

February 18, 1983 Vol. 25, No. 7

25¢

# workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



# New bank failure shatters recovery myth



**By Joyce Chediac**  
FEBRUARY 15—At the very same time that Ronald Reagan was predicting a “new age of prosperity” to a group of Tucson businessmen, the collapse of a large bank sent shockwaves through the entire financial establishment.

Yesterday, the United American Bank of Knoxville, Tenn., failed. The United American Bank was the fourth largest commercial bank to go under since the 1930s. This major bank insolvency points to a serious deepening of the economic crisis, despite the government's claims of recovery. It is an indication that a sharp decline in capitalist produc-

tion, stagnation of trade, and massive unemployment—not “prosperity”—is around the corner.

The United American bank collapsed because more than half the bank's portfolio, about \$250 million in loans, probably won't be paid back. Although the big business media is blaming this on mismanagement by the bank's president, Jake Butcher, the real causes for this bank's collapse are deeply integrated into the whole economic fiber.

The United American Bank was the main financier of the Knoxville World's Fair, which opened last summer amid much

*Continued on page 11*

**S.F. gears up for March 3 protest against Reagan, Queen Elizabeth — p. 11**

## Philly health care workers seize state capitol!

**By Sharon Shelton**  
FEBRUARY 16—“We're fired up, won't take it anymore!”

Members of the Hospital and Health Care Employees Union occupied the Pennsylvania State Capitol building in Harrisburg on Feb. 8 in protest of drastic cutbacks in federal and state allocations for nursing home care.

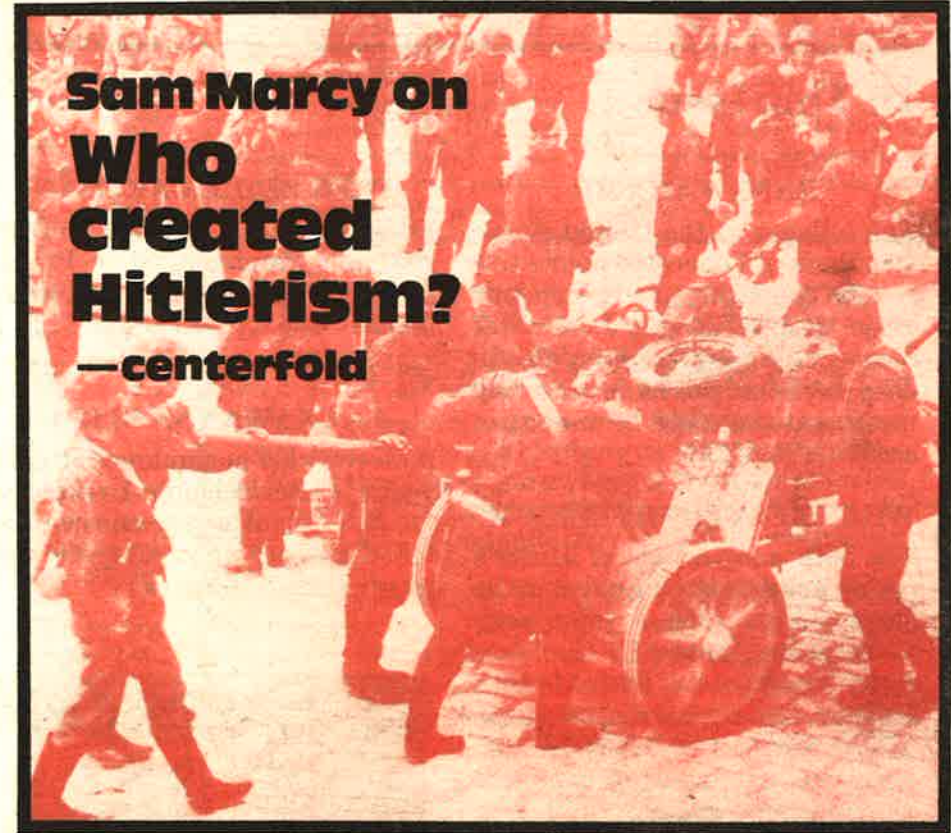
An estimated 3-4,000 nursing home workers and others turned out for the militant sit-in, which lasted for three hours.

The demonstrators were protesting a recent decision of the Reagan administration to reclassify the type of Medicaid-funded care received by nursing home residents, which, for Pennsylvania, translates into a cutback of \$15.4 million. They were also demonstrating against an addi-

tional cut of \$36 million announced by Pennsylvania Gov. Richard Thornburgh.

A spokesperson for the union told Workers World today that the cuts will have dramatic effects on jobs, on the ability of nursing homes to stay open, and on the health care of 17,000 people in Pennsylvania, if they take place.

On Jan. 22, President of the Philadelphia Local and National President of the Hospital Workers Union Henry Nicholas went on a hunger strike against the cuts. The hunger strike ended on Feb. 8, the day of the sit-in, after Gov. Thornburgh promised that money would be made available. The union is planning another demonstration on June 15 to remind the governor of his commitment.



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**  
**The struggle against cultural genocide** — p. 4



# APC Confronts City Council on hospital

## Jersey City officials continue attempts to close Medical Center



Jersey City residents make themselves heard at City Council meeting

WW photo: NEVILLE EDWARDS

By Veronica Golos and Angel Parker

JERSEY CITY, N.J., Feb. 10— At tonight's City Council meeting, union members, community people and the All-Peoples Congress exposed the city's plan to close Jersey City Medical Center (JCMC).

Three different resolutions were introduced by Councilmen Cunningham, Friccione, and Lopez: 1) To give the hospital \$3.2 million; 2) to loan the \$3 million; and 3) to use the money to underwrite a loan by the hospital from private investors; all were defeated in a vote of 6 to 3.

The introduction of these resolutions at all was a result of the pressure exerted by the workers, community people, the APC, and the AFSCME union at previous meetings, and through legal appeals, petition drives and demonstrations. They were voted on (not delegated to backroom discussions) only because the militant crowd kept chanting, "Vote, Vote!" in the chambers.

Jersey City has the money to save the Medical Center. In addition to an \$8 million "surplus," \$5 million has been added to the budget from Railroad back taxes. As elected officials, the City Council has the power to allocate money to keep the hospital open—just as they allocated Community Block Grants, supposedly for low income housing, to build luxury housing on the waterfront. The community and the union workers are united in the demand that money must be made available to save Jersey City Medical Center.

After the Council's refusal to provide funds for the hospital, Milton Filker, President of AFSCME District Council 52, and Reda Bacon, President of AFSCME Local 2254, both soundly condemned the members of the Council who had voted against the resolutions. Filker accused them of "hiding under the shield of bankruptcy proceedings," and Bacon pointedly told them, "Don't be so has-

ty to vote with our money—it's not your money!"

Throughout the meeting, the City Council's response to the speakers' demands, as well as their justification for defeating the resolutions, was Reaganite reasoning—blaming the victims. "If you wanted a job you would find one, and if you don't have hospital insurance it's your fault."

This outrage was directly challenged by Dorothy Ward, a laid-off Linen Department worker at the hospital. "I'm laid off and it's not my fault. I don't have insurance because I'm laid off. It's not my fault, it's yours!"

Joanne Lewis, an aide at the hospital and member of the APC, responded to the outrageous accusations of the Council by pointing her finger at them and stating, "You are the nightriders, and there, (pointing to Mayor Gerald McCann, standing in the corner) is the Grand Dragon. This is racism through and through."

Rachel Duell, another APC member, exposed the conspiracy of the hospital's Board of Managers, City Council, the mayor, and governor's office, in once again racing into court to rule for bankruptcy under Chapter 9. Handing over the hospital to bankruptcy is a cover for cutbacks and layoffs while elected politicians keep their hands clean. She summarized the feeling of the people, "Closing the Medical Center is part of a plan to push poor people out of Jersey City."

### We will fight!

Jorge Valentin, a community organizer for the APC, announced plans of the All-Peoples Congress to hold a public hearing on the impact the closing of the hospital would have on poor and working people of Jersey City. He unofficially ended the meeting by declaring, "You saw what happened in the 1960s. We're going to make that look like a picnic. You have left us no choice but to fight."

## Jersey City teachers vote to strike

**BULLETIN:** Under the threat of a city-wide walkout, the Jersey City School Board has come to an agreement with the teachers. Initial reports are that the agreement will provide an 8.2% pay increase for the first year, retroactive to Sept. 1982 and 9.5% for the second year. The agreement, however, also includes changes in the contract language covering working conditions. The vote to ratify the pact will come later this month.

By Gin T. Loy

JERSEY CITY, Feb. 13—Last week members of the Jersey City Education Assn. (JCEA) voted nearly 30-1 to go on strike Feb. 17 unless a settlement can be reached with the Jersey City Board of Education.

JCEA represents some 2,200 teachers and clerical workers

who have been working without a contract since school opened in September.

Since negotiations began last January, JCEA members have felt that the real intent of the Board of Education is to try to break the union.

Demanding a two-year 20% wage increase, teachers were first "offered" a one-year 3% increase if they agreed to givebacks. These givebacks include six additional workdays, no lunch period, restricted sick leave, no sabbaticals, and allowing the board to change the time school started and closed at will! The board's present offer of 7-1/2% includes all these givebacks.

"Strike! It's the only way," was the often heard comment at last week's meeting in response to these outrageous tactics of the

Jersey City board. Teachers noted that these same officials gave themselves a 25% wage increase when they got into office two years ago.

"We know the money is available and settling should be no problem at all," said union president Louis Scalli. It was discovered by the union that the school budget will have a \$6 million surplus at the end of 1983.

In this city where the only public hospital is threatened with closure because of a supposed lack of funds, it's no surprise that the board has little concern for Jersey City's students, most of whom are working-class, Black, and Latin. Robert Vaughn, the board's chief counsel, had the audacity to tell reporters he would jail and fine "every single striker. I will do everything possible to break the strike."

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#### BANK FAILURE

The collapse of the United American Bank of Tennessee points to a serious deepening of the economic crisis, despite Reagan's claims of recovery. Coming in the middle of a deep recession, this failure can only mean that there has been no turn around. (Page 1.)

#### FREE EDDIE CARTHAN

Eddie Carthan's transfer to Mississippi's Parchman State Prison is the subject of a sit-in protest at Holmes County Jail. (Page 11.)

#### BLACK CULTURE

This week, the special section on Black History focuses on the importance of culture. Also included is an obituary on jazz composer Eubie Blake, and the story of an Alabama school teaching Black culture and performing arts. (Page 4.)

#### LACKAWANNA STEEL

A steelworker unemployed after 15 years at Bethlehem's Lackawanna, N.Y., plant writes on the need for a fightback against layoffs and plant closings. (Page 5.)

#### WHO CREATED HITLERISM?

The 50th anniversary of Hitler's taking power is the big event in the mass media, with a false anti-Soviet lesson drawn by the bourgeois broadcasters. Sam Marcy's analysis exposes the real criminals behind the rise of Nazism: the collective ruling classes of capitalist imperialism. (Page 6.)

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**workers world**  
Vol. 25, No. 7/ Feb. 18, 1983  
Closing news date: Feb. 16, 1983

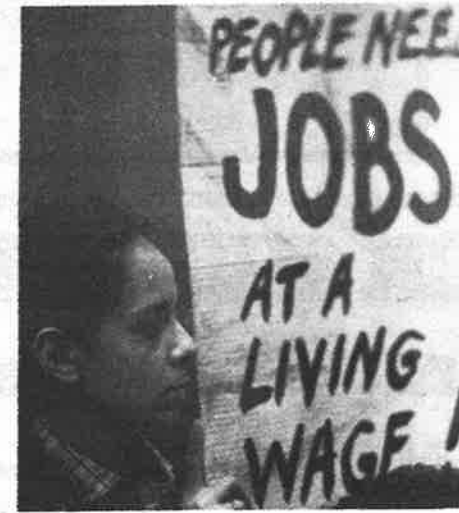
Editor: Deirdre Griswold; Technical Editor: Lallan Stein; Managing Editors: John Catalinotto, Joyce Chediak, Robert Dobrow, Sharon Shelton, Gary Wilson; Contributing Editors: Bill Del Vecchio, Gin T. Loy, Carmen Roundtree, Andy Stapp, Jaime Veve; Prison Page: Diane Feinberg; Technical Staff: Phil Allen, Sharon Ayling, Janet Betries, Jean Brown, Louise Covington, Ken Franson, Marsha Goldberg, Veronica Golos, Kim Katz, Dee Knight, Donna Lazarus, Charlotte Manheimer, Emily Rose Ritholz, David Rodgers, Katy Rosen, Susan Rotgard, Joseph Rotondo, B. Sax, Beth Semmer, Steve Shultz; Darkroom Staff: G. Dunkel, Fabian, Carmen Roundtree; Cartoonists: Bernadette Cozart, Bill Haislip, Tom Shannon  
Workers World (ISSN-0043-809X) published by World View Publishers, Inc. 46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010. Editorial office: (212) 675-2555. Business office: (212) 255-0352. Published weekly except for first week in September.  
Subscriptions: One year, \$10.00; 6 months, \$6.00. Please address requests for bundles to World View Publishers. Make checks payable to World View Publishers.  
Second Class Postage Paid at N.Y., N.Y.



Eubie Blake

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# White House 'jobs bill' a hoax

## Number applying for jobless aid soars

By Lallan Stein

FEBRUARY 14—You'll only read about the Reagan jobs bill in newspaper headlines. Don't rush out for an application because in the first place there won't be any and in the second place you won't find one of those jobs.

What's happening is this: Reagan thinks it's time to say something about jobs. Just last week, while he was citing a drop in unemployment and spouting recovery, the number applying for unemployment insurance, 520,000, as well as those running out of benefits, soared. The small drop he publicized was exposed as a juggling act with statistics which are not near to peaking.

