal murder of their loved one? What kind of justice are poor and working people receiving in this judicial system where the law only protects the rich and those who serve them?

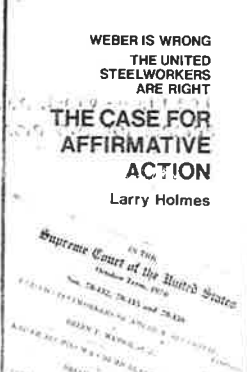


Demonstration in Austin, Texas, in November 1977 protesting the murder of Jose Torres. WW photo: Pablo Castillo

NEW PAMPHLET RELEASED

The Center for United Labor Action has just published this popularly written pamphlet on the Brian Weber "reverse discrimination" suit. Authored by Larry Holmes, a coordinator of the New York Committee to Overturn the Bakke Decision, it tells why fighting for equality is fighting for the unity of all working people. At only 25 cents, everyone can afford to buy an extra copy to give to their fellow workers.

Order from: C.U.L.A. 234 Seventh Ave. New York, N.Y. 10011



Int'l Women's Day celebration

NEW YORK, Feb. 14—In celebration of International Women's Day, a day commemorated by women in revolutionary struggles and in socialist countries around the world, a film showing will be held on March 10 in this city.

Two documentary films will be shown: "With Babies and Banners" shows the tremendous role played by women's brigades during the auto workers' sit down strikes of 1937; and "With Cuban Women" shows women building socialist society in Cuba in every aspect of life—from agricultural workers to doctors to parachutists.

The film showing will be on Saturday, March 10, at 7:30 p.m. at Washington Irving High School (16th St. and Irving Place, Manhattan). There will also be home baked goods, literature, and posters for sale and a raffle. Women and men are invited; childcare will be provided. A \$3 donation is requested. For information and to purchase advance tickets contact: Women of Youth Against War & Fascism, 46 West 21 St., N.Y.C., (212) 255-0352.

—Puerto Rican

(Continued from p. 6)

appointment to the bench, and is being publicly blackmailed by none other than Gov. Romero Barcelo who alone holds the key to several times as to which document this fingerprint was found on, and the defense has learned that the FBI has recently developed the advanced technology required for transplanting fingerprints!

Finally, it has been learned that the judge in this trial, Luis Apellaniz, is up for re-

his re-appointment, which he is withholding pending the outcome of the trial.

For more information on the campaign to halt this legal lynching contact the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee at 853 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10003.

BOYCOTT COORS!

Trial for Letelier murder points to U.S.-CIA-Chilean junta conspiracy

By ROBERT DOBROW
FEBRUARY 13—Now entering its third week, the trial of three Cuban exiles in the September 1976 murder of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Moffitt has produced a flood of damning evidence pointing to the U.S. and the CIA in particular, along with the fascist Chilean junta, for responsibility in the brutal assassination.

Letelier served as Ambassador

to the U.S. under the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende in Chile (1970-73). Ronni Moffitt worked with Letelier at the Institute for Policy Studies in the U.S. where they both accumulated evidence showing U.S. complicity in the counter-revolutionary overturn in Chile. Both were murdered in the streets of Washington, D.C., when a remote-controlled bomb exploded

under their car.

Although denying it at the time of the murder, today the Pinochet regime in Chile and its secret police arm, the DINA, are known to have been thoroughly involved in plotting and executing the political assassination. Last week, for instance, in testimony before the court, "a senior U.S. diplomat told investigators that President Augusto Pinochet of Chile had personally requested Paraguay to provide false passports for two men later charged with the murder of Letelier." (New York Times, Feb. 9.) Statements by other U.S. officials have also revealed Pinochet's complicity in the murder conspiracy.

However, while top U.S. spokesmen have been forced to admit, due to the overwhelming amount of evidence that has come out into the open, the responsibility of the Chilean government, they have been completely mum about the role of the U.S. government. In fact they are utilizing the current trial to attempt to whitewash the role of U.S. imperialism and its secret police arm, the CIA, in the conspiracy.

HIRED GUNS POINT FINGER AT CIA

This is the strategy of the prosecution which is saying that the three Cuban exiles were hired solely by the Chilean secret police.



These undocumented workers from Mexico are treated like prisoners. A trip to Mexico is likely to provoke anti-imperialist demonstrations.

In a classic falling out of thieves, however, the three counter-revolutionary Cubans are pleading innocent on the grounds that it was not the DINA that organized the killing, but the CIA! (Everyone knows by now the extensive contacts and collaboration between the CIA and the counter-revolutionary Cuban exiles who have been continually funded, supported, and even armed by the CIA in their struggle against revolutionary Cuba.)

A key figure in the trial is mercenary Michael V. Townley who has confessed to the murder of Letelier and Moffitt and who pointed the finger to the three Cuban exiles now standing trial. In return for "copping a plea" Townley was promised an early parole for his crime of cold-blooded murder, and would be let out of prison after serving only three years.

Townley also admits to being a member of the Chilean DINA but emphatically denies membership in the CIA. Yet, Townley is an American-born son of the president of Ford Motor Co. operations in Chile. He also just "happened" to be in Chile during the Allende years. Townley admitted in court to building a similar bomb to the type used against Letelier in an unsuccessful Mexican mission in 1975. And if that wasn't enough, a CIA spokesman admitted on the witness stand that Townley had offered the CIA his services. The CIA and Townley, however, claim that he was turned down.

The impression being given by the trial testimony, of a vast world of difference between the Chilean DINA and the U.S. CIA is completely fraudulent. In the five years since the fascist coup which toppled the Allende government,

Free the Four!

FEBRUARY 13—A demonstration will be held on March 3 in Washington to demand that President Carter release the four Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners immediately. Around the world, there has been an almost unanimous outcry to free Lolita Lebron, Irvin Flores, Rafael Cancel Miranda, and Oscar Collazo, the longest held political prisoners in the Western Hemisphere.

The March 3 action will include a march and rally at 1 p.m. in front of the White House. The demonstration is being organized by the

Committee of Proud Puerto Ricans, and is supported by the United Tremont Trades, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, El Comité (MINP), Carlos Feliciano, Puerto Rican Students Socialist Federation, Puerto Rican Women United, and many other community and student groups.

Buses from New York City will leave Hostos College (149 Street and Grand Concourse, Bronx, N.Y.) at 7 a.m. For more information on buses or the demonstration itself contact: Committee of Proud Puerto Ricans at (212) 970-1149 or (212) 260-0150.



Rafael Cancel Miranda, Irvin Flores, Oscar Collazo, and Lolita Lebron

ITT-CIA plotters against Allende government let off by U.S. court

By DEE KNIGHT

FEBRUARY 9—Another conspirator in the CIA's plot against the progressive Allende government in Chile was allowed to go free yesterday, because the U.S. "Justice" Department feared his trial might expose "sensitive national security secrets." Robert Berrellez, who was a publicity officer of the giant transnational corporation, ITT, at the time, had been charged with lying to congressional investigators about the company's well-known role of assisting the CIA's subversion of Chile's Popular Unity government.

Berrellez got off even easier than former CIA director Richard Helms, who pled "no contest" in the fall of 1977 to a **misdemeanor**

charge of failing to testify "fully and accurately" to the Senate committees investigating the Chile affair. Last summer another ITT official facing perjury charges, Edward Gerrity, had three out of six charges dropped to "protect national security," and the government is now considering whether to stop his prosecution altogether.

Officials in the Justice Department told the New York Times that the U.S. government wished to prevent the disclosure of information about the names of CIA station chiefs, station locations, **and contacts and relationships** in Latin America. But there is speculation, according to the Times report, that "the

information might merely be more embarrassing than vital to security, possibly including the identity of present members of the Chilean government who worked for the CIA."

This suspicion is underscored by testimony implicating the CIA in another trial now in progress in Washington: against the suspected murderers of Orlando Letelier and his assistant Ronni Moffitt. (See related article.)

Even Senator Frank Church, who chaired the congressional committee investigating the Chile affair and now head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the latest Justice Dept. move "outrageous." He said a trial "might have embarrassed major corporations, the CIA, and the Nixon administration. But after all the revelations about Chile... what conceivable national interest is involved that outweighs the demands of justice? I can find none."

