

Legacy of Heroic Resistance

**Workers World
Celebrates
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH** — Centerfold



February 4, 1983 Vol. 25, No. 5

25c

workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



Salvador city liberated despite Pentagon threats

By Lallan Stein

FEBRUARY 1—A tremendous victory at Berlin, an industrial city located in the southeastern province of Usulután, El Salvador, was confirmed this morning. It has been reported that the Faribundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) liberated that city of more than 35,000, the largest yet, from the U.S. puppet government forces.

The FMLN won the battle despite bombing and strafing from U.S.-made A-37 Dragonfly attack aircraft and U.S.-made Huey helicopters.

"We've made a qualitative leap in Usulután," said a Salvadoran liberation fight-

er. He stood in the town plaza of San Agustín, 15 miles to the south of Berlin, with a captured U.S. M-16 slung over his shoulder.

Millions of dollars sunk into the U.S. military budget are used to support repressive regimes against popular revolutions as is now taking place in El Salvador. U.S. economic and military domination arouses even greater resistance among the people.

Projected aid of \$226 million to the hated Salvadoran military leaders and the cost of the current U.S. military maneuvers aimed at revolutionary Nicaragua and the liberation struggles of El Salvador and Guatemala are at the expense of jobs and services here.

The victory at Berlin is part of a nationwide offensive begun by the FMLN scarcely a week ago. It coincided with an urgent announcement by the Reagan administration to immediately release \$25 million in additional assistance to the Salvadoran butcher generals.

Washington was alarmed by the success of the FMLN in the northeast province of Morazán. Beginning in early January, liberation forces had made significant territorial gains and were close to the provincial capital of San Francisco Gotera.

In a Pentagon-contrived pincer maneuver, 6,000 U.S.-trained Salvadoran troops moved

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"We've made a qualitative leap in Usulután." Salvadoran freedom fighters and residents of San Agustín, a village in Usulután Province near the city of Berlin, liberated this week by the FMLN. The struggle in El Salvador is advancing rapidly, despite millions of dollars poured in by Washington to prop up the hated military puppet junta.

**Sam Marcy:
Workers can overturn AT&T decision to ditch Western Electric**
—pp. 4, 5

2,500 protest Reagan visit to Boston



"We want jobs!" Boston demonstrators protest Reagan visit.

Photo: ALICE GIUBELLINI

By Jane Kaatz
 BOSTON, Jan. 26—A four-hour publicity visit by Reagan to this city calculated to demonstrate his "concern" for oppressed people by saluting the token job-training programs of high-tech big business was met with an angry demonstration of 2,500 people here today.

It was like an invasion. Four marine helicopters landed, uninvited and unwelcome. The president's armour-plated, bullet-proof limousine, scores of secret service men infiltrating the crowd, and hundreds of armed police on foot and horseback, all in riot gear, swarmed the streets. It was worse than a hype. His

entire visit, which included an award presentation to Digital Equipment Corp. for its "exemplary" job training and affirmative action programs, a meeting with 25 corporate executives of various high-tech industries and a "drop-in" at the OIC (a high-tech training facility also in Roxbury), was to spread the myth that Ronald Reagan cares about the jobless, homeless, and especially the youth.

Demonstrators outside Digital expressed the real understanding of Reaganomics. One GE worker and member of IUE said, "Reagan's taken a racist axe through unions and community groups—but we're getting together to break the arm that swings the axe." Brian Shea, of the Disabled Peoples Liberation Front and APC said, "Our labor, our skills, our capabilities—these are our property rights. No one, nothing, can take this right away—can deny our right to work, to be trained, to be educated."

Themba Vilikazi, of the African National Congress, put Reaganomics in the same camp as apartheid by revealing Reagan's strategy as "fighting unemployment by reducing the minimum wage until we have slavery here."

Domenic Bozzotto, President of Local 25, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees, challenged Reagan's hypocrisy, identifying his responsibility for busting PATCO, his endorsement of the sub-minimum wage Summer Youth Incentives Program that would "pit young against older workers, the poor against the poor," and presenting himself to Boston's Black community while actively supporting segregated schools and neighborhoods.

SF demonstration

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 31—Organization is underway for a massive protest demonstration here on Wednesday, March 3, in Golden Gate Park where President Reagan will host a lavish state dinner for England's Queen Elizabeth.

At a press conference here today at the Service Employees International Union Hall, organizers announced the formation of the March 3 Coalition, already made up of over 50 groups. Among initial endorsers are: All Peoples Congress; Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES); Congressman Ron Dellums; Grey Panthers; Pat Norman, Co-chair, Coalition of Human Rights (50 lesbian and gay organizations); National Lawyers Guild; Tim Toomey, Secretary-Treasurer, Hospital Workers Union; Peace and Freedom Party; and the Women's Building.

For information call (415) 821-6545 or (415) 861-0425.

Homeless protest

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 25—Over 200 people marched through downtown San Francisco today in a coordinated action with the National Coalition for the Homeless and five other marches nationwide demanding housing, social services, and jobs for the poor. Local organizers included Central City Shelter Network, North of Market Planning Commission, Chinatown Neighborhood Improvement Resource Center and the Homeless Caucus. At the same time, the Superior Court overturned on a technicality an ordinance which had protected 20,000 housing units from conversion to tourist use. Housing organizations immediately began to fight the decision.



WW photo: PAUL GREENBERG

In This Issue...

EL SALVADOR

Salvadoran freedom fighters have liberated a major city from government forces. The guerrilla offensive has reached the capital city with attacks against a major military barracks, just one mile from the U.S. Embassy. Meanwhile the Pentagon is working day and night to undermine the popular movement. (Page 1.)



U.S. BUDGET

Reagan's new budget is even more brutally anti-worker, anti-poor, anti-people than his last two. The Pentagon will get a 14% increase while all other programs will be cut by an average of 3%. The most severe cuts will be to those programs that are most desperately needed. (Page 3.)

RECOVERY?

No Ronald, economic recovery has not begun. The President's incredible claim—in the face of double-digit unemployment and a multitude of disastrous economic news—is a brazen, politically motivated, self-serving lie. (Page 3.)

FREE IMANI!

A new trial for political prisoner Imani Harris has been scheduled to begin next April in Alabama. Imani's case has won worldwide attention for its powerful indictment of the U.S. judicial system. (Page 11.)

WESTERN ELECTRIC

How can workers turn around the decision by AT&T to ditch Western Electric, lay off thousands, and destroy whole communities? (Analysis by Sam Marcy, pages 4-5.)

KKK STOPPED

A citywide anti-racist campaign has forced a local TV station to cancel plans to bring Klansman Bill Wilkinson to Rochester, N.Y., to be featured on a morning talk show. (Page 12.)



BLACK HISTORY

February is Black History Month. Workers World begins a series of articles on the history and struggle of Black people for self-determination—a history which is censored and lied about by the racist capitalist class. (Pages 6-7.)

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Reagan's arms offer: A big zero 8

workers world

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Federal budget: Another bonanza for Pentagon

Vital programs to be deeply slashed

By Deirdre Griswold

FEBRUARY 1—President Reagan's proposed budget for fiscal 1984, released yesterday, is the most brutal document yet issued by this administration. It shows that the right-wingers running the U.S. government intend to use their control over the public treasury to continue to make the rich richer and everybody else a lot poorer. This is how Ronald Reagan keeps his promise to "get government off the backs of the people."

The \$848.5 billion budget has one big beneficiary: the military-industrial complex. In line with Reagan and the Pentagon's plan to spend \$1.6 trillion on the war machine over the next five years, this budget would raise military outlays from \$209 billion in 1983 to \$239 billion in 1984—more than a 14% increase.

By contrast, all other programs will be cut by an average of 3%.

The most severe cuts, however, will be to those programs that are most desperately needed. For the first time, there will be actual reductions made in such areas as employment and training programs (-8%), unemployment compensation (-20%), food stamps (-9%), child nutrition programs (-8%), education (-6%), heating-cost assistance to low-income families (a whopping -30%), and welfare (-10%).

Even in previous Reagan budgets, what was cut in these programs was generally the rate of increase. Now, with more people in dire need of help than ever before because of the disastrous economic crisis, the administration is tearing away what little "safety net" stood between the poor and outright starvation or death by freezing.

While the Congress always makes modifications to the budget, there is no indication that the Democrats will put up any fight

to change its overall lines, any more than they have done so far in the Reagan term. There will undoubtedly be debate over this or that weapons program, but both big-business parties back the Pentagon goal of trying to maintain world military hegemony at any price, a build-up which began with the Carter administration and is aimed not only against the socialist countries but against the liberation movements in impoverished and exploited countries around the world.

There is also bi-partisan agreement that social programs must be cut even further, that this rich country can't afford the "luxury" of guaranteeing the barest necessities of life to its people.

This was the message loud and clear in a two-page "Bi-Partisan Appeal to the President" that appeared in the Wall St. Journal

Continued on page 9

Democrat governors doing Reagan's job for him

By Nora Butrus

FEBRUARY 1—This week, a new crop of governors are unveiling their 1983 budgets. Many of the newly-elected officials campaigned against Reaganism. A few, for example, the governors of Michigan and New York State, even ran and won as liberal Democrats, promising to oppose the Reagan program.

Yet, now that they are in office, have any of them proposed any substantial measures to assist the poor, the jobless, the oppressed? Not a one. In fact, they are all doing Reagan's job for him—reinforcing federal cutbacks in jobs and social services with slashes and layoffs on the state level.

One liberal who is acting like a Reaganite is Michigan Governor James Blanchard, the first Democrat to hold that state's highest office in over 20 years. Blanchard, who campaigned on promises of jobs, is making it crystal clear that now in office his "concern" is for big business, not for the jobless in Flint, or the hungry in Detroit.

Blanchard's "remedies" for the state with the highest unemployment rate in the country consists of a hiring freeze, increased taxes, and tuition hikes. When Michigan's economic crisis necessitates massive aid programs, Blanchard plans to make Michigan the only state in the union with a smaller budget in 1983 than in 1981! (For the All-Peoples Congress' reply to the Blanchard budget, see p. 10.)

Cuomo's signal to big business

No gubernatorial candidate was more of a classical liberal than Mario Cuomo, the new governor of New York State. But what is Cuomo's priority now that he is in office? Is it the layoffs in Western New York? The 35,000 homeless people on the streets of New York City?

No. "It is essential, Mr. Cuomo said, to send the right signal to business," explains today's New York Times. The essence of the Cuomo budget, like all the state budgets, is to take the burden off big business and pass it on to the workers.

Without the sugar coating, the linchpin of the 1983 New York State budget is a proposed 14,000 layoffs of state workers. While suggesting a \$5 million jobs program—a drop in the bucket, as more layoffs are announced in

this state each week—Cuomo calls for \$136 million for new and improved prisons to lock up the jobless from that state's inner cities.

What does Cuomo plan to do about Bethlehem Steel's planned closing of its plant in Lackawanna? The governor, who has the authority to declare a state emergency and forbid Bethlehem from shutting down or moving its equipment, has decided instead to pass the buck. Cuomo explains that he has "called upon Washington to meet its obligations to the Western New York Area."

And where are the massive job programs for the workers? Cuomo has made a vague call for technical assistance—to whom?

Not to the workers, but "to New York State businesses" in order to "improve the capacity to attract defense contracts." This is no more than an empty promise when the governor has the authority to order Bethlehem to forge steel for desperately needed hospitals, schools, and housing.

If even the liberals have turned out to be Reagan's helpers, then who can the workers trust? Themselves.

Only a mass movement of the workers and the oppressed themselves, determined to do all that is needed to guarantee their rights to a job, food, housing, and health, can wrest concessions from these governors.

Latest lie: 'Recovery has begun'

By Bill Del Vecchio

FEBRUARY 1—Ronald Reagan traveled today to a St. Louis Chrysler plant where a handful of the nation's 200,000 laid-off autoworkers have just been recalled to declare that the recovery has begun.

Presidential aides told the press that the campaign-style visit to the auto plant was aimed at showing "working America" that Reagan cared about their plight. But many Chrysler workers at the plant told CBS Evening News reporters that they feel they were being used by the President, that they had no idea how long their jobs would continue, and that Reagan was trying to cover up how bad the jobless situation really is.

While the media rarely covers the recent protests by the thousands of people who have come out to show their opposition to Reagan's appearances in Chicago, Boston, and elsewhere, the entire media is always on hand to give favorable coverage to administration propaganda gimmicks such as this latest.

Reagan and his aides and advisors have falsely predicted the start of a recovery a number of times during this deep economic crisis, but this was the first time he outright declared that a recovery had begun.

This brazen, politically motivated claim by the Reaganites is based on some positive economic

signs that were sorted out of the basically dismal statistics for last month.