All of the President's advisors and all of his backers at the pinnacles of finance and industry are telling him it's time to talk about jobs—but only talk about jobs. So Reagan came out with a proposal for a jobs bill.

Job training and employment programs were cut \$4 billion last year. During the current year there are plans to cut more. So you can bet, whatever they are setting up, it is bound to be full of booby-traps and all kinds of qualifications.

### Look at the fine print

Here is what it looks like when you read the fine print.

The "acceleration" of certain already scheduled federal construction projects means that if 500 people are already working on a construction project they will hire ten or twelve more. The Democrats will say this is not enough. They would have hired 15 or 20.

Of course when they say accelerating they mean at a snail's pace. (Note: "accelerating" means to finish the job earlier. It is not an accidental word. When

the work is done everyone gets the axe. The provision has nothing to do with creating permanent jobs.)

The words "already scheduled" are important. Everyone knows there are no big plans to build schools, hospitals, public housing or any other facilities that are really needed. If there was a project in any part of the country where they were going to hire a thousand workers, say on May first, you would have heard about it. The only news these days is of the thousands who turn out to apply when a handful of jobs are offered.

Programs to stimulate jobs through the building of airports, roads, and other projects sound good. When you realize that the amount spent on public works dropped from 3.6% of the Gross National Product in 1965 to 1.7% in 1980 you can see where jobs were lost.

The catch is these programs must all be shown to aid "the flow of commerce." If that can't be proven, the government won't lay the money out. Reagan made this proposal knowing that such an allocation had already been made. He will say he is going to use those funds.

### No help for oppressed nationalities, women

All of the proposals for jobs in the bills were in the area of construction. It is here where Black, Latin and other oppressed nationalities as well as women have long been denied the opportunity to gain skills. They are the ones who are suffering the highest rates of joblessness and they will have the least chance of finding work in construction.

Then there comes the 14-carat gold provisions for "humanitarian aid"—more soup kitchens

and shelters. Who can stomach this from a President who has cut and is still cutting welfare, nutrition programs, and housing assistance? Does he intend to make it easier for you to find shelter if you end up homeless as a result of his policies?

There is no doubt that measures to allot funds for this bill will be delayed. This is what Reagan wants. He wants it to come up as near the 1984 elections as possible.

So far there isn't even a definite sum proposed for the jobs bill. The bill will have to go through the House of Representatives and through the Senate and then into a conference. All along the way they will be taking out different parts of it; that is unless there is massive pressure from the employed and the unemployed which can turn this hoax into something more than an election ploy.

## Watt protested in DC



By Susan Franzblau

WW photo: SUE BAILEY

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 10—James Watt, Secretary of the Interior, had to sneak onto American University campus here to deliver his scheduled address to a "selected" audience tonight. The Interior Secretary was ducking over 100 students and community people, including the environmental law students of AU and the All-Peoples Congress, which had joined in protest against Watt's promotion of the racist, pro-big business, anti-environment policies of the Reagan administration.

A notorious front-man for Big Oil, mining, gas, and nuclear industries, this well-hated cabinet official has been in the forefront of the profit-motivated attacks against Native peoples, urging cutbacks in their jobs, healthcare, housing, and education rights.

## Reagan insults hunger victims of Detroit

By Katherine Wells

DETROIT, Feb. 13—Reagan has done it again! The President's hatred and contempt for the poor and workers is plain to see by the budget cuts that have become synonymous with his name. But every once in a while, he spells it out.

On Wed., Feb. 9, at a meeting in Washington of broadcasters from around the country, Reagan was asked how he viewed the crisis of hunger in Detroit.

According to Mort Crim, reporter/anchorman from WDIV-TV 4, who asked the question of the President, "Reagan did not believe hunger was that serious. He said the people out on the streets now were already there before, and Reagan referred to them as winos and derelicts." This outrageous assertion has been quietly dropped from subsequent local media reports.

son in this city, and the local media is doing a coverup for the President," Debbie Johnson, a local APC leader, told Workers World.

"We're not surprised by the President's cruelty and callousness. We've been campaigning for months to get Reagan to release all the food the government has got stored in warehouses, and at every turn we've had treatment that's not fit for dogs, let alone hard-working, proud human beings."

The All-Peoples Congress has filed a lawsuit against Reagan and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to force the release of food. Thus far, the hearing for the court case has been postponed twice. The hearing is now scheduled for Feb. 28.

Another APC member, Man Downs, was equally infuriated and is writing Reagan a letter. "I'm telling him that I have lived

in Detroit for over 60 years, and I've seen plenty of people whose lips have never touched wine but are digging in garbage cans for food."

A third woman pointed out a well-known fact in this city. "The people standing in those soup lines nowadays are people with 15 and 20 years of work behind them. They've been laid off and they're losing everything they've worked for all these years."

Mayor Coleman Young's office estimates that 400,000 Detroiters are malnourished or underfed. The city's "Hunger Hotline" received over 11,000 calls for assistance in January.

The local APC will be publicizing Reagan's comment all over the city, and it is calling on everyone to join them at the Old Federal Building at 9 a.m., Feb. 28 to fight for food and say no to Reagan's racism and budget cuts.

## Minimum wage under attack

By Carmen Roundtree

FEBRUARY 13—Reagan, in another off-the-cuff suggestion about major policy shifts not yet endorsed by his own administration, called for the elimination of the minimum wage for youth up to 22 years old from the already low \$3.35 an hour to \$2.50 an hour for the summer months.

Reagan is looking into the schoolyards to solve the deep economic crisis and the vast problem of unemployment, and looking far past their parents who are already standing in the unemployment lines. Going beyond his administration's proposal on minimum wage, Reagan stated that he has "believed for many years that the minimum wage is really based in the mind of the mature employee," and "should never have been applied to young people."

Later, however, White House spokesman Larry Speaks had to once more reinterpret Reagan's "remarks" as meaning that he has "authorized the Office of Management and Budget to look into what can be accelerated. But it would be more or less straining,

going a little bit too far, to say that he has agreed up or down."

This proposal by Reagan is another threat to one of the most basic protections that was fought for and won by working people in this country.

This is just another attempt to falsely lower the unemployment rate by having government agencies hire youth in the summer months in construction and maintenance work at a much lower pay scale, and throwing other workers out of their jobs. This is not only discriminating against workers both young and old, it creates an unnatural tension between workers which the capitalist class has been using for decades—to pit worker against worker, white against Black, men against women, and now young against old.

The Reagan administration is trying to beat into submission all poor and working people by singling out sections of our class such as the youth. It will take a united front of all workers and oppressed peoples to not only hold onto the gains won through years of struggle, but to take it one step further.

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# Workers World Celebrates BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## The struggle against cultural genocide

Part 3  
in a  
series

By Gwendolyn Rogers

THE HISTORY of Black people in the U.S. is one of struggle and survival in the face of brutal attempts by the ruling class to destroy the integrity, strength, and culture of an oppressed people.

The needs of the oppressors necessitated deliberate and consistent attempts to strip Blacks of their customs, language, to destroy their institutions, and to inhibit their development. These attempts to force Black people to sever every tie with their African past, to degrade, exploit, and proscribe them, to instill powerlessness and dependency were merely adjuncts to the chains and whips upon which the oppressors relied.

In this context, the struggle in which Black people engaged and continue to engage, in order to stave off the impact of historical negation and the destruction of Black culture, reflects the resourcefulness, fortitude, and hopes of a people steeped in a tradition of cooperation and justice. So too is the ability to survive in the face of severe oppression reflective of courage and the perse-

verance of their humanity.

It is precisely these characteristics which propelled Blacks to continually clash head on with their oppressors in the face of every attempt to crush their sense of identity!

Of the cultural atrocities which have had a most detrimental impact on the collective Black psyche are the characterization of Africans as "Negroes," and the subsequent inhibition of the "mother language."

The oppressor class created a myth and named it "Negro," with all the inherent values and definitions implicit in this pejorative term.

An amalgam of Greek, Latin, Spanish, Portuguese, and early middle English terms meaning death, black, and slovenly, this term refers neither to a geographic origin, religion, culture, or language. It is a dehumanizing racist concept which signals inferiority.

### Importance of language

That language is a potent force by which values, mores, and folk customs are transmitted was



Black pioneer, Ida B. Wells

readily understood by the colonizers. Hence, captured Africans who spoke the same language were separated from each other and prohibited from speaking in those languages.

Despite attempts to deny the consequences, depriving African captives of their language was just as detrimental as the beatings, rapes, and other forms of abuse. In fact, one can argue that being raped of a language is more severe due to psychological and cultural manipulation whereby a captive people were made dependent on their captors' interpretations.

However, it would be an error to think that slaves were taught the English language as a means of self-actualization or survival. Since Africans were colonized to enhance the survival of the capitalist system, all subsequent communication between the captors and captive Blacks was lim-

ited to crude verbal commands which reinforced the oppressive relationship.

While the inability or unwillingness to "master the King's English" became synonymous with intellectual inferiority, some linguists view the African's struggle to stave off the impact of racist language as a resistance to and psychological rejection of the oppressor's language much the same way as the immune system rejects the introduction of foreign viruses into the body.

However, the response to being raped of languages was not limited to passive resistance, but was active, creative and inspirational. Under slavery, the people found ways to nurture and preserve much of their folk ways, despite the destruction of their language. Unique methods of communication included the guarded language of special signals and figuration phrases. An excellent example of this phenomenon was the use of gospel songs as a means to send warnings and messages to their sisters and brothers. Contrary to popular belief, all that singing and shouting did not denote the automatic conversion to the slave owner's religion!

"Go Down Moses," "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen," were ingenious expressions of daily life, or warnings of a planned escape. The abolitionist movement and "underground railroad" by which many slaves escaped depended on these special signals known as the "grapevine telegraph."

Even today Blacks communicate in cultural dialects—much to the dismay of bourgeois educators who scoff at the notion of "Black English."

### Role of schools and media

Two most powerful institutions through which racist ideology is perpetuated are the educational system and the mass media, both of which are totally committed to the dominant culture and its values.

It is through their encounters with the educational system that culturally different, economically exploited and culturally oppressed Black youth learn to view themselves (and not the system) as the problem. Confronted with labels such as "culturally disadvantaged" or "culturally deprived," Blacks along with everyone else are encouraged to accept the inevitability of their inferior status.

Textbooks replete with images of "primitive savages" with cannibalistic tendencies, wandering naked through the dark and forboding jungles, also serve to undermine feelings of ethnic pride. Such perversions of reality convey the implicit message: assimilation, based on hatred of their African heritage.

In order to flourish, the capitalist system requires widespread commitment to the American Dream. To achieve this allegiance, a crucial element is a cultural posture whereby the masses accept the ideology and values of the ruling class even though their own interests are in conflict. This is a most important

Continued on page 5

## Interview with Consuela Moorehead: 'A heritage of Black pride'

By Louise Covington

WILLIAM JAMES EDWARDS, a former slave who studied under Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, took seriously his former teacher's urging to return to the rural areas and set up schools of learning. Returning to his former home in Snow Hill, Alabama, Mr. Edwards was deeded over land by his former slave master.

Thirty years after the abolition of slavery, 1893, saw the first arrival of the three students entering Snow Hill Institute. During its long tenure, Snow Hill taught many students who later became leading examples and guides wherever Black people were.

In 1973, the state of Alabama closed the doors of this great school. Ten years later, the bigoted Reagan administration is encouraging tax breaks for racist private institutions as well as dismantling desegregation programs in public schools from Norfolk, Va., to Los Angeles, Calif.

However, in 1980 Snow Hill Institute was revived. With foresight, a little money, and the determination of Black women before her, Consuela Lee Moorehead, grand-daughter of William James Edwards, reopened Snow Hill under the new name of Snow Hill/Spring Tree Institute for the Performing Arts. An artist in her own right (Jazz Pianist-Composer) who was taught to play by her mother Alberta G. Lee at an early age, Mrs. Moorehead has been up against it, as Snow Hill sits in the middle of a large lumber county, controlled by the multi-million dollar Weyerhaeuser Corporation. She has been under pressure by them and



Consuela Lee Moorehead

the board of directors appointed by the State to give up Snow Hill.

The value of the lumber outweighs the education needs of young Black students.

### Community fightback

Having been forced to run the gauntlet of Alabama State laws and many of its repressive racist undertones, Mrs. Moorehead, along with the help of residents of Snow Hill have set up a fightback program. This program encourages all former Snow Hill students, friends, and other organizations to join in this very representative struggle of the Black community. If you want to help, contact: Spring Tree/Snow Hill Institute for the Performing Arts; c/o Mrs. Pearl Locke, Snow Hill, Ala. 36778.

Snow Hill offers the widest and most sought after varieties of education and African-American culture from the pre-school to the very elderly. It offers hope to those of the Black community where hope did not exist before.

1982's commencement exercise was witnessed in awe by friends, relatives, and commit-

tees of Snow Hill/Spring Tree, representatives of the All-Peoples Congress, and others. The achievements, performing of the arts by students who showed an eagerness and willingness to learn not seen in the public schools, helped forge a bond of spirit and determination that Snow Hill/Spring Tree Institute is in the true spirit of the right of self-determination for the future of our Black youth and preservation of our elderly.

"I've been up against it all my life," stated Mrs. Moorehead. "As a Black woman and mother myself, I realize the importance of Snow Hill for the future of your Black young people. As Black people we need to build our own institutions so that we can control our culture; our children need our dedication, our interest in them, preserving our culture. My grandfather's legacy of Snow Hill Institute is not mine alone but a heritage for all Black people to share and know of—a heritage of Black Pride."