"Liberal" senators like Church (a Democrat) would do well to expose the backing the Carter administration is currently giving to the Pinochet dictatorship. But bourgeois liberal politicians are well known for their investigations into Washington's debacles but always for the purpose of cleaning up the image of repressive U.S. agencies, such as the CIA, and the "good name" of the biggest U.S. monopolies, of the likes of ITT.

The Pinochet dictatorship, like others throughout Latin America, could not exist for a week without the money and guns provided by the CIA, and the other branches of U.S. imperialism. And of course, ITT and the other big U.S. corporations continue to benefit from these activities, and lend a hand wherever necessary to protect their lavish profits, reaped from the slave conditions maintained by the dictatorships.

Puerto Rican unionist faces frameup trial

By C. BESSON

NEW YORK, Feb. 10—The one fact that is absolutely clear among the complicated and often bizarre circumstances surrounding the murder trial now taking place in San Juan, P.R., of trade-union and political activist Miguel Cabrera is that the trial is an outrageous and crudely contrived frameup. It is part of a campaign of violence and repression planned in Washington and zealously conducted by the colonial governor Carlos Romero Barcelo, that is aimed at the independence movement and the healthy and aggressive trade union movement.

Cabrera, a Teamster organizer who has been a well known and effective representative for both of these movements for many years, is on trial with two others, Luis Parrilla and Cutberto Cordero for the killing of Alan H. Randall in September 1977.

A corporate lawyer who pioneered new uses of the Taft-Hartley act against the labor movement and organized "Security Associates," a gathering of goons and strikebreakers for hire, Randall was widely believed to be a CIA agent. When he was shot to death, Romero Barcelo held an emergency meeting with representatives of the FBI, the Secret Service, the Justice Department of Puerto Rico, and the colonial police. After this, the governor issued a "declaration of war" against the "enemies of the people," referring to organized labor.

It was not long before the pro-statehood governor and the various repressive agencies made good on this declaration. Bombs were planted at the Teamster local offices, Teamster leaders were kidnapped and held incommunicado by the police, and

finally a body alleged to be that of Teamster delegate Juan Rafael Caballero was found mutilated and decomposed in the Yunque rain forest. He had last been seen alive while being interrogated at the headquarters of the Criminal Investigations Bureau, often called the "death squad."

The trial, which began Jan. 22, has only been more of the same; however, it appears more monstrous because the proceedings are incongruously draped with the mantle of "justice." A defense challenge to the jury selection process was denied even though it was shown that the jury commissioner responsible for selecting the prospective jurors had eliminated all those who are for independence as well as anyone under the age of 25 because, he said, young people are "insolent."

The star witness for the

prosecution is Angel Tanco, who boasts of having killed, so far, 15 people. He was recently convicted of a brutal triple murder, but received a sentence that would free him in only 8 years in exchange for his promise to testify in this case. This fact has been openly acknowledged by the Justice Department. He has given testimony against others so many times to save his own skin that he has had to be housed in a special prison so that he would survive to testify at the trial.

"THE EVIDENCE"

The only evidence that supposedly links Cabrera to the killing in any way is a fingerprint alleged to have been found on a communique left by the group claiming responsibility for Randall's death. However the police have changed their story

(Continued on p. 5)



prisoners of war by the U.S. immigration cops. Carter's current
utions.

there has been an abundance of exposes and revelations showing how the CIA organized the counter-revolution. They were involved up to their ears in funnelling money to the right-wing generals, organizing fascist groups, blockading and undermining the economy, and actually orchestrating the coup itself. The ITT-Anaconda-Kissinger-Nixon-CIA axis bears the primary responsibility.

DINA: CIA'S CHILEAN BRANCH

The idea that the Chilean secret police, on its own, would arrange a political assassination in the streets of Washington, D.C., completely ignores the fact that the DINA is not only closely connected with the CIA but that it is virtually the Chilean branch of the CIA! It was the CIA that organized the DINA in the first place. They got it together, trained its members, sent it "advisors," paid its bills, and planned its missions. To this very day, their relationship is not one of two independent organizations, but one of master and servant.

As the murder trial progresses, undoubtedly more revelations and exposes will emerge about the role

of the CIA and the DINA in the events. But the U.S. ruling class and its paid opinion-makers in the capitalist media will try to utilize the trial to whitewash its own role. Yet the main culprit—the assassins of Letelier and Moffitt and the oppressors of the Chilean people—is U.S. imperialism and its primary role in the events should never be forgotten.

Hundreds 'disappear' as repression in Mexico mounts

By GREG DUNKEL

FEBRUARY 12—The chasm between the rich and the poor in Mexico has given rise to a progressive and revolutionary movement which the government seeks to counter by heavy repression. The Committee of Relatives of Disappeared Persons has documented 426 cases of people who "disappeared" after they were arrested and the existence of the White Brigade, a special anti-guerrilla force which is responsible for many of these disappearances and which, some have said, has been trained by the CIA.

According to the Feb. 9 New York Times, "A recent report prepared for the International League for Human Rights said there was convincing evidence that many prisoners were arrested without warrant and taken to secret detention centers."

"There is sufficient hard evidence to prove the existence of the White Brigades and to attribute to this group direct responsibility for the arbitrary detentions of the great majority," the Times quotes the report as saying.

The government has denied

by half in relation to the dollar. Mexico, which buys 60% of its imports from the U.S., much in high-priced technological ware, now had to pay twice as much for these needed goods. This was a serious blow to the Mexican economy. Next, the Carter administration sprung a series of "surprises" on Mexico City including commercial restrictions on Mexican goods, the dumping of U.S. cotton on the Mexican market, and most seriously, a crackdown on and persecution of undocumented workers crossing the border in search of jobs. These moves have not only increased the Mexican masses' hostility toward their oppressors in the White House, but have pushed a large segment of the Mexican bourgeoisie in a more nationalist direction. This is what Carter faces in Mexico City.

Probably the most important item on the agenda of the Carter-

Lopez Portillo talks is the question of undocumented workers. Carter wants a "joint effort" to reduce undocumented migration. However, the Mexican government, with no solution for an unemployment rate that exceeds 50% and inflation of over 20% a year, regards efforts by Washington to stop migration as an attempt to destabilize its rule.

After all, it is U.S. imperialism with its stranglehold on the Mexican economy that is responsible for most of the economic woes in the country of 66 million. U.S. businesses have \$3 billion invested in Mexico, and U.S. private banks hold \$11.5 billion in Mexican loans. Transnationals based in the U.S. control over 90% of food production, 30% of almost all of the lucrative pharmaceutical industry, 30% of the fertilizer market, 45% of cattle feed production, and more. Much of Mexican production is geared for export (70% to the U.S.), not to meeting the needs of the Mexican people. This is why many of Mexico's poor, as a matter of survival, must seek jobs in the U.S. where they are subjected to racist harassment and given only the lowest paid, most backbreaking jobs.

Carter is also expected to pressure Mexico to further drop its low protective trade barriers. This would only increase imperialism's exploitation of the Mexican working class.

PENTAGON DESIGNS ON MEXICAN OIL

And then there are Washington's and the Pentagon's designs on Mexico's oil. That country's huge reserves may be almost as large as those of Saudi Arabia, the largest oil exporter in the world. Carter wants to keep Mexico from joining the Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) and to beat down Mexican prices so that they are lower than those of OPEC in order to increase imperialism's leverage with OPEC. Mexico City, however, has expressed a determination not to sell the oil from Pemex, its nationalized oil company, on conditions that are unfavorable.

The Mexican government knows that, considering the level of technological development in that country, the selling of its oil reserves en masse to the U.S. would mean the overhauling of the economy for oil export at the expense of internal development. This Shah of Iran-style development would only widen the income gap between Mexican rich and poor which is already one of the most unequal in the world. Many Mexican bourgeois feel that if some oil money isn't used to better the lot of the Mexican people there may be uprisings on an Iran-like scale that could sweep the Mexican exploiters off the stage of history.

As for Carter, the success of the Iranian Revolution has weakened the stand of U.S. imperialism, and he may not be able to apply the screws to Mexico quite so tightly as his big business backers at home would like. And his visit, occurring at a time of great hostility on the part of the Mexican people to him and to U.S. imperialism, may actually raise the flames of the anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist struggle. Last Thursday, 5,000 people demonstrated against Carter in Mexico City, denouncing U.S. imperialism's plans to rob the Mexican people of their natural resource.

