

workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

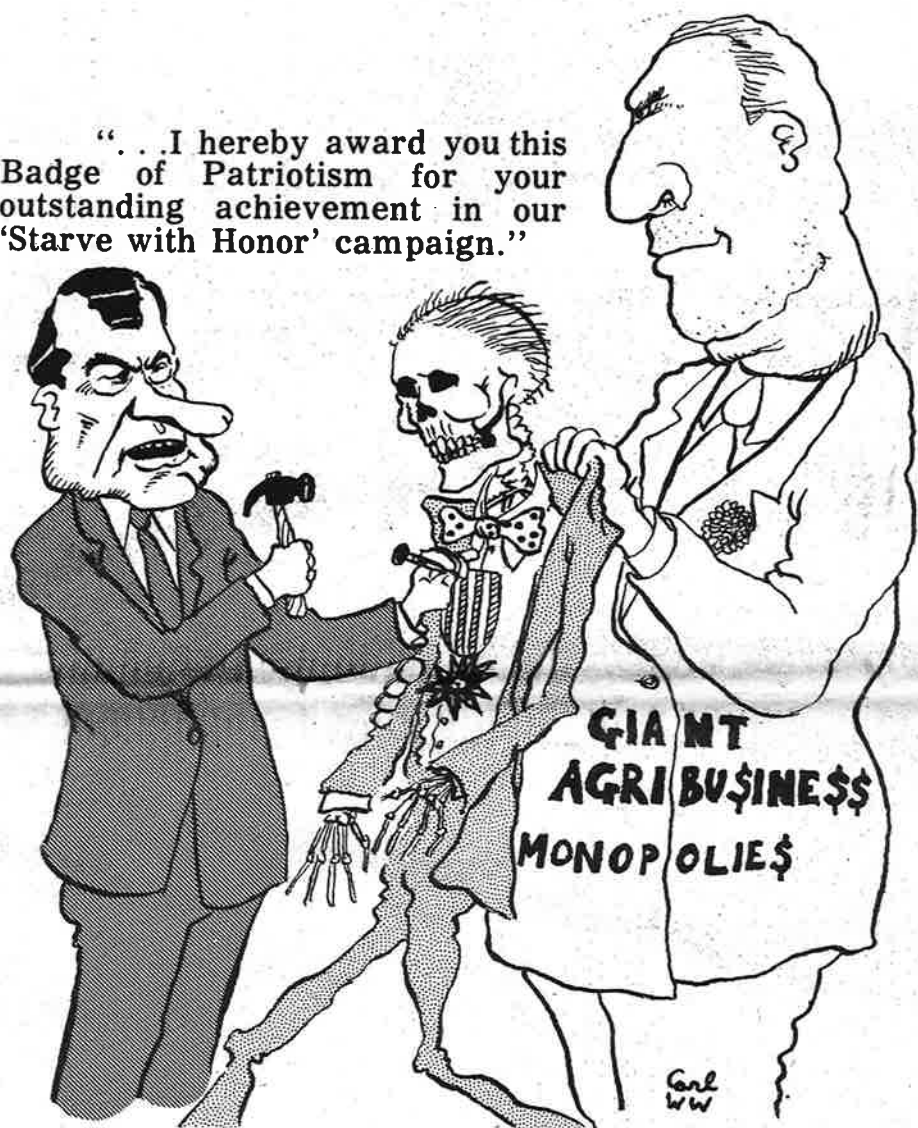
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Vol. 15, No. 7

April 13, 1973

25 cents

"...I hereby award you this Badge of Patriotism for your outstanding achievement in our 'Starve with Honor' campaign."



Prices to rise even more-can you stand it?

We don't need to see the government statistics each month to know that prices are continuing their dizzying rise. Just walk into any store.

But the official figures are startling, nevertheless. The wholesale price index went up more sharply in March than at any time since 1951—the height of the Korean War. And that means that in another few months we're going to feel it in the retail markets. In other words, the worst is yet to come.

Wholesale prices rose in the 1973 first quarter at an annual rate of 21.5 percent! That's four times the suggested wage increase guideline of 5.5 percent. In a truly phenomenal jump, poultry prices went up 20 percent in the month of March alone!

Where is all this money going? And why are prices continuing to rise? Just a moment's thought will show that it is not

(Continued on page 9)

Nixon threatens DRV as Cambodian puppet totters



APRIL 12—As we go to press, ominous signs from Washington indicate that the Nixon administration may be plotting the escalation of open military warfare in Indochina. A meeting of the National Security Council has been scheduled for today, following a meeting between Nixon and Gen. Alexander Haig. Haig is returning from a four-day trip to Indochina which was aimed at making an assessment of the military situation there.

The warmakers in Washington are particularly upset by the resounding victories won during the last month by the liberation forces in Cambodia (see article page 11). Faced with the possibility of the total collapse of the puppet Lon Nol regime, the Pentagon has carried out over one month of saturation bombing of that country, in clear violation of the Paris agreement.

To cover this open violation of the treaty and to hide similar Saigon-U.S. violations in south Vietnam, the Nixon administration has recently issued a barrage of threats against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government. According to The New York Times today, the National Security Council

will be discussing U.S. imperialism's options in Indochina. These include a resumption of U.S. bombing in both south and north Vietnam, renewed mining of the harbors of north Vietnam, and U.S.-sponsored south Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia.

Of course, the Nixon administration never really ended its aggression in Indochina. It has never stopped trying to regain the large territories it lost. However, Nixon was forced to sign a treaty that clearly recognized the existence of the liberated zones in south Vietnam. And he did have to withdraw the U.S. ground troops from that country (although the Pentagon reintroduced military personnel under the guise of so-called civilian advisers).

These gains, won by the National Liberation Front after years of valiant struggle, must now be defended with more vigor than ever. While Nixon & Co. are plotting more war, all friends of the Vietnamese revolution must rally to the defense of the Vietnamese people and demand that the U.S. abide by the peace treaty and get out of Indochina!

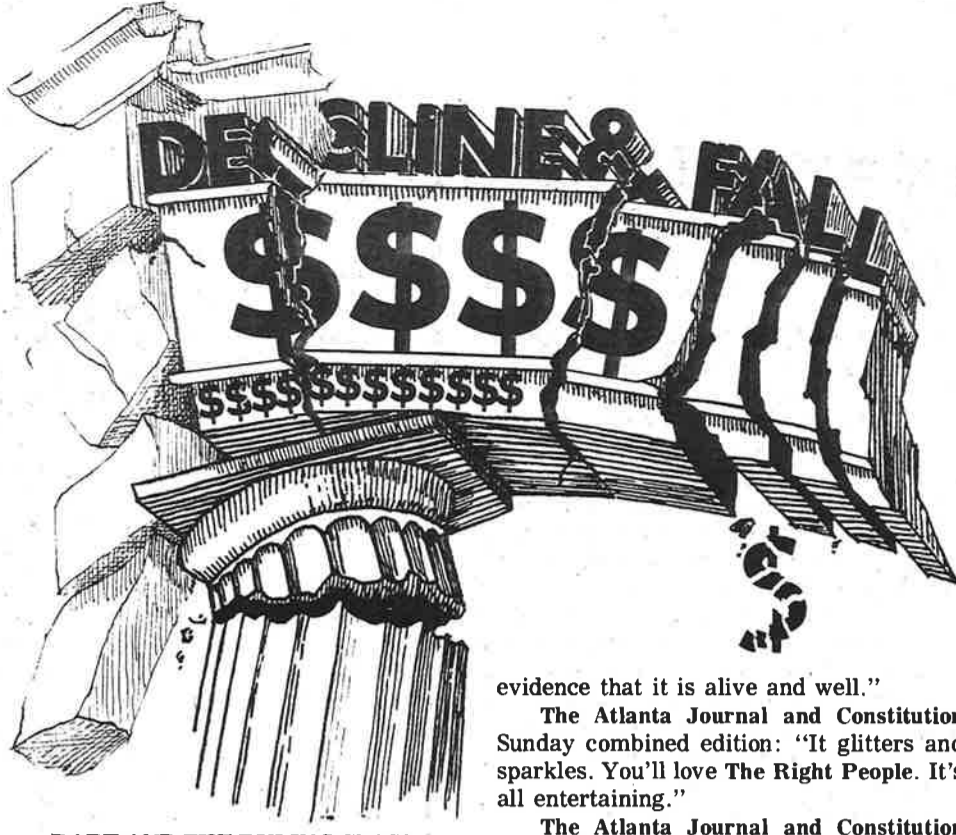
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Gen. Giap and DRV Prime Minister Pham Van Dong greet Cambodia's Prince Sihanouk.

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RAPE AND THE RULING CLASS

Philadelphia's Main Line is one of those metropolitan suburbs like Scarsdale, Lake Forest, Beverly Hills, Chevy Chase, Palm Beach, and Shaker Heights, where the newspaper society pages tell us that only "very nice" people live.

Translated into plain English, this means that only filthy rich people live there.

In his book, *The Right People*, Stephen Birmingham writes: "A Main Line matron confided recently that she was 'really very annoyed' with a young bachelor friend who had been a guest at her home for a weekend. 'I've put him on probation,' she explained, 'and told him that he will not be invited back for at least six months. After all,' she added, 'he raped my maid. After everybody was asleep he went into her room and raped her. You can imagine the commotion it created—absolutely ruined the whole weekend. All the next day she was in tears and wouldn't come out of the kitchen to serve. And there I was with a houseful of guests! She was a treasure of a maid, too!' The lady and her husband had decided 'simply not to mention' the affair to the offending gentleman, but, as she puts it, 'The next afternoon, over cocktails, my husband couldn't resist kidding him a little about it.'"

The capitalist media, which is raising an editorial storm demanding tougher laws against "criminals" and "rapists," apparently finds nothing criminal about a rich slob raping a woman who is a maid in a ruling class household.

Saturday Review called *The Right People*, "a fun book about America's wealthy families, all the creamy people, rich in curiosa and entertaining."

Newsweek commented, "To those who say Society is dead, *The Right People* offers

evidence that it is alive and well."

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Sunday combined edition: "It glitters and sparkles. You'll love *The Right People*. It's all entertaining."

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution may "love the right people," but the working class (presumably the "wrong people" in the capitalist dictionary) has a different attitude toward, and different plans for, these platinum-mounted rapists and thieves.

THE PEOPLE WHO WEAR CASHMERE

The following advertisement is currently running in all the big New York City newspapers:

"Great moments at Frank Brothers. A century of service to well dressed executives. Frank Brothers Pure Cashmere. First choice of the ruling class yields to none for spring.

"Our cashmere collection is very extensive, very choice indeed!

"Start your cashmere collection with our exclusive President sport jacket, in a luxurious two-tone diagonal weave.

"A ruling class fashion for spring. \$185."

AND THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE CASHMERE

On the other side of the world, in the South Asia subcontinent (where cashmere fabrics are produced), the already almost unbelievably low standard of living of hundreds of millions of the victims of U.S. and British imperialism has taken another turn for the worse under continued capitalist rule.

The March 30 St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports:

"In a small village in Gujerat, the mother of a three-year-old boy shrieked at an Indian journalist: 'Why don't you take his photograph? He has not seen or tasted

sugar in his life.'
 "In Rajasthan, thousands of villagers are reported to be eating one meal every two days, and some are said to be on the verge of starvation. In Mararashtra, many villages are without drinking water and thousands of cattle have perished. In Bombay, villagers pour in from the farming areas nearby, swelling the port's pavement dwellers to about 100,000.

"'Please, please,' a barefoot boy whispers as he scampers with his mother toward a tourist. 'Hungry! Food!'"

RACISTS CHEER MAD BOMBERS

What kind of fascist vermin crawled out from their political sewers for the Nixon-Pentagon sponsored "Salute to the POWs" parade that slithered down New York City's Central Park West on March 31?

From a leaflet passed out by POW supporters along the line of march:

"Blacks mug and rape in once-safe neighborhoods, until people are forced to move or suffer the consequences of 'integration.'

"Drugs, VD, and Marxist Propaganda are spreading throughout the schools.

"Leftist traitors fill the streets and the foulest acts of desecration are committed on the American Flag.

"These are the results of 'Democracy'—a system in which no one takes responsibility—and it is leading America down the road to destruction. Rome went to hell in the same way—race mixing, degeneracy, liberalism.

"Mr. and Mrs. White American! Action speaks louder than words and just wait 'til White Americans start taking action."

The scum who printed this garbage are praising the POWs as examples of true American heroes. Why not? These officer-pilots tried to physically carry out in Vietnam the kind of genocide these fascists propose for here at home.

But they got caught, didn't they?

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Because the price of a sub to *Workers World* adds up to a whole month's work for a prisoner getting slave wages, it has been our policy to send prisoners FREE subscriptions. In order to continue, we need your contributions. You may use the blank below to send a free sub to a prisoner.

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Abel surrenders right to strike



on for other union leaders to make similar sellouts.

The voice of the rank and file is yet to be heard, however. Not only the voice of the auto workers, rubber workers, electrical workers, etc., but that of the steelworkers themselves.

If the price rise continues and the general crisis of the system gets any worse, the outcry will be loud indeed. And contrary to general belief—perhaps contrary to I. W. Abel's belief, too—the steelworkers will be among the most effective protesters.

Their protests will not be of the purely parliamentary kind.

banking is the biggest business among the Albany lawmakers. Among the 210 legislators, at least 73 own substantial bank stock, are bank directors, handle legal affairs for banks, or have their political careers substantially subsidized by banks.

Since much of the legislative process in Albany involves decisions about public and private financial matters in this very wealthy state, it might be supposed that conflicts of interest would arise from time to time. The legislators do not view it this way, however. They would rather talk in terms of "cooperation" between business and government as something that is "beneficial" all around. Thus, when Assemblyman Lucio Russo (a Staten Island Republican) was Chairman of the Banks Committee, he was able to arrange a \$325,000 mortgage loan for a Staten Island apartment house builder and then to share in the \$6,500 fee. "I see nothing unusual at having a prospective borrower introduced by a legislator," said Bowery Savings Bank President John Larson when questioned about Russo's windfall.

Another member of the State Assembly Banks Committee is Brooklyn Assemblyman Robert Kelly. Ten months after he pushed through two bills benefiting investment trust companies, he found himself named to a \$5,000-a-year part-time post with one of these companies.

It was their way of saying thanks. Conflict of interest? No, just a mutually beneficial (and apparently legal) "cooperation."

Alfred Lama heads several New York-based architectural firms. Lama used to be an assemblyman. He headed the Banks Committee from 1965 through 1968 but has now "retired" from politics. His firms have found area bankers to be most generous in accepting Lama designs for their new bank buildings.

Understanding that American "democracy" is actually government of the rich, by the rich, and for the rich should make it clearer why so many people are miserable and impoverished in this wealthy and beautiful land.

sellout could not be an absolute one—although for reasons beyond Abel's control.

STRIKE WEAPON NEEDED NOW, MORE THAN EVER

Under the present growing crisis of United States imperialism—nationally as well as internationally—the workers need a free hand to strike or to threaten strike more than they ever have needed it before. This is because the corporations want the workers to pay for the crisis.

The corporations need a no-strike pledge in order to shift the whole burden of the crisis onto the workers' backs.

They have convinced the overfed and overpaid union bureaucrats that "high" wages cause inflation and loss of jobs from "cheap-labor" foreign competition.

And they long ago convinced these lard-headed leaders that they, the corporations, are entitled to their swollen, unlimited profits. (There was a 36 percent increase in steel company profits last year over the year before.)

But Abel is too busy advocating more worker "productivity" (speedup) to even mention such a thing.

The workers themselves, in spite of job uncertainty in steel, are extremely dubious about the whole no-strike arrangement. Several locals have voted unanimously to reject the new contract.