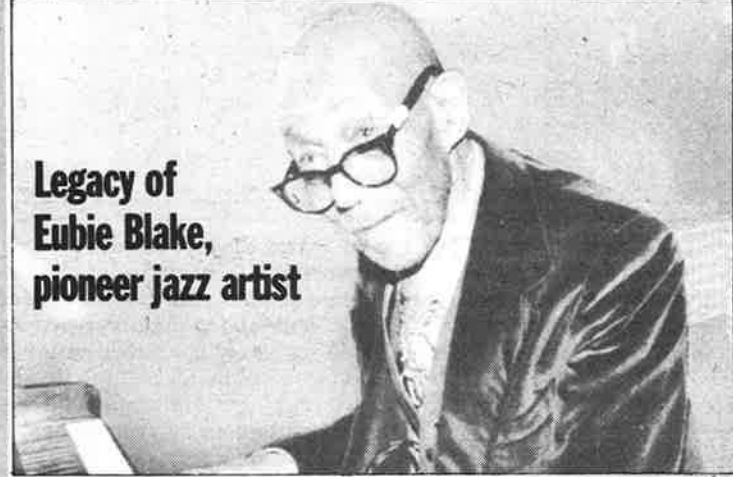
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## Legacy of Eubie Blake, pioneer jazz artist



By Monica Moorehead  
FEBRUARY 12—Jazz pioneer and ragtime composer Eubie Blake died today, five days after his 100th birthday. Mr. Blake's career encompassed a span from the ragtime era in the 19th century to contemporary pop, Broadway, classical and waltz tempos. He composed such tunes as "I'm Just Wild About Harry" and "Memories of You."

In an era of extreme racism and reaction, Blake was one of many great Black musicians and composers able to make inroads and help pave the way for other Black artists, some of whom are recognized today.

James Hubert Blake was the youngest of eleven children and the only one to survive infancy. Born a son of slaves, Mr. Blake stated, "I'm proud of my heritage and I want everyone to know that I came from slavery and went to the top of my profession."

In 1899, the same year that the legendary composer Scott Joplin published "Maple Leaf Rag," Blake composed his first song, "Charleston Rag." From there, Mr. Blake, along with his vaudeville partner Noble Sissle, established a reputation of devising

Broadway shows that projected Black entertainers in a non-degrading, dignified manner. They produced the first Black musical in 1921, "Shuffle Along" starring Paul Robeson and Josephine Baker and wrote music for other shows until they went their separate ways in 1925.

Blake continued to collaborate with other composers until he retired at the age of 63. For the next 23 years, he spent most of his time composing and transcribing into the Schillinger system songs that he had committed to memory but had never written down.

At the age of 86, Blake came out of retirement to perform at numerous concerts and college campuses including seven performances at the annual Newport Jazz Festivals during the 1970s. A 1978 adaptation of his 1921 "Shuffle Along" was conceived off Broadway but became so popular the show opened on Broadway as "Eubie."

Even though Eubie never received the recognition he so richly deserved in the U.S. until he was well into his 80s, he will long be remembered as a robust, enduring inventor and performer who discovered ragtime for the future generations.



# Concessions won't save steelworkers' jobs

By B.J. and Jerry Goldberg  
LACKAWANNA, N.Y., Feb. 10—Today, banner headlines in the Buffalo Evening News reported a United Steelworker union offer for local contract concessions in an attempt to get Bethlehem Steel to reverse its decision to shut down the Lackawanna plant. The fact that a similar offer was flatly rejected by the corporation just three weeks ago was conveniently excluded from all news accounts.

The union's proposal calls for "improved productivity, a streamlined work force, centralized maintenance forces, and a stabilization of incentive rates." In fact, every worker knows that these are code words for job elimination and continued doubling up of work on those left in the plant.

The proposal requires workers to do more than their job classification calls for. It would strictly enforce a 20-minute lunch break. The union's plan would reduce safety in the plant, by requiring maintenance personnel, currently assigned to each department,

to be assigned on a plant-wide level, meaning much needed repairs would be ignored.

The union leadership trumpeted the fact that their plans would require no capital expenditures for eight to ten years. But what about the needed repairs on the blast furnace to maintain health and safety standards?

This plan would actually reduce the current work force to about 3,000 workers. It offers no hope at all for the over 3,400 indefinitely laid off steelworkers.

Most important though, is that Bethlehem Steel absolutely rejected a similar plan just three weeks ago. As reported in this newspaper, at a union meeting of Local 2601, Art Sambucci, local president, stated that the local had offered a 13-point concession program which would give Bethlehem Steel \$4.00-an-hour per worker (\$31 million per year).

Bethlehem management's response was, "If every man worked for nothing, we would not keep the plant open." Clearly these new concessions, which would give the corporation about \$60

million a year, will hardly be sufficient to change management's plans. In fact, at that union meeting Bethlehem management indicated it would only take the concession money from Lackawanna and invest it in other operations.

Those steelworkers who still believe that contract concessions are the key to saving jobs should examine the experience of their sisters and brothers in the United Auto Workers union.

Chrysler workers voted three times to take wage cuts and concessions, amounting to \$8,800 per year per worker. Their reward was for Chrysler to permanently shut 15 plants in little over one year.

Last March, GM workers also

took significant contract concessions. One month later, GM announced the closing of four large plants. Despite GM's recent announcement of a \$1 billion profit for the last year, 150,000 GM workers remain on indefinite lay-off.

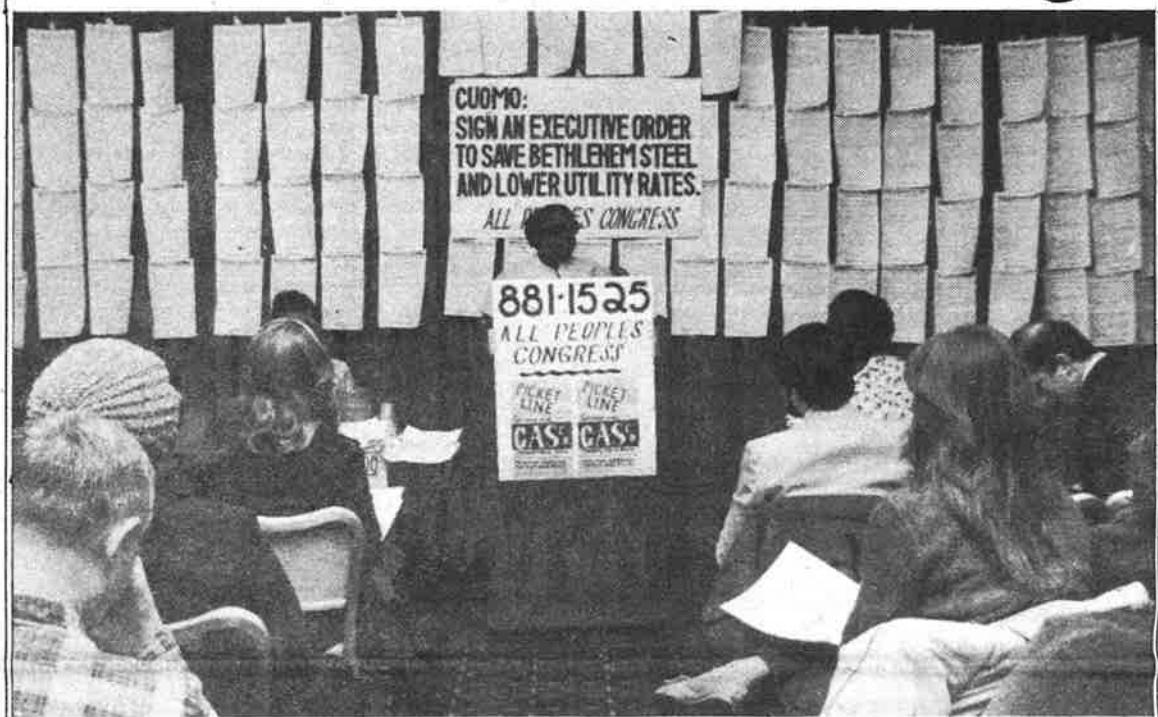
There is only one way to protect jobs, and that is for the workers to fight back. Bethlehem Steel has made tens of billions in profits since 1904. The Lackawanna plant has everything needed to produce steel from scrap to the finished product. The plant is far from outdated. In fact modernization has already eliminated 15,000 jobs in the last 15 years without lowering production. When the economy was going up in the

mid-1970s, you had all the overtime you could handle.

And people need steel. When Gov. Cuomo was in Buffalo, he stated how New York needs bridges, roads, etc. People need housing, schools, and hospitals. By uniting the fight for people's needs with the struggle of the steelworkers to keep their jobs, the Lackawanna plant could keep running, Republic Steel can be reopened, and the Donn workers could maintain their jobs as well. A program of fight-back, not concessions, is needed to win this battle.

(B.J. is a laid-off blast furnace worker with 15-years seniority at Bethlehem Lackawanna, USWA Local 2601. Jerry Goldberg is a member of UAW Local 900.)

## APC exposes 'closed' meeting



WW photo: MALLORY MERRILL

By Mallory Merrill

BUFFALO, Feb. 9—Today at APC press conference, the APC exposed what went on at a "closed" meeting held in Lackawanna on Feb. 2. Called by Lieutenant Governor Alfred DelBello the meeting was attended by County Executive Edward Rutkowski, Lackawanna Mayor Thomas Radich, Lackawanna city officials, and a representative from Marine Midland Bank. Above, APC activist Oda Clay speaks.

"None of the steel workers or residents of Lackawanna who face unemployment, foreclosures, evictions, and utility shutoffs were permitted to attend the meeting," stated APC organizer Colangelo. "Neither were community organizations or union representatives. In fact no plan was discussed at that Feb. 2 meeting to save Lackawanna from impending disaster. To put it simply, Lt. Gov. DelBello from the outset told the people at the meeting that Lackawanna had to stand on its own two feet and New York State would not step in to help bail them out.

"The Governor can order Lackawanna kept open under his Executive Power which is as binding as any law passed by the Legislature itself. The APC intends to see that he does," Colangelo stressed.

## —Black culture

Continued from page 4

function of the mass media through which the ruling class skillfully employs "objectivity" as a means to impose its subjective views of Blacks (and other oppressed peoples) as inferior.

The bourgeois press excludes, distorts, and trivializes the Black experience. This is accomplished by denigrating acts of resistance while sensationalizing human tragedy and down-playing social contributions not in the immediate interests of the capitalist system.

Until recently, television consistently portrayed Black people as incompetent along with other stereotypic roles.

The Black liberation movement of the 60s made it impossible to sustain those types of im-

ages. Contemporary roles emphasize Black characters which serve to prop up the capitalist system, hence the preponderance of Black detectives for example.

Since Blacks do not control the forces which create the images, they do not control the images.

It is safe to say that Black input into the decision making apparatus of the mass media is still limited since Black people are practically excluded from employment and ownership in these institutions. The number of Black television and radio programs continues to decrease either as a result of their progressive content or due to economic factors, or both.

Only when the profit motive is destroyed and racism is eliminated will the experiences and aspirations of Black and other oppressed people be portrayed in the dignity which reflects the culture of the people.

## Pentagon maneuvers threaten Mideast war

By Joyce Chediak

BULLETIN: Feb. 16—As we go to press, according to today's NBC-TV 7:00 p.m. (EST) national news, the U.S. government has revealed that on Sunday it sent four AWACS planes to Egypt directed against the Libyan government. In addition, it was announced that the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz was headed toward Libya. NBC news anchorman Roger Mudd said that the purpose of these U.S. military moves was to intimidate Libya. Libya has a long border with Egypt.

When questioned about these moves at an 8:00 p.m. news conference, President Reagan half confirmed them, saying that the AWACS had been sent to Egypt but as part of routine maneuvers with the Egyptian military. He denied any U.S. naval movement toward Libya, an oppressed country of less than three million people.

For four days, news of this dangerous military activity was kept from the public. Reagan's denial of naval movements may be a further cover-up.

Though at press time information remains sketchy, it is clear that this is a U.S. provocation against the Libyan government and the entire Middle East. The Pentagon has no business sending forces 8,000 miles from any

U.S. border. What would Washington say if Libya sent war ships or spy planes off the Atlantic or Pacific coasts of the U.S.?

The multi-billion dollar AWACS are the most sophisticated of spy planes, and function as flying command posts. They are staffed entirely by U.S. military personnel. Even if they were requested by the Mubarak government, they should not be in Egypt. Their purpose is to threaten not only the Libyan government but all progressive governments and all national liberation struggles in the area.

Washington has a history of war moves against Libya. In August 1981, U.S. war planes invaded Libyan territorial air space over the Gulf of Sidra and shot down two Libyan planes. Washington admitted that this was a planned provocation against the Libyan government. In his news conference this evening, in response to a question about this, Reagan said pointedly, "Any time our forces are fired upon, wherever we put them, we have a right to fire back." Such provocative language is backing in advance for aggression anywhere in the world. Working people here and all anti-war forces must be on the alert to respond vigorously if further war moves are taken by Reagan and the Pentagon.

## Cuomo meets with the rich, not the poor, in Western NY visit

By V. Catanzaro

BUFFALO, Feb. 10—The new "liberal" governor of New York State, Mario Cuomo, recently made the first visit to Western New York after his election. Speaking to a partisan crowd of 150 businessmen of the Rotary Club here in Buffalo, Cuomo exposed his true politics as manifested in the proposed new state budget. The businessmen applauded and cheered his budget of cutbacks, layoffs, and increased repression.

Although many poor and oppressed people voted for Cuomo to express their dissatisfaction with his Reaganite rival, Lewis Lehrman, Cuomo made no attempt to meet with this constituency. In fact, the All-Peoples Congress, a community organization that is demanding Cuomo sign an Executive Order declaring Western New York a disaster area, sent a telegram asking that Governor Cuomo meet with the APC as a representative of the working class and the oppressed. The APC, along with thousands of unemployed and soon to be un-

employed people, wanted to hear the Governor's plans to aid the Lackawanna area.