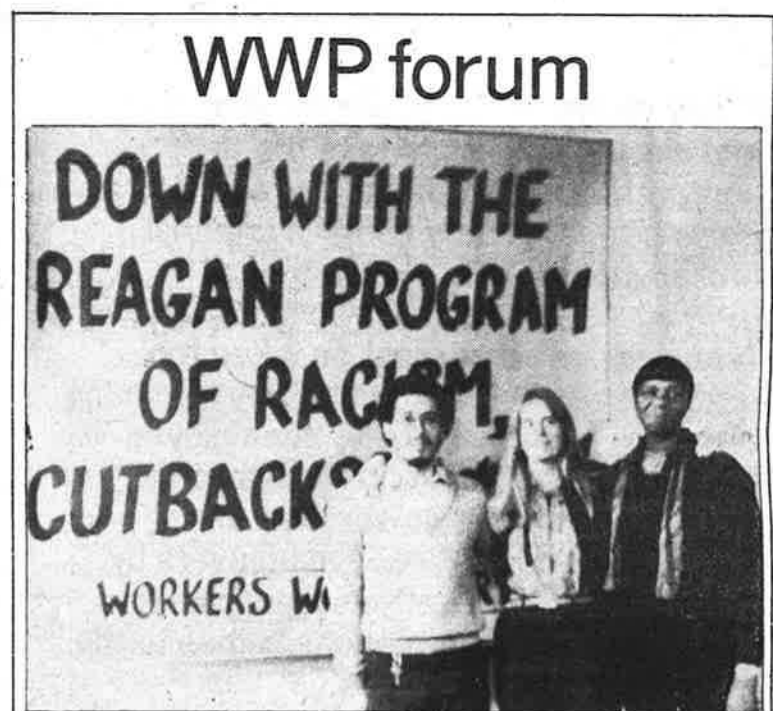
Chief among these was the sudden rise in the index of leading economic indicators, a government statistic that is supposed to predict future economic activity. The index rose 1.5% in December after declining throughout the fall.

Three months in a row of rising leading indicators is supposed to show a recovery is in progress, but Reagan has decided to declare a recovery after only one month. Even Reagan's own Commerce Department cautioned that last month's rising indicator may be revised downward later.

GM recall—for how long?

Also cited by the Reaganites as evidence that the recovery has started is the announcement by GM that it will call back 20,000 laid-off autoworkers. How soon these workers will be called back, how long they will be kept on the job, these questions are left unanswered, and the question of how the other 180,000 laid-off autoworkers are surviving is not even being asked by the White House.

An increase in construction of new housing during November is also shown as more proof of a recovery. But the 8.5% decline in housing sales in December is conveniently ignored by the Reagan propagandists, as is the 5.3% de-



Pictured (left to right): Albert Ramos, Deirdre Griswold, Gwendolyn Rogers.

By Gin T. Loy

NEW YORK, Jan. 29—"The news is that we're going to fight back. Workers must organize, fight for their jobs, their futures, and their very lives," said Deirdre Griswold, a featured speaker at tonight's Workers World Party Forum on Reagan's State of the Union message.

Addressing over 100 people, Griswold stated that the Reagan address had nothing new in it but was more of the same program of attacks on the working class and oppressed. In sharp contrast to the suffering caused by rising unemployment and cuts in programs such as food stamps and social security is the military budget, which is to total \$1.6 trillion over the next five years.

Pointing to the fact that the Democratic reply, the so-called opposition party, to this inhuman program offered no meaningful jobs program or significant cuts in the military budget, Griswold stated, "The real opposition comes from the working class. Today's conditions re-confirm that revolutionary Marxism is the guide to the way out of this crisis for our class and all humanity."

Tonight's other featured speaker, Gwendolyn Rogers of Workers World, called Reagan an enemy of the people. The ruling class, she stated, uses racism and bigotry to distract the workers from the real source of these attacks. She noted that instances of resistance such as the anti-Klan demonstration of Nov. 27 and the recent rebellion in Miami weren't mentioned by Reagan. Addressing the Reagan program, she said, "Our response is this: The workers and oppressed can struggle and win."

cline for housing sales for all of 1982, which was the worst year for housing sales since the government began keeping track. Building new houses doesn't do the economy much good if no one is able to buy them.

Sudden increases in prices for steel, copper, and lumber after months of depressed demand is being called a possible sign of a beginning upturn by pro-Reagan economists. But the stockpiling on these basic materials by big corporations looking to take advantage of bargain prices and lower loan rates is something that is purposely ignored by these phony optimists.

There is no recovery, and even if there were a slight upturn, the basic problems still remain. Statistics put out by the administration itself show that America is not "on the mend." The Gross National Product dropped 2.5% in the last quarter of last year. Industrial production dropped again in December. Plant and equipment spending fell in '82, and tool orders fell 59.1% during the year. Roughly half a million people are still filing new claims for unemployment insurance each week.

Military spending no solution

The big business-controlled politicians, both Republicans and Democrats, know only too well how serious this economic crisis is.

Some believe that Reagan's massive military spending will eventually stimulate the economy and raise it out of the crisis just as the spending for World War II ended the Great Depression of the 1930s. But today's economy has already been overstimulated by militarism, to the point where it has drained the lifeblood out of the civilian-oriented industries and set off 15 years of rampant inflation.

Other big-business-controlled politicians advocate using high technology to pull the economy out of the crisis. "Let the heavy, basic industries decline and pour massive investments into the quick payoff, high technology industries," they say. But part of the reason for today's massive unemployment is that automation has been introduced without any provisions being made for getting new jobs for the displaced workers. Increased productivity through high technology, which provides fewer jobs, won't end the crisis if over 12 million people are out of work and have no money to buy anything.

A real solution to this crisis lies beyond anything Democrats or Republicans are capable of even thinking of. That's because a real solution to the crisis lies in breaking the control of the U.S. economy by big business and the banks, and putting that control in the hands of working people.

Resolute action must pave way

Workers can overturn AT&T

Any failure by the governor, mayors, and elected officials to take the appropriate action should be regarded as gross neglect of duty liable to criminal prosecution.

Immediate steps must be taken to organize within the communities, involving all workers, employed and unemployed, Black, Latin, and white as well as other oppressed peoples, to stand as an immovable barrier to any maneuvers by the company to illegally escape from its social and economic responsibilities to the workers and communities.

A corporation which, in times of deepest and profoundest capitalist recession, can make \$7.28 billion profit has no legal and certainly no moral right to any kind of layoffs.

'I tell you, we're going to fight!'

By Gary Wilson

JERSEY CITY, Jan. 31—Carmine Martinez is one of over 4,000 workers at the Western Electric plant in Kearny, N.J., who will lose their jobs if an AT&T plan to shut the plant down over the next three years goes through.

Martinez has worked at the plant for some 15 years. This means that she's not quite the typical worker at the plant, which makes telephone and telecommunications equipment. The typical worker has been at the plant for 25 years, and many have 30 or 40 years in the plant. But in every other way, she is truly representative of the workers.

"The majority of the people in the plant is Latin people and Black people, and more women than men," Martinez said in describing those who would be affected by the shutdown of the 58-year old plant.

"The majority live in Bayonne and Jersey City," she adds, referring to the two cities that border the town of Kearny, which is mostly an industrial center in the heart of the most populated section of New Jersey. The other town that borders Kearny is Newark.

This region has been devastated by layoffs and shutdowns; the unemployment rate is already over 16%.

The Kearny plant is one of 22 Western Electric plants in the U.S. A year ago, there were 12,000 in the Kearny plant, down from its post-World War II peak of 24,000. Today, only about 4,000 workers remain.

A year ago is when AT&T made a deal with the Reagan administration to eliminate an anti-trust suit and change the Bell System. When that happened, "everyone was talking about it," Martinez said. "They were like, afraid, scared."

The 1974 strike

She went on to add, "They've been talking about shutting

down since the strike in '74." The Kearny Works was the only plant that was 100% closed down in the nationwide strike against Western Electric in 1974.

Martinez speaks proudly of that three-month action in 1974. "I was in the strike. What happened was that we wanted a raise, and they didn't want to give us a raise. So, we made a strike. We all got together and went to the union and said, if they wouldn't give us the strike, nobody was going to work. We all got together, and we wouldn't let nobody get in the company. We won the strike, they had to give us the raise."

In the late 1970s, a group of women took Western Electric to court because of the years of sexist discrimination. The case centered around the refusal of the company to allow a woman to bid for a supervisor's job. Dozens of women joined the class action suit, and Western Electric was forced to pay millions of dollars to women who had been victims of discrimination. Still, Martinez says, "Men get paid more than women."

Why are they shutting down the Kearny plant? "They just want to move someplace. You know, they're paying good money here. To me, I think, they want to move to a place where they can pay less money. Like, they are paying \$10 an hour and they move to a place where they pay \$3 or \$4 an hour." This, by the way, is highly skilled work involving computers and components for such high technology fields as telecommunications using satellite systems. It is precisely the area of work that is supposed to be opening up, not shutting down.

"I really don't know what is going to happen now. But I tell you, we're going to struggle. We're going to fight it so they don't close it. Because, if they close this plant I don't know what is going to happen to us people—there's no jobs no place."

By Sam Marcy

FEBRUARY 1—Of all the giant monopolies in the U.S., the strongest, richest, and most all-pervasive is that of American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T). It has been a monopoly for more than half a century.

Notwithstanding the Sherman Anti-Trust Law of 1890, the Clayton Act of 1914, the Patman Act, which came later, and innumerable statutory legislation culminating in the Communications Act which is supposed to regulate the telephone industry, AT&T has steadily grown into a monstrous octopus stretching its tentacles to every corner of the country and into virtually every household.

Unlike many other multinationals, it has never known years where profits plummeted significantly or even sagged beyond a negligible limit. Investigation after investigation over the years by the federal government has always ended in nothing.

Its strongest link since World War I has been with the Pentagon. The increasing collaboration between the Pentagon and AT&T has become strengthened and interlocked into indissoluble bonds as a result of the growth of telecommunications, computerization of the industry, and AT&T's vast interest in satellite communications.

Why they want AT&T divided up

Since 1956, the federal government has attempted not to break up AT&T, which is quite impossible without restructuring capitalist industry altogether, but to divide it up in some way. The aim is to allow the high-technology segments, with their accumulating inventions, to operate

somewhat independently of AT&T, get a measurable part of the huge profits from the industry, and yet be part and parcel of the club of financiers, industrialists, and military-industrial specialists.

They want to do this without upsetting the basic system of capitalist competition among the monopolies, the idea being to share out markets on a more or less equitable basis without permitting a destructive war in the electronics and telecommunication industries.

These industries are bulging with new, exotic high technology crying to break into the so-called free markets at low prices. Nevertheless, they find themselves constrained to toe the line and not go beyond well-understood agreements on price levels, although prices may sink somewhat here and there.

After all this has been accomplished, however, the newly independent firms are still expected to pay respect and homage in financial and economic terms to the principal leaders, which are, of course, first AT&T and then IBM.

But it's not easy to make room for new products and new companies without encroaching somewhat upon the ancient privileges of the huge decaying monopoly of AT&T. So it's back to the old, old path so familiar to the capitalists. Except now it's taken not at a slow-paced trot, but at breakneck speed like the driving of a herd of cattle to supposedly green pastures.

This is the meaning of the absolutely unprecedented epidemic of plant closings. They are running in practically any direction, leaving millions of workers defenseless and even homeless. In

response to this epidemic we see increasingly ridiculous and childish plans by local politicians, mayors, and others to buy back the plants, get stock options, seek partnerships. None of the many plans which have initially been tried have succeeded anywhere.

What the industrial U.S. is experiencing is a giant hemorrhage; the blood of the workers, along with their poor belongings and even their health, flows out endlessly while a ruthless capitalist government continues its injunction that the course must be stayed.

Closing of Western Electric plants

The latest catastrophe comes from AT&T, that octopus which even this year has increased its profits by a mere piddling \$7.28 billion. It has announced that it is scuttling many of its Western Electric plants spread throughout the length and breadth of this country. This unilateral assault falls upon the workers in Kearny, N.J., Baltimore, Chicago, and soon on many other cities.

Any talk about the company losing money is the boldest, foulest, and meanest of lies. What is really involved is that AT&T, instead of earning \$7.28 billion, would like to increase it by, let us say, another half a billion. As though it would make much of a difference, since this corporation has hundreds of billions in assets and is freer from indebtedness than scarcely any other in the world!

The corporation wants to throw the workers on the dung heap, not to prevent huge losses for AT&T as a whole, but to make sure that it continues to lead its competitors in the rabid lust for

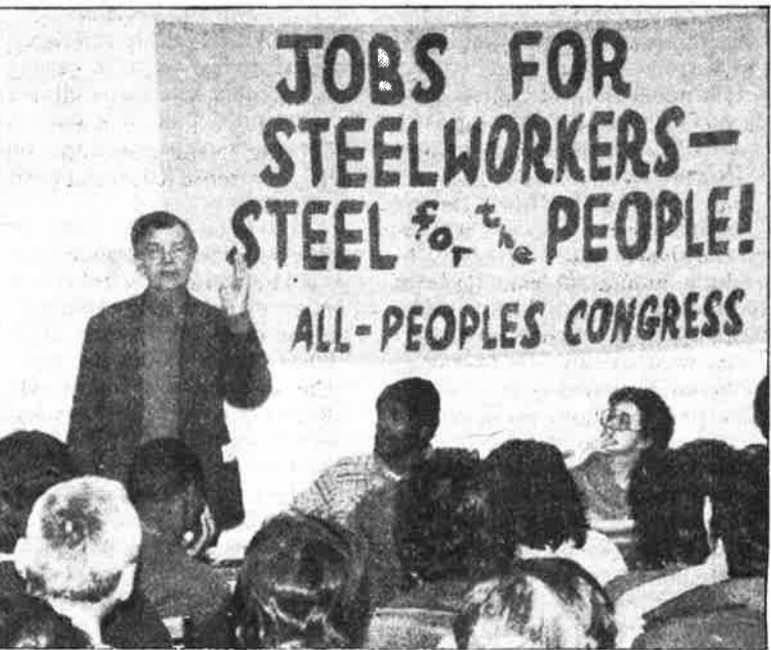
Chicago steelworkers, community: 'Reopen mills!'