Carter's trip aimed at tightening noose over Mexican economy

By JOYCE CHEDIAC BETRIES

FEBRUARY 14—Washington has been putting the big squeeze on Mexico since it stole half of that country in 1848, and "Jimmy" Carter's trip there today is designed to continue the pressure.

Mexico City has long taken orders from its imperialist next door neighbor and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, no friend of the masses, began his term in 1976 by moving even closer to Washington than his predecessor. However, Lopez Portillo wasn't prepared for the new predatory designs of Washington, determined to push a substantial part of the burden for the deepening worldwide economic crisis onto the developing countries.

The U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1976 imposed an austerity budget on Mexico and forced the devaluation of the peso

Fishermen's leader testifies before NYC City Council

Vieques people widen struggle to oust U.S. Navy

By C. BESSON

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—While the people of Vieques, P.R., and the people of Puerto Rico in general continue their battle with the U.S. Navy over the violent occupation of Vieques and its waters, the fishermen go on fishing with calm defiance in the open jaws of this nation-eating shark which is seemingly paralysed by the growing international outrage directed against it.

Almost daily new channels are being cut by the popular forces in the struggle against the Navy, which has occupied Vieques and used it for air and naval bombardment, target practice, and amphibious assault maneuvers for the past 40 years—causing what approaches the virtual destruction of the island.

Last Thursday, Carlos Zenon, president of the Fishermen's Association of Vieques, and Ismael Guadalupe, president of the Crusade for the Rescue of Vieques, held a press conference to announce their intention to withdraw the petition for a cease and desist order against the Navy which they had earlier filed with the federal court in San Juan. They stated that they were doing this because they had no confidence in the impartiality of the colonial court which had already shown itself to be biased in favor of the Navy, and further declared their intention to "internationalize" the struggle.

The following day Zenon and Radames Tirado, the mayor of

Vieques, flew to New York to testify at a City Council hearing in support of a resolution which backs their struggle. The resolution which reads simply: "The Council of the City of New York calls upon the U.S. Department of the Navy to discontinue its military maneuvers on the island of Vieques, Puerto Rico," was introduced by Councilman Gilberto Gerena-Valentin of the Bronx and co-sponsored by 18 other Council members.

That same evening, Zenon and Tirado spoke at a reception sponsored by the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee in a loft on East 116th St. in Manhattan. Zenon spoke with humor and great confidence about the struggle they are waging. He explained that while he and the other fishermen face 1 to 5 years for defying the U.S. court order forbidding them from entering their fishing waters, so far no arrests have been made and that what maneuvers were still being conducted in spite of the obstruction by the fishermen were being done with apparent caution and only in the interest of saving face for the U.S. Navy. This, he emphasized, was due to the great attention and support that their struggle has received from around the world.

Funds for the trip of these two representatives of the people of Vieques came from contributions from supporters in the U.S., Holland, Brazil, and Puerto Rico.

While the U.S. Naval



"The fishermen go on fishing with calm defiance in the open jaws of this nation-eating shark."
Photo: Claridad

maneuvers go on virtually year-round, there are also naval detachments from Argentina, Holland, England, Canada, and West Germany participating in the "Operation Springboard" war-games now going on. Venezuela,

the Dominican Republic, Brazil, and Jamaica were also to have participated; however, mass pressure forced the governments in these countries to reduce the level of their participation to that of sending observers.

EDITORIAL

Business bonanza

Through the scheme of a so-called "constitutional convention" U.S. big business and its political servants are conspiring to make California's anti-labor, anti-poor people "Proposition 13" the law of the land all across the country.

And there can be no doubt about who benefits from such legislation: The Wall Street Journal of Feb. 13 reports that Proposition 13 has been a "business bonanza" and that "landlords got a \$1.2 billion break," while "the largest cut went to owners of commercial and industrial property in the state."

In addition the Wall Street Journal notes that "oil and gas companies are among the largest beneficiaries of Proposition 13." And while the oil barons were big winners, 120,000 workers in California got laid off and parks, libraries, daycare centers, and other services were closed, cut, or endangered.

The call for a constitutional amendment to require "a balanced federal budget" that has been quietly passed by 26 state legislatures is a campaign to inflict Proposition 13 on the entire country, to lock up in the U.S. treasury all the taxes workers pay so the politicians can have an excuse for saying the government "can't afford" to help anyone (except the business moguls who would reap more windfall profits like they got in California).

The workers and poor people, Black and white, must be awakened to organize the kinds of struggle that can stop this threat.

Taiwan lobby

As if Washington had not extracted enough concessions and assurances from the Deng-Hua government on the future of Taiwan, an array of influential U.S. Senators are pushing hard for beefing up the ultra-reactionary Taiwan regime's military forces. Various senators, ranging from Robert Dole (R-Kans.) to "liberal" Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.), have introduced legislation that would virtually allow the Pentagon to intervene in Taiwan under the flimsiest of pretexts.

Some senators, such as Rep. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), want the Carter administration to specifically provide the U.S.-puppet regime in Taiwan with some of the Pentagon's most advanced jet fighters, such as the F-16's. Others, led by Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.), have "tentatively disapproved" funds requested by the U.S. State Department for the purpose of making the transition to unofficial relations with Taiwan.

The recent Deng capitulation to U.S. imperialism on Taiwan, not to speak of other issues, not only enables the puppet regime to retain its colonial and capitalist social system but specifically permits the receipt of all arms ordered prior to 1979 and all new orders starting in 1980.

But the even more bellicose stance of some of the leading U.S. ruling class mouthpieces in Congress with regards to Taiwan shows that Washington and Wall Street are still prepared to take the most aggressive measures in order to retain Taiwan as their military outpost in the Far East and as the launching pad for a capitalist counter-revolution on mainland China—an objective never abandoned in spite of the Carter recognition of Beijing as the sole legitimate seat of power for all of China and the "breakthrough" accommodation of the Deng leadership to U.S. imperialism.

—Blow to imperialism

(Continued from p. 1)

The vulnerability of imperialism, the ultimate oppressor, has once more been demonstrated.

The revolution is far from over. The objectives of the masses, the goals for which they fought and died, cannot be achieved within the framework of a bourgeois regime, no matter how democratic or anti-imperialist its policies. The revolution must go on and break up the rule of private property, of profit, of exploitation.

The imperialists are trying to restore calm in their camp by pointing out the possibilities for "a return to the Western orbit" once things calm down in Iran. With an eye to the stock market and the price of gold (and the decline of the dollar), Carter speaks soothingly of expecting the "friendship" of the Iranian people, since it has never—no, never—been U.S. policy to interfere in anyone's internal affairs.

But regardless of how the leaders on top view it, the force that made this tremendous revolution is still there: the masses. They are battle-hardened. Many, many are armed. They have seen their power. The coming period will be one in which the socialist objectives of their struggle must be clarified.



Positions carriers off coast

U.S. covertly instigates attack on Viet Nam

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

FEBRUARY 13—While issuing numerous pronouncements expressing "concern" and even "alarm" over the build-up of Chinese troops on the Viet Nam border, the U.S. government continued this week with its calculated and underhanded efforts to instigate a widening of the conflict.

At the same time, the Vietnamese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Nguyen Duy Trinh, addressed an urgently worded message to the United Nations Security Council on Feb. 10 advising that the Chinese authorities had deployed a heavy concentration of troops, planes, and other war material along its border, and that Chinese soldiers had engaged in numerous armed actions against Viet Nam.

Trinh said that China had "deployed about 20 divisions, hundreds of fighter aircraft, many tanks and other war materiel in the immediate vicinity of the frontier between China and Viet Nam. They have engaged daily in armed activities which violate Vietnamese territory, thus creating an extremely dangerous situation along the entire length of the frontier. . . ."

"While these hostile acts were taking place," Trinh added, "the Deputy Prime Minister of China, Teng Hsiao-ping, during his visits to the United States and Japan, openly confirmed the news reports concerning the massive concentrations of Chinese troops near the Vietnamese frontier and the shameless threats of war against the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam."