### Cuomo denies authority to help the poor

The Governor, speaking at a live press conference, was asked by a reporter if he had the authority to declare an emergency to prevent the closing of Bethlehem Steel. He replied, "When they come to Albany and put a crown on my head, maybe then I'll have that kind of power. Thank God that I don't."

This cynical response clearly demonstrates the uncaring attitude of Cuomo and the entire state government towards the poor. In Cuomo's speech to the Rotary Club, he made only vague references to aiding Lackawanna and failed to call for any specific measures. He was not vague, however, about the 14,000 state workers he plans to lay off. While claiming the layoffs are necessary to "balance the budget," the Governor is somehow managing to find the money for 7,000 new

prison cells at a cost of \$100,000 each!

At every stop, Cuomo was met by protestors objecting to the budget cuts and layoffs. Opposing faculty layoffs and huge tuition increases, state university students here chanted, "One, two, three, four—we get less but pay more!"

In Rochester, Cuomo was confronted at the airport by state workers from the Craig Developmental Center, a facility for the mentally disabled, which the governor announced he will close and convert into a prison. The workers showed Cuomo a letter he had sent them during the election campaign. The letter read, "If elected Governor of New York State, I do not have any intention of closing Craig Developmental Center for the purpose of converting it to a prison. I hope this will ease the anxieties you and those you represent may have about the future of Craig."

Cuomo claimed no knowledge of the letter and said it was probably written by one of his campaign officials.



# Who created Hitlerism?

By Sam Marcy

FEBRUARY 10—The capitalist media and press here and in Europe are engaged in a massive coordinated campaign that is supposed to be for the purpose of exposing the horrors of the Nazi regime on the fiftieth anniversary of Hitler's rise to power.

The horrors of the Hitler regime, of course, were all too true. That's indisputable. But this elaborate and cunning campaign has in reality little to do with the crimes of the Nazi regime. It has very much to do, however, with the mendacious effort to firmly identify Hitler's reactionary, totalitarian regime with the USSR and other socialist countries.

This is what has to be clearly understood. The motivation of the media and the press is thoroughly political in character and is worked out on the highest levels with the U.S. government. The campaign is timed to coincide with the arms negotiations with the USSR, to undermine the strong anti-war sentiment in Western Europe, to disintegrate the anti-war and anti-nuclear movement in the U.S., and above all to divert political attention from the profound capitalist crisis which is destroying the living standards of the workers and creating millions upon millions of jobless.

No, it wasn't the need for art or entertainment, or concern for the extermination of the Jewish population in Europe by Hitler, that motivated the \$40-million production of the television spectacular "The Winds of War."

The whole thing is calculated to show how good, innocent, and well-meaning the Allied imperialists were—France, Britain, and above all the U.S. Oh yes, they made some mistakes, some of the individuals had the wrong notions, there was no preparedness for the war. But their intentions were pure. And Hitler, of course, was merely a maniac.

After one of the daily three-hour telecasts on ABC, Nightline put on the notorious Vietnam hawk Howard K. Smith and his colleague Hugh Downs, both employees of ABC News. Both were interviewed supposedly because they were correspondents for the U.S. during the Second World War.

But what was the purpose of putting them on? Howard K. Smith put it very candidly, in case those who viewed the long film didn't catch on: The USSR is aggressive and its conduct in foreign affairs makes it necessary for the U.S. to arm against the aggressor, he said. Let's not forget the lesson of Hitler.

There will be many more of these not-too-subtle hints as the anniversary of Hitler's taking power is reviewed in the capitalist media.

But what is the real truth about Hitlerism? Who was really responsible for the growth, development, and triumph of the hated Nazi regime?

The responsibility rests on the collective ruling classes of capitalist imperialism. It was they—especially the Nazis' principal supporters, the big monopolies of Germany—who nurtured, cultivated, supported, and finan-

cially backed up the fascist regime and were only too glad that it was able to destroy the working class movement and all its political, social, labor, sports, and insurance organizations.

Their only worry was that, in the course of destroying the working class movement and also making the Jews a scapegoat, which they thought would be a temporary phenomenon, the Hitlerite regime might go beyond the fight against "Bolshevist" Russia. It might turn on the Allied imperialists and their sources of super-profits—the colonial world in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

Let's put into perspective some of the absolutely indispensable historical facts regarding Hitlerism. The capitalist press worldwide is doing its best to cover up these facts and embellish the U.S. and European capitalist classes, the very ones who were the real culprits along with the principal ally of the Nazis—the German bankers and industrialists like the Thyssens; the Krupps, and so on.

## FACT ONE: Hitlerism impossible without World War I

Hitlerism would have been impossible had it not been for the launching of the First World War.

This was not a war that could be blamed on a socialist country or a revolutionary liberation movement. It was a plain, unvarnished, unadulterated capitalist war; a war of the principal capitalist countries to share up markets and sources of raw materials, to divide and redivide the colonial world as it existed then. Every capitalist country looked to the colonies for massive super-profits, and these became the fundamental source for the development of finance capitalism.

This was the period when the old line of capitalist development turned into its more modern, more bloody, more ruthless, imperialist monopolist phase. It became organically linked to unbridled militarism, a situation even more pronounced today.

Most bourgeois historians here and in Europe now openly admit that for all intents and purposes the First World War, participated in by all of the principal capitalist countries, was for commercial and financial interests and sources of markets, raw materials, and areas of exploitation generally. There is a very wide literature on this from bourgeois sources. Even conservative bourgeois sources like the Columbia Encyclopedia (new edition) state that the "prominent causes of the war were the imperialistic territorial and economic rivalries that had been intensifying from the late 19th century," that is, the epoch of capitalist expansion on a world scale. A similar view can be found in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The best, most comprehensive exposure of the imperialist character of the war was put forward in innumerable articles and books by Lenin and the revolutionary socialist left in Europe. (See his "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism" and "Socialism and War.")

This war began precisely at a time when there was a worldwide upsurge of the working class, in Europe as well as in the United States, and stirrings in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The workers' movement had been gaining strength and momentum and was increasingly taking a stand against imperialist war.

As early as 1912, the world working class movement held a significant international meeting in Basel, Switzerland. The working class organizations, including those from the United States, pledged themselves to fight the impending capitalist war. "In the event the capitalists start a war, the delegates pledge themselves to utilize the war to overthrow the capitalist system," declared the congress.

On Sept. 11, 1915, before the U.S. entered the war, the American socialist leader Eugene Debs wrote in the weekly Appeal to Reason in connection with the developing war, "I am not a capitalist soldier. I am a proletarian revolutionist. I do not belong to the regular army of the plutocracy, but to the irregular army of the people. I refuse to obey any command to fight from the ruling class. I am opposed to every war but one. I am for that war with heart and soul. And that is, the worldwide war of a social revolution. In that war I am ready to fight in any way the ruling class may make necessary."

## FACT TWO: War led to suppression of workers' movement

The answer of the U.S. ruling class was imprisonment for militant anti-war fighters like Eugene Debs. In Europe Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were arrested and later killed as a result of their opposition to the war. Of course, those European leaders who sold out and came out for the war were rewarded with cabinet posts.

The U.S. launched a nationwide repression against "seditious and subversive elements," an intensification of repression against the Black people, and an increase in extra-legal terror in the form of an odious wave of lynchings in the South.

By the way, why is it that the capitalist class, which fomented this predatory imperialist war, hasn't thought it necessary to have a lengthy exposé on why it took 20 million lives? Where are ABC, NBC, CBS and the others when it comes to showing how the bankers, the industrial magnates, the arms manufacturers, the generals and admirals all plotted this war in a real conspiracy against the oppressed and exploited of the world?

Didn't this act of butchery rival that of Hitler? How different were the motivations?

The First World War took more than 20 million lives in order to redistribute the forces of capitalist monopoly and put them into a kind of balance which was more suitable for the U.S., Britain, and France.

But a funny thing happened on the way to accomplishing this. A proletarian revolution of truly monumental proportions took place in Russia. The imperialist slaughter awakened rather than

destroyed the proletarian movement in Europe. It opened up a huge area of struggle in Asia—the Chinese revolution—and laid the groundwork for a soon-to-be-developed national liberation struggle all over. This is what the imperialists didn't count on.

Hitlerism, like fascism in general, is a social and political by-product of imperialist war. In no other way could this phenomenon have emerged and succeeded to state power. Hitlerism is the malodorous excrescence of monopoly capitalism in its epoch of decay.

## FACT THREE: Treaty of Versailles laid the basis for Hitler

Here is how the imperialist allies laid the basis for the growth and development of the Nazi regime.

When the armistice was finally declared ending the war, it was thought by the bulk of the people in both the Allied (the U.S., Britain, and France) and Central Powers (Germany, Austria, Bulgaria and Turkey) camps that its purpose was to establish a peaceful settlement, without annexations of territories and without indemnities or reparations. Not only imperialist Germany but all the other imperialist powers, including the U.S., would sign a peace treaty restricting them from ever starting another war.

Many people, especially in the U.S., imagined that President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, which included such matters as the right of nations to self-determination and equality, would be embodied in the peace treaty and applied on a universal basis. That would include all the oppressed nations not only in Europe but on a world scale, including those held by the U.S.

It should be recalled that the U.S. capitalist press both before and during the war pulled out all stops in promoting Woodrow Wilson's demagogic slogans that this was a war to establish "democracy" and a "war to end all wars." But that's not what the U.S. or the other imperialists had in mind at all.

The first thing they did was sit down and once again redraw the map of Europe, this time chopping up Germany as much as they could. The purpose of redrawing the map of Europe, slicing a piece off here and putting it there, was not to insure the right of nations to self-determination but to block international working class solidarity in Europe, especially in the face of a genuine revolutionary upsurge.

They did it in such a way as to arouse national hatreds and fan the flames of chauvinism, so as to divert working class struggles into reactionary nationalist channels. Even where it did formally right some wrongs in some territory, its purpose was to envenom relations in the working class rather than aid international solidarity.

Germany as it then existed "was to accede Alsace-Lorraine to France, most of Posen and so-called West Prussia, North Schleswig to Denmark, and three small frontier districts to Belgium. Danzig was to become an independent free city. East Prussia was separated from the rest of the Reich by Polish Pomorze (modern Pomerania). And Memel was handed over to Lithuania. The union of Austria with the Reich which was advocated in both countries was expressly forbidden." (Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 8, p. 116.)

What ever happened to self-determination?

Some of the redrawing of geographical lines was for the purposes of strangling an imperialist competitor and was by no means

an attempt at righting wrongs, as for instance in Lithuania or Poland. Above all, the concern of imperialism was to strengthen itself against the emerging Soviet Socialist Republic.

## FACT FOUR: War was fought for colonies

But the basic motivation of the imperialists in the war was clearly shown in the key article (part four) of the Versailles Treaty, which demanded that all German colonies must be handed over to the Allies. Part four deprived Germany of all its rights and interests overseas. The main beneficiaries of this robbery of one of the imperialist powers were the others, particularly Britain, France, and Belgium in Europe, to whom the League of Nations distributed mandates over the former German colonies.

That is what the whole war was about: colonies, sources of raw materials and markets.

The rich industrial area of the Saar, in western Germany, was to be governed by the League of Nations for 15 years, and its coal fields administered by French imperialism. How was that for a peaceful solution? These body blows to the German people helped nurture Hitlerism.

Only at the end of the 15 years would there be a plebiscite to determine the Saar's future status. But what was to happen in the meantime?

Allied troops were also to occupy the west bank of the Rhine for a period of 15 years, while Germany was to be demilitarized, but not the other imperialist powers.

While this occupation was bitterly opposed by the working class from an anti-imperialist viewpoint, it also gave the right-wing parties in Germany, especially the Nazis, the opportunity to fan the flames of chauvinism which had been ignited by this vicious form of subjection, not of the capitalist class, but of the German people.

## FACT FIVE: Reparations bled the people

What is meant by reparations? Reparations were understood by the people to mean that not only Germany but all the belligerents would make good for damages inflicted during the war and have a cooperative plan for reconstruction without punitive damages, so as to make the solidarity of the working people easier to achieve.

But this was not at all the view of the bankers and financiers. The decision on financial reparations was deferred after the armistice until 1921 to give the capitalist class of Germany the opportunity to destroy the rising revolutionary struggle of the workers, under the leadership of Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg.

In the meantime, however, Germany was to make "a mere provisional payment" of 20,000,000,000 marks in gold, as well as deliveries in kind. This was an astronomical sum considering that not just Germany but most of Europe was devastated. Deliveries in kind and in gold were meant not to punish the bankers and politicians who made the war, but to bleed the people to death. (This was precisely what Hitler did when he invaded France, Belgium, Poland, and other European countries.)

To this was added another condition. To ensure peace, self-determination of nations, etc., etc., all Germany's "pre-war commercial agreements with other countries were cancelled." How in the world could Germany continue as an industrial country, a country which relied so heavily on exports?

Also, all German foreign financial holdings were confiscated.



(When workers confiscate the property of the bourgeoisie, that is considered a crime whether in peace or in war time. But when the capitalists do it, that's just fine and dandy.)

All this was justified under Article 231 of the Armistice agreement by which Germany and the other members of the Central Powers were held responsible for all loss and damage suffered by the Allies. But the Allied imperialists were just as guilty as their adversaries in this war. The working class and oppressed people in the world had no interest in this kind of peace settlement which laid the basis for the next war. The German working class in particular had every reason to oppose it.

The situation would have been different if the imperialists had said to each other: After the war we will repair the damage we have done to you and you repair the damage you have done to us, since we are both guilty of conducting an anti-people, imperialist war. Let us settle this by a genuine constructive peace.

