

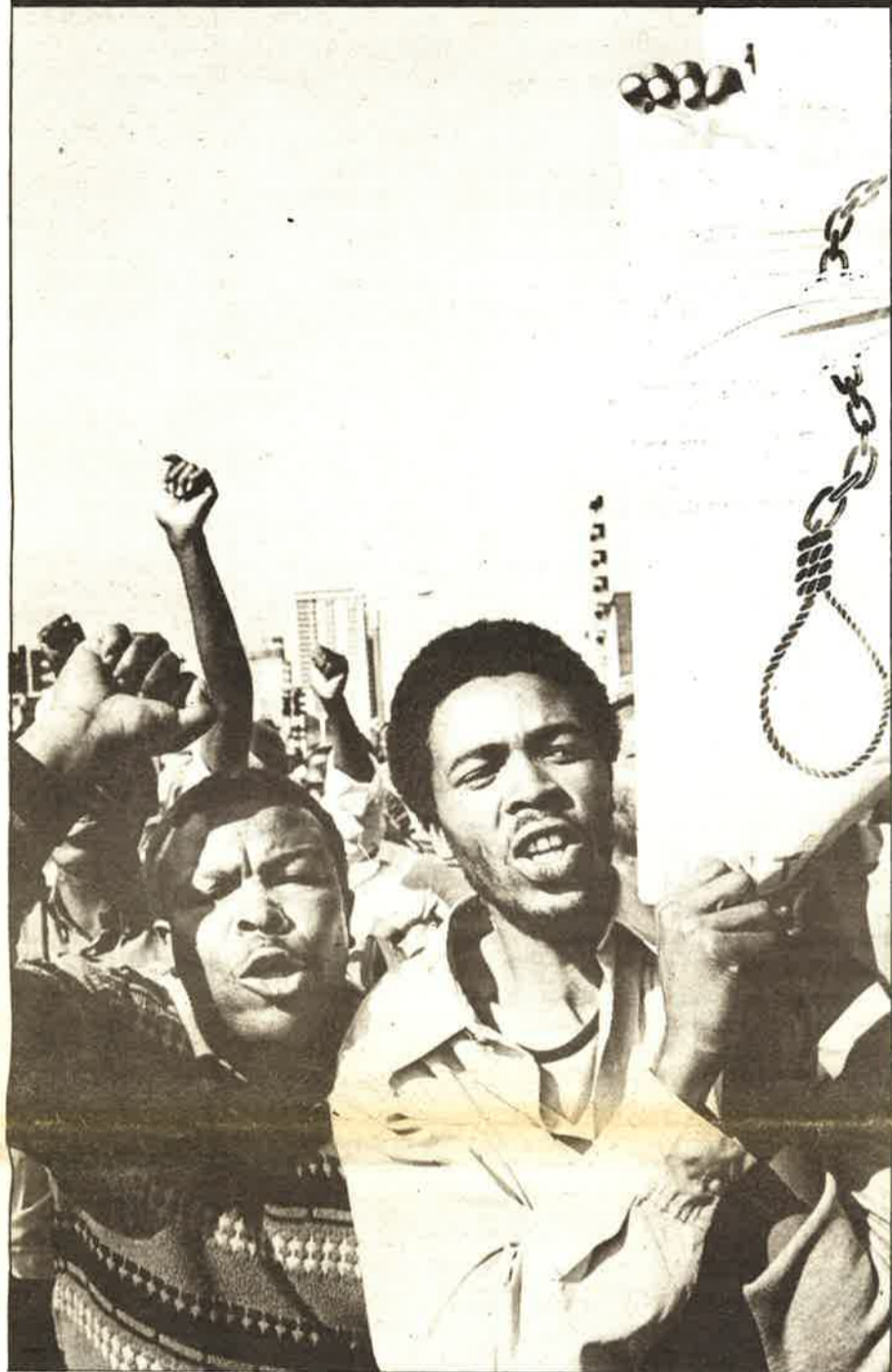


workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



SOUTH AFRICA



PROTEST SOUTH AFRICA EXECUTIONS

Postal workers in Johannesburg protest hanging Sept. 1 of political prisoners Moses Jantjies and Mlamli Mielies. There are 30 more freedom fighters in Pretoria's jails awaiting execution. Join the international campaign to save their lives initiated by the Political Prisoners Committee of the African National Congress. Send letters or telegrams to President Reagan in Washington and/or President P.W. Botha, Pretoria, South Africa.

PHOTO: AFRAPIX/IMPACT VISUALS

BANK BAILOUT

While cutting social services, the administration found \$1.5 billion for a failed Texas bank. 3

CONTRA FUNDS

Despite the Central American pact, Reagan has asked for \$270 million for contra mercenaries. 9

KOREA

Ruling party head Roh Tae Woo seeks backing from Tokyo and Washington. 7

Atlanta slaying provokes mass anger against police

By Tom Doran
Atlanta

September 16 — A new wave of protests is anticipated here over the shooting of a Black Vietnam veteran by two white police officers. The killing of Eddie Lee Callahan took place less than a week ago in front of hundreds of shocked witnesses, and already it has aroused a political furor. Three days of protests last week won the suspension without pay of the two cops, but the city reversed itself yesterday and reinstated the two killers to desk jobs after the police threatened a strike.

Today, City Councilman Hosea Williams and Carrie Morris, president of the All-Peoples Congress (APC), held a news conference to announce a rally tomorrow night opposing the reinstatement and to call for a march on City Hall this Saturday, Sept. 19.

The cops were cleared to return to desk jobs by Public "Safety" Commissioner George Napper, an act seen as a slap in the face to the people of Atlanta who are outraged by what happened, and particularly to the residents of Carver Homes, the housing project where the shooting took place.

On Monday night, Sept. 14, a militant crowd of 250 had gathered at Emmanuel Baptist Church to cheer the suspension of the two officers and demand further action to clean up the police.

Cries of "Right on!" and "Amen" greeted the long list of community

speakers. Carrie Morris of the Atlanta APC told the rally, "It's no time to go back. We don't need these thugs on the street."

City Councilman Hosea Williams promised, "We are not going to let those who are supposed to enforce the law go around breaking the law." He revealed that these same two cops killed a man last spring, have more than one official brutality complaint against them and are named in a pending lawsuit.

The killing happened Sept. 10 in Carver Homes, one of Atlanta's public housing projects. The estimated 400 witnesses are remarkably unanimous in their description of what took place.

The two plainclothes officers, identified only as M.L. Long and R.A. Watson, were serving warrants in the projects. They saw a man and woman arguing and watched the man angrily drive off.

Claiming they had information that the car was stolen — it actually belonged to the man's stepfather — they gave chase. Witnesses say the two cars raced through the narrow winding streets of the project until Eddie Lee Callahan lost control and crashed into a building.

Callahan left the car and was tackled by Watson in front of a growing crowd of residents. Callahan immediately surrendered. Dozens of people have quoted him as saying, "You got me, I give up." Watson drew his gun and began beating Callahan with it.

Callahan turned or was rolled over
Continued on page 8

Groups denounce closing of PLO info office in DC

By Joyce Chediak

The Reagan administration has extended its attacks on the Palestinian national struggle into the U.S. itself.

On Sept. 15, the State Department ordered the information office of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and other Palestinian groups in Washington, D.C., to stop operations and to sell their property within 30 days. The reason? Alleged "terrorism committed and supported by organizations and individuals affiliated with the PLO."

This is a direct political attack on the PLO and an ominous development for all representatives of national liberation struggles in this country.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman has even admitted that the decision was not based on any activity by the staff of the information office, but on PLO actions. Washington has repeatedly labeled the Palestinian organization as "terrorist" be-

cause it struggles to realize the national aspirations of the Palestinian people, one of the most oppressed people in the world.

The closing of the PLO information office, which is legally registered with the Justice Department, violates the Constitutional right to free speech, as well as the right of the people of this country to be able to receive information on the Palestinian struggle. Statements by the PLO are consistently censored out of the establishment media here.

The repressive action follows attempts by right-wing Representatives Jack Kemp (R-NY) and Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) to pass legislation closing the PLO information office and the PLO's observer mission to the United Nations in New York City. Attempts are also underway to limit the activities of the African National Congress of South Africa in this country.

Arab-American organizations and
Continued on page 2

MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS on centerfold

Tripling of electricity rates fought in Georgia

By Jimmy Raynor
Atlanta

September 8 — Today the voice of labor joined the struggle against Georgia Power Company. More than 100 workers picketed a public hearing on the proposal to make consumers pay the cost of a new \$8 billion nuclear power plant.

Electric rates will automatically go up 28% if the state Public Service Commission does not rule against the increase by Oct. 2. The increase is the first stage in the proposal to triple rates.

Workers were able to testify for the first time in the hearings, which began last summer. Gary Washington of the Graphic Communication Workers told the panel, "It boils down to a question of survival. The rate hike means paying bills or eating."

Industries employing 28,000 people have threatened to close if their rates are raised. Other companies, Washington said, "are trying to figure out ways of passing the rates down to the workers, either through pay cuts or speedups. Georgia Power wants to put it all on the backs of the people."

Pickers' chants shook the windows of the hearing but Georgia Power

officials were most disturbed by the testimony of a 72-year-old pipefitter. Much of the criticism of the nuclear plant has been technical arguments about poor planning and resource management. Frederick Points, a rank and file member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union, presented the astonished commission members with a 300-page stack of documentation on waste and fraud at the plant site.

Management waste and dishonesty

Points detailed many instances of waste and dishonesty by management at the plant, where he has worked on construction since 1983. He described innumerable examples of payroll padding and said he was once ordered "to stay out of sight" for more than six weeks because there was no work to be done.

The construction work is billed by units of production. Points explained that supervisors would arrange for workers to build trivial and unneeded small sub-assemblies of pipe in order to boost production figures. The useless material would then be taken apart the next day, also on the clock.

Points said that workers who developed more efficient work methods were punished by layoffs, or transfers to a labor crew. After the hearing, officials of Points' union disputed Points' testimony and attacked his character. Thomas Payne, a business manager for the pipefitters' union, said Points "does not truthfully represent the performance of our members." Earlier this year Payne gave testimony in favor of the rate hike.

Few witnesses at the hearing spoke in favor of the rate hike. Those who did were mainly bankers or real estate de-

velopers and included the Salvation Army, which praised Georgia Power's "charitable contributions."

The demonstration outside the hearing was organized by a coalition of labor, consumer, and anti-nuclear groups. Georgians Against Nuclear Energy joined members of Communication Workers of America, the Service Employees International Union, garment workers and hospital workers from 1199.

Representatives of United Steel Workers Local 2041 were especially militant because their plant has threatened to close if rates go up. Steelworkers played a leading role in organizing the action.

— PLO office

Continued from page 1

the American Civil Liberties Union have already criticized the State Department move. It is ironic that Washington has labeled the information office of a beleaguered and oppressed people "terrorist" while it permits members of Salvadoran death squads to terrorize progressive Salvadorans in southern California with impunity. In addition, Arab-American groups have been the targets of terror attacks here in recent years, while the U.S. government has turned the other way.

The Palestinian people and their chosen representative, the PLO, are in fact victims of U.S.-Israeli terror. The closing of the Washington PLO information office should be actively and militantly opposed by progressive people from coast to coast.

'New York says no to Bork!'

By Pat Hilliard
New York

"New York says no to Bork!" chanted the participants in an eight-hour vigil and rally held at the Federal Court House Sept. 14. Over all, several thousand people joined in during their lunch hour or after work.

The event was called by the Coalition for a Just Supreme Court, with the endorsement and participation of groups such as NOW, NARAL, Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, NAACP, Local 1180 of the CWA, Local 1199, National Council of Black Women, Asian Americans for Equality and many others.

The rally, which started at 12 noon,

was held Sept. 14 because Senate hearings began that day on the nomination of Judge Robert H. Bork to the Supreme Court. Speakers of every movement and progressive cause condemned Bork as the right-wing, racist, sexist, gay-hating bigot that he is.

If Bork had his way, Martin Luther King would have been criminally prosecuted for just supporting sit-ins at segregated lunch counters, regardless of how unfair segregation was.

Bork would allow states to deny the right of married people to use birth control and, of course, he is opposed to abortion.