ACTIONS AGAINST VIET NAM OKAYED BY WASHINGTON

The ominous build-up of Chinese armed forces coincided with the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-ping) to the U.S. Despite all the denials by the Carter administration, it is apparent throughout the world that U.S. imperialism stands behind China in its aggressive moves against Viet Nam.

This was underscored when, immediately on Deng's departure, Thai Premier Kriangsak arrived in Washington to discuss more U.S. arms to Thailand and Thailand's

relation to the struggle in Kampuchea. The meaning of this latter point became clear when Prince Norodom Sihanouk, before leaving the United States for Beijing (Peking), revealed that Deng had told him that China was sending arms to the Pol Pot forces by way of Thailand, thus keeping alive the Kampuchean conflict.

It is plain that the Deng leadership in China has little interest in the Pol Pot group other than as a way of keeping up an anti-Vietnamese pressure on another front. The Beijing journal Peoples Daily on Feb. 10 ran an editorial which smacked of a political disavowal of the policies of the former Kampuchean leaders but raised the perspective of setting up a new all-class Kampuchean "national front" under Chinese tutelage, possibly with Sihanouk as its titular leader.

Obviously, the intentions of the Chinese leaders toward Viet Nam was a major topic of conversation between Deng and his hosts in the U.S. Senator Henry Jackson, one of the leading warhawks in the Congress, said on the CBS television program Face the Nation Sunday that "There's no doubt in my mind after talking with the vice premier that, at a minimum, they're out to bloody the Vietnamese nose."

He of course added, in proper sanctimonious tones, "I have personally cautioned the vice premier to avoid that possibility because the implications are more than Viet Nam."

U.S. CARRIERS OFF VIET NAM COAST

But what the Pentagon (which has no closer partner in the Senate than Mr. Jackson) was doing at that moment is quite another story. According to a Christian Science Monitor dispatch from Hong Kong that appeared yesterday, and which reported that the Chinese leaders are massing troops on both their Soviet and

Vietnamese borders, the U.S. posture of "neutrality" is only in words.

"Meanwhile," writes the Monitor correspondent, "two American aircraft carriers (Constellation and Midway) bearing a total of 160 planes are at ready one day's cruising from Viet Nam. Their presence is apparently to restrain actions by Soviet ships. But their presence could well encourage an attack by China if Peking concludes the American ships will cause the Soviet ships to think twice before acting." (Our emphasis.)

So there it is. The U.S. has already positioned military forces in such a way that, if Viet Nam is attacked by China, they could deter action in defense of Viet Nam by its main ally, the Soviet Union.

This is definitely **not** "neutrality." On the contrary, it is brazenly **instigating** China's leaders to launch an all-out attack on Viet Nam.

Is this surprising, given the nature of imperialism and the whole history of its monstrous efforts to destroy revolutionary Viet Nam since first offering the atomic bomb to the French to use at Dien Bien Phu in 1954? No, the only surprising thing is that anyone could fall for the saintly professions of innocence by the Carter administration.

It is akin to believing the many "peace" pronouncements made by President Johnson during his term of office—each one of which coincided with a major escalation of the war. It is no wonder that one of the most popular slogans of the anti-war movement became, "Johnson talks peace—makes war!"

The really shocking feature in the present line-up of forces, of course, is the apparent willingness of China's leaders to go as far as they have with this game, especially given the fact that Peoples China itself was a main target of imperialist aggression for so many years. Such conduct by the leaders lies in the face of the interests of China as a socialist country sharing a similar social system with Viet Nam—and similar treatment from the colonial and imperialist predators who have attempted to conquer all Asia for well more than a century.

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Behind the U.S. 'neutrality' posture

Imperialism and the crisis in the socialist camp: Part 2

This is the second part of a draft memorandum submitted by Sam Marcy, chairman of Workers World Party, for discussion at the February expanded National Committee plenum of the party.

From all that has been said earlier on relations between the socialist states, the one new and absolutely ominous phenomenon is the possibility of a wide conflict pitting one socialist state against another socialist state. Nothing like this has ever happened to any large degree (dismissing for a moment the Sino-Soviet border conflict in 1969 at the Ussuri river). Such a conflict spells out the gravest dangers for the cause of socialism and the destiny of humanity.

Denying that the Sino-Soviet conflict is a struggle between socialist states is to close one's eyes to reality. And it is even worse to become an adherent of one or the other of the socialist countries on the spurious ground that the other is capitalist or "social-imperialist." This will only help in the adulteration of the class consciousness of the working class. To dilute the working class approach, to discard Marxist-Leninist analysis, means to substitute instead a form of bourgeois ideology.

WHICH IS ALLIED WITH IMPERIALISM IS KEY QUESTION

Whichever socialist country solicits aid from imperialism, allies itself with imperialism, either overtly or covertly, or receives aid from imperialism, directly or indirectly, becomes an accomplice of imperialism and therefore must be denounced and condemned. The correct attitude of the international working class and the oppressed in such a conflict must be based on who is allied or seeks an alliance with, who is aided and abetted by imperialism.

In a certain way such a situation is analogous to two trade unions in the midst of a jurisdictional or other dispute. The attitude of the workers should first of all be shaped by which union is allied with or is aided and abetted by the company. For if a union, however laudable its proclaimed aims and objectives, or high-sounding its pronouncements, is allied with or in collusion with the company, it thereby ought to lose the confidence of the workers.

It is in this light that we must examine the most recent trends in the evolution of U.S. strategy and tactics in relationship to the socialist countries.

U.S. PROFESSES 'NEUTRALITY' IN SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE

At the present moment the Carter administration has opened a foreign policy campaign designed to demonstrate that it holds a neutral position in the struggle between the USSR and China and that its only concern is to maintain "peace and a stable system of independent states in Southeast Asia." "We are not taking sides," said a State Department policy statement, "in the struggle between Communist states in Asia."

Furthermore, the policy announcement went on to say that the U.S. would be "seriously concerned over a Chinese attack on

Viet Nam." "We have expressed our concerns," the statement went on, "directly to the Vietnamese, Soviet, and China governments about the dangers of continued, perhaps expanded, fighting."

Continuing in the same vein, the statement went on to say, "Our confidential discussions with these governments have been fully consistent with our public statements. . . . We remain seriously concerned over the continued Vietnamese attack on Kampuchea."

The State Department pronouncement, which it described as a policy statement endorsed by the White House, is a classic example of a cover story calculated to hide the real position of American finance capital in relation to the socialist countries. Its strong self-righteous assertions follow the basic outlines of a well-planned policy laid out long ago, indeed decades ago, following the victory of the Chinese Revolution, the establishment of the Peoples Republic, and the emergence of a whole series of socialist countries into a virtual fraternal alliance of a whole grouping of socialist states. However, these latest pronouncements constitute a new phase in the overall worldwide ideological struggle between imperialism and the socialist countries.

The principal objective of U.S. policy is and has been to split the socialist alliance apart, poison relations among the several members, instigate one against another, and bring the day ever closer of military conflict among them. The State Department policy statement is by no means a new strategem in the formulation of U.S. finance capital's basic foreign policy endeavors.

HOW U.S. "NEUTRALITY" WORKED IN WWI AND WWII

On the contrary, it follows the long line of well-worn "neutrality" postures taken by the U.S. since the Spanish-American War and most particularly exemplified in the years before World War I and World War II. These postures almost always begin with strongly worded disavowals of any intention to get into the war, or of aiding one side against another. They are strictly calculated to appease the anti-war sentiments of the masses.

Gradually the momentum is built up by the capitalist press of the need to further arm the U.S. in case of "unforeseen eventualities" in which the U.S. has a "vital interest" (meaning a vital, predatory, imperialist interest). In the meantime, however, the war machine is more and more cranked up for action.

In the interim period of "neutrality," which it turns out really means U.S. preparations for war, what is not so often well publicized but is of the greatest significance to imperialist finance capital is the frantic drive that commences to obtain economic, diplomatic, and political advantages deriving from the developing conflict. The sale of guns, war material, and ammunition of all sorts becomes a scandalously lucrative business. War orders destined to the belligerent countries, either secretly or overtly, become truly stupendous means of garnering in super-profits.