By P. Kimball

CHICAGO, Jan. 29—About 75 unemployed steelworkers, Public Aid recipients, and other concerned people met tonight in the neighborhood of South Chicago, devastated by layoffs and plant closings in steel, to hear and discuss a daring proposal for common action and struggle.

Retired steelworker and APC member Vince Copeland, tonight's featured speaker, quoted passages from the Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Act of 1975, which gives the governor and the mayor of Chicago emergency powers to stop price increases, seize "materials and equipment," occupy real estate, and give this property to the inhabitants of the State in the event of a disaster, natural or man-made. "And aren't we living in a disaster?" he asked.

In addition to the immediate demand for the emergency reopening of the plants, Copeland outlined a proposal for the production of millions of tons of steel to construct low-cost housing, hospitals, new sewers and roadways, vehicles designed for the disabled, and other necessary fa-



Vince Copeland

WW photo

cilities. This program would unite steelworkers, employed and unemployed, with workers in other industries and community residents in general in the struggle for its implementation.

Also speaking tonight were

Cedric Givens, who outlined the APC's Food Is a Right campaign, and Alice Summers who urged those present to sign up for a delegation to Mayor Jane Byrne's office to demand she begin the disaster relief process.

People need steel; Steelworkers need jobs

This popular pamphlet tells how the steel workers can get their jobs back, and at the same time all of us would greatly benefit with more jobs, schools, hospitals, and better social services.

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New York, NY 10010

50¢ (add 50¢ postage)

decision to ditch Western Electric

super-profits, just as it has in the last 75 years.

Millions upon millions of words and hundreds of thousands of pages have been written in the course of this litigation, but the only understandable thing an ordinary person can get out of it is that, as a result of the agreement, AT&T was to keep (please note, not sell but keep) Western Electric, Bell Laboratories, and the Long Lines Division, in return for spinning off 22 local operating companies, those really showing the least profit, into seven regional companies.

Western Electric is the supplier of equipment to AT&T and is the largest component of AT&T. It is reputed to employ 135,000 workers at its many major facilities.

Reagan Justice Department made a deal

The suit against AT&T was instigated mostly by would-be competitors from among the insiders in the new computer electronics industry, which has many ex-AT&T engineers, technicians, retirees, and all that, and not really by the government. Before the suit could be settled in court, however, the new Reagan administration's Attorney General William French Smith suddenly announced one day that it was ended by an agreement that the Justice Department made with AT&T, making the judge in the case look like a crushed pumpkin pie which had suddenly been hit with a hammer.

One would have expected some outrage from the great stable of hundreds of former trust busters, politicians, and professional free enterprisers for small business. But what might have been an outcry turned into a whimper and the story disappeared from

the pages of the capitalist press and the news media.

The fact is that nobody knew what was accomplished or what it all meant. Now the workers at Kearny, Baltimore, Chicago, and elsewhere know—massive layoffs. That's what it really boils down to.

Thus this trillion-dollar corporation, against whom the government was supposed to be carrying out a merciless war while its would-be competitors had their daggers out to cut AT&T to ribbons, found a "just and fair" agreement such as can be obtained among robber barons.

Why didn't unions intervene?

The large question is this: where were some of the liberal organizations and the powerful unions during all this time? Why didn't they intervene and try to become a party of interest in the case? Don't the people have an interest in the outcome?

Did the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, the Communications Workers of America, and other independent unions, which certainly have an interest in the outcome of any agreement intervene? So far as we can see in the available public evidence, they did not.

In all the intricate manipulations over this ten-year period of litigation among the government, the new would-be competitors, and AT&T, the ox that was gored was that of the workers and their communities across the United States.

These monstrous layoffs, for which there is absolutely no justification, must be stopped. Working class organizations and community groups have the perfect right to intervene at the present time to halt the settlement and all further layoffs until they

have an opportunity to demonstrate that these layoffs are totally unjustified, that there is no economic or financial basis for it so far as the corporation is concerned.

How to stop layoffs at Kearny

The huge layoffs projected for Kearny have so shocked the communities in the region that the local mayors of Kearny and Jersey City, the governor of New Jersey, and other elected officials have been compelled to announce that they are meeting to discuss what to do. But this kind of thing has become a routine procedure in the hundreds of cases where plants have been shut and the companies responsible then vanish into thin air. What's required by these officials is really quite simple, clearcut, and effective.

The governor should, under his emergency powers, order the company to immediately stop the layoffs and transfer of facilities and equipment. The company should be prohibited from layoffs or transfers until a full hearing by the people, particularly the people of the community and the employed and unemployed workers involved, is arranged in which they have ample opportunity to participate as parties of interest.

The corporation should have advised the governor, the legislature, and the cities involved of the plans they made years ago. Prenotification of at least a year should have been given, which they neglected to do.

The company should therefore be forbidden from taking any of the above measures for at least two years, pending hearings in which the parties concerned participate.

Concurrent resolutions to this effect should also be introduced

in the various city councils, counties, and state legislatures affected by the layoffs, the transfers, and the general social and economic impact of the plant closing.

Any failure by the governor, mayors, and elected officials to take the appropriate action should be regarded not as mere nonfeasance in office but as gross neglect of duty liable to criminal prosecution.

In the meantime, immediate steps must be taken to organize within the communities, involving all workers, employed and unemployed, Black, Latin, and white as well as other oppressed peoples, to stand as an immovable barrier to any maneuvers by the company to illegally escape from its social and economic responsibilities to the workers and communities.

They can cut a path to legal redress of wrongful and unlawful action by obtaining an order to show cause to restrain the company from proceeding with its plans and demanding that any judicial hearing in the proceeding should be on the basis of the selection of a jury from the communities involved to decide the issue.

A corporation which, in times of deepest and profoundest capitalist recession when there are already 20 million unemployed or part-time workers, can make \$7.28 billion profit has no legal and certainly no moral right to any kind of layoffs.

Everybody knows that any merchandising place which sells a hundred items and makes a huge profit should not summarily begin layoffs simply because one or two items aren't moving.

Workers must upset court decision

The answer for the working

class, progressive, and labor movement and especially for Black, Latin, and other oppressed nationalities who will feel the brunt of it is to intervene first in an attempt to upset the litigation, which is a fraud upon the people of the U.S. as a whole and the laid-off workers in particular.

Legal means for a restraining order and an injunction in each and every city where the layoffs are contemplated should be sought as a first step, and can be consolidated at a later date.

The workers have to confirm in no uncertain terms that they are a party of interest and that they were illegally denied participation by a conspiracy of silence. In any civil or criminal negligence action where people in an auto accident get killed or hurt, it's not just the insurance company or the property owners involved in the collision who are participants in the litigation. All those injured must be principal parties in the litigation and in the agreement or awards, if any. Not to have the injured parties in the litigation is outrageous and unprecedented.

In litigation by the workers, community groups, and labor unions, the effort should be made to upset the settlement, and as in all cases where there are injuries to life and limb (and that is what these layoffs are) there should be a jury trial, the purpose of which is to prevent the layoffs and also assess damages for the injuries.

The legal processes must begin with what is most indispensable: organization of the unorganized with mass action, reserving the right to physically stop and obstruct the illegal dismantling of these plants, which takes place merely to satisfy the insatiable lust for super-profits of a deadly octopus whose tentacles choke off all the life-blood of society.

Laid-off Bethlehem steelworker raps concessions

By Mallory Merrill
LACKAWANNA, Jan. 26—Laid-off steel worker BJ worked at the Bethlehem Steel Blast Furnace for 15 years and will be unemployed 3 years this coming April.

At an emergency meeting of his local this past week in which members of the Union Committee, Governor's Committee, and Bethlehem Plant officials had been invited, BJ learned that the top union officials were offering the company 13 different concessions, which amount to a \$4 dollar an hour reduction per worker.

Today, echoing the sentiments of his sister and brother unionists, BJ said, "I don't think any concessions are right. The main reason to have a union is to benefit the workers, rather than the workers benefit the company with concessions. We should have increases in our pay to go along with the rising cost of living (one program at the plant is COLA, Cost Of Living Allowance)."

Speaking angrily, he also stated that, "It seems as if union

leaders have taken a 180-degree turn. They are acting like a scared dog with its tail between its legs. Instead of taking a strong position and telling the company where to get off and fighting for membership rights, they are doing just the opposite."

Blames greed for profits

"The workers of the steel industry know how many jobs have been lost to automation. They blame "imports," but it's the steel industry's greed for higher profits at the expense of our jobs; this is really to blame."

Pointing out all the hospitals, bridges, schools, and roads that need rebuilding in New York State and across the nation, BJ said, "There is absolutely no reason that the Lackawanna plant can't be put to good use."

"That is a good reason for the governor of New York State to use his emergency powers to keep the Lackawanna Plant open. We as workers have a right to our jobs!!"

APC builds for hearing in Jersey hospital struggle

By L. Volpe
JERSEY CITY, Feb. 1—The struggle to keep the Jersey City Medical Center fully operating as a city hospital resulted in two victories this past week. But the struggle to get adequate government funding for the hospital continues as the All-Peoples Congress (APC) organizes for a city-wide hearing and neighborhood meetings.

After two weeks of meetings, rallies, and press conferences organized by the APC and AFSCME and several days of hearings in a courtroom packed with hospital workers and APC members, U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Judge DiVito threw out the hospital administration's request for bankruptcy, stating that the hospital is a public institution and a part of the city or state government cannot go bankrupt.

This argument was initially raised by the APC, who was a party of interest during the proceedings representing the community, and successfully argued

by AFSCME Local 2254 Attorney Emil Oxfeld and Rachel Duell representing the APC.

This was an important victory for the workers whose accumulated sick, vacation, and holiday time the management claimed it wouldn't honor because it accumulated before the Dec. 28 bankruptcy filing. The ruling also means that management must follow Civil Service laws in any layoff proceedings.

On Thursday, AFSCME organized four busloads of angry workers to invade the Jersey City Council meeting. AFSCME District Council 52 President Milton Filker, citing the previous day's decision, demanded the City Council pass a resolution calling on the city hospital administration to recall the 136 laid-off workers, stop any more layoffs, except for managerial employees, and no more closing of hospital facilities.

Faced with 200 chanting, militant workers, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution, but, afterwards, in an almost empty chamber, rejected a resolution which would provide \$10 million toward this goal. That same evening, over 100 workers and APC members disrupted a hospital Board of Managers meeting.

Citywide Hearing

The APC and AFSCME have demanded the governor declare the Medical Center a disaster

area and provide emergency funds. After a weekend of leaflet distributions in three public housing projects, the APC will hold its first of a series of neighborhood meetings at the Booker T. Washington housing project tonight. The APC is also building for another neighborhood meeting at Duncan Avenue project for this Friday.

These meetings are considered steps in building for a citywide hearing on Feb. 11. Members of the community, workers, union representatives, health care professionals, and clergy are expected to testify at this hearing on the effects any cutbacks or layoffs would have. The APC sees this hearing as the beginning of a community run impact study on any changes at the hospital. Neither the city nor state governments have done an impact study.

Meanwhile, management will attempt to file bankruptcy again today under another Chapter and is hopeful for a loan from the state or private bankers. But any loan would surely come with an International Monetary Fund-type of demand for further cutbacks and layoffs. State officials claim there is no money, even for a loan.

The struggle to save the Medical Center is far from over. It will take a mass movement in this city to win this struggle against the Reaganite mayor and governor.

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World View



SAM MARCY
ANATOMY OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS

46 West 21 Street, New York, NY 10010

Plants shut down. Banks and corporations fold. Millions are laid off as the industrial Midwest becomes a wasteland. All over the capitalist world, a crisis is deepening that threatens to lead to war.

Workers World Celebrates

By Larry Holmes

THE GRAND BOURGEOIS universities and libraries are an impressive sight to behold, even if they are inaccessible to the masses. Indeed, beholding these alleged repositories of knowledge and history is their sole virtue because they are crammed with lies.

For the racist barons of capitalist exploitation and oppression, the pursuit of history is in reality a conspiracy to obscure the past, conceal the causes of war and unemployment, and deny the existence of class struggle.

As always, it is the history of the oppressed that is most pervasively and mercilessly victimized.

The insidious villification of Black people, or Mexicans, or Asians, and Native peoples in literature and every other medium, is calculated to poison and cripple the working class with racism.

Moreover, to supplement the whip, the hanging noose, guns, and rape, etc., the oppressor has always tried to deprive the oppressed of their history, their culture, and their identity as a people.

Black History Month has been one effort to combat what has so appropriately been called cultural genocide. The campaign to purge Black history from the schools, and other bourgeois institutions is the subject of a series this month in our Black History Month feature section.

Black History Month evolved from Black History Week, which was inaugurated in 1926. February was chosen, because it is the month of Frederick Douglass' birthday. That choice is now enhanced by Malcolm X, who was assassinated in February.

Workers World newspaper is commemorating Black History Month with articles throughout the month on the struggle of Black people for self-determination over the past 400 years and before the slave ships sailed from the colonies.