But under the United Steelworkers' constitution they have no power to alter the decision of the Basic Steel Policy Conference. The decision was made on March 28 and 29 at an almost secret meeting of this body. Discussion of the agreement between

without objection, and we know that housing is badly needed in the city. If high-rise buildings dedicated to industry are going up, then why shouldn't housing dedicated to the people's needs?"

The steelworkers' stand is in contrast to the racist position taken by some of the craft unions. Some union "leaders" have held their men back from working on the co-op. And Black workers who have crossed the racists' picket lines have been told they would never work again.

Temple of Kawaida leader Imamu Amiri Baraka has revealed that racist Teamsters Union "leaders" have donated over \$1,000 to Imperiale's racist mob. Outraged Black Teamsters closed down the Newark offices of Locals 97 and 286. Kawaida supporters also picketed the electricians Local 52 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for refusing to work on the project. As a result many members have resigned from the union.

At stake at Kawaida Towers is the right of all poor and working people to have decent housing they can afford.

Kawaida Towers is also a crucial test of the trade union movement. The bosses love to see dissension in the ranks of the army of labor. Union leaders who turn white workers against Black must be branded as traitors and agents of the blood-sucking billionaires.

**VIETNAM ERA
VETS UNITE!**

Demand \$2,500 compensation for time lost in service

**MARCH ON
Washington
MAY 19**

contact:
American Servicemen's Union
58 W. 25 Street, New York, N.Y. 10010
212-675-2520

Abel and the steel companies was not announced before the meeting, and the participants—some of the local presidents, committeemen, etc.—assumed there was nothing crucial about the meeting. And there was no discussion to speak of in the locals.

NO CLAUSE ON SPEEDUP

We hear from Youngstown and the Cleveland-Lorraine area, in particular, that the workers are already grumbling. They are commenting that there are absolutely no provisions in the contract on speedup or job elimination—that is, combining of job functions and piling them on fewer workers than before.

This is a big issue in the mills. And even the oldest workers, whose main thoughts have been focused on retirement, are sounding off about it, although they do show signs of accepting it.

Furthermore, there is no mention of price increases at all. The workers get a lump sum "bonus" of \$150 on August 1, 1974, for not striking. For the three years of the contract, that comes to \$1 a week or 2½ cents per hour.

But the company can raise steel prices by \$5 a ton or any amount it pleases. And even a \$5 increase comes to \$700 million per year—or \$40 a week for every worker in basic steel!

There is no question that Abel has taken his orders from the Nixon administration as much as from the steel companies in this sellout. (Nixon himself has publicly praised the agreement. He probably wrote it!) And there is no question that the pressure will be

Scratch a legislator—and find a banker

By BOB MCCUBBIN

A commonly heard statement these days is "So-and-so is a tool of big business." This assertion is usually made in an attempt to explain the particularly reactionary action of some individual politician. At the national level, for example, Nixon's pro-big business policies are pretty much obvious to everyone. The \$30 million with which he bought his reelection came directly from bankers, giant corporation owners, and oil billionaires, to name a few of his most ardent supporters.

But the fact is that the whole federal government, and all the state and local governments as well, are the willing and eager tools of the U.S. moneyed class. The long-winded debates on social issues that the legislators seem always to be engaged in are staged affairs. The public activities of the public officials are calculated to deceive the people into believing that someone is looking out for them.

Take the New York State legislators. They're a distinguished lot. Making laws is only their part-time work (really more a hobby than work). And they get \$15,000 per year plus "expenses" for their efforts. They are quite a homogeneous group, however. Banking, business, and law represent the "full-time" pursuits of most of them. In fact,

There are sellouts and sellouts in the labor movement.

There are semi-sellouts, relative sellouts, and absolute sellouts. There are sellouts of principle where the workers still get some small gain in practice. There are sellouts in which union leaders concentrate on dues-withholding provisions in the contract and sacrifice gains for the workers in return for gains for the "union."

There are sellouts in which the leaders capitulate to some ruling class politicians plea for "labor peace" and send the workers back to work with a fraction of what they could have won with a strong leadership.

But last month's sellout by I. W. Abel, President of the United Steelworkers, AFL-CIO, was a unique and special one which is intended by both him and his corporate purchasers to be a precedent-setting and definitive sellout.

A NO-STRIKE PLEDGE!

This particular sellout consists of Abel's agreement—a year and a half ahead of contract time—not to strike. And he has said publicly that he would like to make this no-strike pledge permanent, since strikes, he contends, are as harmful to the workers' interests as to the interests of the corporations.

Now, the fact that the companies gave some (very small) concessions to get this agreement is a proof of the fact that they fear a strike and that a strike is still a living possibility.

It is proof of the fact that the ultimate threat of strike was a real force in the situation. It is proof of the fact that even the

N.J. steel union supports Black co-op of Kawaida

By JIM KOWALSKI

NEWARK, April 9—In the true spirit of class solidarity, the largest steelworkers' local in the state has come out in support of Kawaida Towers. The embattled Black-sponsored co-op is the focus of the struggle for decent housing in this city.

In a unanimous resolution, the executive board of Local 837, United Steelworkers of America, declared: "We as working people cannot stand in the way of any person seeking decent housing."

Many of the union's 1,500 members live in Newark, and many are Black.

Kawaida Towers has been the target of a racist campaign led by Anthony Imperiale, in which Black construction workers and Kawaida supporters have been beaten by cops and goons.

Imperiale once posed bare chested with a rifle in each hand, but now tries to pass himself off as a "respectable" state assemblyman.

The secretary of Local 837, Anthony Cascone, pointed out that vigilante Imperiale does not represent all Italians:

"Many people have the impression that Italian-Americans are against this project, and that's not so. We come from an immigrant background and have been denied our share of decent housing and jobs."

Brother Cascone called for unity in common struggle, pointing out, "We are just one step removed from the Blacks."

"We know that commercial high-rise apartments are being built in Newark

By JOHN DIAZ

While the American Legion and similar rightwing groups organized by the Pentagon were parading here today under the slogan of "Home with honor" for Vietnam veterans, mounted police and cops on foot were viciously attacking a counter-demonstration being held nearby by the real Vietnam veterans—the Black, Latin, and poor white vets, those without jobs, without veterans' benefits, and those who are angry over the U.S. government's use of them in the dirty war in Vietnam.

Organized by the American Servicemen's Union (ASU), which is made up of rank-and-file GIs and veterans, about 100 veterans and their supporters angrily picketed the fascist parade, exposing Nixon's phony concern for vets by raising the chant, "Vets need jobs, not parades."

As today's parade was preparing to begin, about 50 members and supporters of the ASU suddenly appeared and began a picket line directly across the street from the reviewing stand. As the ASU vets opened up banners and placards and chanted slogans calling for decent jobs and benefits, as well as \$2,500 compensation for all Vietnam era veterans, more vets and supporters joined the line, bringing their numbers up to 100.

Obviously embarrassed and annoyed that the parade was being exposed by vets themselves, the police, at the request of parade officials, tried to move the vets to a side street. After putting up a successful resistance to this sabotage, the ASU vets marched to the corner of 62 Street and Central Park West, where the reviewing stand was set up. At this point, the police quickly set up barricades in front of them and tried to shove them further up the street, away from the parade, but the vets wouldn't budge and the police had to back down.

Then, in an attempt to isolate the ASU vets, the police surrounded them on all sides with barricades, squad cars, as well as with cops on foot and on horseback. In spite of this intimidation, the protesters kept up their spirited chants and distributed the ASU paper, *The Bond*. They demonstrated there for over three hours, in the midst of police and their rightwing friends who kept

Cops attack vets picketing parade

Home with honor? Hell, no! say jobless vets



"Vets need benefits, not parades!"

ASU photo: Dick Wheaton

over 50,000 people have been arrested by the police of south Vietnam. Over 5,000 have been murdered since that time. Also, in anticipation of the ceasefire, Thieu has changed the status of a large number of political prisoners to that of criminal.

The most important task before the American anti-war movement at this time is

threatening the vets.

Shortly before a contingent of vets and supporters from Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) were to pass by the reviewing stand, a couple of police provocateurs, in what was apparently a planned attack, jumped onto a squad car in front of the demonstrators and dove into the crowd, causing a scuffle to break out. This was the cops' cue. They suddenly charged and viciously attacked the ASU vets and supporters. As a result of this planned, unprovoked attack, three brothers were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, harassment, and resisting arrest. Two of these brothers, plus another vet who escaped arrest, had to be taken to a hospital to be treated for head wounds and other cuts requiring stitches.

Today's action by the ASU exposed the parade for what it really was—an attempt to hide the true plight of the Vietnam veteran behind a warmongering parade. The ASU vets pointed out that the unemployment rate of Vietnam era veterans is the highest of any social grouping throughout the country. This, they said, is partly because the same corporations who raked in huge profits directly or indirectly from the Vietnam war are now refusing to hire the veterans of the Vietnam era.

The ASU vets pointed out the hypocritical character of the Nixon administration, which on one hand sponsors a parade to "honor the veteran," and on the other hand is quietly trying to cut down drastically on veteran disability benefits, as well as on other benefits.

At a time when veterans across the country are finding it more difficult every day to survive because of a lack of jobs and adequate benefits, when the government is trying to cut back on disability benefits for injured vets, the ASU is calling for all vets to unite. To dramatize their demands for decent jobs, adequate benefits, medical care, and \$2,500 compensation for time lost in the service, the ASU is organizing a national veterans' march on Washington May 19. For information on the march contact the American Servicemen's Union at 58 West 25 St., New York, N.Y. 10010, or call (212) 675-2520.

to force the U.S. ruling class to honor all the terms of the peace treaty, thus making sure Thieu releases all the political prisoners. The victory of the Vietnamese freedom fighters is a victory for all oppressed peoples of the world. It is our duty to help defend this victory against all attacks by imperialism.

Former prisoners describe Saigon torture chambers

By KIM HELLER

BOSTON, March 23—Tonight members of Boston Youth Against War & Fascism, along with 400 other concerned people, attended a special public hearing on the conditions inside Saigon prisons held before members of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation.

The main witnesses were Andres Menras and Jean-Pierre Debris, two French school teachers who were recently released from a Saigon prison.

Messrs. Debris and Menras made a symbolic protest on July 26, 1970. They raised an NLF flag in front of an embassy in Saigon and passed out leaflets calling for U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam. They were immediately arrested, beaten, and taken to a Saigon prison.

During the 2½ years Menras and Debris spent in the prison, they became thoroughly educated concerning the role played by Thieu's prison system—who runs the prisons and who is incarcerated in the prisons.

Over 200,000 civilians are now being held in Thieu's prisons for the "crimes" of opposing the Thieu regime or being neutral (Thieu calls this "pro-communist neutralism").

The two Frenchmen were not tortured. But torture is normal procedure, and they were forced to look on while many other prisoners were tortured. All prisoners are forced to salute the flag of the Thieu regime daily and are taken to the "movie room" if they refuse. The "movie room" is a torture room in which a movie screen is placed when delegations come to inspect the prison.

Prisoners are chained for years at a time and tortured with electricity, needles, and nails. The prison diet consists of rice and salt; water is strictly rationed. Tuberculosis is rampant due to the damp cells. All the women Debris and Menras met while in prison had been raped by prison guards; everyone they met who came out of the tiger cages of Con Son Island could no longer walk.

All the torture and inhuman treatment described above is standard procedure in all of Thieu's prisons. Every one of these prisons has an American adviser, is directly supervised by the U.S. government, and is funded by American tax dollars. In the next two years, the U.S. will spend over \$15 million to keep up the south Vietnamese prison system.

The next witness was Ngo Vinh Long, leader of the Vietnamese Students Association and the Vietnamese Resource Center.

Long stated that there is a "deliberate policy of liquidation of political prisoners in south Vietnam." Long explained that Thieu's treatment of prisoners and their families, as well as the fact that so many tens of thousands have been arrested, has cost Thieu what little support he had—even many conservatives now oppose him and his U.S.-backed regime.

Long also said, "Not only has Thieu not released the political prisoners, as agreed to under the terms of the ceasefire, but the National Police continue to arrest many more people every day." Since the announcement of the peace treaty in October,

They're lucky to be alive!

Now that the POWs are back, we are being bombarded with stories of how badly they were treated by the north Vietnamese. They were given inadequate food, some say, and poor medical treatment. Some were beaten after they bailed out of their planes—most often, it seems, by the people who found them.

We are supposed to be shocked that these "war heroes" suffered so much.

We say they're lucky to be alive.

Can anyone forget what they were doing before they were captured? This elitist group of officers knew what they were doing. The POWs (with only one or two exceptions) were not draftees, forced out of poverty or the threat of jail to go to Vietnam. They were volunteers, highly paid professionals who reveled in their role as killers cogs in a mighty military machine.

Their "payloads" were anti-personnel bombs that exploded thousands of slivers of sharp steel, or napalm and white phosphorus to burn people alive, or "conventional" bombs that razed the residential areas, factories, and schools of north Vietnamese cities, blew holes in the dike system, tore apart hospitals and cottages.

Can they really complain of a lack of food when they tried to starve the people into submission by mining the

ports, destroying the dikes, and defoliating the fields? Do they have the gall to expect the Vietnamese people to give them the best medical treatment when they destroyed Bach Mai Hospital—and many others—killing doctors, nurses, and patients alike?

And if the people met them with hoes and bare fists when they parachuted to earth, what did they expect? In World War II, not one Nazi pilot who bailed out over Malta survived the anger of the farmers. The Vietnamese have been restrained indeed.

Revolutionaries have always been a hundred times more merciful than the ruling class and its paid stooges. (Contrast the robust-looking POWs to the hundreds of NLF and north Vietnamese amputees released recently by Saigon—and think of the hundreds of thousands of political prisoners in south Vietnam, holed up in prisons like the "tiger cages" on Con Son Island.) But that doesn't mean that those who carry out the most heinous crimes against the oppressed will go unpunished. The uniformed and plainclothes agents of reaction, who think they will carry out their James Bond missions from air-conditioned cockpits and then retire to their bachelor quarters for wine, women, and song, . . . had better turn back now.

Oglala Sioux charge new U.S. betrayal

By CAL BONNER

The U.S. government has again refused to honor an agreement with the Native American people. In Washington, D.C., an apparent agreement to terminate the month-and-a-half-long occupation of Wounded Knee, South Dakota, by militant Oglala Sioux Indians was denounced by American Indian Movement leaders as having been made in bad faith by the U.S. government.

According to the agreement, American Indian Movement (AIM) leader Russell Means said the White House would have to conclude a satisfactory meeting with him before he would call on the militant Indians at Wounded Knee to disarm and leave. Contrary to the agreement, however, no such meeting was scheduled. The government, in effect, sabotaged the promised talks between White House officials and representatives of the Oglala Sioux Nation on the pretext that the Indians should disarm first.

WILL NOT GIVE UP ARMS

Means, therefore, did not call on the besieged Native Americans at Wounded Knee to leave. He voiced the feelings of the determined fighters at Wounded Knee when he said, "It is yet another treaty the white man has interpreted his own way, except

that this time we are interpreting the treaty—and you'll have to accept that."

AIM leader and Oglala Sioux Dennis Banks said, "I don't think we can lay down our weapons until the government totally lives up to the agreement." Banks went on to insist that the agreement specified that no disarmament was to take place at the hamlet until the Washington meeting was successfully completed.

The agreement, reached on April 5, provided for representatives of the Oglala Sioux Nation to be in Washington to make preparations for setting up a presidential treaty commission to study and negotiate the articles in the Fort Laramie Treaty, signed May 19, 1868. According to the terms of that treaty, the military was to evacuate all forts in the territories belonging to the Dakota (Sioux) people and cease all U.S. government operations in the area. This treaty was a key element in the current Native American protest at Wounded Knee, and an agreement upon it was essential to their fight for self-determination.