In the three years before the U.S. went into the First World

War, the "war to save democracy," U.S. banks and industrial corporations amassed fabulous profits by accelerating trade and commercial deals which reduced the Allied powers to virtual clients of American imperialism. Finally the U.S. entered the war when it was clear that the moment was most advantageous to its world position and from the viewpoint of becoming the bulwark of world reaction and the gendarme of world imperialist interests.

The U.S. played essentially the same role in the days before it finally entered the Second World War. This left it in the supreme position to economically, politically, and diplomatically take over, as a legacy of the Second World War, the crumbling imperialist empires of Britain,

industrialists can walk in, with a minimum of military forces, pick up the pieces, and resume the role of the unchallenged world exploiter.

STATEMENT A COVER FOR U.S.-CHINA ALLIANCE

Thus the Feb. 9 U.S. policy statement on neutrality is deliberately made in strong language, but is in reality a cover for the alliance between the U.S. and China and the broader one which encompasses Japan and NATO as well. The U.S. bankers and industrialists hope to first of all wrest as many economic, political, and diplomatic advantages from the PRC leadership as possible before the U.S. commits itself to sending sophisticated technology to China, particularly of a military type. In the meantime,

Should these efforts by the U.S. fail to overwhelm the Kampuchean forces and should the efforts by NATO, Japan, and the U.S. in supplying the PRC with technology and materiel nevertheless also fail to overwhelm the Vietnamese, it is a foregone conclusion that U.S. efforts at quickening the pace in the delivery of military aid and material support to China will take on a new, more ominous dimension. This, however, will in no way exclude the continual play-acting of the neutrality stance.

As in past pre-war periods, side by side with a so-called embargo on the export of arms to the belligerents there is also the supplying of war material and military and economic assistance. Such export bans have been entertained by the U.S. Congress and passed in earlier pre-war days, but have always proved to be a dead letter in practice. As night follows day the developing war psychosis grips the military establishment and as the capitalist media whip up a hysterical campaign for the U.S. to enter the arena, the administration finally and "reluctantly" enters the war to "defend its own vital [i.e., imperialist] interests."

REVOLUTIONARY UPRISINGS CAN UPSET U.S. WAR PLANS

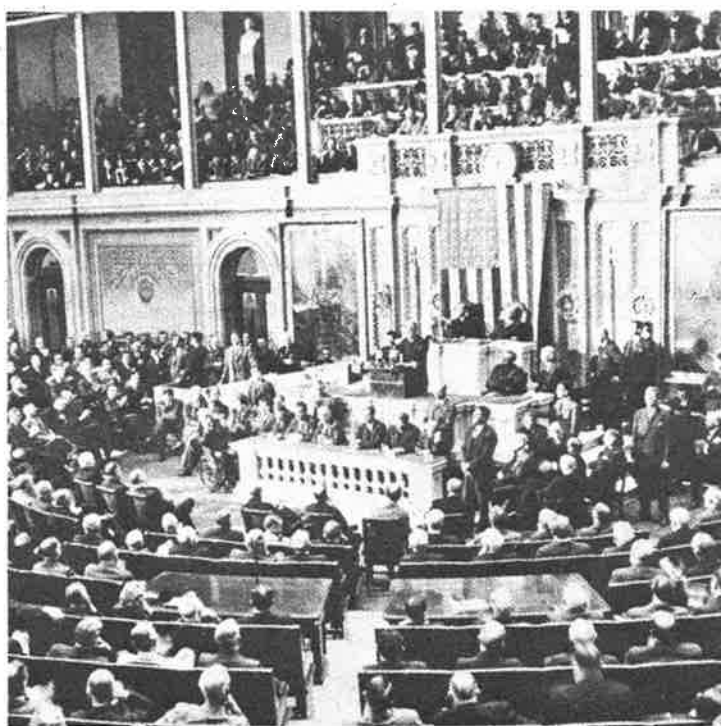
At the present moment the imperialist establishment has its hands full with the Iranian Revolution and the possibility of a blow-up in the Middle East where a varied assortment of U.S. puppets are sitting on a virtual powder keg.

The mass of the people in the U.S. are still war-weary as a result of the Viet Nam debacle. A much larger section of the population than ever is conscious of the vulnerability in U.S. imperialism maintaining a far-flung world empire at a time when revolutionary conflagrations, ignited by tremendous mass protest and indignation against oppression, are more prevalent than at any time.

Nevertheless, moves in Congress such as that made by Senator Stennis urging the renewal of the draft, long championed by the Pentagon, are a sign of what the militarists are pushing for. The swollen military budget, which keeps ever rising, is without a doubt the single most significant indicator as to where the military establishment and the military-industrial complex are hopelessly heading.

But the mass of the people are not at all acclimated to any type of war adventure which involves actual military intervention, especially on a large scale. The most likely course to be taken by the U.S. government is for it first to slowly position U.S. forces in areas where they seem to serve a purely defensive purpose but where their presence will inevitably take on a Tonkin Gulf coloration.

It must be remembered that there never was a Congressional vote in favor of the Viet Nam or Korean wars. Executive actions by the Truman and Johnson administrations proved to be definitive war measures without Congressional sanction. They were faits accomplis and Congress rubber-stamped the actions. The



Roosevelt asks Congress for a declaration of war on Dec. 8, 1941. The U.S. affected a posture of 'neutrality' in the early years of both world wars in order to be in the best position to emerge from the conflict in a preeminent world position.

France, Belgium, Holland, and what was left of German imperialist interests in Africa, Turkey, and elsewhere. The position of U.S. imperialism had been to squeeze out every ounce of economic advantage in the way of markets, areas of diplomatic influence, and sources of raw materials before it committed itself in the war against the fascist powers.

It should not be forgotten that the so-called U.S. neutralist role during the Spanish Civil War was also completely fraudulent. In words the Roosevelt administration allowed itself to be played up as sympathetic to the resistance struggle against Franco fascism. In reality it viewed the Spanish Civil War as mainly a miniature military arena, a dress rehearsal to the larger war that was already well on the horizon.

The profession of neutrality by American imperialism early in the First and Second World War differed, of course, from the kind of neutrality which the Carter administration, as well as the administrations of Nixon, Johnson, Kennedy, and Truman before him, envisions in the struggle between the socialist countries. So far as the socialist countries are concerned, the basic aim of the U.S. is to see the socialist countries destroy themselves so the American bankers and

Washington has given its blessing to West European attempts to sell military hardware to the Peoples Republic of China (PRC). These are already in progress.

Thus the British Harrier helicopter deal as well as some deals made by the French and German imperialists have been approved by the Carter administration. There are other arms sales in the works meant to bolster the PRC war potential against the USSR. There can be no mistaking the fact that the neutralist stance of the U.S. is so preponderantly weighted against the USSR that it could scarcely be hidden from any but the most naive.

At the same time that the U.S. State Department issued its hypocritical neutrality statement, it vigorously asserted its "obligation" to help its ally in Southeast Asia, the reactionary Thai regime, with arms and economic assistance. It is an open secret that the PRC leaders are using Thai territory to funnel military assistance to the Pol Pot forces in the struggle against the Kampuchean National United Front for Salvation. Arming the reactionary Thai government while its territory is being used as a funnel against the Peoples Republic of Kampuchea as well as against Viet Nam is in effect arming China against Viet Nam and Kampuchea.

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U.S.-backed regime in Pakistan arrests hundreds as

Bhutto's death sentence upheld by court

By SARA FLOUNDERS

FEBRUARY 13—The Supreme Court of Pakistan on Feb. 6 upheld the death sentence against former Premier Ali Bhutto. Bhutto was overthrown by a U.S.-backed military coup led by General Zia ul Haq in July 1977.

The military regime of General Zia has imposed martial law, outlawed strikes, prohibited trade union activity, and banned any political activity in schools and colleges. General Zia, by claiming to revive Islam and to institute Islamic law, has abolished the constitution, elections, and all rights. Both revolution and reaction can be fought under religious banners; in Pakistan these acts were clearly aimed at suppressing the increasingly militant Pakistani masses.

Before announcing its rejection of the final appeal of the death sentence, the government arrested hundreds of people and closed

indefinitely all colleges and lower schools.