Bork's nomination is another Reagan attack on the poor and oppressed which may be the last — the people are organizing every day into a stronger opposition!

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That requires a lot of space, and our present lease runs out in less than two years. That's why we have to raise many hundreds of thousands of dollars — maybe even as much as \$1 million — to buy WORKERS WORLD a permanent home.

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workers world

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30th
ANNIVERSARY
BUILDING FUND

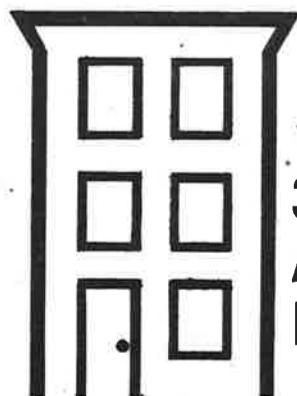
An appeal...

If you don't act now, Workers World *could* be homeless in 1989! The lease on the Workers World office is running out. We're caught in the desperate crisis between soaring homelessness and extortionate real estate developers and bankers. Our only solution is to purchase a permanent home for the newspaper. But that requires an enormous amount of money — as much as \$1 million. That's why we're initiating a two-year campaign: the Workers World 30th Anniversary Building Fund.

Workers World will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 1989 — the same year the lease runs out. Therefore we are beginning a campaign *now*. We need your help. If you value what Workers World brings you each week — our national and international coverage from the revolutionary perspective of working and oppressed people around the world — then plan today to invest in the Workers World 30th Anniversary Building Fund. You will be investing in the fight against exploitation and all forms of reaction and oppression — including landlords! You will be investing in the struggle for socialism.

Watch for a special mailing that will give you more information on the many ways your dollars will help Workers World build for the future. Find out how YOU can participate in buying a permanent home for Workers World.

Invest today in Workers World. For your future. And the future of humanity.



30th
ANNIVERSARY
BUILDING FUND

10,000 in California protest injury to anti-war organizer

By Sahu Barron
San Francisco

September 5 — At least 120 feet of railroad ties leading to the Concord Naval Weapons Station became the target of open outrage Sept. 5 when scores of demonstrators tore up four sections of the track, the site where just five days earlier anti-war activist S. Brian Willson was hit and critically injured by an oncoming munitions train.

As many as 10,000 people traveled to this isolated military enclave 12 miles north of San Francisco, which houses the largest weapons arsenal on the West Coast. Thousands walked at least a mile to the demonstration from the nearest public transportation while the cars of hundreds of others were ticketed for illegal parking!

With helicopters overhead, battalions of police cars surrounding the rally and the state troopers video taping the protesters, speaker after speaker drew the connection between the U.S. attempt to crush the liberation struggles of the peoples of Central America and southern Africa and the lengths to which they will go to silence the anti-war movement at home.

On Tuesday, Sept. 1, Willson and two other activists mounted the railroad tracks near the gates of the Naval Weapons Station to protest the sending of armaments to Central America. While 40 supporters looked on in horror, including his wife, Holley Rauen, and his 14-year-old stepson, Gabriel, a munitions train carrying high explosives accelerated and hit Willson, severing both his legs and dragging his body 20 feet.

Concord officials claimed that the train was only traveling 5 miles an hour. Yet a video tape made of the protest clearly showed that the train was moving at least three times that speed. Further, the demonstrators, who had

carried on similar protests in the days prior to the incident, had notified officials of the weapons station weeks earlier of their intent to stage peaceful protests there. During emergency surgery, Willson's legs had to be amputated from the calves down.

"We each decide what price we're to pay to ensure peace," Willson said to the rally. His message had been recorded on tape from his hospital bed.

"As soon as I am able, I will be back on the tracks. Hopefully, we can get enough people to stop the arms shipments from Concord and then the blockades will spread throughout the rest of the country," Willson continued.

Rauen, also an anti-war activist, characterized the incident as a deliberate act of attempted murder. "I am deeply angered by what happened to Brian and I am deeply angered and outraged that we are killing, raping and maiming innocent children in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Angola."

Jesse Jackson also spoke before the enthusiastic crowd. Calling on the U.S. government to halt the shipping of arms to the contras in Nicaragua, Jackson said, "Brian lost his legs so that we might walk for justice."

Anger over the military's deliberate act of terrorism against Willson was strong within the crowd. Despite the urging of the organizers of the demonstration for a strictly pacifist response, hundreds of demonstrators tore up more than 120 feet of railroad track after the rally concluded. In a similar expression of outrage, earlier in the week more than 400 people at the University of California at Berkeley stormed the ROTC building, smashing windows and writing anti-war graffiti on the walls.

Prior to the demonstration, Nicaraguan leader Rosario Murillo traveled from Managua to the naval station



Thousands protest death train in California.

WW PHOTO: STEPHANIE HEDGECOCKE

where Willson was so heinously struck down. Later, carrying armloads of flowers, she and five of her children visited Willson in the hospital.

"We made a special trip to visit him, because I wanted to convey to him the feeling of the Nicaraguan people... to tell him how deeply we have been moved by Brian's tragedy," Murillo stated. Willson, a Vietnam veteran

and participant in the 1986 Fast for Life held for 47 days in Washington, D.C., had lived in Nicaragua and met Murillo and her husband, Daniel Ortega, Nicaragua's president. Ortega also called Willson in his hospital room.

Demonstrations at the Naval Weapons Station are continuing on a daily basis.

On the picket line

Teacher strikes. The new school year is beginning, and with hundreds of thousands of workers without contracts, picket lines are up outside schools across the country. The biggest strike so far is in Chicago where teachers walked out on Sept. 8. In Detroit, 11,500 teachers represented by the Detroit Federation of Teachers walked out on Sept. 1 in a struggle against takebacks. The Detroit Board of Education is demanding that teachers accept a wage freeze and givebacks in medical benefits, along with a "contingency" 2% raise that could fail to materialize in the second year of a two-year contract. At least seven other school strikes — including Mount Clemens and Marquette — are on in Michigan, which has a history of teacher militancy. Elsewhere, school workers in North Allegheny, near Pittsburgh, Pa., and Edmonds, Wash., are on the picket lines.

Strike Atlantis Casino. Workers at the Atlantis Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., walked out on strike Sept. 2. The 750 members of Hotel Employees Local 54 have been waiting months for a promised raise to bring their pay into line with that of other casino hotel and restaurant workers in the resort city, while management stalled and stonewalled. Atlantis strikers, mostly women, are walking the scenic Atlantic City boardwalk with picket signs.

Yodels go stale. Drake Bakeries, Inc., an East Coast baker and distributor of popular junk baked goods like Yodels and Devil Dogs, was the scene of militant strike solidarity the first week in September as bakery workers refused to cross picket lines of striking Teamster truck drivers. The drivers have been on strike for two months, since Drake was taken over by the Rockefeller Group and announced plans to convert delivery routes to franchise operations, making drivers pay to become "independent contractors," buy routes, trucks, and inventory, and lose all employee benefits — all of which would cut drivers' income nearly in half. The Teamster strike began in Philadelphia and is now in place at all Drake sites throughout the Northeast. When picket lines went up Sept. 3 at Drake bakeries in Wayne, N.J., and Long Island City, Holtzville, Farmingdale, Glendale and Brooklyn, N.Y., members of AFL-CIO unions including the Bakery and Confectionery workers honored their lines and shut down operations. Drake accounts for fully 50% of the junk sweet market in the Northeast, according to company

president Christos Christodoulou, and the company will be hit very hard if the strike solidarity holds for another week.

Cruising with exploitation. While the weather is cooling and vacation season slowing down, cruise lines are still doing big business taking people down to where it's hot and sunny. But the International Maritime Union (IMU) is asking vacationers, "Don't have fun at someone else's expense" on a Carnival Cruise Line or Bermuda Star Line ship. The boycott of the two cruise lines is based on gross exploitation of ships' crews, including 12-to-16-hour workdays, "turn-of-the-century wages," no pay for Sundays or holidays, seafarers paying for their own medical expenses and receiving inadequate treatment, seafarers paying for round trip air tickets to and from ships, plus \$700 "fee" to get the job, and on and on. According to the IMU, Carnival and Bermuda are "definitely not floating fun ships," despite their advertising campaigns to the contrary.

NBC strike. Workers have been out on strike against NBC for ten weeks, and the company continues to block any move toward an acceptable contract settlement. NBC's most recent act was to walk out of negotiations on Sept. 2, after again failing to pound the union into submission on its key demand to hire non-union workers to perform union jobs. The strike centers on job security for writers, engineers and technical staff and, despite the hardships of a long struggle, strikers are holding out well, with frequent strike rallies and strong picket lines.

NFL talks. The strike deadline is in mid-September for the National Football League and management intensified its anti-union posture on Sept. 1 with an attack on a leading union activist. Brian Holloway of the New England Patriots, player representative to the NFL Players Association, was traded away by Coach Raymond Berry as retribution for appearing on national television representing the union the night before. Protection for union representatives is one of the demands on the table, along with an improved pension plan, better grievance procedures and improved working conditions and benefits — all of which are important to the majority of players who don't earn star salaries and have no job security.

Shelley Ettinger

Carl Jacob — he let people hear the truth

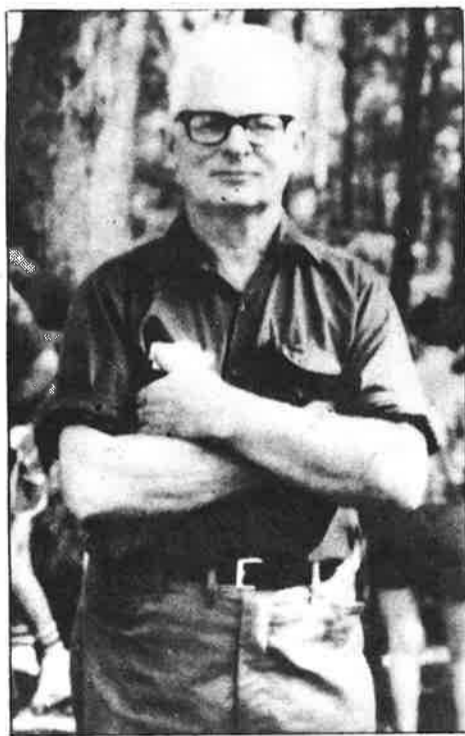
Carl Jacob, well known in the New York-New Jersey area as a skilled sound technician and progressive activist, died of a stroke on Sept. 3. He was 72 years old.

Born in Kansas in 1915, Jacob joined the Merchant Marine in the turbulent days of the 1930s, becoming exposed to both the mechanical trades and the radical politics that were to shape the rest of his life.

After the Second World War, he became a pipefitter and member of the Steamfitters Union. While working in San Francisco, he met his wife, Dorothy, a social worker, and together they moved to Denver, Colo., where they became active in the local movement for peace and justice. Concerned about the shortage of sound equipment available for demonstrations and rallies, Carl began to accumulate the microphones and loudspeakers that became his contribution to the movement.

"Carl deeply believed in the causes of justice and peace," Dorothy Jacob told Workers World. "He had a great need to let people know the truth. And providing sound at the rallies and the marches was his way of helping in the struggle."

After settling in Crawford, N.J., Jacob became well known through the area, bringing his vanload of sound equipment to anti-Reagan demonstrations in Philadelphia, housing marches in Jersey City, N.J., and labor rallies in New York



City. On Aug. 30, he was in Hartford, Conn., providing the sound for the march and rally in support of Puerto Rican political prisoners.

"Carl was always a radical politically," said Dorothy Jacob. "He went wherever he was needed. He brought the message to the people."

A memorial service will be held Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. at Washington Square United Methodist Church, 135 W. 4th St., New York.

Phil Wilayto

'Upbeat' describes Labor Day 1987

By Lallan Stein

On Labor Day 1987 trade unionists made a powerful demonstration of unity in the fight for pay raises, the right to a job and an end to contract concessions. Banners were raised in support of workers' struggles around the world.

"This is an upbeat march, the largest we've seen in years," a representative of the New York City Central Labor Council told Workers World. The council estimated that marchers in New York City numbered over 200,000 and said the turnout indicated an upswing. Unions in the city have grown 5% in the last three years to include 40% of the workforce.