Other provisions of the agreement included: a 30- to 60-day moratorium on the arrests of those inside the besieged hamlet after they were disarmed, starting at 7 p.m. Mountain Time April 7; the elimination of cordons or other barriers to Wounded Knee during the moratorium; an investigation of

the governance of the reservation, including an independent audit of the tribal council's finances by those Oglala Sioux who have proved their loyalty to the Oglala Sioux Nation.

The agreement, however, provided no amnesty for the leaders of the Sioux militants and others in Wounded Knee who face federal charges in connection with the rebellion.

U.S. SABOTAGES AGREEMENT

By April 8, it had become clear that the Nixon administration had no intention of living up to the agreement. On that day Dennis Banks told newsmen at Wounded Knee, "We've totally rejected the agreement because the government has violated every paragraph in (it)." And in Washington, Means told reporters that the government had "made a farce out of the agreement. . . . They never had any intentions of discussing the treaty rights of our people."

It is no wonder that the 200 people at Wounded Knee today have refused to give up their arms in the face of the government siege. U.S. imperialism has a long history of broken treaties, not only with the Native Americans, but with oppressed peoples all over the world. All types of tricks and threats have been used by the most powerful

imperialist government on earth to stop the Oglala Sioux's struggle for national sovereignty. Yet the struggle at Wounded Knee continues and has gained the support of millions of people throughout the world.

This struggle deserves and needs continued support. Contributions to the defense of the Indian militants under indictment by a Rapids City, South Dakota, grand jury should be sent to the Wounded Knee Defense Committee, Box 147, Kellogg Pl., Rapid City, S.D. 57701.



hatred into the hearts of white moviegoers—along with the lead bullets of Wyatt Earp and Buffalo Bill.

With all its tremendous power—to control the minds as well as the bodies of people—it might at first appear that the Burlington Northern will keep its 2,385,000 acres of Indian land—that it will keep mining its other 6 million acres unhindered and the Native American people never will be free.

But it is precisely because the Burlington Northern and its owners have been so greedy and have expanded so far, and over so many nations, that the question of liberation is now being raised in a sharper, more urgent way than at any time in the past.

The Oglala Sioux now have dozens of obvious allies in their fight against the Burlington Northern and its owners. These obvious allies are the various enslaved nations who do the superslave work for the empire-owners.

All this is well known—in some quarters, at least. And once it is pointed out in other quarters, it can be easily seen and understood.

IN SPITE OF THE MOVIES, ANOTHER ALLY

But there is another ally, a hidden ally, within the oppressor nation itself.

The Burlington Northern not only oppresses the Native Americans; it also oppresses 45,000 more recent immigrants (of 1492 and later) who work on its trains and its tracks, in its forests and its mines.

The struggle of these 45,000 for better wages and decent conditions of work, as well as the struggle of 80 million other workers against the Morgans, Mellons, and Rockefellers, cannot but come to the aid of the Oglala nation. It cannot help but weaken the Burlington Northern's hold over the Oglala Sioux.

And this struggle, apparently "just" an economic struggle, apparently devoid of ideology and barren of ideas about self-determination or sympathy with national liberation—this struggle will ultimately generate the greatest interest in liberation.

This struggle will penetrate the century-old fog of lies about the Native American people. And it will produce the most heroic allies of national independence for the victims of the Burlington Northern Railway.

The Iron Horse at Wounded Knee

It carries coal out of the Indian's land—but it also unites the Indian struggle for sovereignty with the worldwide liberation struggle.

By V GREY

Who are the Oglala Sioux fighting? Who is preventing them from getting the rights to which they are entitled—the rights of national independence for the oldest nation and nations on the American continent?

Is it the white people in general—the small farmers, the worker-descendants of the covered-wagon settlers, and all that?

If you think so, then hear this:

ONE SINGLE CORPORATION, a railroad company whose tracks go through the old hunting grounds of the Oglala, owns three times as much land as does this whole Indian nation.

The 24,000 men, women, and children living in the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations in South Dakota have a combined land ownership of 800,000 acres. This amounts to 33 acres per capita, or about 100 acres per family. And much of it is not cultivable.

ONE RAILROAD'S LAND

The Burlington Northern owns 2,385,000 acres of coal and timber territory in the Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana area.

This would be equivalent to 300 acres for each of the Oglala families.

The Burlington Northern also has the mineral rights for an additional 6 million acres, where it operates gas and oil wells. This is equivalent to another 750 acres per family for the Oglala Sioux.

Thus, one company alone has practically enough land to supply the Oglala with a whole country. And when you add to this the oil, gas, coal, copper, and other commodities involved, it looks even more substantial.

(Actually, far, far more was taken away from the Oglala Sioux than this. The gold from the Black Hills alone would be enough to build a palace—not just a palace for an

Indian government—but a separate palace for every single Oglala family!)

But just who is this Burlington Northern Railway company, that it can so dominate a whole nation?

WHO OWNS THE RR?

To begin with, it is one of the descendants of the Northern Pacific Railway, which took not 2 million, but over 42 million acres from the Native American people.

More important for today's politics, the Burlington Northern is part of an empire of U.S. high finance that rules half the world as well as the United States.

THE BANKER KINGS

On its board of directors sit the insurance and banker kings of the Morgan empire. They have interests throughout South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. These interests are greater and infinitely more profitable than any empire of medieval or ancient times.

H. Laeri, one of the top officers of this railway, is a former vice chairman of the First National City Bank of New York, which in turn dominates large parts of South America. He is also a director of Commonwealth Oil Refining of Puerto Rico.

Among his other companies is St. Regis Paper, which owns another 7.7 million acres of formerly Indian land, half of it in Canada and nearly a million acres of it in the U.S. northwest where the Sioux used to roam. This company turns out acres of newsprint, on which, among other things, articles are printed to brainwash millions of white working people against the Indians.

ROBBER BARONS AND RAZOR BLADES

Chris Dobbins, another officer, is also on the board of American Smelting and

Refining, which owns mines in Canada, Mexico, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Australia, and England as well as Arizona, Utah, Tennessee, and Illinois.

John M. Meyer, Jr., still another director, is chairman of the board of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. (J. P. Morgan was one of the biggest of the old "robber barons"), a director of U.S. Steel, Gillette Safety Razor, Aetna Life Insurance—all international companies—and the Northern Pacific Railway.

Meyer's offices are at that not very Western, not very pioneer-like address of 23 Wall Street.

There are a half dozen other directors, whose main profession is not railroad engineering, switching, or braking—but banking.

These truly international kings of finance, true oppressors of millions of people in dozens of nations, are the real rulers of the 24,000 Oglala Sioux.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs takes its orders from them before it gives its orders to the Oglalas.

These corporation kings are the power behind the FBI sharpshooters at Wounded Knee. And they were the power behind the U.S. troops in 1890, and at Little Big Horn before that.

They never went out to shoot and be shot like Custer. But that was only because Custer was working for them. They never fired a single gun at Wounded Knee. But that was because the whole U.S. Army was working for them.

THEY INVENTED "COWBOYS AND INDIANS" TOO!

They justify their original robbery of the Indians' land in the U.S. by hundreds of movies of cowboys and Indians (not CAPITALISTS and Indians!).

The movie companies are all owned, or partly owned, by the Morgans. And the Morgan-owned Burlington Northern keeps its land by shooting poisoned bullets of race

The meat boycott was magnificent; now where do we go from here?



high prices are very serious. They have to be. This is a struggle for meat, and milk, and bread for their families. Moral victories, such as the nationwide support for the meat boycott, will propel this struggle forward, but you can't eat a moral victory. Much, much more will be necessary.

The conspiracy of the big food chains and agribusinesses to keep prices up last week, in spite of drastically lowered demand, may have discouraged a few people. But does it mean that no material concessions can be wrung from these giants?

NEW TACTICS WILL EVOLVE

Not at all. The one-week boycott was only a first step. Its results were inspiring, for they showed a solidarity between millions that had been thought impossible in this country. From this inspiration will come new tactics and more determination to keep up the pressure on these giant corporations until they crack and bring down their prices.

The wholesale and retail food businesses have been raking in profits this year. It is the exorbitant profits demanded by monopoly capital that are responsible for rising prices—that and the military expenditures demanded by these same corporations to expand their worldwide empire.

This country has the most fertile soil and favorable climate for agriculture of any land on earth. Food should be abundant and cheap for everyone. Only this irrational system that subordinates all human need to its drive for profits prevents the people from having plenty of nutritious, appetizing food.

On with the struggle against the food monopolies! Roll back food prices!

The response to the meat boycott last week was truly phenomenal. Millions of people across the country joined in the boycott, bringing meat sales down to 50 percent of their normal volume in some areas.

It has been many, many years since so widespread a protest against deteriorating living conditions was seen in this country. It is all the more remarkable for the almost spontaneous character of its organization up to this point. Most of the boycotters were women who have not previously been a part of any mass movements, but who, with their friends, neighbors, and fellow workers, organized for the first time on this issue.

This movement against the rampant inflation and its devastating effect on the average person's budget comes directly out of the masses of people themselves. Like any mass movement, the politicians and bureaucrats are trying to get into it, in order to control it and to keep it in safe channels. They want to make sure it doesn't go beyond mere protest.

But the women who are now organizing for further action against



Exposing witchhunt at Albany hearings.

WW photo

Oswald charges WWP, PSC foment prison rebellions

ALBANY, N.Y., March 29—Congressional witchhunters got a rude setback and had to stop their operations here today.

This was because members of the Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) of Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) rallied against them and publicly condemned them in their own hearing room.

The witchhunters of the House Internal Security Subcommittee (formerly the House Un-American Activities Committee—HUAC) came to this city to "investigate" so-called subversion in Attica, Auburn, and other prisons in the area.

In reality, of course, they were trying to rebait the protesting prisoners and to prove that the prisons are lovely households staffed by loving attendants—and only a "Red" would want to upset this chummy arrangement.

New York State Commissioner Oswald and Auburn Warden Henderson testified that PSC, YAWF, and Workers World were "behind" the prison uprisings. They named a number of other newspapers and publishers, which they said had also "caused" prisoner dissatisfaction.

Ali Shabazz of Oneonta PSC answered this reactionary nonsense when he said at a noontime rally outside:

"Prisoners don't rebel for the fun of it. HISS wants to tell us that prisoners rebel because of some 'Communist conspiracy.' But prisoners don't need anyone to tell them when to get fed up with prison conditions.

"They don't need anyone to tell them

that 16 hours a day work for 25 cents is slave labor; that food they get is inedible and not enough; that sadistic and racist brutality of the guards has got to stop; that medical care is insufficient and sometimes nonexistent; that they have no rights which prison officials are bound to respect; that they are used as guinea pigs in medical experiments which can leave them crippled or cause their death. . . .

"They don't need any 'outsiders' to tell them what to do. They live it; they feel it; they're fed up with it. They don't need anybody to tell them who, when, and how to fight for their freedom."

A good number of Albany workers and students were joined by delegations from Buffalo, Rochester, New York City, and Oneonta in protesting the whole unconstitutional proceedings.

Early in the day, a man and a woman representing the PSC cried out against congressional frameups and held aloft a large banner which branded the House committee for what it really is. Later the whole group took the floor in the midst of the hearings and protested so vigorously that the whole rigamarole had to be stopped.

After shouting and chanting for several minutes, they marched outside and stood under the windows of the room to which the committee had retired. There they chanted:

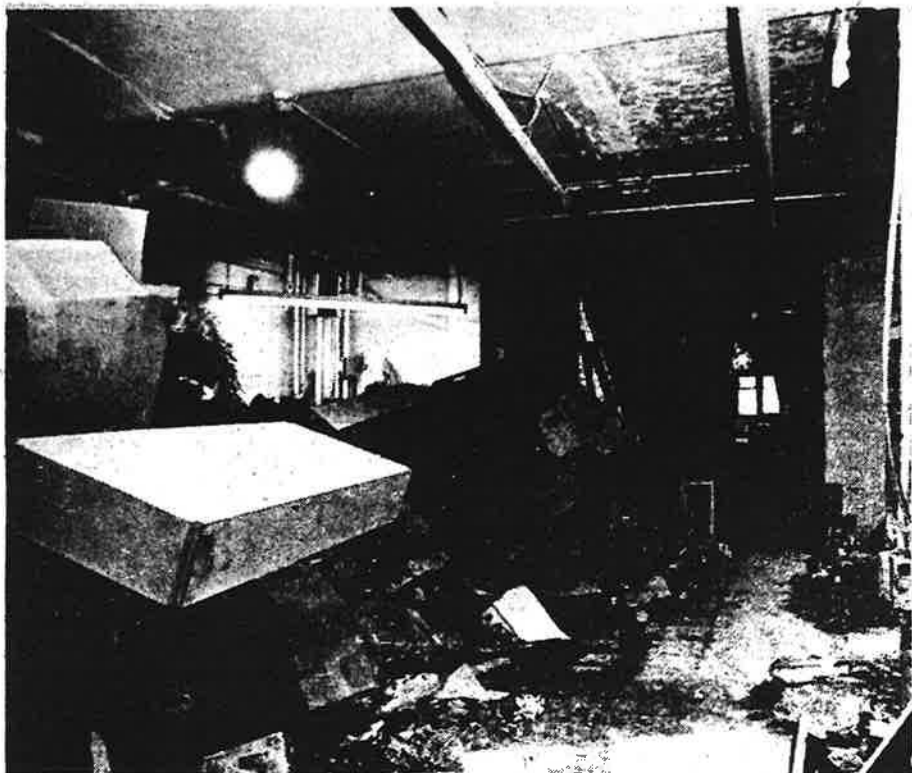
"Free the prisoners; jail Rockefeller; House committee, drop dead!"

The group maintained a strong picket line, which numbered over 60 protesters at its peak, on the sidewalk for the rest of the day.

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Center for Cuban Studies after blast.

Worms bomb Cuban Center

NEW YORK, April 9—Despite a cowardly bombing attack on the Center for Cuban Studies, which did a great deal of physical damage and narrowly missed killing a number of people using the Center, this resource library of information about revolutionary Cuba continued its public activities this week.

The bomb exploded while the Center's Director, Sandra Levinson, sat working at her desk. Several people had left the Center following a Spanish class just 10 minutes before the blast, and at least three people walked through the corridor where the bomb went off minutes before the explosion. They all could have been killed.

At a time when revolutionary Cuba is breaking down the U.S. blockade and expanding its diplomatic relations throughout Latin America, the rightwing Cuban exile groups are faced with the fact that their dreams of U.S.-sponsored counter-revolution are hopeless. All indications point to their responsibility for the desperate and demented bombing, but the U.S. government continues to harbor and protect them.

The Center for Cuban Studies is continuing its educational activities and will be rebuilding its facilities. Contributions should be sent to the Center for Cuban Studies, 186 West 4th Street, New York, N.Y. 10014.

By ELIZABETH ROSS

An answer to the neo-Malthusians

Population and poverty

Nearly 2,000 years ago, an obscure carpenter in Galilee is reported to have said, "The poor ye have always with you."

There were only 250 million people on earth at that time—that is, less than three percent of today's population.

Sixteen centuries later, when the world's population was still only one-seventh of today's, poverty and famine ruled the earth. Europe's and Asia's cities all held festering slums, begging and poaching were punished with brutal savagery, and most of the peasants everywhere lived on the edge of starvation.

Today in many parts of the world where population is sparse, millions of people still live below the poverty line. Ireland, Appalachia, the interiors of Brazil and Argentina, the hills of Vermont and New Hampshire, the run-down farmlands of Louisiana and Mississippi, the backwoods sections of Canada and Australia—all these underpopulated areas hold millions of hungry people.

Yet in spite of these easily verifiable facts, it is fashionable to blame the "population explosion" for the world's poverty.