U.S. IMPERIALISM BEHIND COUP

Bhutto's government had nationalized some industries, instituted a modest land reform, and taken progressive international stands—all, however, within the context of attempting to stabilize the rule of the national bourgeoisie. He was overthrown in the midst of a great social upheaval, strikes, and huge demonstrations, which he had been unable to contain. U.S. imperialism, clearly fearful of a sudden swing to the left as in Indonesia, Chile, Thailand, and Argentina, engineered the right-wing military take-over.

Last week Bhutto again charged that the U.S. instigated the coup and his recent conviction because of his determination to go ahead against U.S. pressure and buy a nuclear reprocessing plant from

France and because of his support for the Palestinian struggle.

It is important to recall that General Zia was an advisor to King Hussein of Jordan during Black September 1970 and was one of the main commanders responsible for that murderous assault on the Palestinian people. General Zia and all his top military officers have been trained in the U.S.

Last week President Carter hypocritically added his voice to pleas of clemency that many governments have sent to General Zia. The hanging of Bhutto (on charges of corruption and organizing the unsuccessful assassination of a political opponent) is scheduled for next week. The death sentence underscores the instability of General Zia's regime. Their decision to execute a figure such as Bhutto, whose popularity has grown since he has become a target of the Zia regime, only

demonstrates their fear that a revolutionary upsurge in Pakistan is inevitable.

Pakistan, with a population of 75 million, is an impoverished country. As an exporter of raw materials, the full impact of the international economic crisis is felt by millions of Pakistani workers and peasants, whose average income is only \$89 a year. The

many oppressed nationalities of Pakistan also have a long history of resistance, especially in the province of Baluchistan. General Zia and his U.S. backers have only to look to the countries on the border—Iran, Afghanistan, and China—in order to be reminded of their certain fate and the immense power of the revolutionary working class.

—Imperialism and the socialist camp

(Continued from p. 9)

intervention in the Dominican Republic wasn't even put to a Congressional vote of any sort.

Nor does the so-called War Powers Act of 1974, which is supposed to limit Presidential and executive action in the military field, really stand in the way of unilateral action by the White House and the Pentagon. The tree-cutting incident on the DPRK side of the demilitarized zone, which seems almost to be forgotten now, was a clear test of whether this limitation of Presidential authority in military affairs had any validity. But no one in Congress raised any voice when the administration threatened to use military action against the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

There is no question, of course, that U.S. imperialism is beset with tremendous problems of both an internal and external character, especially now that the Bakhtiar regime has been overthrown and the Iranian Revolution is in full swing. This has upset and thrown into confusion the factional alignments in the imperialist establishment.

It also has to reckon with the possibility that the outbreak of Sino-Soviet military warfare will not degenerate into a war of annihilation, but on the contrary may result in a short-lived military skirmish which ends up in a basic settlement all around among the socialist states. This again and again explains the extremely cautious position the Carter administration is taking towards its new alliance with China and its dogged efforts to completely hold Taiwan as a hostage in case China "reneges."

POTENTIAL FOR BROAD ANTI-WAR SENTIMENT IN U.S.

Nor is it altogether excluded that the U.S. may find itself committed to large-scale military intervention at a time when popular anti-war sentiment in the United States can easily become rekindled. Nor is there likely to be a repetition of what happened during the Viet Nam War, when the labor movement and the working class as a whole remained passive. The situation today finds an extremely discontented working class as well as middle class.

The efforts of the Pentagon's colossal war machine to divert this dissatisfaction into war channels may, contrary to their expectations, not turn out at all. Swift moves by the Pentagon war machine may bring in their train changes in the mass consciousness of the working class and the oppressed peoples as well as large sections of the middle class. For one thing, they are sure to accelerate the inflationary spiral. Military moves on a large scale, moves which cannot be hidden from the sight of the mass of the people, are likely to get their wrath as well as their attention and notice.

Even now, there is a slow awakening, a gradual realization that it is the Pentagon and the swollen defense budget which is a basic cause of the galloping inflation. Capitalist politicians who up to now have failed even to mention the war budget have begun to speak out against it, if ever so timidly. Just two years ago Congress went beyond the request of the Pentagon for defense appropriations. This is no longer the prevailing mood in the light of skyrocketing inflation.

A military adventure by the U.S. is sure to focus the anger of the masses upon the government and its war policies more so than in earlier periods, when defense orders seemed to be the answer to unemployment. This myth is being ripped to tatters.

The loss of payment for \$8-to-\$10 billion worth of military orders as a result of the Iranian Revolution illustrates that the mere piling up of many billion dollars worth of weapons orders, presumably to defend U.S. interests, does not safeguard or secure jobs in defense plants but makes them more precarious.

In the countries which have these weapons shoved down their throats, the problems multiply over the decades, especially when their social and political significance has been hidden. What was originally seen by the imperialists as a lucrative market can explode in their faces, as witness the stunning blow to imperialism so vividly demonstrated by the Iranian Revolution. The latter is only the precursor of other, more far-reaching developments.

For all these reasons the U.S. posturing of neutrality in the developing conflict in Southeast Asia is not likely to serve as much of a cover for its predatory designs. But it does emphasize the dangers involved for the capitalist establishment in moving too hurriedly at a time when the fires of revolutionary ferment are engaging the imperialist colossus on many other fronts.

STRUGGLE OVER U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Nevertheless, from a broad historical perspective it is the dynamics of monopoly capitalism with its congenital propensity in the direction of military adventures which is decisive. This is what constitutes the overriding factor in the makeup of U.S. foreign policy. It is no wonder that since the day the Carter administration formally took office and completed filling its Cabinet posts and staff, it has been wracked by a constant, relentless, and overriding conflict precisely on the direction of U.S. foreign policy.

In the public eye and in a formal sense it takes on the shape of a struggle between "hard-liners," the outlandishly and outrageously pro-war faction as symbolized by National Security Advisor Brzezinski, and those who take the

(Continued on p. 11)

International News in Brief

ZAIRE

Belgian troops to Shaba

NEW YORK, Feb. 12—Some 250 Belgian paratroopers are being sent to the Belgian-built airbase at Kitona, Zaire following restiveness in Zaire's Shaba Province. Reports of widespread hunger and malnutrition, an unemployment rate of 80%, and a history of rebellions have made the mineral-rich province a tinder-box.

L'Unita, the Italian Communist Party newspaper, reported that Zairean president Mobutu cleared his request for the troops with the U.S., the French, as well as the Belgian governments. Transnational corporations of these three countries have huge and profitable investments in the region. A 2,500-man occupation force—composed primarily of Moroccan and Senegalese troops—has guarded these investments and the sizable European community which operates them since the withdrawal of the French and Belgian forces some six months ago.

Reports in Le Monde and the Christian Science Monitor cite unrest on the outskirts of the capital of Kinshasa as the reason for the airlift of the paratroopers, but Zaire and Belgian officials insist the troops are for "training exercises" for the badly demoralized and unreliable Zairean army.

OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Israeli torture revealed

FEBRUARY 12—A former U.S. State Department official has exposed new evidence that Israel tortures Palestinian prisoners. The official, Alexandra U. Johnson, was a U.S. consular officer in Israeli-occupied Jerusalem. According to Johnson, the State Department fired her last month when she made the information public.

Johnson said she became aware of the torture when she interviewed 29 Palestinians who had applied for visas at the U.S.'s Jerusalem consulate. The consulate sent the State Department several cables which reported that Israel used electric shock, sexual sadism, starvation, refrigeration, and other torture methods against Palestinians. The State Department kept this information secret until the Washington Post printed excerpts from the cables last Wednesday.

Despite these cables, which reported "systematic abuse," State Department spokesman Hodding Carter 3rd said there were merely "instances of mistreatment" of Palestinian prisoners by Israel. He said he based his statement on the Israeli government's official denial of torture.

For many years the United States government has tried to cover up evidence of human rights violations by Israel and other client-states. This week the State Department released a report to Congress on what it called the "human rights situation" in over 100 countries (excluding the U.S.). For the countries like Israel that the U.S. supports, torture and repression are translated into "instances of mistreatment" and "an improving human rights picture." At the same time countries which resist imperialist exploitation

are called "repressive."

The fact that a State Department employee on the scene, however, has reported Israeli torture and the fact that the U.S. government fired her to keep her quiet, says a lot more than thousands of pages of "official reports."