It is not our intention here to rival the knowledge that can be found elsewhere, but rather to illuminate for our readers, the legacy of resistance by Black people to their condition and its relevance to the anti-racist struggle today. In this spirit, we dedicate this section to the martyrs of Soweto and Attica, the youth of Miami and Brixton, and their ancestors who have entrusted to each generation the passion for liberation.

Black History: A Tool for Liberation

By Gwendolyn Rogers

THE DEMAND for an organized body of Black historical knowledge arose from Black students and teachers in segregated Southern schools who were angered by the racism of traditional educational materials.

Progressive Black historians, responding to this growing demand within the Black community, became the voice of evolving Black consciousness. Hence the birth of the Black History movement.

Since Feb. 1926 when Black historian Carter G. Woodson first initiated Black History Week as a public celebration, interest in the history of Black people has continued to grow, especially with the intensification of the Black Liberation movement. Today, Black History Month is widely recognized as an annual public celebration. Activities honoring the lives of outstanding Black women and men are commonly sponsored by community groups, history clubs, schools, churches, and museums.

The faces of famous Blacks can even be found portrayed on place mats, cups, and sugar packages, as even the fast food chains capitalize on this growing popularity of historical Black information and Black pride.

The ruling class, long the suppressor of any historical perspective not in its immediate interest, finds it most convenient to hold up for praise a few great individuals who later become the standard by which all Black behavior is judged. To the ruling class, it is an opportunity to portray the careers of exceptional individuals as illustrations of the success of the American dream.

However, serious study which focuses on the struggling Black communities which gave rise to these leaders, exposes the failures of the American myth!

It is important and valuable to study the lives of and pay tribute to leaders such as Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, and Ida B. Wells, but to do so exclusively distorts the true impact of their historical contributions which

occurred within a political and social context. For instance, David Walker's Appeal (1829), an indictment of slavery, is better appreciated viewed within the context of a communal slave system intent on literacy as well as militant resistance.

The Black experience viewed within the context of a strong sustaining community steeped in the tradition of resistance, is a more accurate reflection of a people who have survived through unity and determination.

Long overdue, popularizing of the Black experience has had and continues to have a tremendous impact on all of American society, just as the focus on the exceptional Black individual has contributed to racial pride. However, this approach to Black History is a reflection of a basic contradiction within traditional American history. Traditionally defined, American history was written so as to exclude or minimize the role of Black people despite their indelible stamp on the nation's science, scholarship, language, and culture. Of course the same can be said of women, Native people, and other Third World people.

In fact, the exploitation of Black labor and Black lives have shaped the economic, political, cultural, and social systems of U.S. society. These achievements are testaments to the strength and determination of an oppressed people.

The distortions of history inherent in colonialism and imperialism exist to serve the interests of the ruling class, just as racist ideology originated to justify the genocide of Native populations, and the institution of chattel slavery. In fact, it is in the class aspirations of an emerging petit bourgeois culture of the North American British colonies where the most elaborate expression of racist ideology existed. To the settlers of the New World, material development required the slaughter of Indians throughout North, South, and Central America as well as the enslavement of African people.

In order to sustain the flow of

Yosef Cinque and the Amistad Rebellion

By Monica Moorehead

SINCE THE INCEPTION of capitalist society, bourgeois historians have been compelled first and foremost to suppress the true accounts of the organized and unorganized resistance of the working class movement spearheaded by the most oppressed. As Marxists, our responsibility must be to unmask the myths and fabrications of this history held captive by bourgeois ideology. And we must draw out the political lessons of our struggles for the development of our class brothers and sisters.

Did "Roots" accurately portray the institution of slavery like it really was or did it barely scratch the surface of this racist, vile system?

The Amistad rebellion of 1839 is one of those historical landmarks in the anti-slavery movement rarely discussed in American history classes. The anecdotal significance of this incident is still limited to bourgeois historians who have access to the precious Archives of the American Missionary Association in New Orleans. Nevertheless, the Amistad struggle raised many questions on an international and legal basis, while only indirectly challenging the existence of slavery.

What were the events?

On June 26, 1839, an American vessel called the Friendship, later translated to La Amistad after being purchased by Spain, transported 53 Africans, the majority from the Mendi tribe, to Puerto Principe near Cuba. These Black people had been among five or six hundred Africans "bought" by Spanish slave traders from a notorious Portuguese slave factory on the island of Lomboko. On June 30, the Africans rose in revolt under the leadership of Cinque, who killed the captain, captured the ship, and demanded that the slave traders sail back to their country. Unfortunately, Cinque and his comrades had no experience in navigation and were unaware that the ship was headed to the United States.

profits that resulted from this subjugation, the ruling class relied upon its cultural institutions to provide justification for its barbarous treatment of these peoples. Consequently, scientific, religious, and philosophical "proof" provided the rationale and mechanism whereby racism was used to deny the humanity of both slaves and Native people.

Equipped with a racist language, the oppressors were now prepared to deny the historic and cultural existence of the oppressed. Africa, in fact, was considered to be without a distinct culture, as history was rewritten to imply that Europeans were the creators of what is called "civilization." This colonialization of world history was the logical consequence of imperialism. Some Europeans even claimed parts of Africa—particularly Egypt with its rich culture—as an extension of their "continent."

Cradle of humanity

Black historian John Henrik Clarke points out that Africa was the cradle of humanity and thereby the basis of all world culture, and it was that enduring culture which served to sustain Africans during the horrors of the slave trade and the exploitative colonial system which followed. It was this rich African



The African rebellion aboard the slave ship La Amistad struck fear in hearts of the U.S. slavocracy.

On Aug. 26, the La Amistad was captured by the Washington under the command of Thomas R. Gedney. At the time of the seizure, Cinque and his companions heroically fought back against the crew of the Washington but their attempts for freedom proved unsuccessful. A hearing was held on board the vessel resulting in the 39 Mendiens being charged with murder and mutiny. They were transported to a New Haven jail in Connecticut until they went on trial on Sept. 17 in Hartford.

Outraged by these developments, the editor of the Herald of Freedom, an abolitionist paper, wrote, "Cinque is no pirate, no murderer, no felon. His homicide is justifiable. Had a white man done it, it would have been glorious. It would have immortalized him. Joseph Cinque ought not be tried. Everybody knows he is innocent."

The fact that an oppressed people did whatever was necessary to defend themselves against their oppressors justified the Amistad rebellion. The fact that this small handful of people defied the profitable system of slavery has tremendous historical implications. However, the rebellion manifested itself in other ways, on a minor scale.

The Pinckney's Treaty of 1795 signed between the Spanish and American governments, followed by the Adams-Onis Treaty

of 1819, states that any "property" on whose behalf the Spanish Minister has laid claim, prohibited the United States from legal intervention. According to Article 9, Cinque and his comrades were the "legal property" of Spain, therefore the United States was obligated to return the ship and all its "cargo" to Spain.

The abolitionists' lawyers argued that the Mendiens had never been slaves based on the provisions of a treaty between Great Britain and Spain of 1817 declaring the foreign slave trade illegal. Of course, these laws and many others regarding the illegal enslavement of Black people were violated time and time again, and the abolitionists verified under Spanish laws, that the Mendiens were bozales, or recent arrivals in Cuba from Africa, who could not have been legally enslaved.

On Jan. 13, 1840, the judge ruled that since the Mendiens had not been destined for sale in the United States, they were neither slaves nor Spanish subjects, therefore they should be returned to their homeland by order of the President. This controversial decision manifested itself all the way to the Supreme Court and on March 9, the outcome coincided with the decision rendered by the Circuit Court that the kidnapped Mendiens, "who by the laws of Spain itself were entitled to their freedom and the Article 9 of the Pinckney Treaty did not apply in this case."

For nearly two years, Cinque and his 38 comrades languished in jail, subjected to ridicule and degradation. The outcome was unheard of indeed; they were legally given the right to go back to their country. They were unaware of the full significance of their struggle, which demonstrated that freedom is not won in the courts, but ultimately by taking destiny into their own hands; a legacy that now more than ever should be on the agenda of the working class and the oppressed.

DID YOU KNOW....

Abolitionist John Brown consulted with Harriet Tubman on plans to raid the Harpers Ferry arsenal in 1859 to arm and free the slaves. Had Harriet Tubman not been ill, she would have been a participant in that struggle.

Toussaint L'Ouverture, leader in the Haitian struggle against French colonialization, planned to relocate to Dahomey, West Africa, and use it as a base from which to fight slavery.

The numerous slave revolts in the U.S. between 1829 and 1832 including the Nat Turner rebellion in Virginia, provided impetus and direction to other abolitionist movements in Europe and the Caribbean. For example, the heroic uprisings in the British West Indies, Martinique, Santiago (then called St. Jago), and Brazil shook the very foundations of the slavocracy worldwide.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Breaking the Chains: The Tradition of Black Resistance

By Sahu Barron

THIS PERIOD OF unprecedented economic crisis is witnessing a resurgence of militant resistance by thousands of Black people, representative of millions of working, poor, and oppressed, who are bearing the brunt of this decay. The heroic insurrections in Washington, D.C., and in Miami, are proof positive that we will not stand idly by, while the way out of this crisis is calculated to be borne on our backs.

It is this courage and activism, this militancy and revolutionary spirit that runs like a golden thread throughout the fabric of our history. This is the greatest lesson that can be drawn from our collective experience; and it is this lesson that must be honed into a weapon in the service of our current struggles. It is toward that end, that this four-part article undertakes the following historical analysis.

A renaissance for whom?

Every school child is taught about the Great Renaissance of 15th century Europe. We are instructed as to the outstanding achievements in philosophy, science, invention, navigation, and exploration which marked that continent for centuries to come.

What we are not told is that it is within this epoch, defined by Marx as the "primitive accumulation of capital," that the critical development of the nascent capitalist class of Europe, rested upon the rape, plunder, and piracy of the natural and human wealth of Africa, the "New World," and Asia.

For want of tobacco, indigo, sugar, and cotton, the Americas were colonized; the Carib and Arawak peoples of the Caribbean exterminated; and the Native people on the American continent made slaves or fugitives in their own land.

And it was the need for an ever-replenishable supply of cheap labor that formed the basis for the most heinous institution ever devised by human society—the African slave trade.

Long before the plunderous procession of the 3M's (merchants, missionaries, and marines) found its way to the Cape of Good Hope in 1488, the wondrous stone edifices of Axum were hewn, and the empires of Kush and Meröe rose to greatness and faded into history.

Fifteenth century African societies existed in sharp contradistinction to those of capitalist Europe. In the smaller communal societies, where the politico-economic entities were no wider than the family, codes of hospitality, processes of law, public order, and social and religious tolerance excluded the notion of private property—what was produced by the community was shared by all.

Even in the more highly developed political states, such as Ashanti and Dahomey, where growth was contemporaneous with European mercantilism, there was no concept of "market" in the sense of supply and demand, and the social redistribution of goods made accumulation impossible.

It was with this same hospitality that was normal in relations with each other, that Africans initially extended to the Portuguese, Spanish, French, British and Dutch emissaries of capi-

tal. By the mid-15th century, Europe and Africa were already engaged in the regular trading of ivory, gold dust, cloth, pepper, and African slaves bound for European cities.

Yet because capitalist development was accelerating at such a feverish rate, it was almost impossible to have had any extended period of normal, orderly trade with Africa. While on the surface, these trade relations appeared more or less stable, trade, in and of itself was almost invariably accompanied with fraud, piracy, and plunder on the part of Europe.

This pillage was destined to take an even more heinous character. With the turn of the 17th century, the gigantic transformation of industry in the Americas, namely cotton and other agricultural crops; and the escalating tendency to export for profit, rather than for mere immediate consumption, necessitated the Southern states to expand their territories of exploitation and seek an ever-growing influx of cheap labor.

It is precisely at this historic juncture that the African slave trade became super-intensified and exploitation and oppression even more onerous. Moreover, it is at this point that the trafficking in African cargo became not only a permanent source of cheap labor in the Americas, but the African slave-trade became a source of accumulation of capital and profit, in and of itself.

Africans against European subjugation

Just as importantly, it is at this juncture, that African resistance to European incursion becomes fierce.

Historical accounts by bourgeois apologists emphasize the role of Africans in their own enslavement. Conspicuously absent from these accounts are the innumerable documents describing African resistance to it.

One of the first recorded incidents of African resistance took place in the southern region of Africa. In an attempt to seize control of the land of the Khoikhoi people, Francisco de Almeida was killed along with 65 members of his envoy. This victory scored by the Khoikhoi in 1510 stopped colonial incursion in that area for nearly a century and a half.

Diaries written by Portuguese slave traders during this period chronicle their constant fear of African attackers along the notorious slave trails to the coast.

For more than 10 years, Agaja Truro led Dahomey in attacks upon European forts, trading posts, and slave camps. These raids reduced the slave trade from the Atlantic coast of Africa to a trickle by blocking the paths leading to fresh supplies in the interior.

Perhaps the most noted among these heroes was Queen and military strategist, Anne Nzingha, who led her people in battles that successfully routed colonialists for more than 40 years. (See accompanying article.)

These heroes, along with the names, Tomba, Shaka, and others are representative of the many pitched battles waged against European encroachment. However, these courageous struggles could not long hold back the economic forces that eventually overwhelmed the

African peoples at home and abroad, and impelled, with more horrendous violence and genocide, the advancement of this "peculiar system" of exploitation.