Many learned men of science, many editorial writers and magazine contributors have joined in the moaning chorus which has assailed our ears for at least the last ten years:

"What is the use of improving industrial and agricultural methods in such countries as India, Egypt, and Java? As soon as improvements are put into effect, the populations of those unheeding lands mushroom even faster, wiping out all the gains made and making starvation inevitable."

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, when there were still less than a billion people on earth, the Reverend Thomas Malthus comforted the burgeoning capitalist class of England with his famous essay which initiated the doctrine that population must always increase faster than subsistence.

What a blessing that doctrine was to the propertied classes of England—and of the world! How magnificently it helped them dampen the aspirations of the propertyless.

They could now say, "No matter how our hearts bleed over the misery of the poor, there is absolutely nothing we can do about it except help those who are not employed in our mines and factories to die quickly and find their reward in Heaven—unless, of

course, as the good Doctor Malthus suggests, they can control their sexual appetites, learn the lesson of abstinence, and stop reproducing like rabbits."

Malthus wrote at a time when notions of equality, liberty, and fraternity—encouraged by the French revolution—had fired the imaginations of people all over Europe and America and had become dangerously rampant among the working classes. Malthusianism came as an answer to egalitarianism, in an attempt to drown it in despair.

Today's neo-Malthusians speak from the same motivation. The Russian, Chinese, Cuban, Korean, and Vietnamese revolutions have again raised a hope for liberty and equality in the minds of the masses of the world. And they have added a further yearning, which has also become a demand—a life of material plenty for all!

Neo-Malthusianism is a diversion. It is designed to turn attention away from the struggle for socialism.

To Marxists, it is not the magnitude of population but its irrational distribution that

is a burning problem.

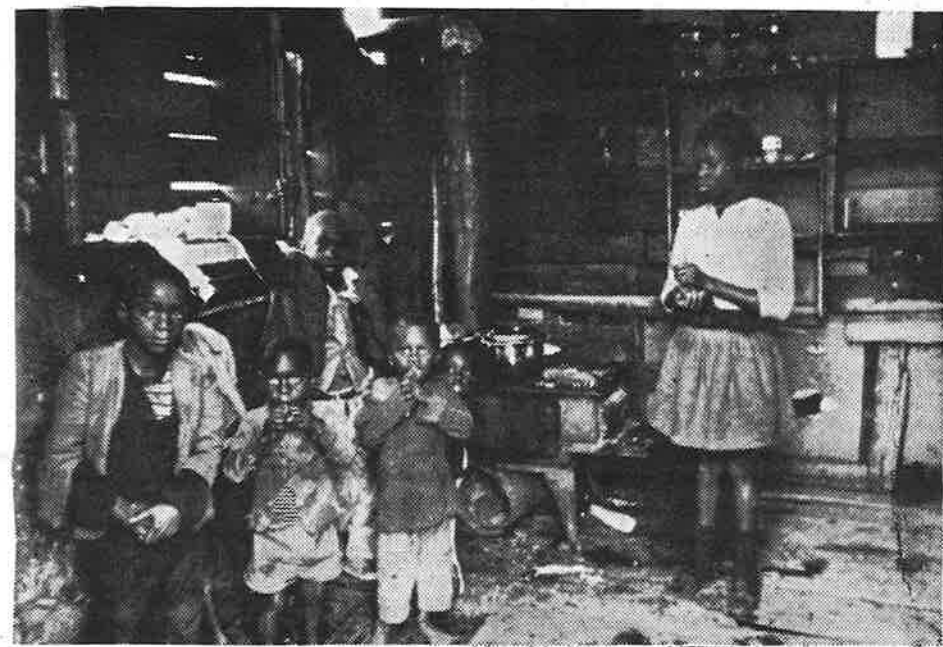
While the vast interior of Argentina is virtually empty, one-third of its people are crowded into Buenos Aires and its suburbs. The slums of Rio stretch out over the surrounding hills, but most of Brazil is uninhabited.

While Calcutta and Bombay teem with millions, territories as large as European nations are held by Indian princes. New York City contains eight million people, but great areas of New York State are wilderness.

And this is not a uniquely modern phenomenon. In the fifteenth century, the city of Ghent alone held half a million people! Paris and Rome, Vienna and London swarmed with surplus populations, desperately seeking employment that was denied them in the countryside.

Only a social transformation that will bring rationality out of chaos can end the contradiction between city and country, as it ends the contradiction between social production and private ownership.

Frederick Engels wrote in 1844, "With the fusion of those interests which now conflict with one another, there will disappear the antithesis between surplus population in one place and surplus wealth in another; and also the wonderful phenomenon . . . that a nation must starve to death from sheer wealth and abundance. . . ."



Is overpopulation the problem? The few in Appalachia are too many to feed . . .



. . . while the many in China are rationalizing the distribution of goods and people.

Hsinhua News Agency photo

'Our nation' or theirs?

By VINCE COPELAND

In speaking of the imperialist United States, the CP and its organ, the Daily World, often use the phrase "our nation"—as they did most recently in an editorial of April 5.

(A day or two before this they ran a cartoon of Thieu leaving swastika footsteps on the sand and telling him to leave "our shores," as though Thieu were somehow worse than the super-Hitler in "our" White House.)

This might seem to be just an unfortunate theoretical error, a slip in logic, unrelated to immediate politics—an error that could be corrected in the course of time and further sharpening of Marxist theory.

But such is not the case. The political results of such wrong formulations can be catastrophic.

The dominant U.S. nation is reactionary through and through, and in no sense can it be called our nation.

The fact that millions of people still have this opinion is of course important and must be taken into consideration in the daily activity of the leaders and would-be leaders of the oppressed.

But there is also the question of what the leaders themselves think and how well or ill they are prepared for crisis.

We defend the oppressed nations. We defend the right of the oppressed national minorities to a nationhood that the dominant oppressor nation deprives them of having. But we deny that the dominant U.S. nation is "our" nation at all—certainly the Black, brown, red, yellow, etc., people cannot say it

is "our" nation. But very few whites—except those in the millionaire and billionaire class—can say it either.

The U.S. "nation" is the instrument of the capitalist imperialists. And "national unity" is always the cry in any imperialist war. This means unity behind imperialism in the destruction and oppression of other nations.

This "national unity" is the most important ideological cement binding the oppressed soldiers of imperialism into a disciplined army. It is worth more to the imperialists than millions of rifles and thousands of bombs.

Leaving aside the national question in relation to the superoppressed, how will the CP react when the U.S. goes to war in the Mideast? How will they react to a more direct war against the Soviet Union, when the imperialists call upon the U.S. people to defend "our nation"?

We assume the CP will want to defend the Soviet Union and the Arab revolution. But from a theoretical point of view this will be difficult, because the U.S. ruling class will point to all the U.S. "national interests" in the Mediterranean.

It will also be difficult politically, because of social pressure.

The big liberal imperialists who said no "national interests" were involved in Vietnam have already discovered the "national interest" in the Middle East. And they are already preparing the witch hunt against anyone who opposes that war. Their strongest weapon will be the defense of "our

(Continued on page 10)

Easter and the sun god

Guest Article

By JAMES ERICKSON

Our forebears, in their ignorance, thought the sun was a god. Many of our contemporaries grovel before a veiled version of the same deity. It is the purpose of this brief essay to rip off some of the veils.

The sungods represented light and summer, and they were always in conflict with darkness and winter. In Christianity this light and darkness struggle has been rewritten to be a contest between good and evil.

Jehovah can be identified with the sungod of Phoenicia, the Adon or Lord. Disguised sun-myths abound in the Old Testament.

The similarity between Moses in his ark of reeds and the solar deity, Ra, in his boat in the sky is well known.

Sampson's hair represents the rays of the sun. His strength varies with its length.

Cain and Abel represent the twin brother myth which runs through much of Asian mythology. Cain, the sun by day, slays Abel, the brother of the night.

Noah is the emblem of the hidden sun of night and winter in Hades. He is safely preserving the inhabitants of the ark so they can reappear in the spring, or above the ground. The gray dove is a Hindu symbol of winter. When the dove does not return, it means that winter is gone.

Jonah and the fish story is the Phoenician myth of the sun. The three days that Jonah remains in the darkness of the fish probably

represents the three months of winter.

Now, let us consider the wandering martyr of Galilee. Was Christ a son of God or god of the sun? The birth, death, descension, resurrection, and ascension of Christ closely follow the lives of the solar deities.

If one compares the stories of Christ and Apollo, the similarities are striking. They both were born in obscurity, at which time their mothers had difficulty finding refuge. Three gifts were presented to each, and soon after birth each was carried to a peaceful land. Both were patient and hid their greatness. Apollo cured the sick as Christ did. Both died ignominiously, yet both reappeared in triumph after death!

Jesus is a personified sun. His story is an allegorical story of the sun as it appeared to wander through the sky for a full year. It appeared to weaken until on December 22 there were twice as many hours of darkness as daylight. The forces of darkness had apparently won. However, the ancient zodiacal constellation, Virgo, challenged the supremacy of darkness at this time. She gave birth to a new sun to replace the dead one. Like the Virgin Mary giving birth to Jesus on Christmas, the sun was born among the beasts of the zodiac.

The sun grew up in obscurity. It became stronger and stronger, and on March 21 it was victorious. The hours of light now ex-

(Continued on page 10)

"Meat up, milk up, bread up"



Alice Diaz (l.) and Florence Rice (r.) address rally. Chairwoman Joyce Kaessinger is in center. WW photo: Fabian

Women march on meatpackers

By RUTH McCORMICK

NEW YORK, April 7—Over 600 persons, most of them women, with a sizable number of senior citizens and children, marched from Herald Square down Broadway to a rally in the city's meatpacking district on West 14th Street today. The action climaxed a nationwide week-long meat boycott. Sponsors of the march and rally included Women United for Action, the Consumer Assembly, Harlem Consumers Education Council, District Council 37, Women Strike for Peace, Citizens Against Rising Prices, the Center for United Labor Action, Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs, and many other consumer and labor groups.

Other sponsoring groups in the metropolitan area held simultaneous local actions. Operation Pocketbook held actions on Long Island; Support Harried Americans, Rollback Prices (SHARP) sponsored a motorcade on Staten Island; the South Ozone Park Community Buying Co-op had a rally in Ozone Park, Queens; and on Sunday, Until Prices Drop, a large and militant New Jersey group, held a motorcade throughout 24 towns in Bergen County.

As today's march passed, virtually everyone on the street smiled, waved, and cheered at huge homemade banners which read "Devalue pot roast, not dollars!" and "Roll back food prices!" Passersby also visibly agreed with the demonstrators' chants of "Fifty cents worth of chuck shouldn't cost us a buck thirty-nine," "We want meat cheap enough to eat!" and "Meat up, milk up, bread up—we're fed up!"

UNITY AGAINST FOOD MONOPOLIES

Chairwoman Joyce Kaessinger of Women United led off the rally by pointing out that the food industry had underestimated America's housewives and that the meat boycott has proved the strength of consumers when they act together. Next, Claudette Furlonge of Women United for Action gave a short history of her group, noting that it has grown from a small group of New York women to a nationwide organization that has become a powerful voice in support of consumers.

Lucille Whitley of District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, spoke about the impact of rising food prices on working

people in this country, noting that the layoffs and firings of meatcutters and butchers by the meatpacking companies served only to salvage the bosses' huge profits.

Alice Diaz, a working mother in Women United, addressed the rally in Spanish. She called for unity among all poor and working people—Latin, Black, and white—and said that only through such unity could people hit the food chains in the pocket, where it will hurt.

Florence Rice of the Harlem Consumers Education Council attacked the huge agribusiness concerns, saying "Big companies have no hearts," and care nothing



Monopolies keep meat prices high

Now that the week-long meat boycott has come to a close, the capitalist press is proclaiming it a failure because meat prices did not go down appreciably. They are saying this in spite of the fact that the boycott was participated in by millions of people who wanted to express their outrage against the high price of meat. During the last week, meat sales declined from 40 to 80 percent in many areas of the country.

Nevertheless, it is true that meat prices did not decline significantly in response to the widespread boycott. What does this prove?

Rather than prove that the boycott failed, this fact merely exposes the fraudulent capitalist theory that prices are determined by the law of supply and demand. If that were true, then last week meat prices would have zoomed down.

What happened in fact was that the monopolies which control the meat industry conspired together to sabotage the united efforts of the people. The "law of supply and demand" notwithstanding, they purposely kept prices high.

In addition to successfully propelling millions of people into protest, the meat boycott thus also exposed the monopoly character of U.S. capitalism. Long gone are the days (which we were all taught about in

school) when each capitalist producer was competing with his rivals to sell cheaper goods.

For at least 100 years, the trend in the U.S. economy has been toward the consolidation of production into larger and larger units, until a few gigantic corporations literally control the market. They decide among themselves the prices to be charged and extort more and more profits from the workers who must pay their prices.

A handful of these monopolies control not only the food industry, but the oil, auto, steel, utilities, and communications industries, as well as every other significant area of production in the U.S. economy. They not only rob the people in the U.S., but they expand abroad, exploiting people in poor, underdeveloped countries and robbing them of their natural resources.

It is in the interests of just these corporations that the U.S. government goes to war in places like Indochina, the Middle East, Latin America, and Africa—to protect their profits. And it is in their interests that Nixon imposed a freeze on workers' wages in this country.

Not only was the meat boycott a political success, but it will go a long way towards opening up people's eyes about the kind of greedy, monopolistic system they are going to have to fight.

Boycott week protests flare coast to coast

By JOYCE BETRIES

"We want meat that's cheap enough to eat!" With this demand, angry women from all over the country left their homes and neighborhoods to participate in activities on Saturday, April 7, marking the end of the successful week-long boycott of meat. Nationwide, women, who have the responsibility of providing nourishing meals for their families, showed their determination to continue to fight for a rollback in food prices.

In Miami, women with "Fight the Bite"

signs picketed supermarkets. In the Bronx, N.Y., 100 people participated in a demonstration organized by the National Association of Puerto Rican Civil Rights, calling attention to how the rise in food prices adds to the economic woes of Latin and other oppressed peoples in the U.S.

A national organization, Women United for Action, organized activities that spanned the country from New York City to Houston, Texas.

In Buffalo, New York, a motorcade of 25 cars organized by Women United for Action covered a 20-mile radius, declaring the meat boycott a success.

Women and men marched through the downtown area of Wilmington, Delaware, stopping on corners to hold impromptu street meetings. Crowds gathered to listen.

At a rally in Cleveland, Ohio, a retired worker told how difficult it is for people living on pensions to even afford food.

TV cameras turned as many listened to speakers at a rally held in front of an A&P in Detroit. People left the rally wearing buttons saying "Operation: Food Price Roll Back."

In the downtown Chicago loop, a



WW photo: Fabian Truncellito

p — we're fed up!"

about the thousands of people, including children and senior citizens, who go to bed hungry each night. She dismissed the food chains' claims that small farmers are keeping prices up, pointing out that such enormous companies as Tenneco and Union Carbide own most of the food-producing land in the country.

Other speakers included Katherine Hoeg, a Brooklyn housewife and mother, Bea Freeman of Women Strike for Peace, and Molly Goldstein of the Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs. Lindsey Koplowitz of Queens Women United for Action dressed as Elsie, the Borden Cow.

She got cheers from the crowd with a song against high food prices to the tune of "Hello, Dolly." All the speakers were unanimous in calling for unity among all shoppers and for further action in forcing down food prices.

CALL FOR CONFERENCE

Women United for Action is calling for a conference of all groups and individuals interested in continuing the fight for decent food at fair prices, to be held during the last part of April. As Joyce Kaessinger stated:

"This is just the beginning. We, the consumers, have made ourselves heard through the meat boycott, and we've begun to see what a powerful force we can be when we join together. We're developing more and more local chapters around the country every day on a community level, and we're going to keep going until we win."

The clapping and roars of agreement from the large gathering at the rally were only a reflection of what even the most conservative newspapers in the land are reporting every day now. The people of this country are uniting to roll back food prices.