But that would be to disregard the nature of imperialism. It knows no such behavior.

As one can easily see, the imposition of reparations and other measures enforced by the imperialist allies was as predatory as the war itself. From a predatory imperialist war there followed a predatory imperialist peace.

What was the U.S. doing all this time? It was gobbling up the markets of Latin America, displacing the British especially. By 1928 it led Ludwell Denny to entitle his book: "The U.S. conquers Britain," referring to U.S. economic supremacy over Britain in the Western hemisphere.

#### FACT SIX: Soviet policy was "no annexations, no indemnities"

So far we have discussed the imperialist powers—the U.S., Britain, and France in the Allied camp and Germany, Austria, and Turkey in the camp of the Central Powers.

But what about revolutionary Russia, which was just emerging from a brutal imperialist intervention? What was its attitude to the issue of reparations?

The Soviet Union and Germany entered into negotiations which ended in the Treaty of Rapallo in 1921. Reparation claims were renounced on both sides on the initiative of the Soviet government headed by Lenin.

The USSR and Germany quickly normalized trade relations. Note carefully, however, that the USSR under the Bolshevik leadership headed by Lenin did not join the imperialists in the plunder of the German people. On the contrary, they entered into trade and commercial relations in an attempt to normalize the diplomatic and commercial situation between them.

Doesn't this say something about how different an anti-imperialist, socialist approach was toward ending the war and establishing peaceful relations between states?

#### FACT SEVEN: Reparations led to wild inflation

The economic dislocation following the imperialist war was not the fundamental cause of the absolutely incredible inflationary spiral that developed. What was responsible for the uncontrollable inflation was the steady deterioration in the value of the mark. But why was it deteriorating in relation to other currencies?

It was because of the heavy load of the reparations payments and the savage penalties imposed on German trade. Faced with

this situation, the German government began a process now very familiar on the international arena. It resorted to the printing presses to meet expenses. The result was runaway inflation.

You can get an idea of what was happening to the mark when you consider that in pre-war times one dollar was worth about 4-1/2 marks. By 1922 one U.S. dollar was worth 162 marks. It soon deteriorated even further, to one dollar for 7,000 marks.

Then came the effects of the occupation of the Ruhr valley in Germany by the French. By early 1923 the mark had fallen to 160,000 to one dollar, and by November it was down to 400,000,000,000 for each dollar! The financial system had gone kaput.

#### FACT EIGHT: U.S. bankers imposed reparations plans

A great deal has been heard about Hitler's phony charge of a conspiracy among the Jewish international bankers. This was a tricky amalgam of Hitler's, but it was not made of whole cloth. Of course there were Jewish bankers, but there were many more Catholic, Protestant, and even downright agnostic and atheistic bankers from the financial community of the imperialist metropolises. They all were responsible for Germany's ruin because they were intent upon drawing blood from a stone. All they could think of was collecting their interest and principal, knowing that this was coming out of the sweat and blood of the workers and was bound to reignite the flames of national chauvinism.

A key role, however, was played by the U.S. bankers. Two teams of them in particular had the ultimate say on the various reparations plans. The first of these led to the Dawes Plan of 1924 and was headed by Charles E. Dawes, a right-wing Republican and a banker.

This was followed by the Young plan. Owen D. Young was a former chairman of the General Electric Company and a prominent Wall Street banker.

Between these two gentlemen bankers the reparations plans were drawn up and pushed. It should be noted that both of these gentlemen were well known for their extreme conservatism and utter hostility to labor organization of any kind. They were also known for their so-called open shop views in that period. So far as the Black struggle was concerned, they were not only indifferent but downright hostile and regarded the extreme, rigid, segregationist practices and violence in the South with aloofness if not downright support. You can imagine their horror at the thought of the German working class making a bid for state power in the struggle with the Germany bourgeoisie.

Only when the bankers and industrialists abroad realized that a revolutionary class struggle in Germany was emerging between the Hitlerites (with their bourgeois allies) and the working

class did they begin to relent somewhat on the bloodletting. But this was only a way of stifling the growing revolutionary working class movement in Germany.

#### FACT NINE: Middle class driven toward Hitler

The first attempt at a proletarian revolution in Germany had been crushed in the early 1920s. But notwithstanding that defeat, the workers rapidly organized themselves into a powerful movement headed by the Communist Party.

The Social Democrats, who had betrayed the working class movement by joining and supporting the First World War, took over the faltering Hohenzollern regime in 1918 and crushed an attempt by the revolutionary working class to establish a genuine socialist republic.

But notwithstanding that defeat, within a few years the movement had grown from representing only the vanguard of the working class to obtaining the adherence of millions of workers. At the same time, however, the counter-revolution headed by Hitler and his right-wing bourgeois allies had obtained a base in the middle class.

When the financial system finally collapsed with the revaluation of the mark, which class lost the most?

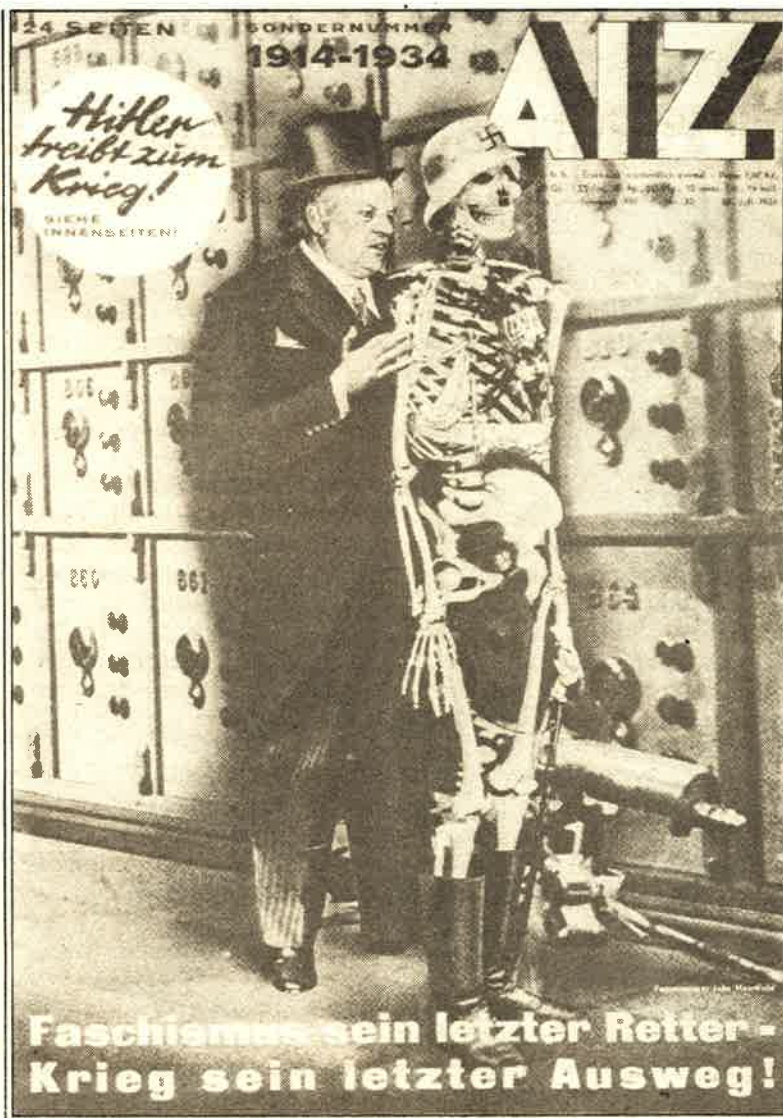
The industrialists during this period after the war lost little. They were busy gobbling up most of the industry and centralizing it through a series of trusts, combinations, and cartels in the hands of a small oligarchy of financial and industrial magnates. They shifted the burdens imposed by the Allied imperialists onto the shoulders of the petty bourgeoisie and the workers. And they were hell-bent on ending the class war raging in Germany between the right and the left.

The big landlords and the Junker officialdom also did not lose much economically or financially.

But the middle class, especially those whose holdings had been in government bonds and so-called gilt-edged securities or who had earlier converted their savings into marks, lost out almost completely.

Since the working class movement was strong, it was able to ward off some of the capitalist attacks on the living standards. But the petty bourgeoisie was disorganized, heterogeneous, and split economically into many diverse elements.

By the time the full impact of the capitalist collapse of 1929 took place, all had been driven to desperation. Marx, Engels, and Lenin, too, have explained that the middle class can move suddenly from one class camp to another and embrace any theory, any fact, any panacea which offers it immediate salvation. In the next three years, the petty bourgeoisie became the receptacle for the most extreme expressions of racist and chauvin-



Showing a capitalist holding up the Nazi puppet, the July 26, 1934, edition of the German anti-fascist Workers' Illustrated Paper (AIZ) declares: "Fascism is his final salvation—war his final way out."

ist fanaticism. All that was needed was a reckless demagogue to galvanize them into a powerful force.

Hitler's recipe in normal times would have had no significant effect and no large constituency. But these were not normal times. Added to the complete and utter ruin of the petty bourgeoisie, was the growing unemployment. Millions of jobless workers were losing patience, not only with the Social-Democratic government which most of them hated by this time, but also with the Communists, whose promises of a solution seemed to lie in the more distant future. Hitler, however, seemed to offer an answer to hunger, false to the core as it was, in grotesque and ridiculous panaceas under cover of the vilest racism and chauvinism.

Where were the Allied ruling classes all this time? They were not just carefully watching the situation with folded arms on their swivel chairs.

#### FACT TEN: Allies preferred Hitler to a workers' revolution

Just about every one of them preferred the victory of the Nazis over the other alternative—a socialist revolution led by the Communist Party and its allies. These were the two alternatives in the class war that was emerging.

Openly or secretly the ruling classes in Europe and the U.S. favored the Nazi coalition. Let it be remembered that all the bourgeois parties joined the Nazi coalition, indicating that the struggle of the Hitlerites was in the last analysis a class war against the working class.

The big bourgeoisie in Germany, the monopolists, had been secretly financing the Hitlerites all along. They knew that there was only one counter-weight they could count on to destroy the working class movement. That was not only the police or army, which at that time could not be wholly counted on with any degree of certainty because of the high proportion of Social Democrats among them. It was the pet-

ty bourgeoisie, especially its declassed and crazed elements, joined by the lumpen-proletarians.

It was the petty bourgeoisie which was mobilized to carry out a counter-revolution in the interests of saving bourgeois private property and capitalist imperialism.

Only such a mass movement organized under false, scurrilous, and demagogic slogans could act as the battering ram to break down the resistance of the German proletariat at a time when it appeared to be a classical opportunity for them to overturn property relations and establish a real socialist regime.

The petty bourgeoisie, true to its petty proprietary class position and its bourgeois instincts, will be hostile to the proletariat if the latter lacks the particular strategy and tactics necessary to divide the viable, more progressive element from that which is the refuse of capitalist degeneration. The proletariat must offer a revolutionary socialist solution to the social crisis.

The overall significance, however, of the bloody triumph of the Hitler regime lies in the objective situation Germany found itself in. And this, contrary to today's welter of apologetics being presented by the media, was wholly the responsibility of the collective ruling class of imperialist finance capital.

The imperialist Allies bled the German working class and the mass of the people in general in the interest of garnering huge profits out of the blood and muck of the imperialist war.

It did not occur to them in the early 1920s or up until the great capitalist economic catastrophe that the Soviet republic would emerge stronger than ever and on firmer grounds. In the very early 1920s the Soviet Union was undergoing tremendous difficulty as a result of civil war, internal bourgeois sabotage, and imperialist intervention. It seemed questionable whether it could even survive. And even if the imperialists thought it could, they were not ready to launch another

Continued on page 11



Runaway inflation destroyed the living standards of German workers. Above, a two-billion mark note issued in the 1920s.



# EDITORIAL

## Polluters' conspiracy

SET UP BY federal law in 1970 following widespread protest against wanton polluting, the public purpose of the Environmental Protection Agency was clear: to clean up the air, land, and water and to prevent their further despoilment.

Despite obstruction from and connivance with the giant corporations who are the major landscape wreckers, some progress was made. But the declining capitalist economy slowed the progress, and the Reagan administration openly reversed it, appointing outright wasters, spoilers, and corporation apologists to run it.

For example, consider Rita Lavelle, the assistant administrator of the EPA until her recent dismissal. Reagan finally fired her because the scandal unfolding at EPA threatened to reach other areas of the administration. Lavelle recently illustrated her attitude by belittling the danger posed by dioxins, considered by scientists to be the most toxic substance on earth: "It depends on the concentration. In the right concentration, table salt is just as deadly." Three billionths of a gram of dioxin sprinkled on Lavelle's breakfast eggs would be sufficient to demonstrate her folly.

During her year in charge of the Superfund, a \$1.5-billion program to clean up hazardous dumps, only a handful of the tens of thousands of dangerous waste sites have been cleaned. And since her dismissal, the EPA paper shredder in an adjoining office has been destroying hundreds of memos, papers, and other material that might incriminate her and the whole department for colluding with the private companies who created the waste in the first place.

The destruction of the environment by greedy corporations has already sown the seeds for terrible disease and the premature death of millions in this and future generations. It is the profit system that prevents the kinds of emergency measures that should be taken immediately to reverse this process and clean up the land, air, and water.

## Fourth Anniversary of Iran Revolution

THIS MONTH marks the fourth anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, a popular explosion of the workers, peasants, and oppressed nationalities in a country that had become U.S. imperialism's most important strategic ally in the Middle East. In a surge of popular anger almost unprecedented in history, the mostly unarmed Iranian masses confronted and defeated the massive state machinery of the Shah, which had been conceived of, trained, supplied, armed, and organized by U.S. imperialism. This event, which ended in the downfall of the hated Shah, inspired the oppressed everywhere and will never be forgotten.