The necessity of control—the inevitability of resistance

The barbarity that characterized the conditions under which African slaves lived in the slave South have been well documented. It was impossible, therefore, for such an abhorrent institution based upon exploitation to long continue without a bitter struggle.

On one side, stood the slaveholding planters. During the course of slavery in the U.S., the ruling class developed an intricate, complex web of psychological, juridical, economic, and militaristic tactics for the purpose of the oppression and suppression of millions of Black people.

It is this latter device—the militarism characteristic of the ante-bellum south—that proved itself to be the backbone of the slavocracy's policy of control. Behind the institutionalized



The heroic rebellion led by Nat Turner in 1837 is a shining example of our history of resistance against oppression.

racism; behind the myriad codes to keep slaves in check; behind the master's power over the slave, stood the armed might of the ruling class.

Living in constant fear of slave revolt, hordes of guards and police roamed the cities. On the plantations, the patrols and overseers watched with peered eye for every sign of disaffection among the slaves. Voluntary organizations sprang up in every slave

state in the interest of protecting the crops, tools, and the very lives of the planters. And then there stood the military might of the federal government, which was embued by law with the power of life and death over the slave.

On the other side stood the millions of slaves. In the face of racism, legal and economic proscription, brutality, and murder, in the face of overseers, patrols,

Continued on page 11

Anne Nzingha: Ancient Heroine of Angola

By Carmen Roundtree

IN THE EARLY 1480s, the Portuguese first landed at the mouth of the Congo river and soon came into contact with the vast kingdom of the Mani Congo, what is known today as Angola. Angola, which for over a century had been a highly respected trading partner, would soon become the source of pillage that resulted in more than 5 million slaves for Brazil, the Caribbean, and the Portuguese courts; and 400 years of colonization.

Under a charter that had been granted in 1452 by the Pope to the king of Portugal, "full rights to capture the Saracens, pagans, and other infidels in your properties . . . to subjugate them and reduce them to perpetual slavery," were bestowed on the future colonist, launching the slave trade.

In 1575, Paul Dias De Novaes, landed with a small fleet and the Portuguese king's permission to conquer Angola. His intentions were to proceed up the Cuanza River to the fabled silver mines of Cambambe; but in doing so he started a 100-year war with Angola.

In the first period of fighting, the Portuguese succeeded. But in 1591, they were defeated in the field by an African coalition. But the Africans were unable to hold on. Portugal revoked all concessions that were made, declared Angola a colony, and sent troops in.

The Portuguese reached Cambambe and discovered that the silver didn't really exist, yet it was too late to withdraw, and already the slave trade and raidings were yielding high profits for them. As a result, a cease fire signed in 1604 was broken and the war went on.

Nzingha leads anti-Portuguese struggle

Nzingha, better known as Ann Nzingha, was born in the early 1580's when the Portuguese were first establishing the slave trade and settlements on the African coast. In her early years, Nzingha trained and led an army of



Anna Nzingha, one of Africa's greatest daughters, led Matamba in a 40-year war against the Portuguese.

fierce women warriors into action against the Portuguese. She won battle after battle, yet the Portuguese were able to overcome them, only because her spears were no match to their firearms.

In 1622, Nzingha's brother, the king of Angola, sent her to arrange a peace with the Portuguese viceroy. Not giving in to arguments, Nzingha refused outright an alliance with the Portuguese and a traditional colonial demand of paying tribute to the king of Portugal, convincing him that giving up Portuguese prisoners was concession enough.

Not long after Nzingha's return to Angola in 1423, her brother passed away; Nzingha succeeded him on the throne. The conditions of truce that had been made by Nzingha were not upheld by Portugal. She then allied herself with the King of the Jaga people. She incited the African soldiers in the Portuguese army to desert, the slaves to flee, and the chiefs and vassals of Portugal, scared and worried, sent a very large army after her. Losing that battle, Nzingha retreated to the bush. She captured the kingdom of Matamba, reorganized her army from that base, and repelled the Portuguese. She recaptured her former land in another war that was to last for eight years.

One account of a Portuguese slaver stated: "Who ever heard of a woman general leading her armies in person? The truth is that she is the greatest military strategist that ever confronted the armed forces of Portugal. She keeps our commanders sweating, in confusion and dismay. Her aim is nothing less than the total destruction of the slave trade. She has found ways of infiltrating our Black troops with her own men; causing whole companies to rebel, to desert and to join her armies, in what she calls a 'war of liberation.'"

This is a true account of the struggle until 1663 when the 40 years of unremitting warfare waged against the Portuguese ended with Nzingha's passing. It is important to note that the Portuguese were unable to completely colonize Angola until Nzingha's death.

For every 2 million Black people enslaved, over a million died. The records indicate rather clearly that millions preferred death to slavery. There are archives that are rich to overflowing with African documents that go back 500 years, and by sifting through such accounts, you will often get a picture that was not meant to be painted, and many messages that were not meant to be sent. Written documents often reveal far more than their authors intended.

Queen Nzingha, a great African general, was involved in treaty negotiations of record, and operated over such a large part of Angola that she could not be easily excluded from history. Racist historians have highlighted the role of African chiefs and kings in the slave trade, and little is said about the great African resistance to this trade, or about the chiefs and peoples who led the fight against it. Yet by their very nature they had to be as well known as those who enriched themselves from the traffic.

In 1663 Africa lost one of her greatest daughters, and the slaves one of their greatest emancipators: Queen Nzingha.

EDITORIAL

A big zero

THE NEW Reagan administration arms reduction proposal, which Vice President Bush made public this week during his visit to West Germany, is being presented by the capitalist media as "bold," "innovative," "new," and "exciting." In reality, it is one big zero.

Although Reagan now says he's willing to sit down with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov to sign an arms treaty, the arms treaty he wants to sign is the same old "zero-option" proposal that the administration has been pushing for over a year.

Washington's position goes like this: If the USSR disarms its entire intermediate-range nuclear missile arsenal, the U.S. will not deploy any new Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Europe. The U.S. will, however, keep in place the missiles it already has deployed in Europe. In addition, the NATO nuclear powers will keep their nuclear weapons—all of which are aimed at the Soviet Union.

The Soviets have stated that this amounts to a U.S. demand for unilateral Soviet disarmament. The USSR's arms proposal, on the other hand, is quite simple: Both sides—the U.S. and NATO, on the one hand, and the USSR, on the other (no other Warsaw Pact countries have nuclear weapons)—should disarm their nuclear forces. The U.S. completely rejects this position.

Few in Europe—that is, among the European workers and broad masses—are likely to fall for Reagan's new ploy. Throughout the two years of the Reagan administration, anti-nuclear demonstrations of millions have rocked the European continent from London to Bonn. These mass actions have put the onus for the reckless war buildup on the Pentagon.

But even among the European bourgeoisie there is a growing reluctance to hitch their fortunes to Reagan's war horse. Not only do they rightfully fear that Europe could be the battleground on which the Pentagon's nuclear war will be fought, but they have their own trade and commercial antagonisms with Washington and their own independent interests. (Nevertheless, the European bosses and bankers are just as anti-Soviet, anti-working class, and counter-revolutionary as their class cohorts across the Atlantic.)

The New York Times notes that "Administration officials (have been) alarmed by reports from its embassies of diminishing West European support for many of its policies." (Feb. 1)

Behind the administration's new arms reduction ploy is this: The U.S. government, faced with mounting isolation abroad and opposition at home, is in desperate need of some foreign policy "victory" that could win a measure of public opinion to its side and shore up its waning fortunes.

Reagan's new-old arms proposal will have about as much effect on reversing the wave of anti-imperialist, anti-war sentiment in Europe as his pronouncements that economic recovery is "just around the corner" have had on lessening unemployment.

—Reagan budget

Continued from page 3

and Washington Post just before Reagan's State of the Union and budget messages. Signed by hundreds of chief executives of the biggest banks and corporations, plus a weighty array of former Cabinet members from the last five administrations, it voiced great alarm at the huge budget deficits expected in the next few years (almost \$200 billion in 1984 alone).

The solution proposed by these wealthy tycoons, however, was not to cut significantly into the tremendous Pentagon budget, or the secret budgets for the CIA or other anti-democratic political police, or even to restore taxes on the rich which have been so whittled down by Reagan. No, the answer they propose, and one which is already being implemented in this budget, is to cut into the entitlement programs like Social Security, unemployment insurance, and Medicare, which workers have paid into over the years.

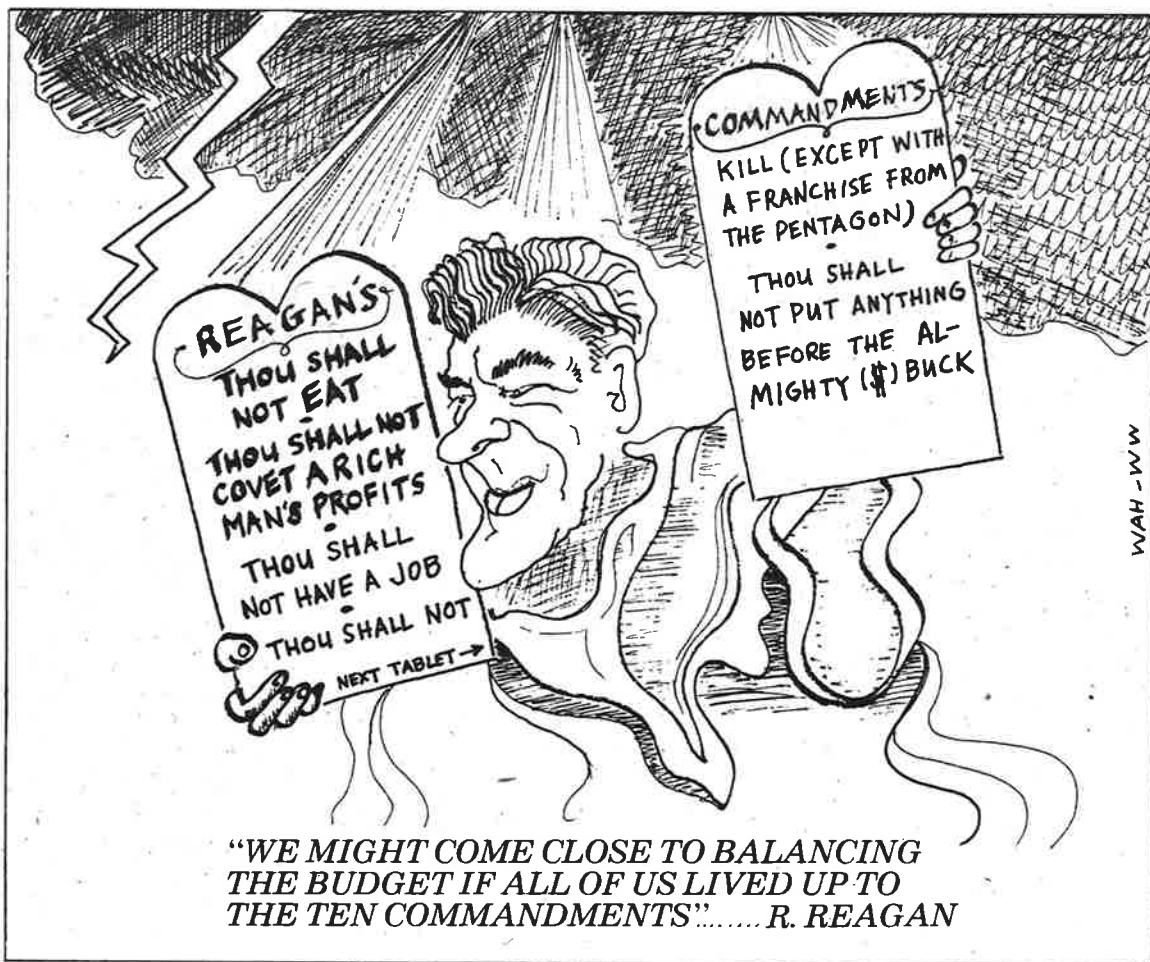
Having gotten away with robbing the very poorest, these heartless members of the super-rich ruling class now want to wield the budget axe against programs affecting broader layers of the workers and the middle class.

Most glaringly absent from the Reagan budget is any jobs program. While there has been talk of a jobs bill among some of the politicians in Congress, the amount of money under discussion is piddling compared to what's needed.

With unemployment at its highest level since the Great Depression, and admittedly expected to remain at double-digit levels at least throughout the budget year, the refusal of the administration to help the jobless while simultaneously cutting back on job training and unemployment insurance is nothing short of criminal. It reflects the view of the corporate elite that unemployment will be good for the economy by forcing down wages and making the U.S. more "competitive."

The Reagan budget expresses in dollar-and-cents terms that the ruling class of this country will impose any sacrifice on the people in order to have the military might to continue its search for super-profits around the globe. It's a budget that's more concerned with protecting General Motors in Brazil and South Africa than in the survival of the laid-off auto workers in Detroit.

The budget has no relevance to the needs of the people. It reflects in no way the tremendous potential for prosperity and happiness inherent in the vast industrial and agricultural resources of this country. Any committee made up of workers from any community across this land could draw up a realistic and humane budget that would answer the problems of unemployment, hunger, the homeless, the elderly, the disabled, and find billions more available for the cultural enrichment of all.