Claudette Furlonge of Women United for Action WW photo: Fabian

—High prices

(Continued from page 1)

because less is being produced. There have been no drastic cutbacks in production, nor any serious crop failures. It is not shortages that have driven the prices up.

What is happening is that the people are now being forced to pay—through inflation—for the many, many years of deficit spending by the U.S. government. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been spent on war and repression. Not only are military items a total loss—since they are built to be destroyed—but they have added to the enormous national debt, which means that each year the taxpayers are mortgaged more heavily to the great banking houses.

Next year, the national debt is expected to rise \$365 billion, while \$24 billion of the annual budget will go just toward paying the banks the interest on this debt.

In this period of runaway inflation, when the workers' purchasing power is stagnant and even declining, corporate profits are hitting new highs.

And with these higher profits goes greater affluence for the rich. While millions of ordinary people have had to boycott meat, while government social programs have been cut to the bone, and while Third World people, youth, and veterans are sinking in the mire of perpetual unemployment and welfare, the "beautiful people" are living it up.

They bought almost twice as many yachts last year as in 1971. Fur coat sales were up 15 percent. More airline passengers traveled first class (usually on a company expense account).

The U.S. capitalist economy is in a crisis—but that crisis is being unloaded on the backs of the workers and the poor. The architects of the crisis—the rulers of this country who have taken a prosperous, seemingly limitless land and run it into the ground in their greed for profits—won't give up one jar of caviar voluntarily.

Only the militant, organized struggle of the workers and oppressed is going to win back what they have stolen from us.



WW photo: Dick


demonstration of women, children, and men was organized by Women United for Action. Sharon Lombardo, mother of three, called for a citywide conference of groups and individuals who participated in the boycott to plan the next move in the fight against rising food prices.

In icy rains, angry consumers marched in Milwaukee chanting, "Profits up, prices soar, we won't take it anymore."

For many women, this was their first participation in demonstrations and rallies. Yet, in response to this issue, tremendous imagination was shown by many different women's groups across the nation.

Fran Meyers, of the national office of Women United for Action (58 W. 25 St., New York, N.Y.) commented on this week's activities. "So many people are with us!" she said. "Millions of shoppers all over the country participated in this protest against high food prices by boycotting meat and by demonstrating. Women have been inspired, and are more determined than ever to continue the campaign. We won't stop until we make eating decent food a right, and not a privilege."

Workers World—April 13, 1973



DINNER

*Suprême of Salmon Condorcet
Fleurs Dorées*

*Louis Martini
Cabernet
Sauvignon
1968* *Filet Mignon Forestière
Zucchini Sauté Fermière
Carrots au Beurre*

*Piper Heidsieck
1964* *Baked Alaska Flambée
Sauce Framboise*

*THE WHITE HOUSE
Wednesday, March 7, 1973*

THOSE WHO TAKE THE MEAT FROM THE TABLE

Teach contentment.

Those for whom the taxes are destined

Demand sacrifice.

Those who eat their fill speak to the hungry

Of wonderful times to come.

Those who lead the country into the abyss

Call ruling too difficult

For ordinary men.

—Bertolt Brecht

Huge anti-draft protest ; French Minister resigns

In a bold display of antimilitarism and class consciousness, the youth of France have launched a massive struggle against a new conscription law (known as the Debre law) which provides for the suspension of draft deferments. The main demand at present is that male students be allowed to finish school before being inducted (military service is compulsory for all males).

The sponsors of the Debre law have contended that school deferments place the sons of poor families at a disadvantage. But

the poor and working class youth are not buying this. Many of them have been going to school, and it is particularly difficult for them to return after their studies have been interrupted.

On March 22, demonstrations of striking students occurred in many cities. Over 200,000 participated, including 100,000 in Paris. Some 80 colleges in 25 cities were shut down by student strikes. In a later development, some 300,000 students marched again on April 2 to demand repeal of

the law. The government has let it be known that the law will be "revised," but it fears this will not satisfy the students who are increasingly raising the demand of an end to compulsory military service itself.

In a report to Workers World from a correspondent in Paris, the buildup to the massive demonstration of March 22 was described:

"In the high schools and technical schools all over France there were many meetings and discussions and the mobilization grew as word spread. The date of March 22 was decided on for a big demonstration since it was the anniversary of the beginning of the 1968 demonstrations.

"In spite of the fact that the government declared the demonstration illegal, it went ahead as scheduled. From 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. about 100,000 demonstrators, mostly young (for many, it was the first demonstration they had ever been in) marched through the streets of Paris shouting militant slogans:

'The army kills, pollutes, and degrades!' 'Hot, hot, hot! Spring will be hot!' 'Debre! Skunk! The people will get your skin!' (Debre has, in fact, been forced to step down from his government post—ed.), and 'Forbidden demonstration! More than 120,000 in the streets!'

"At the end of the demonstration there were several incidents. Young people wanting to stay (some 1,000 to 2,000) were surrounded by the cops. Stones and tear gas flew.

"At this time (March 26—ed.) the strikes in the schools are almost universal. The Chief of the Education Department has tried to make some concessions but has been rebuffed by the National Defense Department.

"These events have been momentous. The students are in the streets. In the factories, struggles are more and more turning against the capitalist system itself. A new generation is rising to struggle."



Thousands of striking French students protest new conscription law and militarism.

Left wins vote but loses election

In the recent elections in France, the Communist-Socialist joint ticket won the popular vote with 13 million votes against the Pompidou (Gaullist) total of 11 million. These are the figures released by the French government itself and printed in the Chicago Daily News.

However, a majority vote wasn't sufficient to bring the workers to power or even to eject the Gaullist party from any of the major offices.

The left parties may have beat their opponents by 2 million votes, but rigged election procedures in France gave far more weight to the Gaullist districts than to those with a

large working class that voted overwhelmingly for the Communist-Socialist ticket.

The parliamentary tactic may have been useful for showing the sentiment of the working masses in France. But this election has proved once again that the working class parties must not rely on bourgeois elections to bring about a socialist transformation.

The boss class will use trickery, demagoguery, gerrymandering, and ultimately violence to defend its ownership of production—and the workers must be prepared to defeat every one of these tactics.

Struggling South Africans remember Sharpeville

The following article was sent to Workers World by the American Committee on Africa.

Throughout South Africa on March 21, 1960, more than a quarter of a million Africans responded to the call of the Pan Africanist Congress to protest against the Pass Laws—the pivot of South Africa's apartheid police-state control over the 80 percent Black majority and Black workers who comprise some 75 percent of the labor force.

Johannesburg, 5,000 unarmed men, women, and children gathered in front of the local police station in peaceful protest. The police opened fire on the crowd. Sixty-nine people were killed and 180 wounded, all within 40 seconds. Medical inquiries revealed that 70 percent of the victims had been shot in the back.

Massive police repression followed against organizations and individuals

At the town of Sharpeville, outside



Aftermath of the 1960 racist massacre at Sharpeville, where 69 unarmed Blacks were killed and 180 wounded.

working to mobilize popular opposition to apartheid. Thousands were arrested, organizations and leaders were banned, and Black political organization and protest were driven underground.

There are political trials in South Africa every year but opposition continues. In June, 1972, thousands of Black and white students demonstrated militantly against the racist educational system and the whole repressive system of apartheid. Within the past several weeks the leaders of SASO, the South African Student Organization organized by Black students, and of NUSAS, the multiracial National Union of South African Students, have been arbitrarily banned by the white regime for their opposition to apartheid as a move to crush organized student resistance.

50,000 WORKERS ON STRIKE

Following a series of strikes by dockworkers at the end of 1972, more than 50,000 workers came out on strike in the city of Durban in February, 1973. They walked out in the face of laws which make strikes and recognized Black union organization illegal. The Black strikers faced prison terms or endorsement out of the urban areas to the barren tribal "reserves" set up under apartheid. The city was brought to a standstill, with more than 100 firms in the fields of textiles, manufacturing, engineering, food processing, as well as the municipal services, all hit.

Police reinforcements were flown in and

South African Air Force helicopters brought onto the scene. In one incident, police charged a march by striking municipal workers, arresting more than 100. In Hammersdale, outside Durban, teargas and dogs were used by police to disperse a march by 3,000 workers.

The strikers were demanding better working conditions and increases in their starvation wages, which today average less than \$3.00 a day for 80 percent of all African industrial workers and much less for those in the mines or in agricultural work. U.S. corporations hit by the strikes included Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, International Harvester, and Colgate-Palmolive. The last fired ten Black laboratory workers for striking. After several weeks most of the strikers returned to work, having won limited wage concessions, and through their solidarity resisted any major police or government retaliation during the strikes.

For the Black workers in South Africa the struggle against apartheid still has far to go and must be supported, especially by workers, here. With the fight for liberation in South Africa and throughout southern Africa growing, in Mozambique, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, international support is increasingly important. Along with support for the 30 million African people in southern Africa, action must be taken to end governmental and corporate aid to the Portuguese colonial and the apartheid regimes.

—Easter

(Continued from page 7)

ceed the hours of darkness. The sun had been resurrected. It was Jesus's time of victory, too, as he arose from obscurity to confound the priests in the temple.

On June 21 the youthful sun reached its greatest victory in the longest day of the year. Between March 21 and June 21 the sun performed many miracles as seeds flowered into plants. Jesus also went through such a period. One of his "miracles" was the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus, like the sun, was a wonderous food-giver.

After June 21 the days became shorter. The sun had been betrayed, as Jesus was betrayed by Judas. Soon the forces of

darkness and evil conquered the sun once more. The darkness that accompanied the death of Jesus, the purple robe, and the thorny crown were all symbols of the sunset and winter.

Christ was allegedly resurrected near the Spring Equinox. This was the festival of the pagan goddess of the spring Eastre, which goes far back into antiquity. Its dating at the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox betrays the astronomical origin of Easter.

The foregoing facts and interpretations infer that Christianity has, at least partly, been evolved out of the earlier sun religions. These religions have left their mark, and, like ancient fossils, indicate a time long ago past. In religion, as in nature and society, the present is determined by what has been.

The old solar deities, aristocratic and king-like, wandered across the sky joining battle with the princes of darkness. Jesus, on the other hand, represents a more human god who appeals to the poor and down-trodden. In this respect he represents a higher level of abstraction.

The time has long passed when camouflaged suns like Jehovah and Jesus represent progress.

— Whose nation?

(Continued from page 7)

The party that is strongest in standing up against the "nation" hysteria will be infinitely stronger in its defense of the world working class.

The U.S. really does have "national

interests." But these are not the interests of the majority of the people of the U.S. The national interests are in reality the interests of the rulers of the nation. The interests of the working and oppressed peoples are another matter.

The true interests of the working people, and the interests of the oppressed in general, are basically international interests. The national borders of the United States and the national armed forces protect no interests but imperialist interests.

That is why we cannot defend the U.S. "nation" but only the class interests of the workers and oppressed peoples. We must expose and repudiate the nationalism of the oppressor, as we educate our cadres to see through the fraud of the imperialist "nation" altogether.

Noose tightens around Lon Nol

By JOEL MEYERS

In open violation of the Vietnam Treaty of January 26, the U.S. government has been stepping up its genocidal bombing raids in Cambodia. More than 600,000 refugees, made homeless by the bombings, have swelled Phnom Penh's population to more than 1.5 million people. Yet all this has failed to turn back the liberation tide.

Phnom Penh, the Cambodian capital, is thoroughly ringed with insurgent forces. "The Communists now hold all major roads out of the capital as well as parts of the



banks of the Mekong River," laments the Christian Science Monitor of April 10. Foreign diplomats seem to have reached a consensus that liberation forces, led by the National United Front of Cambodia, control two-thirds to three-fourths of the country.

The U.S.-Thieu-Lon Nol forces recently attempted to send a convoy of 18 ships to shoot their way into the capital with military supplies. In a measure of the strength of the forces holding siege to the capital, two of the ships were sunk and eleven more were forced to turn back and keep running without so much as looking back.

The capital was estimated to have less than five weeks' supply of food and less than one week's supply of fuel. Gasoline is already available only on the Q.T., and costs \$1.65 a gallon. One of Phnom Penh's two electric generators "caught fire," according to officials, and has been completely out of commission ever since.

About 100 B52 sorties drop an approximate daily load of 3,600 tons of bombs on the outskirts of the capital. These have not budged the positions of the liberation forces.

The puppet government has launched a

wave of terror within the city itself. As many as 300 students, teachers, and politicians, all opponents of the Lon Nol regime, have "mysteriously" disappeared. An attempt on the life of Tep Khunnah, editor of the Independent Republican, a leading rival newspaper, was attributed to the campaign of repression now going on.

In its senile paranoia, the Lon Nol regime has gone so far as to order the arrest of all astrologists, whose convention in March predicted that Lon Nol would not survive this month.

The government blames the astrologists for its failure to win a scintilla of popularity in Cambodia, while the U.S. government blames the failure of its saturation bombing on the quality of the terrain around Phnom Penh.

They both fail to understand that the question is one of determination and morale. The liberation forces, representing virtually the whole people, are fighting for their national and physical survival, and their patriotism to the oppressed has no counterpart among the mercenaries and the enslaved soldiers in puppet Lon Nol's armed forces.

In a recent example of how this works, an air force captain on March 17 bombed the presidential residence, killing 100 puppet officials and narrowly missing Lon Nol himself. He then escaped, with little if any opposition from the demoralized puppet armed forces, into the liberated territory.

Zambia rebuffs Rhodesia on liberation groups

By CAL BONNER

The decision of Zambia to keep its border with Rhodesia closed until white minority rule in Rhodesia is ended has left the Ian Smith regime outwitted and humiliated.

Smith, President of Rhodesia, originally closed the border on January 9 in an attempt to pressure the Zambian government into dropping its support for African guerrilla fighters seeking the liberation of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Mozambique, the Portuguese colony which borders Rhodesia on the east.

But Smith decided to reopen the border on February 4, after Rhodesian capitalists

complained they were losing money because of the blockade. Zambian copper, which had been carried to the Mozambique port of Beira on Rhodesian trains and roads, is now being rerouted to Tanzania. In addition, Rhodesia's white settler ally, South Africa, also feels the pinch, since it stands to lose \$250 million a year in trade with Zambia.

The border remains closed, however, at the initiative of the Zambian government. U.S. imperialism is trying to take advantage of the situation by helping Zambia to arrange for the costly purchase of transportation equipment from U.S. companies. Zambia needs 1,200 heavy-duty trucks to transport the copper over the 1,200-mile road to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

In a year, however, the Tanzam railroad now being built by technicians from the People's Republic of China will be in operation. It will give both Tanzania and Zambia greater independence from the white settler states and from imperialism.

A Workers World correspondent in Tanzania sums up the situation as follows:

"Zambia began its independence with many strings attached and is not known as one of the 'progressive' nations. As with every African nation, Zambia has many, many problems.

"Thus 1973 found Zambia buying some of its food and supplies from South Africa and sending its chief resource, copper, out for export through Rhodesia! The economics of that situation has been said to make Zambian foreign policies somewhat conservative in relation to Zambia's possible position as the Black physical spearhead of resistance to Rhodesian and South African racist policies.

"Thus, when Rhodesia closed the border with Zambia, except for the purpose of

exporting Zambian copper, Rhodesia felt it was on safe ground.

"But Rhodesia did not take into account the realities of Black African politics in 1973. Nonwhite Africa is physically tired of racist bandits who enslave nonwhite African people. The OAU (Organization for African Unity) said, 'No bet, racists!'

"There were gunfights along the Zambia-Rhodesia border. But Uganda offered Zambia troops, Libya sent some troops, and Zambia has since sent its copper and received its imports through Tanzania, Kenya, and Zaire.

"The Zambian government, reflecting the sentiments of an overwhelming majority of the African people, and of oppressed and progressive people the world over, has issued statements to the effect that it will do nothing to stop the actions of the African people fighting for their liberation from a gang of racist, inhuman bandits.