A great surge in the participation of Black, Latino, Asian and women trade unionists made the march upbeat. This was best exemplified by the Garment Workers Union, whose membership consists of workers from all around the world. Contingents like this also had a large number of women and were active in raising the political issues.

The fieriest chanting — "We want more pay" — came from AFSCME Local 1549 which is composed of clerical workers. Their placards demanded, "Koch settle our contract now."

There were placards which read, "Fight plant closings and layoffs." The Coalition of Labor Union Women carried a banner, "Empleos, no guerra, jobs not war." The Machinists carried two coffins signifying the burial of giveback bargaining and two-tier

wage systems. The IUE float demanded child care and pay equity. TWU signs read: "Don't privatize public jobs."

International solidarity

An outstanding banner carried by Black, Latino and white service workers read: "Local 144 SEIU marches in solidarity with South African trade unionists and all workers' struggles around the world." Many unions raised the call for freedom in South Africa. UAW District 65 sponsored an African National Congress (ANC) contingent.

There were placards demanding an end to contra aid. Some of the signs linked the struggle against the U.S.-contra war in Nicaragua to the struggle against apartheid.

Bringing struggle against apartheid home

Responding to the growing incidence of racist attacks in New York, Musicians Local 802 and UAW District 65 had signs calling for opposition to racism and racist violence.

There were signs showing labor's opposition to Reagan's latest appointment to the Supreme Court. "Bork no! Civil rights yes!" was a Food and Commercial Workers union sign.

An AFL-CIO float along with signs from a great number of unions called for a health care plan to cover everyone.

Nearly all the unions carried banners in support of the Farmworkers'

struggle against unsafe pesticides: "Don't buy poison grapes."

NABET, on strike against NBC, and the Paperworkers, on strike against International Paper Company (IP), requested all of labor's support.

Hospital Workers 1199 demanded, "Justice for home care workers." And the flight attendants requested, "Don't fly TWA." Leaflets called for a boycott of Hormel and Consumer Reports for using union-busting tactics.

UAW District 65 took an important initiative by sponsoring the Lesbian and Gay Labor Network along with representatives from the Oct. 11 march on Washington.

An organization of disabled people was hosted by the Transport Workers. Bus drivers, glad for support from the disabled, pushed wheelchairs along the march route.

The Greyhound workers' union sponsored the bike messengers' Independent Couriers Association. These workers, mainly poor oppressed youth, have been hit hard by Mayor Koch's bicycle ban. They brought up the end of the march in pouring rain. "Are we wet? No!" they chanted. "Ban Koch! We want the streets back!"

Also on Labor Day, over 500 union-

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WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

New York City Labor Day.



New York City Labor Day. WW PHOTO



New York City Labor Day. WW PHOTO

— Michigan

Continued from page 1

of people turned out, lining the parade route elbow to elbow for miles. Virtually the entire community came out to honor the sitdowners. This reflects the deep-seated labor consciousness in the Flint area. Following the parade, a beautiful monument commemorating the sitdowns was dedicated in downtown Flint.

The UAW Jackson Educational Council made a special float for the Flint parade under the saying, "Jackson says sitdown against plant closings and layoffs," featuring "Queen Kong" sitting down on one of the plants. The float was pulled by a truck which carried a coffin made up by the Jobs and Justice Fightback Committee which listed the many GM plants being shutdown.

'A job is a right!'

This contingent of the Job is a Right campaign also carried several banners and signs protesting the plant closings and layoffs. It received a tremendous response from the huge crowd as it marched through downtown Flint. The crowd joined in chanting, "A job is a right, we're going to fight, fight, fight."

The Job is a Right Campaign passed out 500 signs stating, "Fight for a moratorium on plant closings and layoffs," which were eagerly received and displayed on about 75% of the floats. Flint is already being hard hit by GM's plant closings and layoffs.

Detroit's parade

In Detroit, over 100,000 people turned out Sept. 7 for the annual Labor Day Parade. The parade featured militant contingents from the Detroit Federation of Teachers, and UAW 2500 from Blue Cross-Blue Shield. Both these unions went on strike last week. Other strikers present included USWA Local 13765 from Karmazin Corpora-

tion in Wyandotte fighting proposed company wage cuts and takebacks; and UAW 985 members from Quinco Tool who have been on strike since September 1985.

The theme of the parade was "Jobs and economic justice" and the fight to stop plant closings was expressed throughout the march. UAW Local 15, representing the GM Fleetwood plant which is scheduled for closing in December, led a contingent in a march from the GM building to the parade. They carried signs saying "Moratorium — a job for every American — fight to ban plant closings and layoffs."

UAW Local 22 from the Cadillac plant, also slated for shutdown in December, had a contingent which brought together labor and the community. The local printed hundreds of signs which read "A Job Is a Right." Marching with UAW Local 22 was a large group of young, Black football players carrying the local signs. The UAW Local 22 float won the award for best float in the parade.

The demand for a moratorium on plant closings and layoffs was raised by many locals in the parade. The Job is a Right Campaign signs were very popular. The Campaign joined the Wayne County Unemployed Council in raising a special banner demanding jobs and decent wages or income for those already out of work.

There were several banners commemorating the freedom struggle in South Africa. Many workers wore ribbons opposing U.S. intervention in Central America.

Workers World Party marched in the Detroit Labor Day Parade with a banner that read, "Only socialism will end racism, unemployment and war. Support workers' struggles in South Africa, south Korea, Latin America, the Philippines, Middle East and the U.S."

Services for Blind workers win union struggle in Philadelphia

By Betsey Piette Philadelphia

September 6 — Labor Day in Philadelphia was marked by the victory of 35 workers after a week long strike over unfair labor practices against the Associated Services for the Blind (ASB). While the outpouring of labor and community solidarity for the striking workers was notable, it was the ASB workers themselves who made this strike particularly inspiring.

Along with the traditional picket signs announcing their demands, these workers carried white-tipped canes and were aided by seeing-eye guide dogs. The majority of ASB workers are blind or otherwise visually impaired.

ASB translates and produces books and magazines in Braille for the Library of Congress and other institutions. In April, the ASB Employees Group won union recognition after a two-year long struggle. However,

while mandated by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to negotiate for a contract, ASB has refused to give the union employee information as required by law, and refuses to acknowledge the union's right to file grievances.

On Aug. 10, union President Louis McCarthy told a supervisor to stop harassing a union member, or he would "slap him with a labor practice charge." The company supervisor claimed that this was a physical threat and had a warning letter placed in McCarthy's file, threatening to fire him. Demanding that the letter be removed, workers responded on Aug. 27 by first staging a sit-in in the cafeteria and then walking out to set up a picket line.

The ASB workers are unanimous in that their strike was for union recognition. McCarthy told Workers World, "This is not a personal issue. What happened to me could happen to any of the workers. This is a clearcut attempt

Continued on page 7

ANC appeals for support for political prisoners

By Monica Moorehead

The following statement was issued by the African National Congress Political Prisoners Committee. It is a call for international support for political prisoners in South Africa who all face execution.

Since this statement was issued, two political prisoners, Moses Muyanda Jantjes and Mlamli Wellington Mielies were sent to apartheid's gallows for the "crime" of fighting against the fascist, racist regime.

The heroic freedom fighters, the majority in their 20s, and their supporters are calling upon the international community to come to their defense, to launch a campaign to save their lives and the lives of all South African political prisoners.

Awaiting execution in Pretoria, there are now one woman and 29 men who have been convicted on charges directly related to the vicious repression in the country today. Their trials arose as a result of the people's resistance to the corrupt system of puppet "community councilors," resistance to the war the regime is waging against the people of the townships, resistance to the persecution of trade unionists and political activists.

It is now no longer possible to count the number who have been killed and injured as a result of repression and resistance in South Africa. The police and army of the regime have carried out massacres in Soweto, Uitenhage, Duduza, Mamelodi and other places inside the country, as well as over the

borders in Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The police and their agents, the armed vigilantes, roam the townships harassing, kidnapping and often shooting on sight; people have been shot while simply walking in the street; young children have been shot while playing in the doorways or in the backyards of their homes. Elected leaders and spokesmen of trade unions and local democratic organizations have been found murdered — sometimes horribly — in mysterious circumstances. No one has ever been arrested and charged for these crimes.

Indeed, it seems that some activists are being brought to court and framed on serious charges.

Those on death row now are political prisoners. The terrorists of South Africa are still walking free. These political prisoners are:
Six from Sharpeville, sentenced December 1986:

1. Mojalefa Reginald Sefatsa (30)
 2. Reid Malebo Mokoena (22)
 3. Oupa Moses Diniso (30)
 4. Theresa Ramashomola (24)
 5. Duma Joshua Khumalo (26)
 6. Francis Don Mokhesi (29)
- Two from Tzaneen, sentenced June 1986:
7. Solomon Mankopane Maowasha (20)
 8. Alex Matshapa Matsepene (23)
- Three from Oudtshoorn, sentenced September 1986:
9. Patrick Manginda (23)
 10. Desmond Majola (27)
 11. Dickson Madikane (26)
- Two from Sebokeng, sentenced September 1986:
12. Josiah Tsawane (29)
 13. Daniel Maleke (19)
- One, sentenced in Jasenville:
14. Elile Webushe
- One from Colesburg, sentenced 1986:
15. Paul Tefo Setlaba (22)
- Four from Addo, sentenced January 1987:

16. Mziwoxolo Christopher Makaleni (22)
 17. Makheswana Menze (43)
 18. Ndumiso Silo Siphenuka (26)
 19. Similo Lennox Wonci (22)
- One from Durban, sentenced to death three times, April 1987
20. Robert McBride (23)
- Three National Union of Mineworkers members from Vaal Reefs mine, sentenced to death four times, May 1987:
21. Tyeluvyo Mgedezi (28)
 22. Solomon Mangaliso Nongwati (38)
 23. Paulos Tsietsi Tshelana (38)
- Six from Queenstown, sentenced June 1987:
24. Mzwandile Gqeba (22)
 25. Mzwandile Mninzi (27)
 26. Theminkosi Pressfeet (30)
 27. Wanto Silinga (27)
 28. Monde Tingwe (23)
 29. Lundi Wana (20)
- One from Soweto:
30. Bekisizwe Ngidi (19)

Campaign to save their lives!

A campaign to save their lives has been launched in South Africa by the South African Youth Congress, supported by the United Democratic Front, the Release Mandela Campaign, the National Union of Mineworkers, the South Africa National Students' Congress and the National Education Crisis Committee. They are asking people to write to:

The Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, House of Commons, London SW1, England;

President Reagan, The White House, Washington, D.C.;

Chancellor Kohl, Bundeskanzleramt, Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany; asking them to use the influence of their governments to stop the hangings. They are also asking people to write to:

The State President, P.W. Botha, Union Buildings, Pretoria, South Africa, demanding a reprieve for the 30.

Free all South African political prisoners! Death to apartheid!



Haitian peasants mobilize to keep their land.

PHOTO: HAITIAN INFORMATION CENTER

Reaganites promise more guns for Haitian junta

By G. Dunkel

The military government of Haiti was recently assured of continued U.S. backing after a meeting between some Pentagon generals and Elliot Abrams, the assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, and Gen. Williams Regala of Haiti's provisional National Council of government. Abrams is also one of the architects of U.S. policy against Nicaragua.

The news from Haiti, supplied to Workers World by the Haitian Information Center, is chilling and documents how the army aided the massacre of more than 300 peasants at Jean Rabel this summer and how it is serving the interests of the large, feudal landowners and U.S. agribusiness.

Peasants in Haiti have been losing their land and their livelihood in ever-increasing numbers since the mid 1970s. In the north of Haiti, the most impoverished section of the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, some progressive priests organized peasants into a movement called Tet Ansanm (Heads Together) to resist the landlords, in particular the Lucas and the Poitevien families.

When the hired thugs of these families and the Tontons Macoute ambushed and massacred the 300 members of Tet Ansanm this summer, the army sent in a special Tactical Unit which joined the posse hunting the rebellious peasants and seized or de-

stroyed pick-up trucks, a nursing station and an adult literacy building belonging to Tet Ansanm. Nicol Poitevien boasted on national television in Haiti of having supervised the execution of 1,042 "communists" in Jean Rabel.