World capitalist crisis behind Nigerian expulsion of immigrants

By Andy Stapp

FEBRUARY 1—Faced with an economic crunch brought on by the falling price of world oil, the government of Nigeria has ordered the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of unskilled immigrant workers who came to that country looking for jobs during the years when the oil industry there was booming.

West Africans of many countries are involved in the exit order, including people from Togo, Niger, Cameroon, and Chad, but by far the largest number are nationals of Ghana.

Richard Horseley of the Ghanaian Embassy told Workers World that while the Nigerian economy "cannot support" the

labor force from other countries which had gone to work there, his government was appealing to Nigeria "to do what is possible to minimize the suffering" of those leaving.

The foreign workers in Nigeria are not the cause of the crisis so much as its victims. A British colony until 1960, Nigeria has large oil reserves estimated at 17.4 billion barrels. Selling this oil to the U.S., the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom (Nigeria nationalized British Petroleum in 1979), the country's economy expanded rapidly until the current recession hit Nigeria's trade partners in the capitalist West.

With the fall of oil exports, Nigeria has been plagued by

inflation and unemployment. The failure of the imperialist countries to pull out of the crisis has affected not only the workers and poor people of the U.S., Europe, and Japan, but, as can be seen, has brought immense suffering to people all over the world, as is currently the case in West Africa.

The U.S. media is playing up Nigeria's actions as if it were almost something peculiar to that part of the globe, as if undocumented workers here are not subject to every indignity from dragnet arrest to terrorism to being made the constant scapegoat for the millions who cannot find jobs. And of course, the bankers and big businessmen never get blamed.

Lesotho bombing part of terror campaign by apartheid regime

By Neville Edwards

JANUARY 31—The recent brutal attacks upon ANC refugees in Lesotho and Lesotho civilians which took over 40 lives, repeated terrorist bombings against revolutionary Mozambique, South Africa's continued illegal occupation of parts of southern Angola, and other attacks plotted by the apartheid regime in South Africa, are aimed at destabilizing developing Black African nations.

Lesotho, a country of 1.3 million people, is totally surrounded geographically by South Africa.

On Jan. 27, as members of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference were preparing to convene a meeting in Maseru, Lesotho, a water storage installation, located one mile from the South African border and four miles from Maseru city center, was destroyed by terrorist South Africa and its puppet forces.

The meeting had been called by the Conference, which includes Lesotho, Zimbabwe, Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Swaziland, to seek economic independence from South Africa.

The fact that oil and water storage installations and pipelines, which are vitally needed by these countries to develop the standard of living for their peo-

ple, are being destroyed by racist South Africa is tantamount to genocide. These developing countries are very vulnerable to military pressure from South Africa.

Angola, a country that does not even share a common border with South Africa, is being pressured to pull back to 150 miles inside its own borders its forces, including those of its Cuban allies there to protect the Angolan revolution. South Africa, meanwhile, continues to rape and plunder the resources of Namibia, the South West African nation that South Africa illegally occupies. This is further indication of the power that South Africa enjoys both in a military sense and in the sense of its support from the U.S., Britain, and other imperialist countries.

Military and business partners

Reagan mentioned in his State of the Union address that South Africa is of "defense interest" to the U.S. But it would be more realistically put if he had said that South Africa and the U.S. are military and business partners. U.S. corporations own more than 30% of the mining interests in South Africa, and Ford and other U.S.-based companies enjoy great profit from the cheap labor and the blood and sweat of the Black African workers. The

U.S. has also constantly helped to develop the military capability of South Africa directly, and indirectly through the use of Israel.

The "butcher" Ariel Sharon has repeatedly visited South Africa and has made secret trips to Namibia, and it's well known that Israel has cooperated with South Africa in joint military development, including nuclear weapons development and intelligence gathering. Israel has also helped to train the South African military in tactics used against the freedom fighters of the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO), the organizations fighting for the liberation of their countries from racist South Africa.

Despite the vulnerability of these nations to South Africa's military aggression, the struggle for national liberation goes on. The ANC has constantly hit the racist state where it hurts economically, as is made clear by the recent bombing of South Africa's largest nuclear plant or the series of bombings that have hit various government buildings throughout South Africa. The heroic ANC fighters and their brothers and sisters in SWAPO, the sole legitimate leaders of the South West African People in Namibia, are continuing the struggle against fascist South Africa for national liberation.

—Salvadoran city liberated

Continued from page 1

north in Morazán to meet with U.S.-trained Honduran forces moving south across the border.

The FMLN responded by opening a strong offensive in Usulután, a crucial agricultural zone where export crops of cotton, sugar, and coffee are grown, and in Chalatenango, a province to the northwest.

Fighting also broke out at the same time in four other provinces, plus in the streets of the capital, San Salvador, and in Santa Ana, the country's second biggest city. Liberation fighters were only one mile from the U.S. Embassy when they made a daring attack on the largest military barracks in the country at San Carlos, San Salvador.

In Usulután, the main military supply route along the Pacific Coast highway to the cities and towns was severed when the bridge at Puente de Oro was knocked out. The parallel railroad bridge was blown up in 1981. All lines of communication between the military government and its repressive forces in Usulután were also cut off.

In a desperate attempt to hold Berlin, the government indiscriminately bombed and strafed the city, taking a considerable toll in civilian lives. It was reminiscent of the last days of Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The brutal military had been driven out of San Agustín, San Francisco Javier, and Alegría a few days earlier. Liberation forces celebrated with mass rallies in San Agustín, Usulután, on Saturday.

At present government forces remain tied up in Morazán. They have not even been able to retake Jocoaitique where one of their base camps was located. In spite of U.S. military equipment, military training, and U.S. military advice, they have been unable to

gain control in 15 days of massive bombardment.

Honduras: base for U.S. aggression

According to Radio Vencemos, a FMLN news service, the U.S.-backed Honduran military forces crossed the border into El Salvador Thursday under the cover of A-37 jets from Honduras. It is well known that the movements of the Honduran military are orchestrated by U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, a CIA agent. His mission in Honduras is to overthrow the government of Nicaragua and to defeat the revolution in El Salvador. Included in the forces he controls are the CIA-backed counter-revolutionary Somocists.

Appearing this morning with Negroponte on the NBC "Today Show," Honduran government spokesman Carlos Flores hinted at a more direct involvement of U.S. military personnel in the area. Some 1,600 U.S. troops are scheduled to begin maneuvers with the Honduran military today.

There is widespread opposition in the U.S. to the Pentagon-sponsored war for control of Central America. Also, the inability of the Reagan administration to hold the people of El Salvador captive to the brute force of ultrarightwingers like the fascist d'Aubuisson leaves Washington with an unresolvable dilemma.

While the liberation forces are growing stronger, the U.S. propped-up government is weakened by splits between the ruling generals. It reflects the White House's failure to secure a stable government in San Salvador.

The gravest danger lies in the direct involvement of U.S. troops. This can be averted by the massive opposition of those here threatened by job layoffs and cutbacks of funds sacrificed to the Pentagon budget.

Role of U.S. exposed in Lebanon massacres

By Joyce Chediac

FEBRUARY 1—Much information has appeared in the U.S. big business-controlled media on the role of the Phalange and the Israeli government in this past September's massacre of Palestinians in the west Beirut refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. But virtually nothing has been said about the role of the U.S. government in these murders.

This week, the Sunday Times, a British weekly, revealed that U.S. intelligence officials knew about the massacre in the camps "at least 24 hours" before the massacre ended. U.S. officials "confirmed they heard that killings were taking place the evening of Thursday, Sept. 16, only a few hours after the Israelis had allowed the Christian Phalangists into the camps," the Jan. 30 issue of this London-based publication explains.

According to an independent investigation conducted by the Palestine Liberation Organization, 3,000 people were either killed or are missing as a result of this genocidal assault, which occurred Sept. 16-18.

The Sunday Times adds that news of the "killings and beatings" in the camps also reached members of the Foreign Relations Committee by 9:30 the next morning. And a "senior committee aide" was quoted as saying that he had passed infor-

mation "to a number of senators."

The same publication describes the sources for U.S. government knowledge of the massacre as "so sensitive they could not be revealed." What kind of contacts does Washington have in Beirut?

One contact appears to have been Elias Hobeika, the Phalange intelligence chief named by Israeli officials as the man in charge of the Phalangist murders in the camps. Hidden in the middle of a long article on the massacres in the Sept. 30 New York Times, Hobeika is described as having "had regular contacts with American officials and members of the CIA," and as "the liaison between the Phalangist militia and Israel's secret service, the Mossad, and also between the militia and the U.S. Embassy in Beirut."

None of this has been the focus of any media investigation in this country to date.

Why wasn't any of this reported on ABC-TV's special report on the massacre last month? This nationally-aired "Closeup" entitled "Oh Tell the World What Happened" was virtually the only serious attempt by the major networks to probe into the killings at Sabra and Shatila. While documenting the Israeli and Phalange roles in the genocide, however, U.S. imperialism was let off the hook.



West German demonstrators protest Vice President Bush's visit. Referring to Bush's former post as CIA chief, banner at left reads: "1973, Chile; today, Central America; tomorrow?"

Suriname government comes under attack from Washington

By Michael Bar-Am

NEW YORK, Feb. 1—The revolutionary process unfolding in Suriname is coming under increasing attack by imperialism. The evidence is front page articles last week in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal with large headlines about Suriname "slipping under Castro's sway," "the drift from democracy," and "the massacre of 15 martyrs for democracy."

Use of the big business media is nothing new for the CIA in its constant attempts to destabilize progressive and revolutionary movements. It was used against Italy after World War II and more recently against Revolutionary Grenada via a CBS television show full of blatant lies and distortions.

Suriname, a former Dutch colony, is a multi-national state located on the northeast coast of South America. Culturally and economically it is part of the Caribbean Basin. Its economy is dependent and deformed with its major exports, bauxite and alu-

minum, controlled by the transnationals ALCOA and Royal Dutch of Holland.

On Feb. 25, 1980 a group of junior army officers, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Desi Bouterse, rose up against a Dutch installed neo-colonial puppet regime. Since then there have been seven coup attempts including an invasion of mercenaries from neighboring French Guiana.

On Dec. 8, 1982 the Surinamese government was forced to act decisively to forestall a coup attempt and 15 of the plotters were killed. One of the leaders, a businessman, had travelled to Florida in October and had met with Surinamese exiles.

Last month the Cuban newspaper Granma reported that two U.S. diplomats, Richard La Roche and Edward Donovan, were expelled from Suriname. They had been actively engaged in strikes organized by the right-wing Moederbond Trade Union Federation, "the aim of which

was to destabilize the revolutionary process."

The CIA has a long history of penetrating foreign trade unions to destabilize the forces of progress. Much of their criminal activities are done through the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD). Among its activities are the sending of foreign trade unionists to the U.S. for training.

On Jan. 31, 15 people were arrested for plotting to kill Lt. Col. Bouterse. They included two Cabinet Ministers and a high ranking army officer. The very same day in an editorial, The New York Times stated that Lt. Col. Bouterse "is inviting the fate he has visited on others."

After the Dec. 8 coup was foiled, Lt. Col. Bouterse commented, "The time has come for speeding up the revolutionary process in Suriname... there will be room for all those who want to participate in the revolution, but only for the interest of the people. The privileged should not interfere." (Granma, Jan. 16)

Quebec public workers strike to fight pay cuts, defend unions

By John Catalinotto

FEBRUARY 1—Facing sharp pay cuts imposed by government decree, more than 200,000 public service workers went out on general strike in Quebec during the past week. Some 50,000 demonstrated at the National Assembly in Quebec City last Saturday.

As of today, a number of the unions have all but settled with the Quebec government. The settlements were arrived at under threats to the existence of the unions and to the jobs and freedom of individual union members. The 100,000-member teachers union is still on strike.

The Quebec legislature had passed a decree in December calling for cuts of up to 20% for many of the public workers. Some, like teachers and nurses, lost as much as \$65 a week.

This decree in effect nullified agreements made through collective bargaining and was a direct attack on organized labor as well as on the living standards of the workers. Under such an attack the unions felt they had no choice but to strike.

The strike began last Wednesday and Thursday with 100,000

teachers walking out. On Friday, daycare, health clinic, and social service center workers joined the action. Hospital workers were to stop yesterday, and government office workers to join it tomorrow.

Union-busting law

To pressure the unions, the Quebec government threatened new legislation which would allow them to stop collecting union dues, to end time off for union officials to conduct union business, and which would force employees to work without pay for a period equal to the number of days they were on strike; it would also abolish workers' seniority rights and job security if they were on strike for more than three days. (Montreal Gazette, Jan. 29) These tactics were compared with those Reagan used on PATCO.

Workers World called up the Quebec Federation of Labor (FTQ), one of the three union groups leading the strike within the Common Front. Robert Demers of the FTQ told of other tactics the government had used

to put "the knife to the throat" of the workers.

One step the government took, said Demers, was to get a list of 6,000 teachers' names and get writs to bring them all into court, thus bringing the pressure of the state not only against union leaders, but against individual members.

Pulled back from decree

Under the pressure of the strike, the government did pull back slightly from the cuts of the decree; however, where possible they did so in a way designed to divide the workers.

For example, Demers pointed out that in the hospitals the government pulled back on cuts to some of the lowest-paid workers and to part-timers. And part-timers make up 54% of the work force.