"It was a victory for the OAU, the OAU Liberation Committee, Zambia, and the liberation of peoples oppressed by imperialism throughout the world."

Israeli murder commandos assassinate Arab leaders

Israeli terrorist commandos raided Beirut, Lebanon, in the predawn hours of April 10, killing three leaders of the Palestine liberation movement.

The three were Mohammed Yussef Najjar, one of the founders of the Al Fatah; Kamal Nassar, a leading Arab poet and spokesman for the Palestine Liberation Organization; and Kamal Adwan, a leader of guerrilla forces in the territories occupied by Israel in the June 1967 war. Najjar's wife

was murdered with him in their apartment off Rue Verdun, in the center of Beirut.

The headquarters of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist fighting organization, were also a target of the Israeli raid. The building was bombed by the Tel-Aviv assassins, but they failed in their attempt to kill any of the leaders of the DPFLP.

The Israeli execution squad, dressed in civilian clothes, landed by helicopter at Ouzai, three miles south of Lebanon's

capital. They split into several groups, infiltrated the city, and began a night of carnage—kicking down doors and then rushing into their sleeping victims' apartments firing machine guns and throwing grenades.

Other Israeli marauders came ashore in naval launches. Not content with assassinating the three guerrilla leaders, the Israeli troops also attacked the Shatila-Sabra refugee camp near Beirut's airport, firing into the homes of people who had fled from Palestine to Lebanon in the first place to escape this sort of Zionist terror.

Israel's Wall Street stooge, Premier Golda Meir, called this cowardly attack "very marvelous," and added that "shining pages will be written about this."

Over 30 men, women, and children were killed at the Sabra camp before the Israeli butchers moved on to repeat the massacre

at the Dikwaneh refugee camp, which held 8,000 Palestinians on the night of the attack.

The capitalist media of the United States immediately endorsed the raids, saying that the victims were the "terrorists" rather than the other way around. The New York Times, a major cheerleader for the Tel-Aviv regime's expansionist aspirations, hailed the attack as "stunningly effective . . . daring and brilliant."

Of course, it is not surprising that all the organs of U.S. monopoly capital and American imperialism should unite in their enthusiasm for yet another Israeli act of aggression against the oppressed Palestinian people. The whole world, Zionists included, admits that Israel's colonialist policies would have failed long ago, if it were not for the open support of every American President from Truman to Nixon.

Hardly had the raid ended and the Palestinians begun to once again bury their dead than the U.S. Embassy in Beirut began to issue statements that "neither the Embassy nor the Central Intelligence Agency were in any way involved in this commando action."

No one is fooled by such transparent lies any more. Nor can anyone seriously contend that further murders and acts of terror by the Israeli militarists will deter the Palestinian people from continuing their fight for liberation until final victory over U.S. imperialism and its Israeli puppets.





Most striking Farah workers are women.

Farah textile czar set back by workers' struggle

Three years later, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has been forced to order Farah, a Texas manufacturer of men's slacks, to reinstate with back pay 19 Chicano workers fired for union activity between Dec. 16, 1969, and July 30, 1970.

Farah has used firings, arrests, racist slurs, armed guards, and attack dogs in its desperate attempt to prevent the predominantly Chicano workers, on strike now for almost one year, from using collective bargaining. By organizing through the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union (ACWU), the workers are trying to improve their working conditions and wages, which start at \$1.70 per hour, at Farah's Texas operations.

Meanwhile, the NLRB stood by and waited to see if the union busting would succeed. Now the strength and determination of the Farah strikers and the nationwide support boycott of Farah pants have forced the NLRB to issue an order requiring Farah to:

- + Retain workers known to support unionization
- + Allow workers to talk union to workers in other departments during break time and allow personal conversations during company time
- + Stop the harassment of "very closely watching and following employees while at work" or disciplining them for "the slightest mistake or rule infraction"; stop in-

terrogating workers about union activities; and in general to

+ Stop interfering unlawfully with employees' union activities

The order itself bears witness to the ruthless tactics of boss Willie Farah and to the failure of the NLRB during all this time to act against Farah's lawbreaking antiunion campaign.

According to Joan Suarez, an organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers in San Antonio who is involved in the Farah organizing drive, "The decision by the NLRB is very definitely a moral victory for us. It doesn't really affect the strike, in that Willie Farah will appeal to the Fifth Circuit Court and then to the Supreme Court if necessary. . . . But the decision reinforces the fact that Willie Farah has been committing and will continue to commit unfair labor practices."

Since 1934 workers in the U.S. have legally had the right to organize into unions, but the NLRB has never done it for them. Now the NLRB order will be enforced only by the workers themselves, who will surely force Farah to recognize the ACWU.

Strikers fight slave pay at Oneita Knitting Mills

The following article is reprinted from the April 9 issue of United Labor Action, newspaper of the Center for United Labor Action.

"What can you do for your family on \$1.60 an hour. When these kids get sick I can't afford a doctor. When they get a toothache, I can't afford a dentist. We live on rice and biscuits and I'd like to give them a piece of meat now and then. This strike is for my babies and I'm not going back until we win a decent contract."

The speaker was Mary Lee Middleton, one of 700 strikers who have been battling the Oneita Knitting Mills Co. since January 15. The Oneita workers struck the company's two plants situated in the towns of Andrews and Lane, South Carolina, after waiting fruitlessly more than a year for the company to bargain with their union. The workers voted back in November 1971 to be represented by the Textile Workers Union of America (TWUA), AFL-CIO.

Oneita, which was a runaway plant from Utica, N.Y., seems determined to break the

strike and stop the union drive that would surely gain momentum throughout the textile industry should the Oneita workers win their demands. The Oneita workers are equally determined to fight on for their rights in the face of the deplorable, "19th century" conditions.

Eighty-five percent of the Oneita workers are women, and 75 percent are Black. On February 24, the Oneita workers held a "March for Justice," which drew support from recently organized workers in Charleston and Georgetown, S.C.

One of the company's first attempts to break the strike and demoralize the workers was the old management technique of "divide-and-conquer." "They tried to split the workers," explained one of the strikers, "by saying the white didn't want to picket with the Black. But we have Black and white picketing together." Racism is still a handicap though, since most of the higher-paid workers are white and some are scabbing.

There are 800,000 textile workers in the



Mary Lee Middleton (sitting), one of 700 Oneita strikers, and her family stay close to wood-burning stove for heat.

TWUA photo

South, and only a small percentage are organized. Like the Oneita workers, they have no seniority, no protection from layoffs, no pensions, no medical benefits, and of course low wages, unsafe working conditions, and never-ending speed-up.

The TWUA has called for a boycott of Oneita products, underwear sold under the Sears, J.C. Penny, Montgomery Ward, and K-Mart labels. Contributions can be sent to the Oneita Strike Fund, care of TWUA, P.O. Box 157, Andrews, S.C. 29510.

Indians defy ban, march in N.C.

SMITHFIELD, N.C., April 8—Two hundred Native Americans and 125 supporters, mostly from the Black community here, marched victoriously through this North Carolina town this morning after a day of confrontations with local authorities and the Klu Klux Klan.

Ninety Native Americans and two white supporters from the Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) in Richmond, Virginia, were arrested Saturday morning when they tried to enter Smithfield, headquarters for the KKK in southeastern North Carolina. As Native American reinforcements arrived from throughout the state, vowing to enter Smithfield one way or another, the police backed down and dropped charges against the marchers. A special permit was issued to allow the march to continue today.

The incident in Smithfield was part of a 110-mile, four-day caravan by members of the Tuscarora Council in Robeson County, North Carolina, who were protesting the refusal of the Governor of North Carolina to convene a special session of the Indian Affairs Commission to hear the Tuscaroras'

grievances. The Tuscaroras have been waging a struggle against police repression and for control of their school system.

There are 40,000 Tuscaroras in Robeson County—more than 60 percent of the population. Tuscaroras also make up 60 percent of the school population, yet the schools are controlled exclusively by whites.

In March, 50 Indians in Pembroke, North Carolina, were arrested when a rally was attacked by the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

The Tuscaroras asked the Governor to call a meeting of the Indian Affairs Commission to discuss the situation. When he refused, the Native Americans called a protest caravan from Robeson County to the capital in Raleigh, where they planned to camp on the capital grounds until the Governor agreed to the meeting.

Upon reaching Smithfield, the Indians were told that they could not march without a permit, which could not be issued for 24 hours, and they received threats of violence from the Klan. The Tuscaroras decided to march anyway and entered the town Saturday morning.

Among those arrested were Harold Brooks, southeastern Chief of the Tuscaroras. Representatives of the American Indian Movement and the Southern Christian Leadership Council were also present on the march.

Barbara Breen and Beth Marshak, of the Richmond PSC, had gone to Smithfield as part of a delegation to support the Tuscaroras and were arrested in the march. Other members of Richmond PSC helped raise money and food for the marchers and

were active in publicizing the Indians' demands in the Richmond area.

The prisoners were first offered release on personal recognizance, but they unanimously refused and spent the night in the Smithfield jail. Upon their release, the caravan continued to Raleigh, where they planned to announce a full list of their demands at the capital grounds on Monday.

'Labor Committee' goons disrupt Harlem meeting

NEW YORK, April 9—Fifty goons from the so-called National Caucus of Labor Committees (LC) last night invaded a Harlem consumers' meeting on the meat boycott at the DuBois Community Center on Eighth Avenue.

After disrupting the meeting with shouts and threats, the group left.

About a half-dozen Black people, mostly women, had been discussing the recent meat boycott and rising food prices, when the doors of the Center flew open and 50 men, all white except three or four, burst into the room.

This vigilante tactic, aimed at a Black organization and carried out by whites,

reveals the viciously racist character of the Labor Committee. It is evidently part of a campaign this group is waging against the U.S. Communist Party and its allies.

In the same week, similar attacks were made by the LC against the May Day Committee and the Jefferson Book Shop.

In the April 9-13 issue of the Labor Committee's publication, an editorial states that the LC has "the unique right and obligation to destroy the last vestige of left-hegemony of the Communist Party in the U.S.A. today. And that is precisely what we are about to do. . . . While the CP is temporarily routed and demoralized, we harry it mercilessly, we conduct the most ruthless mopping-up operation against each of its ragged formations. We can proclaim the CP to be dead, because we have it in the position in which we can finish it off, and we are determined to do exactly what is necessary to use our advantage to destroy it."

Such incredible language betrays a virulent kind of anti-Communism that is reminiscent of the McCarthy period. And their goon squad tactics show that, in addition to talking, they are eager to intimidate and physically destroy rival tendencies. Thus they objectively ally themselves with the most rightwing, neo-fascist elements bred by imperialism.

No one should be fooled that these tactics have anything to do with "leftism." On the contrary, it is the obligation of all progressive groups to condemn these vigilante actions and to prevent the "Labor Committees" from using terror and intimidation against any section of the working class movement.

PSP elaborates strategy for U.S.

By P. MEISNER

NEW YORK, April 8—The rapid growth of the Puerto Rican liberation movement within the U.S. was reflected here today at the first Congress of the United States branch of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP).

The Congress opened on March 30 and culminated today in the major plenary session, made open to the public and held at Manhattan Center this afternoon, where more than 2,000 Puerto Ricans, members and sympathizers of the PSP, and Third World and North American sympathizers attended.

The PSP was formed in November 1971 at a large assembly in San Juan, Puerto Rico, when the then Pro-Independence Movement of Puerto Rico (MPI) was transformed into the PSP. With the recent growth of the PSP in various regions in the U.S., the leadership decided it was necessary to clearly define its role here. The major question to be dealt with was the national question as it applies to Puerto Ricans living in the U.S. and its relation to the liberation of the island colony of Puerto Rico.

On March 30, the Congress held its opening session at the St. Marks Church on Manhattan's Lower East Side where approximately 400 persons participated. The session was dedicated to all of the Puerto Rican political prisoners still in imperialist jails. The featured speaker was PSP Secretary General Juan Mari Bras, who told his audience that the PSP branch in the U.S. is "in the unique position of being able to crack the fortress of Yankee imperialism from without and from within."

U.S. ZONE COMMITTEE

Over the weekend of March 31 and April 1, the Congress held two deliberative sessions for delegates only. These sessions were primarily for the purpose of adopting the Congress's Political Declaration which was distributed today. Also, a new leadership was elected to the U.S. Zone Committee of the PSP.

Today's closing session began with the introduction of the new leadership, which included Ramon Arbona, Alfredo Lopez, Jose "Che" Velazquez, Digna Sanchez, Jesus Lopez, Andres Torres, and Jose Alberto Alvarez Febles. The conference chairwoman, Digna Sanchez, then introduced the various invited guests to the Congress, including Carlos Feliciano and Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, the Cuban Ambassador to the UN. Also introduced were representatives of several Third World and North American progressive organizations, including Workers World Party. Messages of solidarity were then read by chairwoman Sanchez, including one from Deirdre Griswold of WWP.

The two main speakers of the session were Juan Mari Bras and Ramon Arbona, the First Secretary of the U.S. Zone of the PSP. Mari Bras declared the PSP a Marxist-Leninist party committed to militant proletarian internationalism. He

stated that his party is in solidarity with all socialist countries but takes a neutral stand in the internal conflicts within the socialist camp.

PSP ON THE NATIONAL QUESTION

On the national question, as related to Puerto Ricans living in the U.S., Mari Bras said that the Puerto Rican nation is only one nation—the island population integrated with the 2 million Puerto Ricans in the United States. On the question of elections, the Secretary General said that the PSP might participate in elections, but he warned:

"We will never fall into the illusion that the electoral process will be the instrument for the liberation and independence of

Puerto Rico."

Ramon Arbona began his address by dedicating the session today to Ramon Emeterio Betances, the 19th-century leader of the Puerto Rican liberation movement against Spain, whose birthday is today. Arbona then reiterated the PSP position on Puerto Ricans and the national question:

"Every Puerto Rican subject to U.S. imperialism, no matter where he is, is a member of the Puerto Rican nation. There is only one Puerto Rican nation."

RELATION TO U.S. LEFT

Arbona also attacked the idea of supporting "politiqueros" like Herman Badillo (Democratic Party candidate for Mayor of New York City), since they only want to

continue the capitalist exploitation of Puerto Ricans. He also dealt with the PSP's relation with the North American left, in which he said the PSP will not intervene in the conflicts between the various left organizations, but will intervene in a general ideological debate with the U.S. left so as to advance the struggle for socialism in the U.S.

The Political Declaration of the U.S. branch of the PSP is a 100-page document covering many issues, and includes several resolutions passed by the Congress. It will, as the PSP leadership itself anticipates, generate considerable discussion and debate within and outside of the PSP. Some of the issues covered in the Declaration are the colonial domination of Puerto Rico, the Puerto Rican migration to the U.S., the class composition of Puerto Ricans living in the U.S., the oppression of Puerto Rican women, Third World movements and struggles within the U.S., police repression, the national question, the left in the U.S., armed struggle, electoral struggle, and ideological struggle.

Death by fire— another affliction of the poor

By GUY BOLDUC

BUFFALO, N.Y.—In 1972, 36 people burned to death in Buffalo, New York. Of those 36, there were no congressmen, no bank executives, and no members of the board of directors of any Buffalo corporations.

Mansions don't often burn. Poor people's homes do. In fact, because absentee landlords are letting urban buildings deteriorate, whole sections of cities are becoming firetraps for working people and their families.