The Lucas family is closely associated with the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID) office in Jean Rabel.

It is AID, with the backing of the World Bank and the Haitian government, which has developed the plan for expropriating 1.5 million Haitian peasants in the next three years and substituting cash crops and large farms for the small subsistence farms that feed most Haitians. While these international sharks call their plan a "Development Plan," the people of Haiti call it the "Starvation Plan."

The brutality, massacres and poverty are not confined to Jean Rabel. In late August, some priests associated with Tet Ansanm were attacked on the road 60 miles north of Port-au-Prince (the capital). A moderate, centrist candidate for president was hacked to death 25 miles east of the capital by some thugs who claimed he was a "communist."

Most politicians are afraid they will lose their lives if they run in the election that the U.S. claims will restore "democracy" to Haiti. These elections are just a cover for the same old gang, minus a few old faces, doing the U.S. bidding in Haiti.

Haitian man's death in Boston dramatizes fight against dictatorship

By Coco Wells and Phebe Eckfeldt Boston

The death here of a Haitian man has sparked militant protest by the Haitian community against continued U.S.-backed repression and murder in that country.

On Monday, Aug. 31, Antoine Thurel died of self-immolation on the steps of the Massachusetts State House. A sign he left behind stated that he was protesting the Haitian military regime's oppressive policies which include torture and murder by the Tontons Macoute, a former secret police organization whose members are now a part of the national army. Thurel's death brought hundreds of members of Boston's Haitian community out

into the streets.

According to Leo Josef of the weekly newspaper Haiti Observateur, "The exile community has a tradition of being at the forefront of the fight against dictatorship. Now that the same kinds of repression are happening, they have kept people on their feet and the opposition light burning."

On Thursday, 300 people picketed the federal building in downtown Boston. At Thurel's funeral today over 2,000 people marched through the streets chanting and holding signs and banners reading, "Haiti is not for sale, USA stop interfering in Haiti's internal affairs", and "U.S. imperialism out of Haiti." Many wore red and blue armbands, the colors of the Haitian flag.

— Labor Day

Continued from page 5
ists rallied in Albany, N.Y. Special honor was paid to Steelworkers Local 3701, which is on strike against the St. Joe Mining Co. Placards demanded an end to plant closings, the apartheid system in South Africa and racism at home.

In Chicago, thousands of trade unionists marched on Sept. 4. The liveliest contingent was Auto Workers Local 558 who invited workers in the A

Job is a Right Campaign to join them. Two radio stations and a TV station picked up on the action.

Cleveland unionists celebrated the hundredth anniversary of their first Labor Day march. The Postal Workers Union drew applause with a banner that read "Solidarity from the mines of South Africa to the factories of South Korea!"

And in Maine, over 3,000 gathered in one of the largest Labor Day rallies to take place in the state. The Paperworkers strike in Jay brought the huge turnout. Eighty-five IP strikers from Pennsylvania also came up to the rally.

Korean strikers stage plant, city hall takeovers

By Sharon Shelton

On Sept. 2 in the industrial town of Pupyong, 18 miles west of Seoul, striking south Korean autoworkers staged a militant occupation of the Daewoo car plant's administrative offices to dramatize their struggle for higher wages, decent hours and the right to their own unions. Not only did the strikers take their bosses captive, but they forced them to kneel to the ground and publicly apologize for their past crimes against the workers.

This is just one among many incidents that demonstrate that striking workers across south Korea, workers who only a few short months ago had never participated in a job action, are feeling their muscle as the strike wave that has engulfed the country since late summer intensifies.

During the first week of September alone, strikers occupied at least nine plants in separate actions across the country. One such protest occurred at the Hyundai shipyard in Ulsan, a southeastern industrial center, where workers resumed a strike begun in August. Police attacked strikers who were trying to occupy a luxury hotel outside the shipyard gate and drove them into the shipyard, where they seized the administration building.

Takeover of city hall

Even more dramatic, however, was the Sept. 2 storming of Ulsan's city hall, where the shipyard strikers smashed windows and furniture and burned politicians' cars. Earlier in the day, nearly 20,000 of the strikers had marched and driven forklifts and trucks through the streets in a mass protest that paralyzed parts of Ulsan.

The resumption of strikes at three of Hyundai's eleven plants, which were called off in mid-August after the government intervened and the company promised to recognize the union, shows that government "mediation" did little to resolve the struggle. The workers had been promised a settlement, but after the Sept. 1 deadline for it passed at some of the plants, it became clear that the company was not showing good faith, and the workers walked out.

The Hyundai strike is just one of more than 750 job actions underway

as of Sept. 3, according to the south Korean Labor Ministry. Coal miners, dock workers, bus drivers and employees of small assembly plants are all now off their jobs in a country where strikes are technically illegal.

In Seoul, drivers of more than 90% of the 15,400 company-owned taxis are on strike. Indicative of the depths of the feelings of these workers, one striker poured flammable liquid on his body and set himself on fire, shouting, "Do not crush union activity!"

Students protest

The opening of fall classes on Sept. 1 saw student struggles on 19 campuses across the country. One of the largest was held at Seoul National University where students fought with cops, chanting, "Execute Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo!" (Roh is head of the ruling party of south Korea) and "Topple the military dictatorship!" The students also chanted anti-American slogans and expressed support for strikers.

The Seoul protest involved students from Yonsei University and Ehwa Women's University. The student body presidents of all three schools

were arrested last month, and their release was one of the demands of the rally.

Repression unleashed

Fearing for its very survival in the midst of this explosion of workers' and students' struggles on the heels of last summer's mass political demonstrations, the U.S. puppet regime of Chun Doo Hwan has begun massive round-ups of the workers.

On Sept. 4, police stormed into the workers' dormitories at the Ulsan Hyundai shipyard and fought with strikers before arresting 100. A virtual occupation force of 7,000 cops had been shipped into the area and families of executives evacuated only days before.

The same day, police in Pupyong attacked workers and arrested 100 at the Daewoo auto plant, which is a joint venture of the Daewoo group and General Motors. Also, in Jungjam in eastern south Korea, 105 striking coal miners were arrested.

In all, over 500 strikers were rounded up at work sites throughout the country. These police dragnets coincided with ongoing arrests of stu-

dents and other activists whom the regime tried to blame for "fomenting" the workers' upsurge — as though the south Korean workers don't have reason enough to struggle!

Terrible job conditions

South Korean workers labor an average of 57 hours a week, the longest work week in the world. Wages average only \$1.75 an hour. Job conditions are truly dangerous: Last year, 1,550 workers were killed on the job, and 141,809 people suffered job-related accidents.

Over 2,000 U.S. companies profit off these terrible working conditions. So pervasive is U.S. imperialist control of south Korea that its military is under direct command of a U.S. general, and the occupying force of 42,000 U.S. troops is what props up the hated dictatorship.

Before the current upsurge, there were almost no strikes in south Korea. But there have been 3,200 of them so far this year. Clearly, the south Korean workers are fed up with the pro-big business, anti-worker Chun Doo Hwan regime — as well as the profit-gouging U.S. imperialists behind him.

U.S. secret role in Philippine coup

By Andy Stapp

A year-and-a-half ago the Reagan administration was deep in a dilemma over "what to do about the Philippines." Should it back its old friend the dictator Marcos or push its new friend Aquino?

For a few days Reagan alternately gave his blessing to the one, then the other. Both Marcos and Aquino are, after all, very wealthy, both are bitter enemies of the New People's Army (NPA) guerrilla insurgency, both are "friendly" to the large U.S. military presence and the 200 U.S. companies that have invested more than \$1 billion exploiting Filipino labor.

This very summer, Aquino issued a new hundred-peso note carrying the images of the Philippines and United States flag!

In February 1986, Washington finally dumped Marcos. Aquino got the nod.

But now everything is back to square one. The Aquino regime has been less than a roaring success against the NPA, which has grown from around 22,000 fighters in 1986 to 24,000 today. And the bosses of big U.S. firms such as Nestle and Kimberly Clark Corp. are complaining that her government has not been able to enforce back-to-work orders against workers' strikes.

All in all, from the imperialist standpoint, this is a weak regime, one that might have to be replaced. On the other hand, Aquino's civilian-democratic facade is an asset, as opposed to another military junta in the Marcos tradition. So what to do, support Aquino or Col. "Gringo" Honasan, the leader of the latest coup attempt?

Washington's secret role

Once again, the answer seems to be to do both. While Reagan professes support for Aquino in public, the people in the Philippines see the hand of the CIA and the Pentagon in the recent military uprising aimed at ousting her.

"Government eyeing possible U.S. role in coup," reads the banner headline in a Manila daily. "Washington blamed for Friday's coup attempt," says another.

According to the Manila Standard, Col. Honasan is aboard a U.S. aircraft

carrier. The Independent, another newspaper, reports that "two white men in a white Puma helicopter landed at armed forces headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo at the height of last Friday's coup and approached Honasan, who was camped there with his men."

The newspaper quotes a witness, "I heard one of the white men say in a loud voice, 'I have instructions to get you out of here for the good of your country and the cause you are fighting for.'"

Honasan charges that Aquino is "too soft" on the NPA. Wherever his current whereabouts, his forces claim to have set up a provisional government in Central Luzon's Region 3 — the area that includes two gigantic Pentagon installations, Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base!

Some Filipino newspapers report that the colonel is actually at Subic Base right now. No one in the U.S. Congress, among all those who profess to admire Aquino so much, has even dared to ask the Pentagon if this is true.

But Aquino's Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto has said he would launch a

probe into the question of U.S. involvement. An "After Battle Report" issued by his office says flat out that Col. Honasan had discussed "CIA support for destabilization" with fellow plotters before launching his aborted putsch.

Little of this information is available in the U.S. press, which pretends that Washington, the old colonial master in the Philippines, has nothing to do with what goes on over there.

Whatever the pervasive control the U.S. exercises over the government in Manila, however, there is one aspect of Philippine events totally beyond Washington's grasp. The imperialists do not call the shots with the NPA, which last week launched a big offensive. The guerrillas prevailed in a pitched battle only 40 miles from Manila itself, while carrying out 14 other assaults simultaneously elsewhere around the country.

It is this growing NPA army that created the bitter rift in the conservative factions that run the country. And it is the NPA which will end the puppet parade by freeing the Philippines from U.S. military, political and economic domination and exploitation.

— Philadelphia

Continued from page 5

at union busting." A strong union is seen as prerequisite to winning wages and benefits that could lessen dependency on government programs for disabled workers.

The ASB strikers were joined on the picket line by representatives of the Delaware Valley Union of the Homeless, 1199C Hospital Workers Union, Transit Workers Union, the International Union of Operating Engineers, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, National Lawyers Guild, United Labor Action, Teamsters, All-Peoples Congress, the National Federation for the Blind and AFSCME. ASB strikers told this reporter of the solidarity of truck drivers and a U.S. mail carrier who refused to cross the line, and a working supervisor who called in sick so he would not have to violate the strike.

Mass picketing on Thursday was successful in preventing any ASB personnel from entering the workplace. Later that afternoon, the nine-day strike ended with a mutual agreement to let the NLRB settle their differences, and a temporary suspension of McCarthy's warning notice pending the NLRB ruling on the union's unfair labor-practice charges.



Labor Day Caribbean style. A million to a million and a half people turned out for the yearly Caribbean festival on Labor Day in Brooklyn, N.Y. Among the many floats, food stalls and musical groups was a "Free South Africa" stand of the People's Anti-War Mobilization, which was quite popular.

WW PHOTO: PAT CHIN

MARXISM AND MATERIAL INCENTIVES

The Soviet reforms and the capitalist market/Part 6

By Sam Marcy

(Sixth in a series.)

September 4 — In his report to the plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee on June 25, 1987, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev said:

"Democracy in all walks of life is expanding and deepening. Public organizations are displaying more initiative. Democratic principles are gaining momentum in production management. Public opinion is coming across loud and clear. The media is working more actively for renewal. An offensive is in progress against bureaucratism. Bossy, pressure management is gradually being overcome. Important changes are taking place in the work of cadres as fresh blood is injected.