The vote in the union's executive committee last night to end the walk-out was 18 for, 15 against, and three abstentions. This itself must reflect similar mixed feelings among the work force in general and points out the difficult choice facing Quebec's workers in the coming days and months.

'Union busting's got to go!'



WW photo: ED CHILD

By Phebe Eckfeldt

BOSTON, Jan. 26—"Hey Spillane, you should know, union busting's got to go!" chanted nearly 80 school bus drivers from Local 8751, USWA and their community supporters. Spillane is Superintendent of Schools and the drivers were picketing the headquarters of the Boston School Committee to demand a guarantee that their jobs, union, and contract would remain intact next year.

Every three years in June when the school bus drivers union contract expires, the contract between the bus company (presently ARA) and the city also comes up for bid. The School Committee is currently in the process of putting out the contract bid which will determine who will operate the buses in September. So every three years the drivers, Black, Latin, Asian and white, unite to pressure the city to guarantee their jobs, wages, benefits, and working conditions no matter what transportation company is chosen.

Three years ago, in an historic struggle that showed the country union strength is not dead, these same drivers defeated ARA, a multi-billion dollar, multinational corporation, when it tried to bust their union.

APC gives 'State of People' message

By Katherine Wells

DETROIT, Jan. 30—As was feared, the new Democratic governor of Michigan, James Blanchard, has announced a 38% increase in the state income tax, raising it to 6.35%, and budget cuts of \$225 million.

This comes on top of a hiring freeze for state workers and a possibly permanent deferral of state payments to local governments and schools and universities, already imposed by Blanchard, as well as \$778 million in cuts in the current budget by the former governor.

In Blanchard's State of the State address, all of his proposals placed more burdens on the already economically devastated workers and poor of Michigan.

The All-Peoples Congress of

Michigan, on the other hand, in its "State of the People" message, wants to place the responsibility for the solution to the crisis squarely on the backs of those who created it—the large corporations, the banks, and the federal government.

In its message, the APC called on the governor and the state legislature to take "extraordinary emergency measures" to alleviate the suffering of the state's poor, unemployed, and workers.

These measures include a declaration of a state of emergency, suspension of tax and loan payments to the federal government and the banks, a halt to mortgage foreclosures, evictions, and utility shut-offs, and a restoration of all social services. The APC calls on the governor to demand federal disaster relief aid, and that the Reagan administration release and finance the distribution of all food stored in warehouses. It further urges that medical care be guaranteed and that financial cuts to schools, colleges, and universities be reversed.

—Rochester layoffs

Continued from page 12

also gone to City Hall to demand that the Mayor and City Council act immediately, taking emergency measures if need be, to deal with the "man-made disaster" of unemployment in the Rochester area. "You have so far not even made token attempts to help the situation," said Robert Tishler. "If you don't take real steps very soon, the people will take their own—in the streets!"

The APC also plans to take their campaign to the Monroe County Legislature.

For petitions or more information, call or write the Rochester APC, 902 Portland Ave., 14621 (716) 342-5707.

—Black history

Continued from page 6

cohesive force in the Black communities. The roots of the Black struggle for liberation were also nourished, and militant calls for resistance appeared regularly. These calls were more predominant in the Northern and Western press.

Despite the obvious dangers, however, numerous such calls also appeared in the Southern press. With each major uprising or threat of rebellion, it was the press which was first destroyed.

In the re-writing of Black History, it was important to emphasize that whatever rights Black people were granted were actually won through resistance and mass struggle.

Black culture, a product of the history of struggle for progress, the history of oppression, and the resistance to that oppression, is indeed stifled under capitalism.

The survival of Native culture in the face of genocide and complete domination which continues even today, is but another example of the resilience of a people's culture.

NO CULTURE CAN EVER BE COMPLETELY WIPED OUT! In fact, various periods of history enhanced the explosion of cultural expression. This was true during certain periods of Black history—such as the Harlem Renaissance, and during heightened periods of mass struggle.

The racist suppression of Black history and the stifling of Black culture is harmful not only to Black people, but to all Third World people as well as the international working class movement.

Only the destruction of capitalism will mean true liberation for all the oppressed who will then be able to develop their culture freely!

Join us in the struggle

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization—Black and white, Latin, Asian, and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed, and students.

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

Atlanta: 1257 Glenwood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30316 (404) 627-3093

Austin: P.O. Box 6504, Austin, TX 78762

Baltimore: 2112 North Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21218 (301) 659-9818

Bay Area: 470 Castro St., Suite 207-3047, San Francisco, CA 94114 (415) 641-8569

Boston: 295 Huntington Ave., Room 212, Boston, MA 02115 (617) 247-1778

Buffalo: 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14201 (716) 855-3055

Chicago: 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 922-0326

Cleveland: 2012 West 25 St., Room 613, Cleveland, OH 44113 (216) 861-6154

Detroit: 1947 Grand River, Room 201, Detroit, MI 48226 (313) 962-4979

Houston: P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052 (713) 861-1248

Jackson: P.O. Box 8783, Jackson, MS 39204

Milwaukee: 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 224-0422

New York City: 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010 (212) 255-0352

Rochester: 898 Portland Ave., Rochester, NY 14621 (716) 342-5539

San Antonio: P.O. Box 1504, San Antonio, TX 78295

Seattle: P.O. Box 2514, Seattle, WA 98111 (206) 323-3612

Tucson: P.O. Box 42642, Tucson, AZ 85733 (602) 792-0728

Washington, D.C.: 3221 Mt. Pleasant Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20010 (202) 483-8740

Disabled protest MTA over death on unsafe subway car

By Betsy Davis

NEW YORK, Jan. 26—Two hundred sightless people and a contingent of other disabled supporters brought by the All-Peoples Congress (APC) and Disabled in Action (DIA) participated in a militant demonstration here today outside the headquarters of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) at 44 Street and Madison.

This demonstration was sparked by the death on Dec. 27 of a sightless person who fell on the subway tracks in Queens. This and a number of other deaths and injuries in recent years have all been attributed to the lack of safety gates between cars, a

feature that older subway cars already have but which is absent from cars purchased since 1971. Blind passengers cannot tell if the train they are boarding is of old or new design, so they must assume that the gap they feel with their canes is the car door, and they step off the platform into the space between the cars, too often to their deaths.

Even taking the MTA to court has not moved transit officials on the issue. A suit has been pending since 1978, during which time deaths and injuries have mounted. The American Council for the Blind has even designed an adequate gate, and yet the MTA has refused to allocate

funds for testing and implementation.

The first victim of the MTA's new cars was a sightless woman who fell between the cars in 1971, and who lost both legs and an arm when the train ran over her. The general public is also a victim, since anyone can get pushed onto the tracks in rush hour crowds when there is no safety gate between the cars.

Today's demonstration showed the MTA that the disabled community will not take such callous treatment forever, and that people are organizing to make public transit accessible to all the public.

On The Picketline

Saying no to concessions. Detroit's Budd Corp. workers sent management a resounding message to the demands for wage and benefit concessions. Members of UAW Local 306 voted "no" 863 to 66 on Jan. 23. Budd, which produces wheels, has already permanently laid off half the work force. The company asked the remaining workers to take a \$2.12 per hour wage cut and also to give up one week of vacation. The threat of 300 more layoffs and the closing of a small plant in Clinton, Mich., was used to try to intimidate the union. But angry Budd workers still voted no, with rank and file workers declaring, "Chrysler showed that concessions don't save jobs." A leaflet distributed by the Autoworkers Committee of the All-Peoples Congress urged Budd workers to "put a stop to layoffs and plant closings, too!" It went on to show that jobs "are our property because of our investment" of years of labor in the plants.

As bad as the 1930s. The Reaganite soothsayers and economic mystics like to repeat over and over that things aren't as bad today as they were during the Great Depression of the 1930s. But, those of us who don't live on champagne and drive limousines, feel that things could hardly have been worse. And that feeling isn't too far off target. Here's what Fred Maidment, an instructor at the University of South Carolina, recently wrote in a piece buried in the Business Section of the New York Times (Jan. 30): "The unemployment rate in the Depression was arrived at in a very different manner than now . . . The unemployment rate last month was 10.8%, or 12.04 million people. This does not count 'discouraged workers' who number 1.85 million according to the latest federal estimate. . . From 1936 to 1940, people involved in make-work programs were still counted as unemployed. If the people involved in the make-work programs had been counted as employed, the average unemployment rate would have dropped significantly, to an average 10% for the years 1936-40 . . . It means that (today's) 10.8% unemployment rate is greater than at any time since 1935. . . It means that trying to find a job now is more difficult than it was in those years. It means that if the country was in a Depression in 1936-40, it is certainly in one now."

Reindustrialization

THE MENACE BEHIND THE PROMISE

By Sam Marcy

Imani goes on trial for his life April 26

By Dianne Mathiowetz
MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 27—The new trial of Imani (Johnny) Harris on charges arising from the death of a guard during a 1974 prison protest has been scheduled to begin April 26, 1983, in Bay Minette, Ala.

The case of this Black man and his determined struggle for freedom has gained world-wide attention for its powerful indictment of the racism that permeates the U.S. judicial system.

Here is Imani's story:

Birmingham, Ala., was still smoldering with racist violence in the aftermath of the great civil rights struggles of the '60s when Imani and his family moved into a previously all-white neighborhood in 1970. Immediately, the harassment and terror tactics began—broken windows, garbage dumped on the front steps, obscene phone calls, hate notes from the Ku Klux Klan, attempted fire bombings. While the police did nothing to stop these attacks, they harassed the family. When it was seen that these tactics were not being effective, Imani was suddenly arrested in August of 1970 on his way to work. He was charged with four separate robberies of \$11, \$67, \$90, and \$205 and one count of alleged rape. In 1970 these were all capital offenses which meant that if convicted, Imani could be sentenced to death.

Imani remained in the Birmingham jail until his trial in April, 1971, all the while insisting on his innocence. During that time, his court-appointed lawyers waived his rights to a preliminary hearing; never tried to have bond set; did not file any pre-trial motions; never interviewed the alleged rape victim even though her description of her assailant did not fit Imani; never even looked at the medical report which stated there were no internal or external signs of forced intercourse; and failed to subpoena any of Imani's alibi witnesses who could verify his whereabouts at the times of the crimes.

Here is how Imani describes what happened at his trial:

"They (court-appointed lawyers) told me they didn't have alibi witnesses subpoenaed, weren't prepared to go to trial, and didn't think I should fight this all the way. They said I should change my plea on the rape case and get the other four dismissed...(They said) the court was going to take the white woman's word over mine, because I was Black, and I was going to get the chair...I saw there was no defense prepared, I didn't want the chair. I changed my plea—not because I wasn't innocent, but because I had no choice."

Although Imani thought he was pleading guilty to only one charge, the judge sentenced him to five life terms.

"Cruel and unusual punishment"

Imani was taken to Atmore Prison, a huge plantation worked by prison laborers in southern Alabama. Brutal guards, racism, over-crowded living conditions, poor medical care, slave wages of 25 cents a week for dawn to dusk work in the fields—these are the conditions which characterized life in Atmore Prison.

The Inmates for Action was formed by Black and white prisoners to demand better conditions. In 1972, after being repeatedly denied any improvements, the Inmates for Action led a successful work stoppage of over 1,200 prisoners during the sugar cane harvest. These same conditions would later be called "cruel and unusual punishment" by a Federal Judge when ordering massive changes.

However, following the successful strike, prisoners were systematically beaten. Over 300 "leaders" were transferred to other units and scores were placed in segregation. IFA activists were marked for increased harassment and their names were on a "death" list discovered in the warden's desk.

On Jan. 18, 1974, when the 64 prisoners in Atmore's segregation unit, many of them there since the 1972 work stoppage,

heard that an IFA member had been beaten to death by guards, they moved to protect themselves by seizing the cellblock and taking two guards hostage. Their only demand to Warden Marion Harding was that representatives of the media, clergy, legislature, and corrections board be allowed in to report on conditions of the prison.

Instead, Warden Harding amassed a force of prison guards and state troopers with dogs, helicopters, and gas and attacked the segregation unit. During the assault, guard Clyde Barrow died. A leader of the IFA, George Dobbins, was also killed.

Imani and four other prisoners were charged with the death of the guard. Three of them—Oscar Johnson, Lincoln Heard and Grover McCorvey, all leaders in the IFA—were convicted and given long sentences. The fourth, Frank X. Moore, was found dead hanging in his cell before his trial date. Of those charged with the guard's death, only Imani was "eligible" for the death penalty. At that time, the

only death penalty statute on the books in Alabama was an 1862 Confederacy law mandating death for a prisoner who is convicted of first degree murder while serving a life sentence.

Though totally innocent of the charge, Imani was convicted of murder by an all-white, all-male jury in 1975 in Bay Minette.

A major break in Imani's case came in 1978 when a white inmate, Jesse David Jett, came forward with eyewitness testimony about the death of the guard and George Dobbins. Jett states that Imani never had a knife and that he was in a cell, not anywhere near the guard when he was killed.

Jett also testified that George Dobbins was standing unarmed when the guards retook the cellblock and that Warden Harding ordered a guard to kill him. He goes on to say, "As Dobbins was lying on the floor wounded from a shotgun blast, Harding picked up the knife (dropped by another inmate) ... and stabbed Dobbins in the forehead about 5 or 6 times." An autopsy showed

these were the fatal wounds.