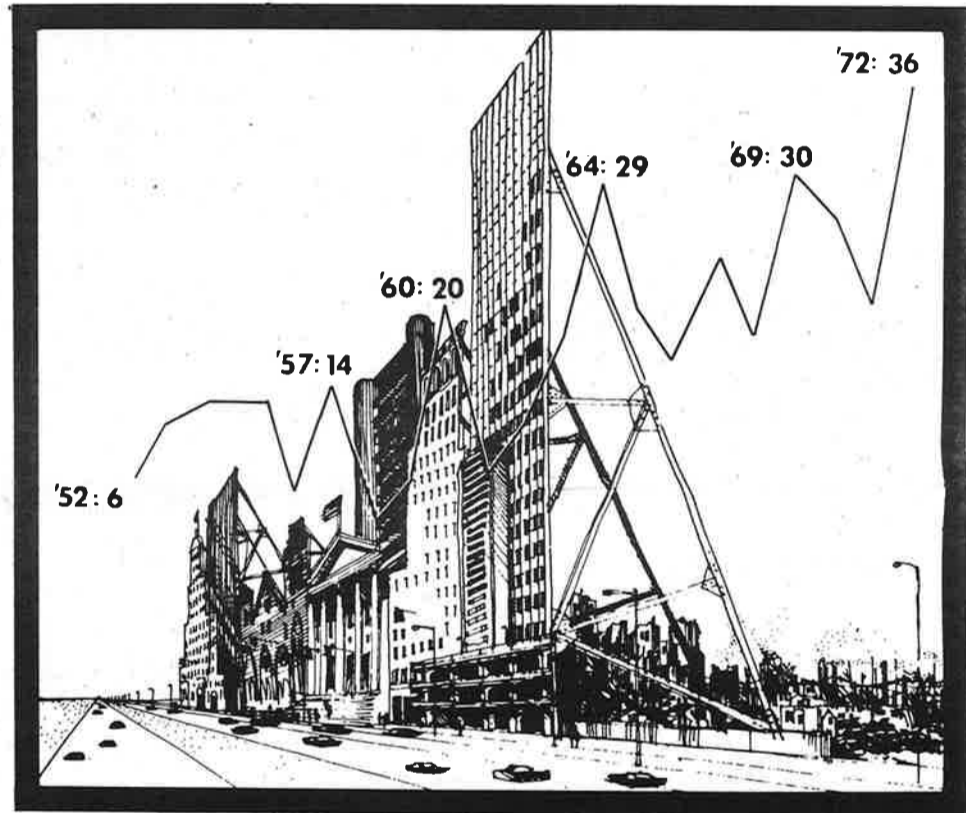
Even before those with money abandoned the cities, it was those without money who perished in home and factory fires. But until the rich began abandoning urban centers, the fire death rates since the turn of the century had been generally decreasing. Even poor and working people were benefiting from technological advances (incandescent lighting, gas and electric stoves, nonburning building materials).

But urban fire casualties have been increasing in the last 20 years. In Buffalo, six people died in fires in 1952, but 36 died in 1972. And over 12,000 died nationally.

Those of us with wages so low that only immediate necessities are possible have no money to repair or replace damaged, worn out, and unsafe electrical and gas appliances or heaters. Old, paint-peeling, dry, frazzled, torn, crowded, and splintered furniture, clothing, floors, and walls encourage flashfires from just a few sparks—sparks which would die out on the new, clean, painted, and polished fire-resistant materials which only the better-off can now afford.

Most poor and working families have no choice but to rent from absentee landlords who refuse to rewire, repaint, clean chimneys and flues, remove garbage, or even provide fire extinguishers or fire escapes. Fire prevention cuts into their profits, and besides, they have fire insurance. When and if their buildings are condemned, owners let them stay vacant for years, letting them become fire hazards for adjacent homes rather than paying to have them demolished or modernized. But virtually all workers and unemployed lose all their possessions, if not their lives, in fires, because even though fires strike the poor most frequently, only the rich can get fire insurance at cheap rates.

Working people risk being burned not only at home, but also at work. The major stockholders live in the fire-free suburbs—not only from profits derived by underpaying workers, but also from profits collected by not spending money on safety for those workers. In January 1972, six workers were killed at a Pillsbury Flour Mill explosion in Buffalo. The only concern of the company executives and local politicians was to get the plant going profitably again. The corporation president



Graph of Buffalo fire deaths in last 20 years. First number is year; second number is number of people killed. LNS drawing-WW graph

denied any possible safety violations, and no independent investigation was made. There was and still is no company-paid life or accident insurance for Pillsbury workers.

Another three fire victims last year were Buffalo State Mental Hospital outpatients. Because of budget cuts, they had been sent out of the hospital to live together in an apartment, on welfare. It was discovered, after these three women had died in an apartment building, that the owner was operating an illegal rooming house and had failed to file a building plan.

Almost 50 percent of Buffalo's fire victims in 1972 were the young (below 6 years old) and the aged (over 60). Our parents and grandparents, as well as our young children and grandchildren, because they are less able to flee, are the most helpless against fires.

Fifteen percent of Buffalo's population lives below the official "poverty level" of \$3,700 for a four-member family. Twenty-two percent of the city population is non-white, most of whom live on the East Side, the area with the most fires.

Do we have to live in poverty, with fire hazards?

No. If the class of the poor and oppressed were running things, we could deal with the causes of fires. In the Soviet Union, after an industrial fire in March last year, the factory director and the head of the institution which designed the ventilating system were fired and charged with

"criminally careless attitudes toward their duties."

Can you imagine the Pillsbury Company president being jailed?

In socialist Cuba, the old huts of peasant families are ceremoniously burned down by the peasants themselves, after they have moved into one of the light, airy houses or apartment buildings that are now being constructed at a rapid pace all over the island. The moving significance of this new tradition was described to a Workers World staff writer last year, when one of the peasants exclaimed: "Today I burn away my past. When I woke up this morning in my new home, I thought it was a dream. Now we have a refrigerator, furniture, television, everything. I have no words to express how I feel. . . ." Thus, watching what was your home for 20 or 30 years burn to the ground may be a rewarding experience in Cuba, but for a family in any American city, it's a too common tragedy.

How can we stop these awful fires? Better fire equipment and training may help put out fires, but they can't stop fires from starting. We have to attack the reasons for home and factory fires—and that's the greed of the landlords, the corporate executives, and all other capitalists. Only when we get rid of these profiteers will we be able to say, as the Cuban worker so well expressed it, "Today, I burn away my past."

Working Women
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Va. prisons called slave plantations

Special to WW from the Richmond Prisoners Solidarity Committee

RICHMOND, Va.—Many captive men and women workers in Virginia prisons and road camps have described those places as "plantations" where all prisoners, especially Black people (who make up 25 percent of the state's total population, but comprise at least 70 percent of its prison population), are subjected to all the traditional forms of abuse and brutality used against working people in the South. This is done in an effort to destroy their sense of worth and purpose as human beings. But these twentieth-century estates employ far more devious means than their antebellum counterparts in squeezing profits from their slave workers.

Like most prisons elsewhere in this country, Virginia's concentration camps operate for the same reasons as the infamous Nazi Germany camps before and during World War II: to produce cheap goods and services for the state at a profit based on the *slave labor* of the prisoners, and to repress millions of working people whose activity poses a threat to the state's power.

The standard wage for an eight-hour workday in Virginia prisons is 25 cents a day, or about \$5 a month. Prisoners can get incentive bonuses in some cases for "extra effort," but no prisoner normally gets more

than 75 cents a day. Prisoners at the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond make office furniture and print documents for the state government. They also stitch together state police uniforms, the uniforms of the troops sent out to smash any strike or rebellion by the prisoners.

However, the biggest industry at the penitentiary is the "tag and metal shop" which, in the words of a Black prisoner, "... is just about the hardest-working shop in this concentration camp. The metal shop produces signs for the State of Virginia. The metal shop also produces metal file office cabinets of all types as well as public park materials. The tag shop is the largest industry within this concentration camp. In

which men work eight hours a day and five to six hours at night, on a 'compelled' volunteer basis."

The above quoted prisoner himself works in the print shop, of which he writes: "Really, the work in the print shop is not what an individual can say is hard, but castrating. The racist foremen that supervise the shop place very intelligent people on jobs such as pulling paper, which is called collating, regardless of what type of educational standards the prisoner may have. Nevertheless jobs are always available, but the beneficial ones are prohibited to Blacks, although Blacks make up 3/4 of this prison population. The supervisors of the shops are still playing the skin



Prisoners Solidarity Committee demonstrates in support of Richmond prisoners demands.

WW photo

color game, which we seek to eliminate in our struggle for liberation."

Prisoners at the Mens' and Womens' Industrial Farms in Goochland do laundry for state hospitals, schools, and sanitariums, at a rate of 4 1/2 cents a pound. The total yearly wage bill for 86 women at the Womens' Farm laundry is \$3,625!! Women there are forbidden to leave their work areas without permission from one of the many white male guards or matrons who constantly patrol the laundry. If they do leave without asking, they risk being locked in a tiny room for three days with no book except the Bible, a shower every two days, and a chamber pot for a toilet, which is emptied only once daily. No worker at the laundry makes more than 50 cents a day.

The Nazi camps in fascist Germany are now known to have conducted horrible medical experiments on their prisoners. The Richmond Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) has been receiving consistent reports from prisoners that Virginia prisons are also the scene of such "experiments," for example, skin grafts, large dosages of new drugs, and frequent use of tranquilizers and other disorienting drugs on "disruptive" prisoners. The Medical College of Virginia in Richmond is involved in such activity at the State Penitentiary.

The Norfolk and Richmond PSCs are working in a coalition effort with other groups representing Black communities in those cities to get an investigation of the penitentiary. We are also beginning a public information campaign to build support for the right of prisoners and all workers to organize themselves and to collectively bargain with their bosses.

letters

I ask your help in publicizing our need for legal help in the excessive punishment, and being placed in danger of my life, and to stop harassment of the Indian prisoner.

An Indian who cares,
A Pima Indian

must be an important part of this process. However, jails are the least likely place where a sense of human dignity can be restored. There are dehumanizing dimensions to prison life which those on the outside never experience. First of all, the whole physical setting with its concrete slabs, iron bars, and barren cold are depressing. Second, because the penal codes were conceived at a time when it was the consensus that prisoners must be punished, they are given the worst of everything.

A prisoner,
Chillicothe, Ohio

isolating him from the main population and subjecting him to "corrective treatment" at the ACTEC, which maintains complete secrecy about its methods. Rumors of lobotomies and systematic drugging are all that have reached outside the walls.

Eduardo Cruz is a victim of the total repressive apparatus of the neo-colonialist U.S. government. He has been locked up for his support of Puerto Rican independence and has lost the sight in his left eye because the prison authorities refused to give him adequate medical treatment. Now the state is moving to destroy his mind.

Support for him is being organized by the Eduardo Cruz Defense Committee, P.O. Box 71, Peck Slip Station, New York, N.Y. 10038.

Indians abused at Leavenworth

I am writing you to reach out to the people, who really should be concerned with the harassment of Indians, who are imprisoned here at Leavenworth.

I, myself, have been assaulted, and brutalized in many ways by officials for over 90 days in the hole, on charges setup by Warden S.J. Britton and staff.

I am denied a fair hearing or due process of law, and denied religious activities, or any chance to work and earn good days or money. And I have been threatened by officials for association with certain individuals, and have been threatened with forced punitive transfer for only being honest, and being in the process of being proud of being an Indian.

The poor quality jobs, no medical treatment, and abuse and no rights for educational needs, only point out the discrimination against the Indians here.

The Indians need to unite here, as well as outside. We need legal assistance to provide for our rights being violated and discriminated against.

Not only in Wounded Knee are Indians being brutalized, but right here also. I have been in the hole for 90 days and my health and life placed in danger, as before on several occasions.

The authorities here are in a state of fear also, as killings, suicides, and destruction of the factories by inmates in the past month, are the result of a new "rehabilitative" program, and of too much hate and misunderstanding by officials.

How prisons try to break Blacks

One of the most effective strategies in society's psychological warfare against Blacks is to turn as many of us as possible into "criminals." There is no more effective way of crushing and demoralizing a man than to arrest him, convict him, and send him to jail. When he is eventually released, he is defined as an ex-convict for life, and as such faces almost insurmountable social and psychological problems.

We know that the chief victims of this country's defective judicial system are Blacks—look at the disproportionate number of Blacks who swell the jails. This means that a significant number of our brothers and sisters are either hungup in jail, or trying to make it as ex-convicts on the outside. As a result of being born Black, we are all familiar with second-class conditions. Add to this the social stigma of being an ex-convict, and you have a double-edged oppressive device. While most of us have struggled with feelings of inferiority and self-hatred, we know that the Black ex-prisoner must bear an extra burden. The ex-convict label, like his Black skin, will be a permanent feature of his life. It will be like a curse; and it will not be undone.

You will recall that a major objective of racial oppression is to keep us childlike and dependent, so that we might be more easily controlled and dominated. If prisoners are to become constructive members of society, then preserving their sense of manhood

Protester moved to Comstock

APRIL 10—Eduardo "Pancho" Cruz and 14 other inmates of the Comstock, N.Y., prison were transferred today to the Adirondack Corrective Treatment and Evaluation Center (ACTEC), because of their participation in a recent inmate protest at Comstock.

In 1971, Eduardo Cruz and Wilfredo Melendez were convicted of possession and transportation of explosives and sentenced to 7 and 5 years, respectively. The "explosives" could not be detonated by hammer blows or ignited by a flame, but New York DA John Fine successfully made a hysterical appeal to the fears of the jury.

Eduardo Cruz was framed because he is a leader in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence who founded a Puerto Rican student organization at City College.

Since his incarceration, he has become a leader in the struggle for prisoners' rights. He has helped form the Concerned Puerto Ricans Committee, which organized Puerto Rican Discovery Day last November 19. Currently the Committee has a class action suit in the federal courts to demand improved medical treatment for prisoners.

Now the prison system is retaliating by

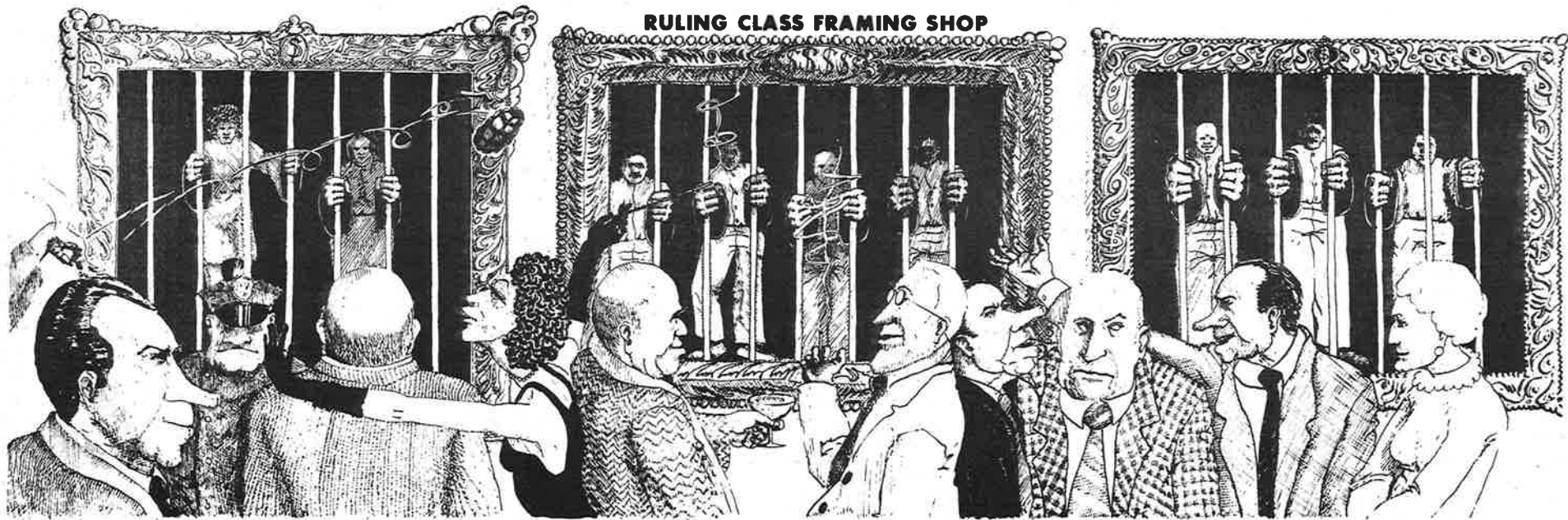
RNA head out on bail

In Jackson, Mississippi, on April 3, Imari Obadele, President of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) and one of the RNA 11, was released on \$25,000 bail.