"The democratization experience convincingly shows that we are on the right road. This offers good prospects for perfecting our political system and society as a whole."

Of course, every socialist, every progressive can only hope that this is becoming the reality in the Soviet Union.

Inertia and stagnation

Earlier, in his report to the 27th Party Congress on Feb. 25, 1986, Gorbachev had said that "difficulties began to build up in the economy in the 1970s, with the rates of economic growth declining visibly. As a result, the targets for economic development set in the CPSU Program . . . were not attained."

"The main thing," he continued, "was that we had failed to produce a timely political assessment of the changed economic situation, that we failed to apprehend the acute and urgent need for converting the economy to intensive methods of development, and for the active use of the achievements of scientific and technological progress in the national economy. . . . By inertia, the economy continued to develop largely on an extensive basis, being oriented towards drawing additional labor and material resources into production. As a result, the rate of growth of labor productivity and certain other efficiency indicators dropped substantially."

In a word, inertia, conservatism and bureaucratism have inhibited the proper growth of the socialist economy.

Of course, this is not the first time in recent decades that there has been a call by a congress of the CPSU for a struggle against bureaucratism, for the broadening of democracy, for the observance of legal norms against high-handed methods of political procedure and production methods. The 20th Congress in 1956 was notable for precisely that, as well as later congresses. There has, in fact, been a continuous stream of calls for greater democratization of the organs of the party and government, especially in economic affairs.

Today, however, it is envisioned on a much broader and more intensive scale.

Nor is the scientific-technological revolution an altogether new phenom-

enon in the USSR. It was reported, discussed and acted upon in the 25th and 26th congresses, and even earlier. The whole gigantic effort to industrialize the country since the October Revolution of 1917 has been one giant effort to apply the latest findings of science and technology to industry as efficiently as was possible at the time. This is not to overlook, of course, the very severe, extremely harsh methods utilized during some periods of socialist development.

The current problem relating to the scientific-technological revolution differs in that over the last few years, maybe as long as ten years, there has been a slowdown in the growth rate of the economy, according to Secretary Gorbachev.

Global effects of scientific-technological revolution

The fact is that the scientific-technological revolution is a global phenomenon, that has taken hold particularly in the most highly developed capitalist countries. One of its fundamental aspects is that, as against previous phases of development, this one has meant a quantum jump in scientific and technological progress.

To some extent, it has developed more rapidly in the leading capitalist countries than in the USSR. So that, to prevent a wider disparity in scientific-technological development, it is necessary for the USSR to also take a qualitative leap, as Secretary Gorbachev has said.

But how is this to be done?

We know how it is being done in the leading capitalist countries: by a massive and continuing attack on the living standards of the working class, by plant closings, outsourcing, the creation of offshore facilities in the less developed countries, etc. But most of all, this almost seven-year-long wage-cutting offensive against the workers has manifested itself in an enormous shift to low-paid jobs that far outweighs the creation of some high-paid jobs among the more skilled and in the high-tech industries.

Hence, high-tech means low wages. We elaborated upon this theme in the book *High tech, low pay: A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class* (WW Publishers, 1986).

It is conceded by most bourgeois economists that the scientific and technological leap made in recent years in such capitalist countries as the U.S. has resulted in the phenomenon of low-paying jobs, especially in the service industries, and that this is gradually making its way into high-tech as well. But the whole thing is masked by the continuing relative growth of the capitalist economy.

The question is: Is this phenomenon occurring in the socialist countries as well, above all in the USSR? That would seem utterly contrary to and inconsistent with the entire history of socialist development in the USSR.

Economic content of democratization

So that the core issue in the Soviet reforms is how to deal with the phe-

nomenon of the scientific-technological revolution. First, of course, the democratization process is exceptionally necessary. This scarcely needs to be said. However, there is the question of the economic content of the democratizing process. Who benefits from it and who may possibly be hurt by it? Which social groupings voice their views first and which don't we hear from?

We know that the imperialist bourgeoisie hails the utilization of the new democratic processes by certain neo-bourgeois elements, and conveys the impression that they are all there is. However, that is to take a narrow view of the inherent possibilities for socialist democratization and the participation of the broad mass of the workers. Indeed, in his report, Gorbachev called upon the creative energies of the masses and for their broader participation.

Still, we have to look at the economic content of the democratization process and see how it affects each stratum of the population and which have given voice to their views.

The Soviet restructuring reforms naturally raise the question of how they will affect the wage levels of the workers. To the workers this is one of the principal issues. Of course, the wage problem has to be viewed in connection with the whole plan. Wages have to be considered in the totality of the situation of the USSR, not as an isolated phenomenon.

Reforms and material incentives

An article on this subject entitled "Economic reform in the USSR: Material incentives are part of restructuring" was distributed last March by Novosti Press Agency. It was written by Gennadi Pisarevsky, who is identified as a political analyst.

"From each according to his ability, to each according to his work," says Pisarevsky, "is the main principle for the distribution of material benefits under socialism. The better a person works, the more he should get from society. This is social justice as we see it, but we now see it being violated."

How is it being violated?

"Regrettably," Pisarevsky goes on, "we have lost much of our ability to control the quality and quantity of labor. As a result, the earnings for bad and good work have become largely the same. The wages for skilled and unskilled labor do not differ much, either."

This is surprising, if not astonishing, since the difference between skilled and unskilled workers in the USSR has long been recognized as an inevitable carryover from capitalism. The author presents no wage data to demonstrate his thesis. In fact, no data appear in the article whatever.

However, he asserts that "the engineering profession has become much less prestigious." (This strikes us as highly questionable.) "The incomes of all working people have been growing, but those of unskilled labor have been rising even more quickly. Now a worker with the highest qualifi-

cations gets just 50% more than a low-skilled newcomer.

"Without solving this problem," Pisarevsky continues, "a tangible acceleration in economic development is unthinkable."

Higher paid to get more

The economic reform, according to him, therefore rotates around the higher paid getting more — at the expense of the lower paid, if we take the national income as a whole into consideration.

According to Pisarevsky, "The improvement of the pay-according-to-work system and the introduction of new wage and salary schedules are a major part of the radical economic reform which is taking place in the USSR. This should be completed . . . in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period (1986-1990).

"The gist of the reform is a dynamic switchover of the economy as a whole and each enterprise in particular to a self-financing scheme. Every enterprise should pay for itself, so to speak, rather than getting subsidies from the State Budget, as often happens now."

According to our understanding and to the basic reports emanating from the 27th Congress, including the report of Secretary Gorbachev and others, the gist of the reform is the modernization and retooling, the introduction of new, high technology and the phasing out of older technology. That is the basic material foundation of the reform.

That will raise the productivity of labor in an intensive way, rather than by extensive methods, as Gorbachev says was done previously. But it signifies the displacement, as we have indicated earlier, of a great number of so-called excessive workers. Hence, the imperative necessity of retraining those workers expected to be eliminated by the scientific-technological revolution.

Retraining of displaced workers essential

Of course, vast sums of capital have to be invested in the new equipment. But an equal if not greater portion of the national budget must be allocated to the retraining of the workers who inevitably will be eliminated as a result of the retooling, the phasing out of obsolescent plant and equipment and even whole industries. By the end of the plan conversion this will amount to millions of workers. That's where the money has to go. That, it seems, is the ABC of the whole process.

However, according to Pisarevsky, the fundamental changes to be made are not the scientific-technological revolution, the modernization of the plant and equipment and the replacement of obsolescent plants and tools, but rather are in the social sphere: changing the relations between the managers, the skilled and the unskilled, which incidentally results in lowering the pay of the less-skilled worker.

Not a word is mentioned about the staggering problem of retraining the lower-paid workers. The change which he envisions, and he says is based on the 1986-90 five-year plan, thus runs dangerously close to the way in which the restructuring process is proceeding in the capitalist countries.

Pisarevsky says the gist of the reforms is a dynamic switchover to a self-financing scheme. Every enter-

To our readers

This issue of Workers World omits many features usually found in these pages in order to accommodate the important analysis of the Soviet economic reforms by Sam Marcy, chairperson of Workers World Party, and the full-page ad on page 3 launching the Building Fund campaign.

prise should pay for itself instead of getting subsidies from the state.

But how would the Soviet space program, for instance, ever have succeeded if it hadn't received subsidies? Such subsidies are the product of the labor of many millions of workers, whose contribution to the state budget pays for not only the space program but for the defense establishment in its entirety, just to give one example.

(It should be interjected here that the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie, which is always advising the USSR to solve the problem of consumer goods by cutting into heavy industry and its defense budget, has itself been on the wildest spree of military spending ever, to the tune of over \$2 trillion in the Reagan years alone. This of course has forced the USSR to divert more of its resources to defense.)

Some Soviet industries could never have been developed, let alone survive, without subsidies from the state. What is the meaning, then, of "self-financing"?

What about regional differences?

"But how will this plan be introduced into practice?" Pisarevsky asks. "All enterprises are state-owned in this country, and the state should not prefer some over others. But today ministries often take part of the profits from enterprises which do well in order to subsidize those who don't. This practice is unjust and, naturally enough, will be abolished. But there should be equal pay for equal work."

There are many regions of the USSR which are still less developed than others. The task of socialist construction is to raise them up to as high a level as possible, which certainly means subsidies of one form or another. One can never equalize all the regions, but this is precisely one of the great missions of socialist reconstruction.

He then continues: "The wages of workers will go up by 20% to 30%, and the salaries of high-level executives, specialists and professional people will be raised 30% to 35%."

"Workers who service processing centers, program-controlled tools, robotics and automatic lines" he says, "will get the biggest increase in wages. They will receive special rates which will be from 40% to 45% higher than today. The bonus for higher qualification will also be substantial. All in all, 75 million Soviet people will have their wages and salaries raised."

The reform of the pay-according-to-work system, says Pisarevsky, will result in greater autonomy for individual enterprises and greater responsibility for the results of their work. "The management has been given the right to raise the earnings of the best specialists by a quarter of their wages or salaries. True, this right can be abused. . . . To avoid this, the management is obliged to present its decision before the trade union committee and the entire work collective."

This view of the plan marks a sharp shift in favor of the higher-paid workers and all the executives, specialists and higherups. Pisarevsky offers no data on the ratio of skilled to unskilled workers or what industries, enterprises and regions will be most affected and no mention if any high-tech equipment will be used or what role it will play in raising productivity.

Is problem equality or inequality?