The Iranian Revolution was a blow to imperialism's grip over the entire Middle East. It destroyed a regime that had served as the regional "policeman" for imperialist interests. Iranian troops no longer aid reaction in Oman; they no longer threaten the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen; Iran no longer provides the U.S. with military bases against the socialist countries. Iranian oil no longer fuels the Israeli and South African war machines.

However, not a day has gone by that the imperialists have not worked feverishly on a dozen plots aimed at reestablishing their domination over Iran. The seizure of the American Embassy by the Iranian masses exposed the intricate ties that U.S. agents had developed with various elements within the bourgeois structure, ties that imperialism still tries to exploit today.

Workers World Party defends Iran in its continuing struggle against U.S. imperialism's efforts to reimpose neocolonial domination and enslavement. We condemn all efforts by imperialism, the U.S. in particular, to undermine and subvert Iran, to intervene openly or covertly in Iranian affairs, and to threaten Iran economically or militarily.

At the same time, it is clear that the Iranian Revolution has not resulted in a social transformation. The present Islamic Republic is not only a defender of bourgeois property and the exploitation of the masses, but carries out many extremely reactionary internal policies. The Revolution itself is endangered by the Islamic Republic's brutal suppression of the democratic rights of workers, national minorities, and women. The repression of independent working class initiatives in Iran weakens the strongest pillar of the anti-imperialist struggle.

The present regime is also engaged in a fratricidal war which, regardless of its original causes, can accomplish no progressive purpose and merely pits the people of one oppressed country against another. The Iran-Iraq war is bound to push either or both into the arms of imperialism, which can be the only winner while tens of thousands are slaughtered and the anti-imperialist energies of the masses are diverted into a chauvinist campaign. But the working classes of both Iran and Iraq can chart a different course. They have every reason to fight for a common united front against both the imperialists and the comprador bourgeoisie, in which all the oppressed masses can join together for a revolutionary socialist solution to the present crisis.

We call for an end to this fratricidal war! We demand freedom for all progressive and working class political prisoners in Iran and self-determination for the oppressed nationalities!

Above all, we will fight against all imperialist attempts to resubjugate Iran through political, military, economic, or diplomatic means.



## LETTERS

### Where to spit?

MY husband and I enjoy your newspaper very much. He works at the post office, and the other day he overheard two women discussing which stamps they were going to buy.

The first one said she certainly didn't want one with Reagan's face on it.

The second woman said she didn't think the government would print such a stamp.

"Really?" the first one asked. "Why not?"

"Because people wouldn't know which side to spit on."

C.D.  
Philadelphia

### Black History

AGAIN the Workers World paper has surpassed all other publications in providing truth to a misled and oppressed public about Black folk. As somewhat of a Black historian I am aware that your special articles of the February 4th issue are accurate and relevant to the hundreds of years of struggle of my people to gain freedom from their oppressors, a struggle that continues. The oppressors rightfully defined are no different today than

they were 300 years ago, at that time they were known as land-owners, slave owners, merchants, and traders—now they are called bankers, corporate leaders, and politicians.

Here in Rochester, N.Y., we connote Black History Month with Frederick Douglass, a Black mulatto who escaped slavery and became an adviser to John Brown and organizer/conductor of the underground railroad which aided thousands of slaves to move to a so-called freer part of the country. We Black people know that we simply moved from one form of slavery to another.

Ms. Rogers statement that Black labor and Black lives have shaped the economic system of the USA takes on added meaning when we realize that without the super-exploitation of Black workers and laborers there would have been no Southern economy. Today we see the exploitation of all workers irregardless of race and easily the need for a class concept. A concept that is inclusive of all the workers and poor who have been abused, used, exploited, and literally slavery to death during the history of America.

It is now that with passion and fervor we join the struggle of the masses. Onward in the struggle. Rasheed Abdul Shareef  
Rochester, N.Y.

### Food is a right

I HAVE found your food is a right campaign to be very informative and helpful. Recently a lady I know and I were talking and she brought up the fact that her parents had recently gotten some free cheese from the local government. I then explained to her that it was our tax dollars that bought it in the first place and further explained how this stored food was being used to subsidize the agribusiness interests. I've also enjoyed your articles on the various plant shut-downs and layoffs. Being a laid-off autoworker I can really relate to this. I have also enjoyed your coverage of the situation in Central America. I am a member of the Central American Mobilization Coalition here in Pittsburgh. Today we held a rally against certification of the government of El Salvador. Between 150 and 200 people showed up for the picket line. We also got the city council to pass a resolution against any more aid to the junta.

Franklyn Smith  
Pittsburgh

Workers World welcomes letters from its readers. Send all correspondence to: Workers World, P.O. Box 375, Cooper Station, New York, N.Y. 10003.

## Sharon slapped on wrist for Beirut mass murder

By Bill Del Vecchio  
FEBRUARY 14—Ariel Sharon was demoted over the weekend from Israeli Defense Minister to Minister without Portfolio for his responsibility in bringing about the cold-blooded massacre of over 300 defenseless Palestinian children, women, and men at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut in September.

Sharon has been replaced as Defense Minister by Moshe Arens, an equally extreme right-winger, but a man with much closer ties to the U.S. Arens was a U.S. citizen, studied in the U.S., served in the U.S. military, and worked as an engineer in the U.S. aircraft industry before emigrating to Israel.

Sharon's role in the massacre

was documented by a special commission that Prime Minister Begin, an ally of Sharon with a long history of his own anti-Palestinian atrocities, was forced to call into being because of mass outrage within Israel to the killings.

While the commission's report recommended that Sharon be removed from the Cabinet, Begin kept him on, showing his basic support of Sharon's bloody rampage through Lebanon and his defiance of the increasing opposition among Israelis to his militarist policies.

### Sharon to administer West Bank occupation

It is speculated that Sharon's new job in the Cabinet will be to

administer the military occupation of the West Bank, where he could just pick up where he left off in Lebanon in his genocidal campaign against the Palestinians.

Opposition sentiment was greatly intensified last Thursday when ultra-rightist supporters of Sharon threw a hand grenade into the middle of a demonstration calling for the resignation of the entire Begin government. The grenade killed one and injured nine.

This new opposition among Jewish people in Israel has led the capitalist press in the U.S. to "discover" that Israel has a moral crisis. Palestinians have been kicked out of their homes,  
Continued on page 11



# U.S. monopolies move into Tonkin Gulf

## Viet Nam protests Chinese collaboration with Big Oil

By Sharon Shelton

FEBRUARY 14—Less than a decade since Viet Nam succeeded in kicking out the U.S. government and the multinational corporations it fronts for, the Chinese leaders have opened the doors to these same avaricious corporations to drill for oil in the Gulf of Tonkin off northern Viet Nam.

Yesterday the Viet Nam News Agency protested China's action and affirmed Viet Nam's "sovereignty over its territorial waters and continental shelf as well as over all the natural resources in the area."

The fact that China and Viet Nam have a dispute over these waters doesn't excuse the Deng regime for allowing the imperialist oil monopolies in without Viet Nam's agreement.

### War against Viet Nam not over

The threat posed by the presence of these multi-billion-dollar corporations, which are part of the U.S. military-industrial complex, in waters claimed by Viet Nam, is part of the ongoing vicious diplomatic, economic, and military campaign which is relentlessly being waged against Viet Nam by Washington with the aid of the Chinese leaders.

It should be manifestly clear by now that Peoples China, which once was a revolutionary ally of Viet Nam against imperialism, has gotten nothing out of its ill-founded alliance with the U.S., and this latest oil exploration deal is no exception.

Not only has the U.S. armed

Taiwan and failed to recognize it as an integral part of China as provided by the Shanghai Communiqué, it also denied China the markets, the favorable credit arrangements, and the high technology it had hoped to get by allying itself with Washington.

The U.S. rulers don't want to help China carry out socialist reconstruction; they want to make China dependent. The U.S. oil monopolies don't want to develop China's energy capabilities so it can modernize; they want control over China's oil.

The U.S. is only interested in exploiting China, in trying to penetrate and subvert its planned economy, and in using it in its aggression against Viet Nam, the Soviet Union, and the entire socialist camp.

China's tragic invasion of its socialist neighbor less than three years ago and its continuing support of the military campaign against the Kampuchean government which is allied with Viet Nam have not helped China, but have served the belligerent interests of the imperialist system.

The Pentagon has never forgotten its stinging defeat at the hands of the heroic Vietnamese people. Even now the imperialist propagandists are trying to rewrite history and pretend that "Viet Nam would not have been lost" if only the military had been "given a free hand."

### Imperialism also hostile to China's foundations

Even as U.S. imperialism uses China as part of its military strategy against the USSR and Viet Nam, it nevertheless is fundamentally hostile to the social foundations of Peoples China as well.

These social foundations, which China shares with Viet Nam, the Soviet Union, and the other socialist countries, are the basis for a real working-class alliance based on anti-imperialist solidarity. Such an alliance would greatly strengthen the socialist camp and the world working class and oppressed peoples in the face of escalating imperialist attacks.



The Viet Nam war is not over. Today U.S. imperialism has put relentless diplomatic, economic, and military pressure on socialist Viet Nam. Pictured here, villagers' homes set on fire by U.S. army during war.

## People of Palau stand up to U.S. nuclear war plans

By Shelley Ettinger

FEBRUARY 11—Yesterday the people of Palau voted to continue the ban on nuclear materials on their island chain in the Western Pacific. The vote threw down a major obstacle to the nuclear war plans of the U.S. government.

Palau, with just 14,000 people, is a colony of the United States. The islands are administered by the U.S., along with two other Micronesian Island chains, under a United Nations "mandate."

As part of the Reagan administration's rush toward war, military planners are demanding carte blanche on Palau; the defeated proposal would have granted fully one-third of Palau's

190 square miles to the U.S. military. According to the New York Times, the generals planned to use Palau "as part of a fallback line of defense in case hostilities were to erupt near American bases in Korea, the Philippines, or Japan."

But the Pentagon's attempt to strategically exploit the islands was rebuffed. Yesterday's vote is the latest evidence of the growing courage and determination of the peoples of the Pacific to struggle against U.S. nuclear expansion. Last summer in the Marshall Islands, over 800 people occupied a U.S. missile testing range as part of the ongoing struggle to halt nuclear testing on the islands.

The attitude of U.S. imperialism towards the 2,300 islands of Micronesia was summed up by Henry Kissinger in 1970. He said, "There are only 90,000 people out there, so who gives a damn!" The importance of Micronesia to the U.S. lies in the opportunity to exploit its islands and destroy its people with nuclear testing.

But the importance of Micronesia to people struggling against the U.S. war machine around the world was highlighted in yesterday's vote, when Palau dealt a real defeat to that machine. The strength of the people there marks Palau as another scene of the struggle against the U.S. war drive.



Workers World Feb. 2, 1968

FIFTEEN years ago, the U.S. war ship *Pueblo* was captured by forces of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea off the coast of north Korea.

The U.S. government claimed at the time it was a "provocation" and "attack against America." But eventually, Washington had to publicly admit that the vessel was in fact a spy ship and that it was in north Korean territorial waters when it was captured. The north Korean government then released the 83 crew members.

The U.S. and the Pentagon, which was up to its ears in the fighting in Viet Nam, utilized the incident to drum up a war hysteria against north Korea and beef up its occupation force in south Korea. Today, the Pentagon is staging the most massive "war games" ever in south Korea as part of Washington's worldwide war buildup.

The article below appeared on the front page of the Feb. 2, 1968, issue of *Workers World*. This is part of a series celebrating 25 years of *Workers World*.

The last thing the American people want is a new Korean

war. They want it even less—if that is possible—than they want the present Viet Nam war. And the U.S. Government knows it.

That is why Washington stammers, evades, and lies about the *Pueblo*, its mission and the incidents surrounding it. The virtuous indignation about the crew of 83, many of whom are, of course, simple seamen obeying orders, is taken with a large grain of salt.

Americans have generally been brainwashed and infected with chauvinism about the inviolability of their countrymen (independently of class) wherever foreigners are concerned, no matter what the circumstances are. But all except the most jingoistic are rightly skeptical in the present case.

First, the *Pueblo* was certainly within the 12-mile limit of north Korean waters. Objective testimony by electronic experts, independently of political analysis, proves this, regardless of where the ship may have steamed to just prior to being caught.

Few U.S. boys are storming

## Pentagon, hands off Korea!

the recruiting booths to "avenge" the crew of the *Pueblo*.

Second, the use of spy ships against small countries smacks too much of the bully—just like the U.S. invasion of Viet Nam. And where it arouses contempt against the U.S. abroad, it engenders guilt feelings, at the very least, among the people at home.

"What was the *Pueblo* doing over there in the first place?" exclaimed an indignant housewife over a nation-wide TV program which interviewed the "man on the street" for opinions. The housewife was only one of millions.

Third, and by far the most important, the U.S. masses are wor-

ried about the intentions of the U.S. imperialists to widen the war to all Asia, involving millions of U.S. youth in a new holocaust. The masses may not use the newly-coined phrase, "credibility gap," but they are well aware of the corruption and lies that it describes. For the first time, they are beginning to be wary of the intentions of their own rulers in the life-and-death matters of foreign wars.

The Korean war has not had time, under present conditions, to fade into the nostalgic memories of Legionnaires or even to be successfully glamorized as such by the Hollywood branch of the War Department. It is a living and painful memory with a large part of a generation.

There were over 54,000 U.S. youths who died in that war, not to mention hundreds of thousands of north and south Koreans—soldiers and civilians.