ITALY

Demand Moro inquiry

FEB. 10—Last Thursday the Italian Communist Party (PCI) joined other parties to demand a full-scale parliamentary investigation of the kidnapping and killing of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro last year.

This political assassination was carried out by a supposedly left-wing terrorist group, the Red Brigades. However, the assassination occurred just at the time that the Christian Democrat (DC) leader Moro, then President, had thrown support behind a compromise with the PCI which would have allowed the PCI more participation in the government; this policy was opposed by U.S. and West German imperialism, as well as by right-wing Italian politicians.

The kidnapping resulted in keeping the PCI out of the government, and also cost them electoral support vis-a-vis the DC.

More recently, the main targets of the Red Brigades have been PCI members themselves, including trade union activist Guido Rossi, as well as a DC magistrate who was sympathetic to a compromise with the PCI, along with minor police officials. These events add to the general belief among class-conscious Italians that reactionaries were manipulating the Red Brigades in a CIA-style conspiracy.

L'ESPRESSO REVELATION

The call for an open investigation followed an article published last week in the newsweekly L'Espresso, which reported that an alleged Red Brigade member told a Christian Democratic Senator personally close to the Moro family that Moro's kidnapping had been organized by two prominent members of Parliament and a "person linked to the Vatican," and that several carabinieri (national police) participated. The general command of the carabinieri denied any involvement. The government made no other denials.

A parliamentary investigation of the case would be the first public airing of the facts. All prior investigations were conducted by the police and military authorities, that is, were completely under the control of the capitalist state.

EUROCOMMUNISM

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SAM MARCY

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—Imperialism

(Continued from p. 10)

stand and posture of the more moderate wing in the administration, as exemplified by Secretary of State Vance and his coterie of supporters.

The fact that both these wings can continue in the administration over such a long period attests to the fright of the administration in decisively breaking with one or the other.

It is not that there is really a substantial difference between the two. In reality it is the traditional division of labor between soft cop and hard cop, both having the same objective. However, in the present circumstances a definitive tilt to one direction or another would almost surely upset the equilibrium of forces within the ruling establishment.

An open disavowal of the Vance forces would cause a tremendous weakening of popular support for the Carter administration and tend to expose it to peril in the event a war crisis develops in the period immediately preceding the Presidential elections.

On the other hand, a disavowal of the Brzezinski wing, such as his own personal elimination from office, would even pose the possibility, while admittedly very remote, of a military coup, although the so-called debate now going on between the ultra-right and the administration is still formulated in terms of polite controversy. However, this possibility must not be dismissed given the Kennedy experience after Viet Nam and the Bay of Pigs.

It is not the elimination of Brzezinski as an individual which would be very significant, since he himself, like Kissinger before him, has no independent base of his own in the ruling class. Kissinger as well as Brzezinski are personages who have been retained, that is hired, by powerful sections of the ruling class, Kissinger by the Rockefellers, Brzezinski by a coalition of the military-industrial complex and others. Neither Brzezinski nor Kissinger can independently on their own wield a great deal of authority in political affairs.

UNDERLYING CAPITALIST ECONOMIC CRISIS

Underlying everything else is the continued and never-ending crisis of the economic system itself, which seems to know no end to continual and ever-more serious disturbances.

It is a matter of public record that while in the early 1920s it used to be the more radical economists of the bourgeoisie who direly predicted capitalist crises, and the conservative bourgeoisie seemed to ooze nothing but ever-lasting capitalist prosperity, things have turned upside-down today! Now it's the conservative bourgeois economists who almost daily predict an oncoming recession, as they call it.

They almost wish for it and pray that it will come sooner in the hope that it will be a short one. The longer the period of relatively stable industrial production continues, the more fearful they are that the ultimate bust which is sure to come will be far more disastrous, if not catastrophic.

Thus the politics of the bourgeoisie in the main are concerned with harnessing the productive capacity of the country to maintain a stable equilibrium of the social system, an equilibrium which means, so far as the rela-

POLITICAL PRISONERS

JoAnne Little

FEBRUARY 10—Attorneys for JoAnne Little have filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in the North Carolina District Court. The writ states that the court that



JoAnne Little after arraignment on escape charges, June 29, 1978, at the Wake County Courthouse in Raleigh, N.C.
WW photo: J. Long

tried Little on charges that she escaped from prison in 1977 had no jurisdiction to do so and that Little was denied the right to a lawyer of her own choosing when the North Carolina court barred her attorney from a courtroom hearing.

JoAnne Little has been harassed and threatened almost daily by North Carolina officials since a jury acquitted her of any wrong doing for killing a prison guard in self-defense during a racist rape attack. The jailer had entered her cell and threatened her with an ice pick.

Due to her own heroism and the national and international support she received, Little became the first Black woman in the U.S. to be acquitted on murder charges stemming from her self-defense. The prison system, seeking its revenge on Little, has conducted a campaign against her ever since.

Little managed to escape in 1977 after being systematically denied parole several times. On June 9 she was forcibly returned

to North Carolina despite proof that her life is in danger as long as she is held in the dungeons of North Carolina.

'Hurricane' Carter, John Artis

FEBRUARY 10—A secret interview conducted last October with a juror in the 1976 trial of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter and John Artis was made public on Jan. 20. In the interview the juror had revealed that racist slurs and jokes were made regularly in front of jurors by courthouse guards and by at least three jurors themselves.

Defense attorneys for Carter and Artis have asked the federal courts to order the men released on bail pending the outcome of a full appeal of their conviction.

The two Black men were framed up for the deaths of three people in a Paterson, N.J., bar in the wake of the 1967 rebellion in the oppressed community in Paterson. Carter, a well-known boxer, had openly voiced support for the rebellion.

After serving nearly a decade in prison, in 1976 the men won a new trial due to the mass support their case had attracted. Both prosecution witnesses had publicly admitted that they had lied under state pressure.

In the second trial, the prosecution lied about the findings of a lie detector test taken by one of the main witnesses, Alfred Bello. As a result, Bello, who had recanted on earlier false testimony against Carter and Artis, buckled and testified against them once again. A judge later decided that the prosecutor's lie about the test was "an honest mistake".

Carter and Artis are currently serving life-plus sentences. The NAACP has joined in the struggle to free the two men, pointing out that racism is the real reason for their conviction.

Republic of New Africa 11

FEBRUARY 11—On Jan. 11, the attorney for the Republic of New Africa (RNA) President Imari Abubakari Obadele filed a brief in federal court in Mississippi's Southern District.

Obadele, who has been in jail for four years, is a member of the RNA 11. The RNA is a movement that seeks to establish an independent nation for Black people in five southern states including Mississippi, where the 11 were arrested almost eight

years ago.

On Aug. 18, 1971, heavily armed police and FBI launched a murderous pre-dawn raid on a house where RNA members were sleeping. Two members of the attacking state gang were killed. Eight Black men and three Black women were arrested following the assault and framed up by the state of Mississippi on charges that included murder, treason, and levy of war.

An RNA press release of Jan. 26 says: "The 63-page brief filed in District Court makes out a case against top and lower-echelon FBI agents for plotting the assassination of President Obadele and against Attorney General Briffin Bell for covering up evidence of the assassination plot for almost two years: On these grounds, the brief argues that all the convictions should be overturned."

Jomo Omowale

FEBRUARY 11—Jury selection began this week in the trial of Attica Brother Jomo Joka Omowale (Cleveland Davis). Attica Brothers Jomo and Dalou Asahi (Mariano Gonzales) were the victims of a police ambush in an oppressed community in Brooklyn on April 2 which left Dalou dead and Jomo wounded. This brutal attack by the police did not go the way they had hoped since two cops also died.

Jomo, the victim of the police assault, is being tried for the death of the two cops.

After his arrest, Jomo was put in an ambulance where he was beaten to within an inch of his life by cop James Dennedy, who broke almost every bone in Jomo's face. Dennedy has a record of attacking oppressed people he has stopped on the street and also of using racist epithets.

Dennedy and his cop cronies

are packing Brooklyn Supreme Court. Supporters of Jomo are urged to fill the courtroom. Brooklyn Supreme Court is on Court St. and Montague St. (Judge Starkey's courtroom).