In 1981, retired Circuit Court Judge Leigh M. Clark overruled Imani's conviction and death sentence, citing that Jett's testimony "fundamentally impeaches the testimony of Warden Harding," the chief witness for the state.

Stop the frame-up! Free Imani

The Committee to Defend Imani and Stop the Death Penalty calls upon everyone to join in the effort to end this continuing injustice.

•Attend the trial in Bay Minette starting Tuesday, April 26.

•Write Gov. George Wallace and Attorney General Charles Graddick, State Capitol, Montgomery, Ala. 36204 demanding that the charges be dropped and Imani's sentence be reduced to time already served.

•Contribute desperately needed funds. Send to P.O. Box 46, Atlanta, Ga. 30301.

•Write Imani to let him know of your support. Imani (Johnny) Harris, P.O. Box 37, Holman Station, Ala. 36503.

Cops kill Black youth

By Henry Clark

RICHMOND, Calif., Jan. 30—A cold-blooded murder of the fifth Black man in less than one year by Richmond police was committed on Jan. 25, only one day before a \$7 million lawsuit against the police department by other murdered victims' families was declared a mistrial.

The lawsuit was filed by families of Michael Guillory and Johnny Roman, who were shot to death in their own homes in 1980 and 1982. The main defendants in the suit are members of a Ku Klux Klan-like group within the Richmond police department called the "cowboys."

Two additional murders of Black men in Richmond, totaling five, have sparked widespread anger throughout this Bay Area city and have promp-

ted several demonstrations against police brutality. During the court proceedings over 40 residents testified about their own personal experiences with police brutality.

After this blatant terror on the Black community was exposed in the lawsuit, a reduced settlement of \$750,000 was agreed to by the plaintiffs' attorneys and the police officials. But the city council gave their approval to police murders by denying the award to Roman's and Guillory's families, saying an award would acknowledge guilt by the police. Only one-third of this settlement was to be given to the families, after court and legal fees.

In a follow-up action to the city council's award denial and in attempting to minimize pressure on the police, Judge

Robert Aguilar immediately declared a mistrial, claiming that jurors had heard news about the settlement.

And now, a fifth Black man, Donald Kizar, 25, has fallen victim to this relentless campaign of genocide. His friend, Sheila Isaac, who was with Kizar when eight police smashed their front door down with a metal battering ram, explained that Kizar was completely defenseless when the "cowboy" Sgt. Browne, shot five times into Kizar's chest at almost point-blank range as Kizar crouched in a closet. The medical coroner's report also verified that the only shots fired were by Sgt. Browne.

It is clear that police, courts, and city officials in Richmond are working hand-in-hand to allow this fascist repression to continue.

—Breaking the chains: The tradition of Black resistance

Continued from page 7

and the military might of the slavocracy, resistance on the part of slaves was historically inevitable. This resistance which harried the peace, property, and the very person of the slaveholder, took as many forms as the devices employed to deter it.

Any discussion undertaking resistance to slavery must first concede that Black peoples' very survival of it has been, in fact, a monumental act of resistance. Moreover, the incessant attempts by the ruling class to destroy the culture of the slaves, was met instead with the flourishing of a religion, song, and folktale that harbored the message of defiance and freedom.

It is true that the purchasing of one's own freedom, conscription in the armed services when freedom was the reward, and the petitioning for manumission were all important methods of obtaining emancipation.

What occurred with much more frequency, however, were the almost daily attempts at assassination or property damage by gun, knife, club, ax—and even more recurrent, by arson and poison.

It was the constant menace of slave arson, which plagued antebellum society, that led to the appearance of several architectural features particularly noted in 18th and 19th century Southern

homes.

In South Carolina, committees were organized to insure that brick or stone was used instead of wood in the construction of homes. In Virginia, the frequency of arson prompted the leading citizens to introduce—the fire escape.

Southern planters alarmed with the frequency with which their colleagues were being poisoned, enacted special laws prescribing death for any slave found guilty. It is an ironic note that many of these slaveowners who envisioned themselves the saviors of "black heathens," would indeed find themselves being served up with their last supper.

Flight was a major factor in the battle against bondage. Fleeing to wherever havens of safety presented themselves, hundreds of thousands succeeded in gaining their liberty in this fashion. Estimates from the Underground Railroad alone, approximate that between 1830 and 1860, as many as 2,000 a year passed into freedom along its routes.

Maroon communities in the South

Maroon communities, or bands of outlying fugitive slaves, have long been an established phenomenon in the Caribbean and South America. However, these

communities were also a fact in the U.S. slave south. Today, evidence abounds as to the existence of maroon communities from 1672 to 1874 in regions of the Carolinas, Virginia, Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Not only did these maroon communities offer safe haven for runaways, but also served as bases from which guerrilla war was launched against the slavocracy; and in many instances, provided leadership to planned revolts. As was recurrent in such communities in the Caribbean and South America, many maroons in the U.S. attempted a settled life, as evidenced by the fact that they built homes, maintained families, raised cattle, and pursued agriculture.

Soldiers of the King of England

Perhaps one of the earliest examples of maroon communities, and certainly the most noted, were the soldiers of the King of England.

With the promise of freedom, a substantial body of Black slaves fought alongside the British against the Revolutionists siege of Savannah. After the final defeat of the British, these slaves escaped with their arms, called themselves the soldiers of the King of England and erected a stockade half-a-mile long and over 400 feet wide in a swampy

region near Savannah. This fort served as the base from which these maroons carried on a guerrilla war against the planters along the Savannah River.

It would take more than 10 years and a combined militia from South Carolina and Georgia to successfully rout this Black settlement in 1786.

Battle on Apalachicola River

The maroon fort on the Apalachicola River in Western Florida was the site of one of the bloodiest clashes ever to occur between fugitive slaves and southern slaveholders.

By 1800, this Black stronghold served as a base from which more than a thousand maroons and the Creek and Seminole nations had launched a guerrilla war against both the slaveocracy and the Spanish. In addition, these maroons and Native peoples had farms and grazing lands stretching 50 miles along the Apalachicola River.

The U.S., by this time, had designs upon the Spanish-controlled Florida territory. On July 17, 1816, Col. Duncan Clinch and the U.S. Fourth Infantry were dispatched to remove the only obstacle to U.S. plans for annexation—The Apalachicola Fort.

After a bloody siege of 10 days, the Fort's heroic Black leader Garcon along with nearly 300

men, women, and children were slaughtered in the interest of U.S. expansion.

The question concerning the opportunity and capability of slaves to openly revolt was summed up aptly during the debates creating the U.S. Constitution.

A Maryland delegate, in presenting his views concerning tax and fiscal policy, suggested that the principle to be followed was that all property—including slave property—be treated identically. The eminent Benjamin Franklin took the floor and noted that the delegate equated slave property with all other forms, then asked: "Will the gentleman from Maryland tell me of an insurrection of sheep?"

Next issue:
Open insurrection:
The highest form of
slave resistance.



Community protest blocks Klan in Rochester!

By Gene Clancy
 ROCHESTER, Jan. 28—A stunning victory against racism was won here when WOKR-TV (Channel 13) was forced to cancel plans to bring Klansman Bill Wilkinson to Rochester to be featured on a local morning talk show.

Realizing the justifiable angry response that could be expected by providing this blatant racist with an expense-paid television forum, the station took pains to keep its plans a secret as long as possible. The show was originally scheduled for Feb. 3, at Marketplace Mall, a large shop-

ping plaza in Henrietta, a suburb of Rochester.

The station's plans went awry when the mall owners declined to host the show because of "fear of violence." All the other malls and plazas in the Rochester area followed suit, refusing to host the show. Wilkinson was then

rescheduled to appear, first on Feb. 13, then Feb. 9, in the station's local studios, also located in Henrietta. Attendance was to be by "invitation only" and tight security measures were announced. Phoned-in questions on the "talk-show" would be screened, it was announced.

Despite these and other attempts to prevent people from expressing their outrage, opposition to the station's plans rapidly mobilized. The All-Peoples Congress (APC) immediately announced plans for a demonstration at the station. People in the Rochester community were urged to call the station to protest Channel 13's endorsement of racism. Community organizations were enlisted to call the WOKR's commercial sponsors

to demand that they withdraw their support.

On Jan. 28, Jon Murray, news director of WOKR, announced that the station would not bring Wilkinson to town because it had "received so many calls opposing Wilkinson's appearance," and because "we can't control what goes on outside the studio." (!) However, he announced that the station would still try to present the Klansman via a satellite hookup.

Plans are going ahead to mount a demonstration at WOKR on Feb. 9 to protest the satellite broadcast. "There is no place for this sort of racist filth anywhere in the U.S.!" said Erskine Nero of the APC. "The sooner that racist stations like Channel 13 realize that, the better."



Rochester APC rally hits policies of utility company.

WW photo

APC speakout hits racism unemployment, heat shutoffs

ROCHESTER, Feb. 1—The problem of paying enough on your utility bill to keep heat in your apartment has been intensified in Rochester, by an even more callous attitude on the part of Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E).

At a press conference recently held by the energy monopoly, their spokesperson Richard Peck announced that they would be shutting off people's utilities during the winter for "willfully refusing to pay."

It was a slick well-rehearsed performance designed to blame their outrageous prices and disregard for the health and safety of the poor on the victims of shutoffs themselves. However, the glaring fact is that these shutoffs numbered 12,000 during a six-month period in 1982 and during the same six months RG&E's profits were nearly \$60 million.

Their contempt for people has not gone unanswered. At a com-

munity speakout called by the Peoples Energy Committee of the All-Peoples Congress on Saturday night, speaker after speaker slammed the policies of the utility company. Over 35 people spoke of personal experiences, facing the possibility of being shut off or of how paying a utility bill meant either not buying groceries or not paying the rent.

From the many talks, it became obvious that cuts in social services were also a tremendous problem. Said Melrose Presley, a disabled Black woman, "I am not going to be shut off! They are cutting my social security disability but I'm willing to go all the way to keep from being in the cold."

Campaign to fight layoffs

Harold Eagle, a well known Black activist, spoke from the floor detailing many of the problems facing poor and working people and urged united militant struggle.

Joblessness was also a topic of discussion and an enthusiastic response met Lydia Bayoneta, a community organizer for the APC, who announced a campaign to combat the massive layoffs that have recently taken place in Rochester. A petition is already being circulated demanding a law to force companies to give workers a year's notice before closing down. The petition also calls for a moratorium on mortgage foreclosures, utility shutoffs, and evictions.

The issues of high unemployment, racism, and utility shutoffs were raised again and again and it was proposed by the chair that a political action against RG&E be organized that could raise the other issues of unemployment and racism as well. People immediately began raising different ideas for organizing just such an action and by the end of the evening a planning meeting was set for Saturday, Feb. 12.

Fightback underway against Rochester layoffs

By Gene Clancy
 ROCHESTER, Jan. 30—In the midst of the most devastating unemployment here since the 1930s, the All-Peoples Congress (APC) is conducting a vigorous campaign against layoffs.

Every major Rochester company has had massive layoffs including Kodak and Xerox corporations, the two leading employers long thought immune to periodic downturns in the economy elsewhere. Two weeks ago, Kodak announced an indefinite layoff of 1,100 and an "incentive" program to get older workers to retire early. Xerox has cut its worldwide employment by 12,500 since mid-1981. This does not count hundreds of workers in small shops which contract with these companies, or hundreds more employees who work under direct contract for Xerox and Kodak.

Other major corporations such as the Rochester Products division of General Motors, Delco, and R.F. Communications have had massive layoffs.

Gleasons, which manufactures heavy machine tools, cut wages 10% a month ago and has cut nearly half its work force within the past year. This week, Xerox announced that employees would not receive an annual bonus which has been paid since 1960. In reality, this amounts to a 5 to 10% wage cut; many workers are tied into mortgage and other payment plans with "balloon" payments geared to the annual "bonuses." Yet Xerox made nearly

\$424 million last year and bought a smaller company. Kodak's chief executive, Walter A. Fallon, admitted that "Kodak must cut its work force to protect the profits it needs to grow." (!)

Other companies have either closed down or moved away. An example is Farrells, an automotive-related industry which plans to close down this month, laying off 350 workers. It once employed nearly 1,000.

With utility rates rising, unemployment benefits ending, and programs like welfare, food stamps, and heating assistance cut back or ended entirely, thousands in the Rochester area face the worst economic hardship they have ever known.

Fightback campaign initiated

The Rochester branch of the All-Peoples Congress has responded with an immediate hard-hitting campaign to fight back against the layoffs.

Within days of the announcement that Kodak would lay off 1,100 workers, APC activists were at the plant gates with petitions to get the County Legislature and City Council to use their legal authority to immediately freeze layoffs by requiring one year's notification before companies may close down, move away or lay off workers. The petition also calls for an immediate moratorium on foreclosures, evictions, or utility shutoffs caused by unemployment, and requires companies to file an "economic and social impact statement."

"We Can Stop Layoffs" proclaims the headline of an APC leaflet that is being distributed to thousands of workers at plant gates, the unemployment office, and on the streets of Rochester. The leaflet explains the legal authority and responsibilities of state and local governments to deal with unemployment. "Our representatives can act, but they won't unless we make them," says the leaflet. Hundreds have signed the petition in only the first few days of the campaign, according to APC organizers.

The All-Peoples Congress has
 Continued on page 10



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