The net result of the U.S. fighting was to keep south Korea "free"—free for the exploitation of the Gulf Oil Co., Union Carbide, Sears Roebuck, even Maçy's and Gimbels, and scores of other U.S. companies, at 35 cents a day labor—only a small

fraction of the wages in abysmally low-paid, Chiang Kai-shek-ruled Taiwan, or the notorious British-American colony of Hong Kong.

Japanese capital has also moved into south Korea in force, as part of a deal with Washington. South Korea, after having been "freed" from imperialist Japan in 1945, is once again succumbing to the Japanese overlord—as a partner, of course, of the bigger U.S. overlord.

The U.S. masses do not know the details of all this, and probably do not actively suspect it. But they can never be inspired to willingly sacrifice for another Korean war—even if the propaganda-machine and the lie-generators are stepped up to full capacity by the U.S. ruling class, as they inevitably will be.

Next to Asian Revolution, itself, the greatest brake upon the war plans of U.S. imperialism is precisely its fear of the U.S. people. This is the main thing to remember in assessing the frantic diplomacy of the U.S. in the present crisis.



# 96 hours that changed history

ON JUNE 21, 1941, Hitler attacked the USSR with the objective of "destroying communism." Three hundred million Europeans were then under Nazi domination.

By August 1942, the Nazis had advanced into the Soviet Union one thousand miles from the border of the Reich, to Stalingrad on the Volga. At this time, no U.S. troops had yet fired a shot against the German army. It was not until Hitler's "war on communism" had been crushed by the Soviet people in their revolutionary fight to defend socialism that the U.S. opened a second front in Europe.

What follows is the last of three articles commemorating the anniversary of the battle of Stalingrad, the decisive turning point of World War II.

By Andy Stapp

On Sept. 12, 1942, General Vassili Chuikov was summoned to Soviet Army Group headquarters in Yamy by General Andrei Yeremenko.

According to Chuikov's memoirs, Yeremenko said: "General Lopatin, the former C-in-C Sixty-second Army believes that his Army cannot hold Stalingrad. But there can be no more retreat. That is why he has been relieved of his post. The Military Council of the Front invites you, Comrade Chuikov, to assume command of the Sixty-second Army. How do you see your task?"

"The question took me by surprise," Chuikov records, "but I had no time to consider my reply. So I said, 'The surrender of Stalingrad would wreck the morale of our people. We shall hold Stalingrad or die there.'"

Two months later, by mid-November, it looked like Vassili Chuikov would be making good on the second part of his pledge. Most of Stalingrad was in Nazi hands and outside Chuikov's headquarters in the steep cliff overlooking the Volga the Soviet 45th Rifle Division and workers' militia fighters were holding only a short strip of the bank, approximately 200 yards across.

South of it, at the "Red October" metallurgical works, only in the ruins of its eastern block—the sorting department, the steel foundry, and the tube mill—were defenders still holding out. Other small pockets of resistance clung to the "Lazur" chemical factory, its "tennis racket" railroad sidings, as well as a minute bridgehead

## 40th anniversary of Stalingrad, Part 3

around the steam ferry landing stage in the central river port.

On Nov. 18, assault parties of the German 6th Army renewed the attack in what they hoped would be the final charge. Never before during the war had so many Nazi Engineer Battalions been concentrated for a single task in so small an area. Bunched around self-propelled AA guns, behind tanks or assault guns, they attacked amid the screaming roar of Stukas and the rattle of Soviet machine-guns.

The fascists stormed into the ruins of the factory buildings, still partly standing with their steel framework and their walls of corrugated iron. Soviet soldiers and armed civilian volunteers had turned the cellars and roofs into pillboxes and strong-points. Every yard of this area was stubbornly and bitterly fought for and death lurked around every corner.

By nightfall, however, the Nazi army had pressed forward 30, 50, or even 100 yards. They were gaining ground slowly but surely. Another twenty-four hours or perhaps forty-eight hours, and the job would be done.

Behind General Chuikov, ice floes had cut the Volga and no ammunition, food, or reinforcements had reached his units for nearly a week. The life of the Soviet resistance was ebbing away. It looked like the end had come at last.

But on the next day, Nov. 19, the bell tolled not for the USSR but for Hitler Germany. To the north and south of Stalingrad, in the dark forests and behind the hills beyond the Volga, Soviet divisions had been massing for Operation Uranus, the counter-blow that would relieve the city.

### Nazis trapped

Forces under General Rokossovski crossed the Don and pushed south while Yeremenko's divisions slashed northwest towards the same objective. On Nov. 23 thousands of white-clad Soviet troops from the two fronts came together in a delirium of shouts, embraces, and tears. In less than 96 hours they had sprung a trap around the German



Soviet soldier raises red flag in central square of Stalingrad after the city's liberation.

Photo: TASS

6th Army. Now the hunter had become the hunted.

Here on the frozen steppes, soldiers from Siberia and the Asian part of the USSR buried forever the myth of the "Aryan superman," the Nazi master race destined to rule over "lesser" peoples. These Uzbek, Tadzhik, Kazak, and Kirghiz soldiers fought with all their hearts to defend the socialist revolution, which had liberated them from the old Czarist oppression and to keep the fascists from bringing back that long night of slavery which had been their lot under the old order.

Along with the Russian troops who marched at their side, they repelled all German attempts to break the ring of steel which now surrounded the foe.

On Jan. 9, the Soviets offered the 6th Army humane terms of surrender, but Hitler commanded that every position be defended to the last bullet "to save Western Civilization." The Germans suffered unbelievable agonies for the next 23 days—tens of thousands froze to death, food and medical supplies ran out, hundreds were executed by their own officers for "cowardice," absence without leave, desertion.

Most were ordinary people, separated from the homes of

those they loved by a war of aggression, just like the U.S. troops in Viet Nam. And one by one they died; the captain, the chaplain, the lance-corporal, the lieutenant, the rifleman, all sacrificed on the altar of Hitlerite anti-communism. Within ten weeks, the Germans had lost a quarter of a million men—the greatest death-toll for any battle in the entire war.

On Feb. 1, the survivors of the Sixth Army finally gave in. Back at Hitler's well-heated headquarters 1,300 miles away, the small blue circle around the factory quarter of Stalingrad on Map Number 4 East was struck through in red, the same small blue circle which had at one time marked the presence along the Volga of 22 divisions of 364,000 German soldiers.

Two years later, General Vassili Chuikov, the heroic commander of the Sixty-second Army, led the assault on Berlin while Hitler committed suicide in his bunker. Imperialism's most savage effort to halt the advance of history had been smashed, its spear-point broken by the proletariat, freedom-fighters and Red Army troops of Stalingrad. The bravery of the Soviet people, backed up by the superior organization of socialist society, had stopped the Nazi death machine.

## U.S. aid of Nazi war criminal exposed

By Bob McCubbin

FEBRUARY 13—So it turns out that Nazi mass murderer Klaus Barbie did not escape the verdict of world public opinion for so many years by dint of personal cunning or stealth.

No, Gestapo leader Barbie, it has now been revealed, had friends in very high places: Washington, D.C., in particular. A former U.S. intelligence officer and a Nazi hunter who traced Barbie's movements to South America have both asserted that he lived under U.S. protection and worked for U.S. intelligence following World War II.

Students of World War II history already know that after the war the U.S. and Britain made common cause with their former fascist opponents in a number of countries to prevent partisan and progressive forces in those coun-

tries—those who had actively resisted Hitler, Mussolini, and Tojo—from consolidating their movements into post-war anti-fascist, pro-worker governments.

In this historic, global betrayal of whole nations, the case of Klaus Barbie was, relatively speaking, small potatoes. Although a Gestapo leader, he is only one of hundreds of Nazi mass murderers whom the Allied imperialist powers, most notably the U.S., protected from the Nuremberg judgment. These individuals, who had ordered the rounding up of Jews, communists and other working class leaders, homosexuals, and others in cities all over Europe, who presided over massacres of civilians in villages all across the steppes of western Russia and the Ukraine, who served the German ruling

class during its Nazi period with energy and devotion—many of these individuals were considered too "valuable" to imperialist interests to be locked up or killed.

The Klaus Barbie case is most relevant today as a reminder of the ruthless, amoral character of the U.S. ruling class. Barbie, the Butcher of Lyons, France, sent, between the years 1942 and 1944, at least 7,500 French Jews and French Resistance fighters, many of whom were communists, to the death camps. He had at least 4,000 people executed outright and personally engaged in the torture of many thousands more. All this was public knowledge at the end of the war in 1945.

Yet, as has now been revealed, the U.S. shielded him from

French attempts to bring him to trial and actually hired him to work for U.S. intelligence at a cool \$1,700 a month!

It is no exaggeration to say that the U.S. capitalist class was seriously disappointed by the Nazi inability to conquer the Soviet Union. It had no qualms whatsoever about recruiting from the defeated Nazi ranks those it felt might be of aid to it in its own efforts to crush the Land of Lenin.

Now one episode in the pursuit of this impossible dream has been exposed to the light of day. Klaus Barbie has no future—progressive world opinion will surely see to that. But much more important, neither should the corrupt, decadent ruling class that nurtured and protected him for so long...

## 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.

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## — Who created Hitlerism?

Continued from page 7

all-out imperialist war at the time.

### FACT ELEVEN: Munich Pact showed Allies wanted Hitler to attack USSR

By the time Hitler had solidified his position around 1935-36, the imperialist ruling classes were eagerly courting him and attempting to divert him toward the Soviet Union. Their fundamental strategy was to make concessions to him insofar as an imperialist settlement was concerned as long as he could be directed against the Soviet Union.

This was what the Munich Pact was really all about. Prime Ministers Chamberlain of Britain and Daladier of France agreed to this pact not out of love for Hitler. They made the concessions to Hitler, which included the sacrificing of Czechoslovakia, because they calculated that these concessions would open the road for Hitler to march on the Soviet Union.

## — Bank failure

Continued from page 1

hoopla that it would bring industry and jobs to Tennessee. However, it turned out to be just another giant giveaway to the big corporations. No industry moved into Knoxville. There were no new jobs, only more economic stagnation.

This is why United American's loans couldn't be paid. It is the very economic crisis itself which engulfed United American like a giant tidal wave.

It was much the same when another bank, Penn Square of Oklahoma, went under this past July. This bank, intertwined with the largest financial institutions in New York and Chicago, raked in billions in superprofits by speculation in oil. But when the oil market collapsed due to the glut in oil worldwide, do did Penn Square. The failure of this bank brought devastation and joblessness to Oklahoma. The collapse of the United American Bank will also bring unemployment and suffering to the workers and oppressed in Tennessee.

If this very something happened only a few months before, why didn't the bankers learn from their mistakes? Why didn't they do something this time?

For months, a rescue effort was underfoot by the federal and state governments, and the banking establishment as a whole, to save the United American Bank. But the last of the backroom talks fell apart in the wee hours of Monday morning and, a few hours later, the bank failed.

Why? The problem was too big. This bank had interlocking direc-

The other imperialist statesmen, like Churchill and Roosevelt, were not that opposed to the Munich Pact as long as it really could divert Hitler altogether. Destruction of the Soviet socialist state was and remains the fundamental objective of all the imperialists to this day.

As we said at the beginning, the anti-Hitler exposés saturating the media in the U.S. and Europe have as their objective to identify the Hitler regime with that of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. They are meant to prepare the masses psychologically and politically for a struggle against the Soviet Union.

As the capitalist recession deepens, as the Pentagon maniacs continue to build their horror weapons, the working class, the oppressed masses, the bulk of the population as a whole must be awakened to understand the orientation of the imperialist ruling classes and in particular of the present capitalist administration.

torates with at least four other southern banks, and interconnections with 24 others. There was a danger that all these banks could collapse like a house of cards, even bringing large Wall Street banks with them.

So the Federal government stepped in. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) placed the United American Bank in receivership, giving away millions of dollars in order to make good on the bad loans. This is no lasting solution. The FDIC takeover is an example of state capitalist intervention, and an attempt to solve a profound economic problem by political means. The government has only absorbed the problem, driving it deeper into the whole capitalist system and spreading it throughout the capitalist state itself. This only paves the way for even more serious collapses later and with each new bank failure, the FDIC's funds get closer to depletion.

In addition, hundreds of other banks, fearing bad loans themselves, have moved to tighten credit. This will mean more economic stagnation. It also places the burden onto the workers and middle class, who not only pay higher interest rates than the corporations, but who will find it more difficult to get loans to purchase homes and automobiles.

The collapse of the United American Bank shows the economic crisis is so severe that even the mighty captains of finance are cut down by the uncontrollable forces of the capitalist market.

## political prisoners

### Carthan supporters sit in

By Diane Feinberg  
FEB. 15—Even as we go to press, supporters of the former Mayor of Tchula, Miss., Eddie Carthan, are continuing their sit-in at Holmes County Jail. They are protesting the Feb. 1 transfer of Carthan from the County Jail to Parchman State Penitentiary—known in this Delta region as "Hell."

Carthan's wife, Shirley, and more than half a dozen other supporters began their sit-in Wednesday morning following the transfer. All were arrested by Sheriff Henry Huggins.

After refusing contaminated jail food infested with roaches and rodent feces, Shirley Carthan was hospitalized Sunday afternoon, suffering from dehydration.

When the punitive arrest failed to break the spirit and resolve of the demonstrators, Sheriff Huggins agreed to release them.

The freedom fighters, who had refused to post bond, also refused to be released and are continuing their occupation of the jail. Fresh forces are reported to be joining the sit-in today.

The trial of Eddie Carthan and the Tchula 7 has drawn the attention of anti-racist forces in this country and around the world. The government conspiracy to imprison a Black elected official has focused attention on the extreme racist oppression that is woven into the fabric of American "justice."