Minister jailed

FEBRUARY 6—A 73-year-old minister was jailed in Ohio last month for refusing to answer a Grand Jury's questions concerning charges it was bringing against two prisoners who had taken him hostage during an escape from Lucasville prison.

Rev. Maurice McCrackin told Ohio Common Pleas Judge Rupert Doan that he would not contribute to a process that would send people back to the "debasing" conditions of prison.

McCrackin, who has refused to let his supporters or church seek his release, has started a fast which is now threatening his life. From his hospital room, McCrackin recently said of U.S. prisons, "They're little concentration camps."

"I think if conditions in prison ever come to the surface, people will say, 'I had no idea these things existed'—just like they did after Hitler's war. I would never do anything that would contribute to sending someone there."

exposed as instruments of class warfare and challenged as such. And it is viewed as especially dangerous when the challenge succeeds.

—Shipyard

privacy. They have no grievance procedure, no real sick leave or

pension plan. Without a union they have only the right to be exploited. And they don't even have that, since they can be fired at the drop of a hat.

In this sense, the real organizer who brought the Steelworkers' union to the shipyard is none other than Tenneco itself. By its arrogant and brutal treatment of the workers, Tenneco has created more union sympathizers than any team of organizers could possibly have done.

—'Right to work'

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workers elsewhere in the "right to work" states.

Although it is not generally discussed—openly, at least—among the powers that be, it is recognized as dangerous for their rule when laws and courts are

relationship between the working class and the bourgeoisie, between the exploited and exploiter, an intensification of exploitation and ever-greater pressure for the extraction of surplus value from the hides of the workers and the oppressed.

The consequent buildup of a formidable ocean of discontent and dissatisfaction is bound to reach the surface of open political struggle.

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

February 16, 1979

In Newport News strike



The strikers are holding firm.

WW photo: J. Long

Shipyard workers set to win



Pickets at 50th Street and Washington.

WW photo: J. Long

A message from the Virginia picketlines:

'Organize the South!'

By KENNY PETERSON

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 13—Business is "alarmed," reported yesterday's edition of the Virginian-Pilot in an article analyzing the implications of the strike at the Newport News shipyard.

"Companies are coming here [the Southeast] in conscious efforts to escape the unions of the Northeast," the paper quoted one P.H. Cox as explaining. Cox, whose job it is for the city of Chesapeake to promote this migration, then lamented: "Remove the stable, available labor force [read unorganized and helpless—K.P.] we boast, and our appeal fades."

How right he is! "If the [Steelworkers'] union can show its muscle through a protracted strike," warned the newspaper, "companies fleeing the unionized Northeast may find their old nemesis hard on their heels."

STEELWORKERS GIVING UNION-BUSTERS HEARTBURN

The Steelworkers' strike, precisely because it is a battle for

union recognition in a "right to work" state, is giving heart to an embattled labor movement, and to the corporate union-busters—heartburn. A victory for labor in the Tidewater area, "the gateway to the South" (!), would lay the foundation for a mighty bulwark against the union-busting tide that has for too long submerged the aspirations of working people in the South.

This is very much understood by the workers at Newport News Ship, and is an important element in their determination to stay out until they have a union contract.

And a victory for the union at Newport News would also begin to lay the basis for stopping the runaway shops that are so damaging to Northern labor. Organize the South, and as Cox says, "the appeal fades."

An important legal instrument of the union-busting corporation is the so-called "right to work" law, presently on the books in 20 states, mostly in the South. This law operates in many ways, although its general purpose of preventing unions from organizing or keeping

them weak is conceded by its proponents.

"RIGHT TO WORK" LAW BACKFIRES

In the case of the strike at Newport News, however, the "right to work" law has failed and even backfired. By setting the law in motion against the strikers, Virginia's governor John Dalton set the strikers in motion against the law. And in that collision, the "right to work" law collapsed.

Of course, the Steelworkers' union has launched a constitutional challenge to the law in the court, but no purely legal test could accomplish what the Steelworkers already accomplished in the streets. They withstood the intimidation, they took the busts, and the strike emerged as strong as ever.

Their triumph over the "right to work" law is merely one of the forms in which the strike is confronting the union-busting Tenneco corporation. Yet it is a significant victory whose lessons cannot fail to be noticed by

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By KENNY PETERSON

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Feb. 13—The Steelworkers' strike, now entering its third week against the giant shipyard here, appears to be heading towards a certain victory. Gloomy predictions of a "domino" effect on other anti-union corporations are beginning to surface in the local press.

Both sides in the dispute are looking with growing anticipation at the impending court decision that will either uphold or overturn the NLRB-certified election of the Steelworkers' union. The federal court in Richmond will hear arguments from both sides on Feb. 22. It is expected that another week or two will then elapse before a decision is rendered.

Meanwhile, the strikers are continuing to hold firm. The shipyard's management has said that it will abide by the U.S. Court of Appeal's decision if the election results favoring the Steelworkers' union are upheld. However, this same management is a master at stalling and subterfuge, and the workers remain suspicious of it with good reason, as they are also of the courts.

Despite management claims that 60% of the yard's workforce is disregarding the strike, there is hard evidence to the contrary. Independent observers have tended to confirm the union's estimate of 80-to-85% of the workers honoring the strike. This is despite every management trick in the book, from heavy radio and TV advertising to telephone calls to workers' homes.

LITTLE ACTIVITY

The parking lots usually filled with workers' cars are deserted. The four-lane, one-way Warwick Boulevard that skirts the shipyard is almost empty during the 4-5 p.m. rush hour, whereas it is usually a four-mile long traffic jam.

The huge cranes that jut into the leaden February sky above the sprawling shipyard are motionless. A wisp of smoke is visible here or there, revealing a bare minimum of activity. The shipyard, which stretches for two miles along the James River waterfront, is quiet. Production has stopped. The yard lies crippled.

The workers, who until Jan. 31 made the shipyard a beehive of activity, have taken up positions outside the many gates. Their picketlines slowly wind past the entrances, each worker bundled up against the unusually cold weather. Their bright red picket signs, visible even in the distance, are their badges of honor.

The shipyard may belong to Tenneco, they seem to be saying, but this strike is clearly theirs. Their anger and their exuberance are almost tangible; their determination and optimism unmistakable. They are con-

scious of their strength as they forge bonds of solidarity.

Opposing the workers is the Houston-based conglomerate Tenneco, owner of the Newport News Shipyard and Drydock Company. Tenneco is the 19th largest industrial corporation in the U.S. and their shipyard is the largest in the country. The yard produces and repairs commercial and military vessels, including submarines and aircraft carriers. It is the only yard in the U.S. capable of turning out nuclear-powered carriers. About two-thirds of the shipyard's orders are placed by the U.S. Navy.

J.P. STEVENS OF SHIPBUILDING

Tenneco has a reputation for intransigent anti-unionism. Because of its defiance of the National Labor Relations Board, Tenneco has been branded by Steelworkers' leaders as "the J.P. Stevens of the shipbuilding industry." Unlike J.P. Stevens, however, the shipyard is too large and the workforce too concentrated for it to evade the union.

Assisting Tenneco in its attempted union-busting are Virginia's so-called "right-to-work" laws. Under cover of these anti-union laws, the State Police have arrested over two dozen strikers. The "right-to-work" law is essentially a ban on a union shop, in which membership in the union is required of all workers protected by the contract.

In Virginia the "right-to-work" law is extended by a companion statute that makes it a crime to "intimidate" or even insult a scab who crosses a picket line. In this strike workers have been arrested for pointing at a scab and for throwing a cigarette butt on the ground.

STRIKE GROWING STRONGER

But the arrested workers have rejoined the picket lines and the strike has grown stronger. The "right-to-work" law has failed miserably. The attempted strike-breaking by the police has exposed the state as the tool of big business that it is. State intervention against the workers has opened many eyes.

The strikers are convinced that they will not return to work without a union contract. They have had enough of unsafe working conditions; three workers were killed at the shipyard last year and many more were injured. They have had enough of a corporate management that is completely indifferent to their needs and hostile to their rights.

The more than 15,500 workers at the shipyard do not even have a place to eat, are denied their raises at the whim of a supervisor, cannot even go to the bathroom in

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