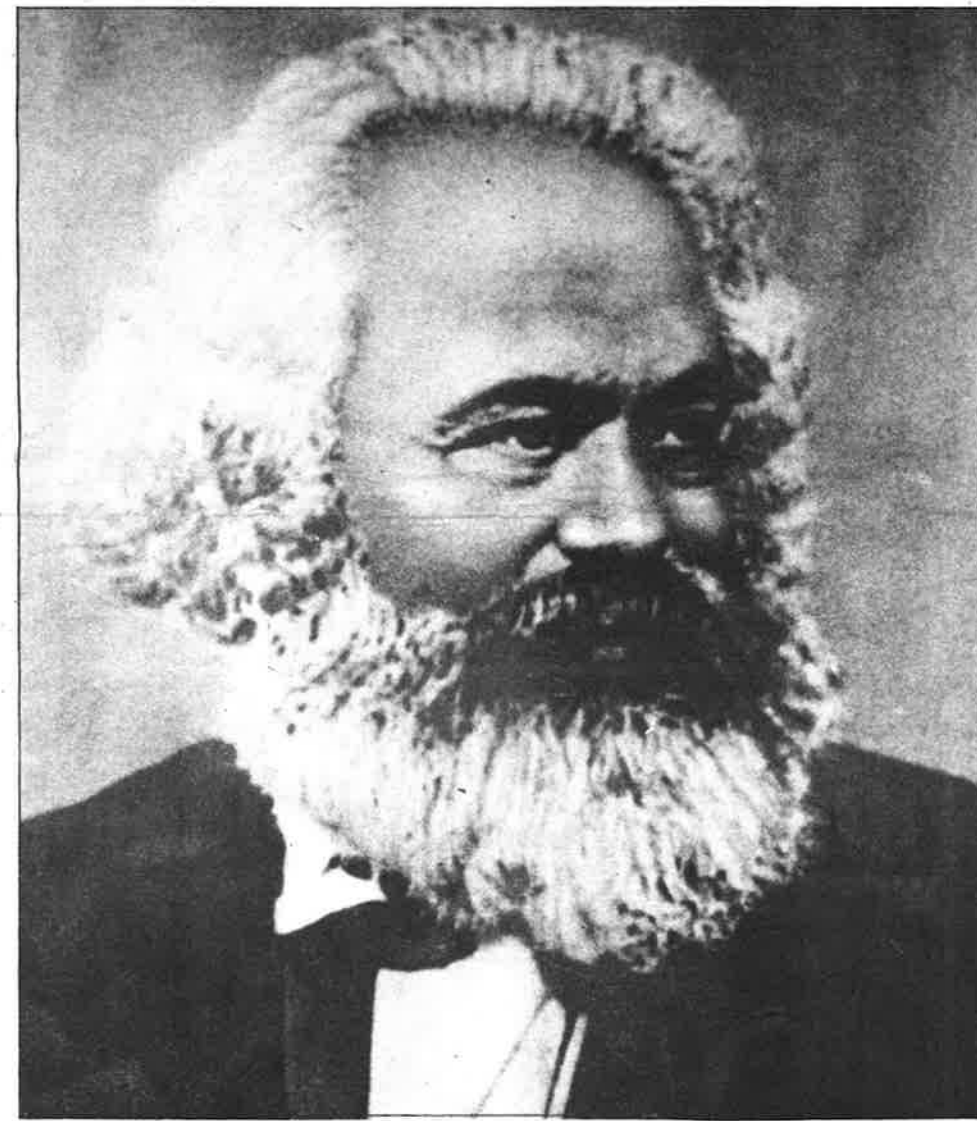
Lower-paid workers, he claims, have been getting much more than they should while the higher-paid ones have been losing ground. Such a picture is completely at odds with what we've known about the USSR for many decades. On the contrary, one of the problems is and has been the disparity between the lower-paid and average workers on the one hand, and the higher-paid workers and general officialdom of the state apparatus on the other. The many privileges they have

been entitled to are considered enormous by comparison.

The last time there was a significant rise in the wage level of the lower-paid workers was in 1956. There was a rise of about one-third in the lower categories of salaries and pensions, and pensions were drastically revised in favor of employees with low earnings. The method of payment by piece rate was largely abandoned in favor of hourly wages.

All this happened immediately following the 20th Congress, during the Khrushchev era. But this substantial rise for the lower-income workers was balanced in time by increased wages to the higherups and above all by the systematic rise and application of material incentives. We really know of no significant increases for the lower-paid workers that were not balanced out by material incentives for the higherups.

According to Pisarevsky, the plan's "implementation will become one of the most important events in the life of Soviet society, so these measures were discussed in detail in 150 work collectives. The reform was approved by a majority of the working people."



Karl Marx, and Lenin after him, anticipated both the great advances for the workers and the bourgeois limitations that would persist during socialist construction, that is, during the lower stage of Communist society as it evolves out of capitalism.

A majority of the working people approved it. He doesn't say how large a majority, whether it was 51% or 91%. He doesn't tell us what kind of collectives these are, from what industries or regions, or the character of the discussion. Most of all, he doesn't say whether the trade unions participated in the discussions and what their views are.

He concludes, "Now the main principle of socialism — from each according to his ability, to each according to his work — will finally have a chance to be proven in practice."

Wages lowered in some collectives

Now let us see another version of how the reforms are working. It's an article in Pravda of July 25 and deals with a report by the First Secretary of the Bryansk City Party Committee.

"How is restructuring coming along in the economic sphere?" Secretary A. Kurasov asks. "Though there are difficulties, progress is nevertheless

being made. Economic work has been stepped up in the labor collectives. Factors contributing to intensification are being applied more persistently, and the targets for labor productivity have been exceeded. The general level of fulfilling contract obligations has risen as well. . . . The province also handily met its quotas for the sale of meat, milk and eggs to the state during the first six months of the year. Major construction continues to improve. . . . The rate of increase in capital investments for social needs this year was 2.3 times higher than the rate for the economy as a whole."

So far, so good.

"But," continues the Pravda report, "here's the other side of the coin. Wages have gone down in a number of collectives. There have been such cases at the Bezhitsky Steel Plant, the piston ring and telephone equipment plants in Klinty, the Kokorevka Furniture Factory and several other enterprises. These enterprises failed to stabilize their work and fell into a difficult economic situation. As is well known, wages have become more closely tied to end results nowadays."

We thus see that all is not as well as

prove the system of payment for labor, and to inculcate the truth that every ruble of wages has to be earned."

No mention here of new technology, retooling or phasing out of old equipment or the introduction of retraining programs.

Abuses by managers

Wage padding is not something initiated by workers from below. This is an abusive practice of managers. It is a survival of the practice in capitalist governmental agencies and businesses of "no show" jobs where officials collect the wages for themselves. For this reason alone, the authority of the enterprise committees and of the trade unions as the central organs to combat this should be reinforced. Wage padding and other practices should not be used as a basis to hand out higher wages and bonuses to the higherups, especially the very high, supposedly to increase productivity.

The article urges a switch over from quantity to quality work and accountability for money spent, but just how is not made clear. Suffice it to say that the phenomenon of lower wages in some collectives shows there's something amiss here.

At the same time, Pisarevsky says that management has been given the right to unilaterally raise the earnings of the best specialists by a quarter of their wages or salaries. If this right is abused, if, for instance, "an executive . . . give[s] this bonus to his friend or to those whom he needs for his own purposes," only then is management "obliged to present its decision before the trade union committee and the entire work collective."

Of course, this is far superior to what happens in capitalist society, where the owners of a corporation can enforce whatever decision they make upon the workers, especially where there are no effective trade unions.

However, it is a departure for the USSR from previous practices. Managers had authority, but never so wide and sweeping. Their authority related to the production process, the management of the plant or the enterprise. The wage rates were primarily the function of the trade unions — of course, as part of the planning process of the whole government. The trade unions are not autonomous organizations, nor are they expected to be; they are part and parcel of the national planning process and an integral part of the government.

Important role of trade unions

Thus the question of wages generally and material incentives in particular for management, specialists and others is a matter of deep concern for the trade unions, and should be at their upcoming congress. Such matters cannot be left to the individual judgment of the managers, only to be approved after the fact by enterprise committees. Such a procedure reduces the significance of the trade unions as a fundamental organ of the workers in the process of production and in the planning process in general.

Under Soviet law, the unions have a constitutional right and obligation with respect to this very critical question. If, as Gorbachev's statement says again and again, one of the objectives of the reforms is to democratize all the institutions of Soviet society, the arrogation of such vast responsibility by the managers of the enterprises goes against this very concept.

As long ago as the 26th Congress of the CPSU, then-secretary of the party Leonid Brezhnev stated, "The constitution of the USSR has greatly enhanced the role of public organizations in the development of our democracy. The largest of these are the trade unions."

"The trade unions have the task above all of protecting the rights and

Continued on page 10

Gennadi Pisarevsky claims. Some wages have gone down. The report in Pravda doesn't say by how much or how this is possible in a plan that is aimed at increasing wages for all, as outlined in Pisarevsky's article. How could this happen?

Why should "failing to stabilize the work" result in lower wages for those who worked? Who is responsible for the stability of production? Isn't it the managers? Is this what is meant by wages being tied more closely to end results?

The Pravda report also adds, "Construction collectives that used to live by inflating their production figures and that widely practiced wage padding are also in a difficult situation. What can be done? It's quite clear that a return to the old way of doing things is impossible. That means there is only one path: to raise the quality of work everywhere, to clearly and concretely explain to people the measures that are being implemented to im-

MARXISM AND MATERIAL INCENTIVES

Continued from page 9

interests of the working people and actively dealing with everyday social questions. Of course, they would be unable to do much in this sphere if production did not develop and if labor productivity did not rise. It is precisely because our trade unions are dedicated to the working man's interest that their duty is to show a concern for a boost in production."

"Of course, the trade unions take a direct part in the management of production. There were at the time of the 26th Congress "more than 70 functions of management [which] cannot be performed without the consent of the trade union committees. Twenty functions were in the competence of the unions." (From Brezhnev.)

The sweeping powers now granted to management cut all this down and reduce the role of the trade unions in reality. However, one thing should be borne in mind which is to the great advantage of the workers in the USSR: under the Soviet constitution, according to Brezhnev, "the trade unions have a rich arsenal of forms and means to exercise their rights." These go beyond having workers' meetings. They have the right to "permanently function in production conferences and collective agreements" and, what is of exceptional importance, the "right to legislative initiative."

(No union has the right to legislative initiative in a capitalist government!)

Unions defend workers' interests within framework of planned economy

In this country we hear only of the neobourgeois elements in the Soviet Union and their criticisms; we never hear what really springs from the interests of the workers, who are concerned with strengthening and deepening socialist reconstruction.

Aside from the general problem of material incentives — their functions, parameters and limitations and their advisability in certain historical circumstances — the question is how they are to be awarded and who is to judge.

It seems that the shift is decidedly in the direction of greater management prerogatives, to the detriment of the unions, whose chief responsibility is the well-being of the workers. Bourgeois ideologists in capitalist countries are constantly applauding every move made by the Soviet government which seems to indicate the independence of management and the general loosening of the planned economy. Some reports actually call for the absolute independence of the unions from the government.

This is false and destructive in a socialist society and planned economy. No institution can be independent, and least of all the unions that have primary functions in production and in the planning of it. Their functions are many and are not inconsistent with the objectives of socialist construction or the scientific-technological revolution.

The bourgeois press continually distorts decentralization, hoping it will lead to the liquidation of socialist planning and its substitution by the capitalist market. Overblown bureaucratic practices and excessive centralization of course impede the development of the economy, and it may be necessary to distribute some functions to lower organs of government and to different regions of the country. But it's another matter entirely to arrogate

to the managers sweeping authority as against the enterprise committees and the trade unions.

The example of the Bryansk case shows it is the proper function of the unions to correct the situation. That is why they have the constitutional right of legislative initiative to correct not only local but national matters in accordance with the plan. These are safeguards built into the planned economy.

Pravda on composition of working class

An article in Pravda last Oct. 24 summarized the growth of the working class in the Soviet Union and its relation to modern technology:

"Over 61% of the workers are employed in manufacturing, construction, transport, communications and other industries. Every fourth worker is engaged in the services. Workers account for approximately half of the farming personnel and about a third of the employment in science and related services.

"... The level of organization of the working class has risen. Almost all blue- and white-collar workers belong to trade unions.

"... What is it that stimulates the working class as the main social force behind the countrywide acceleration process? The economy of the supreme type of organization and efficiency, which is our objective, requires workers of a new technological outlook, efficient citizens prepared, vocationally and psychologically, for change in the technological base of the production sector."

However, "low blue- and white-collar skills are a brake on new technology. Material and moral losses from personnel incompetence will grow with a switch to more advanced technology."

Need to focus 'material incentives' on raising level of unskilled

Well then, if material incentives are a principal stimulant for increasing the pace of the scientific-technological revolution, if accelerated growth is the objective, and if low skills are blocking the road, then it should follow that the material incentives, if they are to be applied anywhere, should go to the low-paid, unskilled workers, not to the executives, the managers and other higherups.

"Material incentives" should be focused on the unskilled, particularly on retraining those whose jobs are to be eliminated by the new technology and automated advances. They must be turned into a force for the development of the means of production instead of being a brake on it.

This is confirmed in the Pravda article. "We still have big numbers of unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Also, the knowledge of many skilled workers is already obsolete. The progress of research and engineering and plant renovation would step up the obsolescence of blue- and white-collar skills."

This is precisely the problem in the capitalist countries with the advent of the scientific-technological revolution. However, the Pravda article correctly calls for "advanced training and retraining schemes. Without such programs, we will not be able to avoid economic losses (from new technology under-utilization) and social losses (which can arise because of difficulties with the employment of workers of outdated trades). Much is being done in this respect. In the late 70s and early 80s, 7-7.5 million workers were learning new trades a year. . . .