The brother had served 18 months on charges stemming from an August 1971 police attack on RNA headquarters in Jackson, during which one cop was killed and two were wounded. Four of the RNA were convicted on various trumped-up charges; three of them were handed life sentences. Seven have been released on bond pending trial.

Brother Obadele, initially charged with murder, called his release a "clear and important victory for both Blacks and decent whites." He said that the RNA would begin a new effort to build an all-Black nation and to gain reparations from the U.S. government.





WW cartoon: tom

freedom and took it.

Now he is on trial for his life, as Angela Davis was. But once Angela was freed, most of the organizations that supported her did not maintain all-out support for Ruchell Magee. Nevertheless, Magee tenaciously fought for his life and has won the first round.

Now is the time for all progressive organizations to rally support for his case and to demand that the charges be dropped and that his jail term be ended.

Ruchell Magee must be set free!

Harlem Four free at last!



Three of the Harlem Four. From left: Walter Thomas, William Craig, and Wallace Baker.

NEW YORK, April 4—The HARLEM FOUR walked out onto the street today after pleading guilty to manslaughter charges and being released on time served, without probation.

Immediately after being released, Wallace Baker, Ronald Felder, William Craig, and Walter Thomas declared their innocence.

During eight years of imprisonment they have faced three trials, the first a conviction that was overturned and the last two ending in hung juries, on the charge of murdering a woman during a store robbery in 1964. Defense Attorney Lewis Steel said the decision to plead guilty to manslaughter "was made on a purely pragmatic basis."

DA William Hogan, who has been responsible for keeping the Four jailed all these years without a conviction, is running for reelection this year. New York City Commissioner of Corrections William vanden Heuvel, who is challenging Hogan for the DA's office, charged: "Obviously my candidacy and their fear of the consequences forced the DA's office essentially to concede the case."

Of course vanden Heuvel did not let his prison reform speeches get in the way of fierce repression following the Tombs, Kew Gardens, and Brooklyn House of Detention rebellions in 1970.

But Hogan's desire at this time to put his prosecution of the Harlem Four in the past has given them the opportunity to go free.

PSP now target of repression

The following statement was recently released by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP).

Several militants of the Puerto Rican Socialist party fell victims of repression in the eve of the First Congress of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party in the United States. The wave of cases being charged, put on trial, or up for sentencing in the next few weeks points clearly to the ruthless tactics geared to intimidate the membership of the party, which follows Marxist-Leninist theory.

JUAN OTERO, a well-respected member of the South Bronx community and militant organizer of pickets denouncing job discrimination in construction sites, was framed on absurd burglary charges.

FELIX ROMERO of Jersey City, a

dealing.

Gutierrez is the state's star witness against CARLOS FELICIANO, who will begin his second trial May 7 on attempted arson and bombing charges. Carlos was acquitted of the same charges in an earlier trial in the Bronx, but now the state is retrying him in Manhattan.

Carlos Feliciano is being persecuted because of his activism in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, for which he spent five years in the same jail cell with Albizu Campos. The state has singled out Carlos in its efforts to repress the rising Puerto Rican liberation movement.

For 20 years the Spaniard Gutierrez has been a hired gunman for the state, getting deeper and deeper into vice and corruption. The arrest charge shows that this enemy of the people has been raking in a fortune in kickbacks from death-drug dealers in the oppressed community.

Now the truth is out—the number one witness against Carlos Feliciano is worse than a bloodsucker. The charges against Carlos must be dropped!

For information on support for Carlos on May 7, contact The Committee to Defend Carlos Feliciano, Box 356, Canal Street Station, New York, N.Y. 10013.

H. Rap Brown denied justice

H. RAP BROWN and three other Black men have been framed on armed robbery and assault charges connected with a holdup and shootout at a Manhattan bar in October 1971.

The jury was deadlocked on the most serious charge—attempted murder, carrying a life sentence—but the guilty verdicts on the other charges amount to possible 25-year sentences.

After months of witnessing the determination of the state to put these men behind bars, the jury was forced to deliberate for three days. And even then, three of the jurors could not bring themselves to convict H. Rap Brown on the contradictory eyewitness testimony and circumstantial evidence presented by the state.

Finally, the jurors holding out for acquittal were bent to the will of the court by an insidious device. Those pressing for conviction avoided using Rap Brown's name and instead used the name Roy Williams, which Brown had given the cops when he was first arrested! They had to make the others forget Brown's real identity—a Black freedom fighter and former head of SNCC.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee has supported H. Rap Brown since the time of his arrest: In the last days of the trial, growing support for Brown, including that given by Angela Davis, began to be shown.

Mass support will turn the verdict around. The struggle to free Rap Brown and all political prisoners continues and gains strength.

Lied on Carlos, cop in drug deal

NEW YORK, April 3—The New York City Police Department announced today that Wilfredo Gutierrez and four other cops have been suspended from the police force, as a result of their arrest in which they are charged with \$15,000 extortion in drug

Brother Ruchell wins mistrial

With the jury completely deadlocked on the verdict, the judge has been forced to declare a mistrial in the murder and kidnaping case against RUCHELL MAGEE. The state has not announced whether it will accept defeat and drop the charges or subject Magee to another trial.

Magee was accused of the death of Judge Harold Haley in the Aug. 7, 1970, escape attempt from the Marin County Courthouse near San Francisco. Haley was gunned down by the cops who blocked the escape route and murdered Jonathan Jackson, younger brother of George Jackson, and two other Black prisoners, William Christmas and James McLain.

Angela Davis was also accused in the case of having provided the guns that Jonathan Jackson brought into the courtroom. She was accused because of her work organizing support for George Jackson, a Black revolutionary jailed for life on a \$90 robbery charge. Angela Davis's trial was separated from Magee's, and she was acquitted after a massive worldwide show of support.

Magee has battled courageously against the California court system throughout the trial, just as he has for years from within the



Ruchell Magee

walls as a jailhouse lawyer. No one knows the injustice of the state better than Ruchell, who is under a five-year-to-life sentence for a burglary conviction and has spent years in solitary as a result of political organizing within the prisons.

After Magee successfully filed petitions in his own case that forced one racist judge after another to withdraw from the case, the court recognized his legal brilliance by refusing to allow him to represent himself!

When Jonathan Jackson appeared in the courtroom with the gun pointed the other way for once—taking the DA and the judge hostage, Ruchell Magee saw a chance for

i Arreglemos las elecciones en Chile!

Imperialismo es una palabra grande y a veces mal usada. Libros completos han sido escritos para explicar lo que significa.

Durante las pasadas semanas, el testimonio de algunos altos oficiales gubernamentales y ejecutivos de corporaciones ante un sub-comité congresional ha ayudado a substanciar el concepto de imperialismo—lo que es y lo que hace.

Al quedar al descubierto la historia de como ITT trató de prevenir un gobierno izquierdista de tomar el poder en Chile en 1971, quedó demostrado claramente una vez mas como de inmediatos y directos son los métodos de que se valen las grandes corporaciones y los bancos para tramitar la política exterior del gobierno de EEUU—y luego llamar a las agencias apropiadas para que la lleven a cabo.

El Comité de Relaciones Exteriores del Senado ha estado oyendo el testimonio de oficiales de ITT—como su presidente Harold S. Geneen, su director John A. McCone y su vicepresidente William R. Merriam—igual que al testimonio de agentes de la CIA y del pasado embajador de EEUU en Chile. (Estos papeles tienden a confundir, como en el caso de McCone quien al presente es director en ITT y anteriormente fue director en CIA.)

ITT fue nacionalizada por el gobierno chileno despues que la Coalición Unida Popular dirigida por Allende subió al poder. Como Allende le había prometido al pueblo que nacionalizaría todas las firmas norteamericanas que estaban chupando

las riquezas en Chile, la compañía sabía lo que podía esperar, y tramó con tiempo para asegurar un gobierno derechista y pro-EEUU en el poder.

“¿Hola, CIA? Esta es ITT”

¿Entonces, qué hizo ITT? Pues llamó a la CIA,—sí así como si nada—y las dos organizaciones se reunieron para figurar como sabotear la elección. De acuerdo a Merriam, hubo por lo menos 25 reuniones con la CIA durante un período de varios meses y unas cuantas visitas del mismo Merriam al Departamento de Estado y a Kissinger.

El resultado fue un programa de presiones económicas y amenazas a la economía chilena, un gasto de 400,000 en Chile para llevar la elección a la forma que la querían las corporaciones de EEUU, y esfuerzos para tener listo el ejercito chileno—en caso de que fallara todo lo demás.

Estos atentados para prevenir la nacionalización de propiedades norteamericanas en Chile fallaron. ITT, Kennecott Copper y Anaconda Copper fueron tomadas por el gobierno de Unidad Popular. (Chile ha dicho que aunque está dispuesto a pagar compensación por la propiedad, solamente pagará la cantidad por la cual fueron evaluadas para propósitos de impuestos, la cual fué muy baja y de esa suma será reducido las ganancias en exceso hechas en Chile comparadas con las ganancias de esas propiedades hechas en EEUU. No hay que decir que esto deja a Chile debiendo a estos parásitos casi nada.)

Lo remarcable de este testimonio que sale de estas maquinaciones no es que el imperialismo hace trucos sucios. Se ha admitido mas o menos abiertamente que las compañías petroleras trabajaron con la CIA para derrocar el gobierno progresista de Mossadegh en Iran en 1953, que fueron los intereses azucareros los que hicieron posible que Ellsworth Bunker fuera nombrado asistente especial al presidente para manejar la invasión a la República Dominicana en 1965 y sigue la lista.

Lo que merece la atención es que una ruptura dentro de la clase dominante halla sido tan publicada, tan reciente a los cuentos. Parte del testimonio fue concerniente a un “trato” que alegadamente ITT le ofreció al gobierno de Allende, en lo cual ITT recibiría completa compensación después de ser nacionalizados, alegadamente basándose en ganarse “la opinión mundial.” Y después Chile podría expropiar Kennecott y Anaconda, presumiblemente sin la interferencia del gobierno de los Estados Unidos.

Crecimiento Explosivo de ITT

ITT creció de una base de ganancia de \$30 millones por año a \$106 millones en los años de 1960-71 mayormente a través de adquisiciones. Hoy en día es la novena corporación mas grande de EEUU.

Tal crecimiento fenomenal y el uso de sus conexiones políticas a la expensa de otros arreglos financieros, obviamente ha molestado y alarmado a

otras poderosas secciones de la clase imperialista en el poder. Algo semejante a la aventura de Chile a la escala doméstica, fue cuando ITT contribuyó cientos de miles de dólares a la campaña de Nixon, en intercambio por un arreglo favorable con el Departamento de Justicia de sus pleitos anti-monopolistas.

Es una de las funciones del gobierno capitalista arbitrar entre diferentes arreglos e intereses dentro de la clase dominante. Han aprendido a través de larga experiencia que si permiten que una facción se beneficie demasiado mucho a la expensa de otras la resultante inestabilidad puede ser desastrosa para la existencia de la clase en total.

La presente investigación congresional por el Comité de Relaciones Exteriores sobre los cuentos en Chile y por un sub-comité de la cámara en el caso de soborno de ITT a la administración de Nixon para continuar siendo un fideicomiso—quiere decir para seguir aglobando otras compañías por absorvimientos y adquisiciones—reflejando estos miedos de la clase dominante misma.

Pero igual que en cualquier crisis del sistema, cuando estos pillos caigan, la clase trabajadora podrá desarrollarse en toda su fuerza. Ahora mismo esto quiere decir que podemos echarle una ojeada a como funciona el sistema interiormente. Y mientras ellos hablan de como remendarlo, nuestra clase debe estudiar sus debilidades para arrancar el capitalismo completamente.

Blue-collar judges?

Laws you can understand?

Cuba drafts legal system

By SHARON SHELTON

Suppose you had to go to court in Cuba. Most likely your offense would be a minor one, since serious crimes like robbery and murder are rare. Your case would then be handled by a Base Level Popular Tribunal, located in one of your neighbors' living rooms or in a storefront, and the judges would be people you know—workers and members of your community.

What's more, court would be in session only at night so that you wouldn't have to take off work and so that your neighbors and friends could attend.

At the trial, your accuser would present the charges right there in front of you, and you would have the right to answer those charges. After asking you, your accuser, and perhaps your friends about the case, the three elected judges would confer and deliver their verdict, which in these Base Level Tribunals usually consists of public admonition.

Following the verdict, you would be asked if you thought it was fair, and there would be a political discussion among those in the audience as to why the act was an offense. This discussion could be quite lengthy and extensive, since the legal system in Cuba functions, not only to protect and maintain the workers' state, but to educate the population as well.

Now, due to a proposal by a special Cuban commission set up to recommend changes in the legal structure, courts at all levels may function somewhat similarly to



Fidel Castro talking to Cuban prisoners. Can you imagine Nixon doing this?

photo: Lee Lockwood

the way these Base Level Popular Tribunals have operated since their initiation in the middle 1960s, at first on an experimental basis. This proposal promises to radically transform revolutionary law in Cuba by providing for more popular participation in the decisions of higher courts.

Like all projected laws in Cuba, however, it must be approved by the Cuban people before it can go into effect. So, this February, all across the country, there were more than 2,500,000 discussions going on in Cuba—at work centers, in the neighborhoods, in schools, and in the mass organizations—concerning the merits of the suggested changes.

At these discussions, any single objection or suggestion for change was carefully recorded and passed back to the commission for further consideration before letting the proposal go into effect.

Actually, the idea for this transformation of the court structure is one that has been germinating in Cuba since shortly after the revolution triumphed in 1959, and the Base Level Popular Tribunals reflect the beginnings of this restructuring of the old court system. Under the new proposal, there

will be three other levels of popular tribunals. These will consist of Regional Popular Tribunals (approximately 60 for each province), Province Popular Tribunals, and the Supreme Popular Tribunal.

At these higher levels, not all the judges will come from the general working population, however. In the regional courts, for each particular case, there will be a lawyer, serving as president, and two workers on a judging panel. They will handle cases carrying sentences of six months to six years of enforced productive work.

In the provincial courts, three lawyer-judges and two worker-judges will hear cases carrying sentences of six months' productive work, to death. The supreme court will function as the highest court in Cuba and will have either four lawyers and three workers or three lawyers and two workers per case. A decision will be reached at all these levels by majority vote of the panel of judges for a particular case.

Also, all cases will be subject to appeal before a higher court. The Supreme Popular Tribunal will hear appeals from the lower

courts as well as appeals from Military Tribunals and Revolutionary Tribunals, separate courts which try political crimes against the workers' state.

The administrative team for the new court system, if approved, will consist of the president of the Supreme Popular Tribunal and the presidents of the separate divisions of this high court that hear civil, military, and criminal appeals and appeals from the Revolutionary Tribunals.

There are many other features to the proposal, but what is particularly striking about this transformation in the court structure is the way in which workers will be participating directly in the decisions of all levels of courts in Cuba. On each level, there will be many more worker-judges elected than needed to handle the cases. And out of the two-year elected terms, these judges will function as such for only about two months spread out over the two years. The rest of the time they will engage in their regular productive work. The purpose of this truly far-reaching innovation is to ensure that the higher courts keep close contact with the needs and desires of the Cuban masses.