Eddie Carthan has been the target of modern-day plantation owners and wealthy merchants who control the predominantly Black Delta town of Tchula. His crime was that he attempted to improve the lives of Black people after his election.

#### 'He refused to be bought'

Shirley Carthan told Workers World, "He refused to be

bought. He was going to be his own person. A Black elected official has no problem if they cater to every whim of the white power structure. If you do what they want, you'll have no opposition. Things will go very smoothly.

"If not," she said, "you'll go to jail."

Carthan was acquitted this fall of murder charges that supporters, both Black and white, denounced as a frame-up. It took a jury less than an hour to return a verdict of innocent. Had he been found guilty, Carthan would today be on death row in Parchman prison.

The courts and officials refused to release Carthan despite his acquittal. He is being held on a three-year sentence for a simple assault charge that resulted from his challenge of the local power structure. Even the jurors from that trial have asked the Governor to intervene and correct the injustice of that conviction. Yet the state refuses to release him.

Parchman prison, a 22,000 acre cotton plantation, has been testament to the continuation of chattel slavery in Mississippi. It is no coincidence that the Mayor, who tried to create jobs to free Black workers from today's Mississippi plantations is imprisoned in this concentration camp for his efforts. Parchman prison is infamous for subjecting prisoners to threats, torture, and frequently death at the hands of prison guards.

#### Threats on Carthan's life

Supporters fear that the move to Parchman is a definite threat to Carthan's life. Carthan has already received a number of threats on his life. He is currently locked in maximum security and is waging a hunger strike



Eddie Carthan

to protest the conditions of his imprisonment.

Shirley Carthan explained that the next step is to continue meetings with the Governor to demand that he intervene in this clear case of racist injustice. "Yet," she said, "everyone in the state of Mississippi knows that he (the Governor) is in cahoots with the white power structure in Holmes County."

Clearly, the struggle to free Eddie Carthan can't be entrusted to the hands of the bigots who run the courts, cops, local, state, and federal government. In fact, the only force that can win freedom for Eddie Carthan is all of those who are victimized by this racist and exploitative social system.

Just as the thick walls of Parchman Penitentiary have not proved strong enough to keep the international support for Eddie Carthan from reaching him—the 24-hour-a-day lock down of Carthan by his overseers can't block his message of struggle and optimism from reaching his supporters. Next week in Workers World read Eddie Carthan's interview with this newspaper from behind the walls of Parchman.

## SF gears up for March 3 protest against Reagan, Queen Elizabeth

By Dick Becker  
SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 14—A massive show of opposition to the policies of the Reagan administration and to the continued occupation of Northern Ireland is expected here on Thursday, March 3.

On that day, President Reagan will be hosting an extravagant State Dinner for Queen Elizabeth of England at the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. A city-wide day of protest is being jointly planned by the March 3rd Coalition (made up of more than 50 organizations) and the Irish Republican Committee.

The main activity will be a march and rally in Golden Gate Park, beginning 5:30 p.m. in the Panhandle. The rally will be held

in the Big Rec Ballfield starting at 6:30 p.m. The rally will include speakers and cultural presentations. Other activities include picketing the pier where the Queen will arrive, a noon-time soup line downtown, and a rally/party for all participants in the day's action at the Civic Center at 9:30 p.m.

Support for the demonstration is very broadbased and growing. The San Francisco Labor Council, Central City Shelter Network, East Bay Coalition of Labor Union Women, Deaf Self-Help, AFSCME Locals 1650 and 1695, the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club, Alice B. Toklas Memorial Club, Disabled Student Union UC-Berkeley, and Real Alternatives Program (a Latino youth school) are among

the latest endorsers. The March 3rd Coalition leaflet saying "Tell Reagan we need jobs, food and housing, not racism, war, and cutbacks! U.S. out of El Salvador! England out of Ireland now!" is being widely distributed in Spanish, Chinese, and English. Special flyers directed to the lesbian and gay community and the labor movement have also been issued.

The coming demonstration has generated widespread interest in the international and national press, including the New York Times, Manchester Guardian, British Broadcast Corporation (BBC), Time magazine, and much of the local media.

Volunteers are urgently needed. For information call (415) 821-6545 or (415) 861-0425.

## Food is a Right! Housing is a Right!

**Chicago Rally Feb. 28**  
12 noon at Federal Building (Jackson & Dearborn)  
March to City Hall to demand  
immediate opening of shelters for homeless

For more information contact:  
Chicago All-Peoples Congress  
542 South Dearborn, Room 1003  
Chicago, Ill. 60605  
(312) 427-8038

## — Sharon slapped on wrist

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bombed, shot, beaten, mutilated, jailed without charges, denied the most basic rights and civil liberties—all this has been going on for decades, but only now has the U.S. press decided Israel has a moral crisis.

#### U.S. crimes covered up

The U.S. press doesn't implicate the U.S. government in this moral crisis, even though it provided all the weapons that gave

the Israeli military the overwhelming firepower that enabled it to seize so much of Lebanon. The U.S. press doesn't see any moral crisis in the fact that the weapons of the Phalangists who murdered the Palestinians of Sabra and Shatila were also from the U.S., or the fact that the U.S. CIA and State Department have close and friendly ties with these fascist murderers and support the present Lebanese government which is led by the head of

the Phalangists. They say nothing of the fact that the U.S. knew of Sharon's plan to send the Phalangists into the refugee camps weeks before but did nothing to stop it, and was informed that the massacre was going on and yet waited a day before doing anything.

The responsibility for Sabra and Shatila rests just as much on the shoulders of the Reagan administration as it does on the shoulders of Begin and Sharon.



## Texas protest takes stand against Klan Stop racism, attacks on undocumented!

**By Brian Becker**  
AUSTIN, Feb. 14—This city is the latest scene of an unfolding nationwide struggle between the Ku Klux Klan and anti-racist forces.

The Klan will march on Feb. 19 to the state capitol building in Austin under the reactionary, anti-Mexican slogan "Seal the border." Countering the KKK will be a large demonstration organized by a broad coalition of progressive and civil rights organizations.

As has happened in Washington, D.C.; Boston, Chicago, Detroit, and other cities where the Klan has tried to march, the local city government in Austin quickly granted the fascists a permit to march in the downtown area and then launched a media campaign urging people to ignore the Klan. As if acting on cue, the major media in Austin, as elsewhere, characterized the Klan as a "bunch of clowns" and ridiculed anti-Klan demonstrators for "inadvertently promoting" the KKK by "paying

undue attention to a small group of bigots."

Of course, wherever the Klan does rally, no matter how small their numbers, the same media gives the Klan top billing, splashing pictures of their hooded assemblies and cross burnings on the front page of the major dailies.

But what about the Klan? Should they be taken seriously, or simply ignored, as the politicians and media moguls urge? Just a brief review of the historical record of Klan violence, especially its recent history in Texas, quickly dispels any notion that the Klan is "just a bunch of clowns" or that their activities are "a joke."

### 115 years of terror

The Ku Klux Klan was formed in 1868 by dispossessed ex-slave owners three years after the Confederacy was defeated in the Civil War.

The function of the KKK was to deprive the Black ex-slaves of any semblance of real freedom.

They were organized as a secret society, or, more aptly, as a secret army of racists loyal to the ex-slave owners. Their strategy towards the newly-freed slaves was simple: Absolute terror.

Nighttime lynchings, public executions, castrations, and whippings took the lives of thousands of Black people. For over 100 years the Klan served as an extra-legal armed terror unit, supplementing the police forces throughout the South in the enforcement of a rigid system of racial segregation and oppression of Black people.

### The KKK in Texas

In the past seven years, the Klan has been especially active in Texas. Politics in the state have long been controlled by the organized ultra-right, financed by a small clique of billionaire families, like the Hunts (oil), the Bass family (oil), and H. Ross Perot, to name a few. In this political climate the Klan feels emboldened to come out openly with its program of white supremacy and genocide.

The large Mexican/Chicano population in Texas has been increasingly targeted by the Klan. In 1977 the Klan established an armed "border patrol" and began killing and brutalizing undocumented workers as they crossed the U.S.-Mexican border. In the same period, Klan vigilantes carried out scores of physical attacks against the Chicano population in Sheryland, Tex. After a terrifying campaign of police brutality against Mexicanos and Chicanos in McAllen, Tex., an investigation revealed that the local police force was filled with Klan members.

It is an open secret that government authorities in Texas wink at Klan activities. How else could the Klan operate several military training camps in Texas—at Jones State Park, the LBJ National Grasslands, and Camp Puller? The national media even reveals that Camp Puller was used to "prepare" Eagle and Explorer Boy Scouts for the Klan's "border patrol." The Scouts were trained in sniping and garrotting (strangling) techniques by none other than Louis Beam, Texas Klan Grand Dragon.

It is no surprise that the central theme of the Klan march in Austin is "seal the borders," and "deport illegal aliens." This is the same demand raised by the KKK when it tried to march in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 27.

When they attack the undocumented workers, the KKK is borrowing a page from classical fascist demagoguery. It is an undisguised appeal to desperate, unemployed white workers who

the Klan wants to convince that they lost their jobs through non-white immigrants.

At a time of the deepest economic crisis since the 1930s, the Klan scapegoats the Mexicans or Haitians or Vietnamese the way Hitler blamed the Jewish people for the economic collapse of German capitalism in the 1930s. Their argument is false to the core.

In the last two years the number of immigrants has remained about the same while 5 million more workers in the U.S. have been thrown out of work. And if the Klan's demand to "seal the border" was put into effect tomorrow, would auto workers in Detroit be called back? Would the closed-down steel mills in Buffalo, N.Y., Youngstown, Ohio, and Birmingham, Ala., suddenly reopen? Would the bosses at Texas Instruments, Glastron Boat, and IBM reverse the recent layoffs of thousands of workers throughout Texas? No, of course not.

The undocumented workers didn't cause the capitalist economic crisis, which is worldwide in character. They are its victims, trying to escape the massive unemployment created by U.S. corporations in their own countries.

While the KKK aspires to be America's Hitler, it is clear that people are beginning to stand up and fight. A broad, united effort of all working people—Black, Latin, Asian, Native, white, lesbian and gay, Jewish, women and men—is a necessary ingredient to defeat the KKK and their super-rich backers.

## 100,000 Mexican workers in U.S. face deportation

**By Victoria Guerrero**  
FEBRUARY 14—The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), commonly called "la migra," has decided to rescind the moratorium granted to holders of the so-called "Carta Silva," or Silva Letter, affecting some 100,000 Mexican workers residing in the U.S. Whereas these people had been led to believe that sooner or later they would be able to "normalize" their resident status, now they all face the more real threat of deportation.

The Silva Letter is a result of legal action on the part of an immigrant worker, Refugio Silva, who challenged the State Department's arbitrary usage of visas reserved for México and other Latin American countries, and giving them to Cubans friendly to U.S. imperialism who left revolutionary Cuba during the

1960s. The courts decided that the State Department had to set aside 145,000 visas for Mexican immigrants. Thus the INS issued the so-called Silva Letters, with a dangerous string attached—the migra would have all the worker's names, addresses worksite locations, etc.

While the migra promises "no mass deportations" or raids in the community or at the jobsites, anybody with a nickel's worth of common sense knows all about these promises. As has happened in the past during periods of economic crisis, the racist attacks against undocumented workers increase as the ruling class attempts to dump the weight and blame for the capitalist system's illness and decay upon the most exploited sector of the working class.

The economic situation gripping México is part and parcel of

the world capitalist downturn. Of the 1.4 million workers forced into leaving their native villages throughout México, well over one million are expected to come to the U.S. seeking seasonal, often brutal, super-exploitive work.

The Reagan administration, which is closely tied to the giant agribusiness monopolies which make super-profits from the labor of immigrant workers, will threaten to round up and deport anybody and everybody, depending only on the agribusinesses' own economic interests.

The only way forward for the labor movement in this time of crisis is united opposition to any and all attacks against undocumented workers. There can be no compromising on the principled demands: Unconditional amnesty for all undocumented workers! Stop all deportations!

## Detroit APC forces TV to cancel Klan interview

**By Katherine Wells**  
DETROIT, Feb. 16—The All Peoples Congress and the people of Detroit won a major victory today when a local television talk show was forced to postpone a scheduled program featuring Bill Wilkinson, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

The "Kelly & Co." show on WXYZ-TV 7 postponed the program because of a massive protest call-in campaign organized

by the APC and publicized by some local media. The postponement was announced in less than 48 hours after the APC learned of the planned show and started its protest.

Debbie Johnson of the APC noted that Channel 7 says it will reschedule Wilkinson's appearance. "We don't believe the KKK deserves media access anywhere, at any time. And we are making plans to persuade WXYZ to cancel the Klan appearance entirely."

## Rochester rally hits KKK broadcast

**By Gene Clancy**  
ROCHESTER, Feb. 9—Over 60 people braved freezing temperatures and blowing snow in a militant picket line here today to protest the broadcast via satellite of a program featuring KKK Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson.

Station WOKR (Channel 13) had originally planned to bring Wilkinson to Rochester to appear on the show, but was forced to change its plans by militant community protest. The protest was called by the Rochester All Peoples Congress even though Wilkinson did not appear in person because, as organizers said, "The Klan has no right to appear anywhere in the U.S."

The pressure from the community against allowing the

Klan to be on the air was such that the station aired no commercials from one half hour before to one half hour after the broadcast because advertisers feared adverse community reaction if they were associated with the Klan. They also changed the format of the show from an interview to a "debate."

The picket line was held at WOKR's studios in Henrietta, a suburb of Rochester. Monroe County sheriffs attempted to confine the demonstration to the roadside, some distance from the entrances of the station, but were unsuccessful. They also unsuccessfully attempted to put some members of the demonstration under arrest, but were physically prevented from doing so by other picketers.

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