"In that period, the 27th CPSU Congress admitted, signs of stagnation appeared. Personnel's activity was on the decrease, and the working class's major social values and honest work and collectivism became depreciated. Outdated management leverage and the emphasis on 'improving things without changing anything'

avored those who wanted to receive maximum from society with minimum effort. There are still many such persons on the shop-floor level."

Why pick on the shop-floor level? Are they the cause of it? Or does personnel mean, as hinted in the previous sentence, those in the governmental, that is, bureaucratic apparatus? Putting it all on the workers on the shop-floor level is incorrect.

"The nation sustains economic and moral losses from slack and slipshod practices, breaches of factory regulations, drink abuses and embezzlement." Who are we indicting here? Embezzlement, considered a white-collar crime in the capitalist countries, mostly concerns the high managerial staff, including the bosses themselves. Breaches of factory regulations by whom? By workers only, not by management? Why link this with drink abuses, which are usually attributed to the workers and not to those in high places? Furthermore, alcoholism is a social disease and requires social solutions, not merely legal restrictions.

The article concludes that "most workers are for socialism's principle, 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his work,' and against egalitarian wages and dishonest incomes."

Blaming 'egalitarianism'

Here we see egalitarianism lumped together with drink abuses and embezzlement. It seems that whenever there is a new five-year plan, and the wage scale naturally figures prominently in it, the egalitarians come in for a drubbing. The loudest voices are always the Pisarevskys and the professors unconnected with the process of production. Usually they have some authority behind them, which may not be all that clear but nevertheless seems to be omnipresent.

Secretary Gorbachev spoke of "leveling" in his report to a plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee on Jan. 28, 1987: "New principles have been worked out, and are being implemented, for raising pay in productive spheres. We have taken the unwavering course of abandoning wage leveling and consistently maintaining the socialist principle of distribution in accordance with the quantity and quality of one's work."

We are unaware that any such wage-leveling tendencies have been in progress in the Soviet Union in recent decades. Nor have we been able to find out when, if ever, they were abandoned.

Throughout the history of the working class, terms like levelers and egalitarians have been hurled against the working class as an epithet. The charge is that the workers' struggle for Communism aims to level the wealth of society and divide it among all on the basis of equality.

At one time long before the Marxist era, when the workers were first emerging as a class, there were numerous Communist sects which talked about a kind of egalitarian society. Some of these utopian groups, like the very early Christians, envisioned an ascetic sort of Communism based on poverty — rather than on abundance, which of course is the aim of scientific revolutionary Marxism.

Sects like this existed in Europe around the time of the Reformation, as depicted in Karl Kautsky's book, *Communism in Eastern Europe* (not to be confused with modern-day Europe).

Genuine Communism, the Communism of Marx, Engels and Lenin, assumes a society where the productive forces have grown to such dimensions that it is possible to meet all the needs of society, when the bourgeoisie and its state have disappeared along with all class oppression and distinctions. No such society can exist unless the productive forces have attained the level of assuring abundance for all.

Lenin on equality

With respect to democratization in the program of the 27th Congress, it's important to remember what Lenin said about democracy. "Democracy means equality," said Lenin. "The great significance of the struggle of the proletariat for equality and the significance of equality as a slogan, are apparent if we correctly interpret it as meaning the abolition of classes."

Lenin went behind the political form of democratization directly to its class significance. His exposition has significance for our discussion about the restructuring and the reforms. "But democracy means only formal equality. Immediately after the attainment of equality for all members of society, in respect of the ownership of the means of production, that is, of equality of labor and of equality of wages, there will inevitably arise before humanity the question of going further from formal equality to real equality, i.e., to realizing the rule, 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.'"

Formal equality, which manifests itself in the bourgeois distribution form of wages, is a transitional period and, says Lenin, "there will inevitably arise before humanity the question of going further," thereby recognizing the transitional character of formal equality, crossing the narrow bourgeois horizon and going to real equality, which has been the aim of all Communists since Marx and Engels wrote *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848.

Attacks against levelers and egalitarians in the Soviet Union in our view represent the unwarranted defense of privileged positions in Soviet society, of exorbitant and highly excessive remuneration paid not just to highly skilled workers (that really isn't such a big problem) but to the so-called specialists, managers, the top notch of the managerial staff and the higherups in the governmental apparatus as a whole.

Petty bourgeois levelers vs. workers' struggle for equality

While every type of protest against privilege is characterized as coming from levelers and egalitarians, the working class as a whole does not entertain such crude, petty bourgeois notions of equality. However, workers do understand the significance of the growth of social inequality, the widening of pay scales and growing social differentiations in the proletariat as a result. This is what rubs the workers the wrong way.

The workers, of course, know that socialist equality will come primarily as a result of the growth of the productive forces. Hence the significance of the application of the scientific-technological revolution, which is necessary for the gradual abolition of all class distinctions. The workers realize only too well, however, that the best they can get under present circumstances is equal pay for equal work.

Let us now take up the formula "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work," or as Secretary Gorbachev puts it, "the socialist principle of distribution in accordance with the quantity and quality of work."

Marx's formula on socialist distribution

It's highly questionable whether this is a socialist principle of distribution, or if it is a socialist principle at all. The theoretical origins for the formula, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs," can be found first in Marx's *Critique of the Gotha Program* (1875) and later in Lenin's summary of it in *State and Revolution* (1917). Those are the two principal sources for the theoretical formulation of distribution in socialist society.

According to Marx and also Lenin,

CALENDAR

BALTIMORE

Sat., Sept. 19: Panel discussion on Crisis in Education: Why the schools are falling apart. Workers World Forum. 7:00 p.m. at 426 E. 31 St., call (301) 889-9318.

NEW YORK CITY

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 19 & 20: All-Peoples Congress Rummage-Collectible Sale. At P.S. 41, 11th St. and 6th Ave. Call (212) 741-0633.

Sat., Sept. 26: "AIDS and lesbian and gay rights — a fightback approach." Workers World Forum. Also, film "Greetings from Washington," of 1979 march for lesbian and gay rights. Donation. Wheelchair accessible. 7:00 p.m. At 146 W. 25 St., call (212) 255-0352.

ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Sun., Oct. 25: "Marxism and the lesbian and gay struggle." Workers World Forum. At New Life Community Church, Monroe Ave., call (716) 342-5707.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., Sept. 19: "A fightback perspective on the AIDS crisis." Workers World Forum. Wheelchair accessible. Call ahead for childcare. Donation. 7:30 p.m. At Women's Building, 3543 18th St., call (415) 826-4828.

Sat., Sept. 26: Fundraising party to help cover transportation costs to the Oct. 11 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Call (415) 826-4828.

Join us in the struggle

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

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

Atlanta: P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, Ga., 30301 (404) 662-6417.

Baltimore: 424 E. 31 St., Baltimore, Md. 21218 (301) 889-9318

Boston: 186 Lincoln St., Room 602, Boston, Mass. 02111 (617) 426-5626

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

Chicago: P.O. Box 6510, Chicago, Ill. 60680 (312) 489-3829

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

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

Hartford: P.O. Box 14411, Hartford, Conn. 06114

Houston: P.O. Box 52115, Houston, Texas 77052 (713) 524-4462

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

Milwaukee: P.O. Box 16223, Milwaukee, Wis. 53216

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

Philadelphia: P. O. Box 17116, Philadelphia, Pa. 19105 (215) 626-8704

Rochester: 816 Joseph Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 544-5409

San Antonio: P.O. Box 10510, San Antonio, Texas 78210

San Francisco: 3181 Mission, No. 29, San Francisco, Calif. 94110 (415) 826-4828

Seattle: 1017C E. Pike, Seattle, Wash. 98122 (206) 322-6478

Washington, D.C.: P. O. Box 43841, Washington, D.C. 20010 (202) 667-3957

Political prisoners



Brandley supporters mobilize for hearing

By Joanne Gavin
Houston

The Coalition to Free Clarence Brandley is urging all justice-loving people to join them in an all-night vigil on the grounds of the Montgomery County Courthouse in Conroe, Texas, Sept. 20.

Besides calling attention to the innocence of the seven-year death row inmate Brandley, they hope to insure that county officials will be unable to exclude them from the Monday morning evidentiary hearing.

A previous hearing in the case was held prior to normal court hours and before the arrival of a busload of

Houston supporters. Conroe's Black population was also shut out on that occasion.

A Monday morning picket is also planned on behalf of Brandley, a Black man framed to take the blame for the murder of 16-year-old Cheryl Dee Ferguson of Beeville, Texas, during a sports meet at Conroe High School in August 1980.

Brandley was then supervisor of the school's otherwise white maintenance crew. Dubious evidence of rape was "discovered," and the charge added in order to whip up racist hysteria over the murder of the white student and to ensure Brandley's conviction.

In the year that the mass-based coalition has joined the Brandley family's long battle for Clarence's life, they have won an indefinite stay of execution, investigations by the state attorney general's office and the U.S. Justice Department and this new hearing.

The latest victory in the case was to force the withdrawal of Judge Lynn Coker, who will now be subpoenaed as a witness who "has personal knowledge of disputed evidentiary facts," according to defense attorneys.

It is hoped the hearing will result in a new trial and exoneration for Brandley. For information and transportation call (713) 521-0629.

Letters from behind the walls



AIDS education project

AIDS is now by far the main cause of death in the New York State prisons. Yet many prisoners remain woefully uneducated about the true nature of the disease and how it is spread. The front-line of defense has to be education.

The main purpose is to save lives by providing inmates at Auburn Correctional Facility with health education on how AIDS is spread and how to prevent it. With systematic and qualified prisoner-to-prisoner education, we can significantly curtail the spread of AIDS among inmates as well as to the outside community to which most prisoners eventually return. A related goal would be to provide counseling and support for inmates already afflicted with AIDS.

Specific goals of the program are to have inmates, trained as AIDS education counselors, set up specific and thorough seminars with various inmate organizations, develop an education presentation that would reach every inmate at Auburn, sponsor special educational programs such as movies, slide shows, skits and speakers, prepare a special pamphlet that speaks directly to prisoners — about their concerns and in their language, write articles for the Auburn Collective, establish an information and counseling office, work with pre-released prisoners, coordinate AIDS educational work with existing substance abuse programs, provide counseling and support for those inmates already afflicted with AIDS and fulfill other needs and goals that will emerge from these initial efforts.

We have formally applied to the Auburn administration to be allowed to establish such a committee, which would be under the sponsorship and guidance of the Central New York AIDS Task Force.

There is widespread support among

prisoners here for such a project. However, outside support is probably crucial to whether the administration will permit a committee and such a comprehensive program.

If you feel that some program along these lines would be valuable, we'd appreciate it if you wrote to Superintendent Robert J. Henderson, Auburn Correctional Facility, 135 State St., Auburn, N.Y. 13021 and Commissioner Thomas A. Coughlin, III, Department of Correctional Services, Building 2, State Campus, Albany, N.Y. 12226.

This proposal is very simply about saving lives.

Mujahid Farid
Angel Nieves
David Gilbert

Comstock letter #1

Please be advised I am a Muslim political prisoner being held captive at KKKomstock State Prison. Here is an update.

April 11: Brother Eric Shakur Johnson died of asthma as a direct result of the gross negligence and deliberate indifference to his health, well-being and life by the facility's medical department and kkkorrectional personnel.

April 24: Brother Abdullah Kasiem was arbitrarily confined to IPC for his legal endeavors on behalf of the deceased, Brother Eric Shakur Johnson.

May 15: Several persons of the Muslim community were charged with internal disciplinary violations for plotting the death of a kkkorrectional officer in retaliation for the death of Brother Eric Shakur Johnson.

May 16: Leaders of the Muslim community were transferred to maximum prisons all across the state in a diabolical scheme to destabilize and annihilate the Muslim community.

July 7: Freedom fighter Brother Bashir Hameed (aka James York) arrived at Great Meadow and was im-

mediately and arbitrarily and maliciously confined to IPC for political reasons and "his organizational abilities and leadership qualities would be a severe disruptive influence to the Muslim community."

July 25: IPC prisoners were transferred to B-1 and B-2 SHU-punitive segregation and subjected to extremely severe deprivations without due process of law.

Keeping in mind that we have not violated any rules or regulations, we have filed grievances and complained to Supt. E.W. Jones, but to no avail. We are in dire need of . . . a legal firm who may be interested in a class action suit. Abdullah Kasiem

Comstock letter #2

On July 20-24, I along with seven other Puerto Rican and Muslim brothers got gassed, rushed and assaulted. This situation got so critical that on July 25 me and 13 other brothers got moved to a segregated block in the prison.

We are presently being subjected to be in cells with plexiglass coverings, along with being forced to wear mechanical restraints (arm and legs), put on a restricted diet which many of us don't eat because it has meat. Our mail, showers, property and legal assistance is being harassed and threatened, along with many other violations and human and civil rights violations.

This is just one of the many oppressive and assaultive tactics that these officers, brass and administration have also done against us Black and Hispanic prisoners. These people need to be exposed because they are the real criminals in blue-white-civilian suits and casual dress.

Society must be made aware of what is truly taking place in these torture chambers in this neo-Nazi police state.

Antonio Curcio

— Atlanta angry

Continued from page 1

face down, and as Watson was handcuffing Callahan, Long ran up and emptied his gun into Callahan's back. The county medical examiner reports that Callahan suffered five contact wounds in the back and one wound in the side, fired from a short distance.

Callahan died instantly from the six wounds inflicted by expanding dum-dum bullets, which are outlawed as inhumane in warfare. The ammunition was recently permitted by the city after a several-years-long campaign

by police. The cops claim that these more lethal bullets are safer because fewer shots are required.

The case that police used to win the dum-dums was the shooting of a man in a crowded shopping mall in a Black neighborhood. Several cops emptied their guns into the dying man. Long, who has been on the police force only 20 months, was one of the triggermen in that case also.

Speakers at Monday's rally addressed many grievances besides police brutality. They described a community like a war zone. The streets are lined with junk cars and burned out or abandoned buildings. Most of the residents are women or children. Unemployment is over 50%. State Repre-

sentative Grace Davis said, "It might as well be South Africa." Others at the rally compared Carver Homes to a Bantustan in South Africa.

Carrie Morris called for unity with other neighborhoods, listing several which have seen police killings in recent months. Only a week ago a deputy sheriff killed a man near her home.

"Police don't respect poor people," she said. "They walk right into your house with no warrant. If they knock at all, they've got one hand on the door knob."

The community is now being mobilized to continue this struggle, which has once again exposed the racist character of the Atlanta police force.

E.U. y la defensa de sus petrodólares:

Razón de intervención en el Golfo Pérsico

Por Lucinda Sintierra

Todo el mundo está observando el Golfo Pérsico. Por el peligro de que los Estados Unidos sea un participante abierto en las confrontaciones de esa área. Ya de por sí se han perdido vidas norteamericanas. La guerra del Golfo parecía lejana y de poca importancia hasta que el Presidente Ronald Reagan anunció que los super-tanques petroleros de Kuwait serían "re-abanderados" y escoltados por naves norteamericanas a través de la zona de guerra. Desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial que no se ha visto una fuerza naval tan poderosa como la que ahora surca las aguas del Golfo Pérsico. La Casa Blanca, que tiene mucho que perder en cuanto a petrodólares y control estratégico del área, se ha abanderado hacia uno de los bandos de la guerra entre Irán e Iraq. Kuwait es un aliado de Iraq en su lucha contra Irán. La maquinaria bélica estadounidense se ha puesto al servicio de Iraq y sus aliados. Hay mucha palabrería de "neutralidad" pero la neutralidad norteamericana ha sido tirada fuera de la borda en las aguas del Golfo Pérsico.

Esta guerra de los tanques petroleros ya lleva años. Tuvo que surgir el escándalo "Iran-Contra," para que sa-

liera a la luz pública todas las maniobras secretas e ilegales para que la ciudadanía tomara conciencia del peligro de confrontación real que el gobierno de la Casa Blanca está llevando a cabo con su política de intervención imperialista. Reagan piensa necesario continuar la intervención norteamericana en el mundo gritando "las líneas de abastecimiento vitales están en peligro."

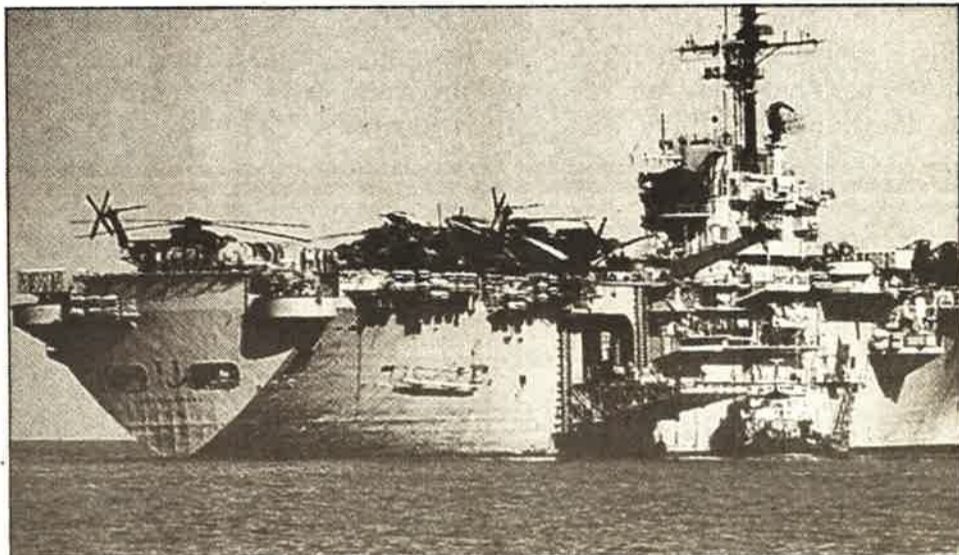
La nueva política tiene toda clase de problemas. A pesar de que la Casa Blanca y el Pentágono dijeron que todo iría bien, no ha sido así. Desde el principio un super-tanque petrolero "re-abanderado" chocó contra una mina y aún continúa averiado en el puerto. Las naves norteamericanas que se suponían iban a proteger a los petroleros, ahora están siendo forzados a moverse en línea detrás de los buques que ellos dicen proteger y resulta lo inverso ya que los protegidos son ellos.

El pentágono tiene 24 buques y 15,000 marineros (muchos de ellos tercermundistas, incluyendo latinos) en el área, con suficiente pólvora para volar la mitad del Medio Oriente.

Los gobiernos de Arabia Saudita y Kuwait están temerosos de permitir

derechos de aterrizaje a los helicópteros dragaminas, a pesar de que son aliados de Iraq y que sus gobiernos son dominados por Washington y Wall Street. Ellos tienen miedo de que si cooperan públicamente con las maniobras de guerra de los EE.UU. que la gente de sus países se rebelarán y habrán levantamientos masivos. La política del gobierno de los EE.UU. de apoyar a

los contras y hacer la guerra contra países oprimidos no es popular ni aquí ni en el resto del mundo. Esperamos una solución pacífica a la guerra entre Irán e Irak. Como pueblo conciente debemos de estar alertas ante todas estas maniobras que emprende la clase dominante de EE.UU. y estar listos para defender a los trabajadores y campesinos del Medio Oriente.



Los aliados del EE.UU., como Inglaterra y Francia, también tienen sus propios barcos militares en el área. Por esta razón, existe una posibilidad de un ataque co-ordinado contra Irán.

Alto a los asesinatos en Colombia

La redacción de este periódico recibió los pasados días una carta abierta demandando detener los asesinatos en Colombia, debido al contenido y lo urgente del caso decidimos publicarla. Esta carta fue elaborada por El Comi-

té de Solidaridad con Colombia y a razón de la reciente arremetida de asesinatos contra sectores democráticos y progresistas de ese país. El objetivo de esta carta, según los compañeros del Comité, es de hacer saber a todas las

organizaciones progresistas en Colombia y en el exterior la gravedad de la situación colombiana y para que de alguna manera sirva para poner coto a estos asesinatos. Para nosotros en El Mundo Obrero es de suma importancia hacer pública esta denuncia, puesto que sabemos que estos asesinatos son parte de una campaña delineada por EE.UU. para terminar con todo movimiento progresista en Latinoamérica. La localización de Colombia es estratégicamente importante para los designios de EE.UU., esto se evidencia al ser el país que más ayuda militar recibe en Sudamérica. A continuación publicamos la carta:

Carta abierta demandando detener los asesinatos en Colombia

Todos los signos visibles de la realidad colombiana evidencian un agravamiento a las múltiples expresiones de violencia y sin lugar a equívocos una quiebra absoluta del DERECHO A LA VIDA. Esta vez, víctimas de la arremetida de oscuros sectores que han encontrado en el aniquilamiento físico y el terror un método para dilucidar la confrontación social e ideológica, caen los médicos Hector Abad Gomez y Leonardo Betancur, los dirigentes sindicales Luis Felipe Perez y Demetrio Aldana, el senador Pedro Luis Valencia y el alcalde de Sabana de Torrez abogado Alvaro Garces. En este último e infame homicidio se encontró en las ropas de uno de los sicarios un "permiso especial" para porte legal de armas expedido por la V brigada con sede en Bucaramanga, distinto al que legalmente expide el Ministerio de Defensa y firmado por el capitán Luis Orlando Ardila. La legitimidad del documento fue reconocida por la Brigada de Institutos Militares y la Procuraduría Nacional. Cada vez se acentúa mucho más en el convencimiento po-

pular que detrás de los tenebrosos escuadrones de la muerte se mueve una mano poderosa que organiza y brinda impunidad a sus actos. Lo nuevo de esta delicada situación lo configura la elaboración de listas negras como una trágica premonición de un plan sistemático de exterminio contra la oposición y los sectores democráticos. Refiriéndose a las responsabilidades y el incremento de la violencia política en esta etapa, el Procurador Carlos Mauro Hoyos afirmó el 30 de agosto de 1986 en Medellín, "Yo he dicho y he proclamado a los cuatro vientos que en Colombia se tortura, se desaparece a la gente; lo hace gente con autoridad, agentes de la Seguridad del Estado, soldados y policías; lo digo yo desde dentro del Estado y no conspirando sino como quien cumple con su sagrado deber". El Episcopado colombiano, el Magisterio, las organizaciones Democráticas y de Derechos Humanos y en sus más variadas expresiones la conciencia nacional, rechazan a los violentos. No es posible cristalizar un proceso de convivencia pacífica mientras se estrangule la vida y se siegue con balas la Democracia. Desde el exterior convocamos a la nación entera, los sectores progresistas y organismos internacionales de Derechos Humanos a levantar su voz de denuncia contra la acción paramilitar; a exigir al señor Presidente Virgilio Barco Vargas y al Gobierno Nacional que se paren los asesinatos y se implementen las medidas enderezadas a tutelar el Derecho a la Vida, a ejemplificar la exigencia de castigo centuplicar a los "nuevos pájaros" y fortalecer las hoy endeble columnas que protegen el Derecho a la Vida Humana.

Atentamente,
Comite de Solidaridad
Con Colombia
Nueva York



La resistencia contra la dictadura chilena continúa

Esta semana varios grupos chilenos en la ciudad de Nueva York llevaron a cabo actividades para conmemorar 14 años de dictadura en Chile. Fue entonces que la clase dominante de los EE.UU. y la burguesía chilena conspiraron para derrocar al gobierno socialista y constitucional de Salvador Allende que fue asesinado por estas fuerzas junto a miles de trabajadores y campesinos. La resistencia a la dictadura y al imperialismo norteamericano seguirá hasta la victoria. Entre los que dieron presentaciones en las diferentes actividades fueron Verónica DeNegri, madre de Rodrigo Rojas que murió quemado el año pasado por los militares en Chile, Cleveland Robinson, secretario-tesorero del Distrito 65 del UAW y vice presidente de la Coalición de Sindicalistas Negros, Zoilo Torres del Congreso Nacional por los Derechos Puertorriqueños. Para complementar estas actividades, el 19 de Septiembre, Illapu dará un concierto de música andina en apoyo a la lucha para la democracia y libertad en Chile. Tomará lugar en el Washington Irving Auditorium at las 7:30pm en la calle Irving Place con la 16 en Manhattan.