

## WE DEMAND:

By CLIFF GORDON

When the lights went out in New York City in July, tens of thousands of people took to the streets, looting stores and taking some of the things they needed and don't have a chance to get. While many of the looters had jobs, most were unemployed, and they knew that their chances of finding jobs are very small.

The blackout showed what poor people have known for a long time—that unemployment is condemning millions of people to a life of poverty and despair. With millions of people out on the streets without a job, unemployment is becoming a major issue in the battle between working and oppressed people on the one hand, and the ruling class on the other.

By the end of the summer, official government figures put unemployment at 7.1 percent. This is the highest unemployment rate since

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# JOBS FOR ALL!



Harlem youths line up for jobs.

## Anti-Fascist Struggle Grows

# British Workers Smash Nazi March

By TONY CURZO

On August 13, the Nazis in Britain—members of the National Front—came out into the streets to attack Black and Brown workers in Lewisham, one of London's working-class neighborhoods. But, instead, they got the beating of their lives.

More than 3,000 people rallied to block the route of the Nazis. Black and Brown workers came from Lewisham and other communities, and trade unionists and leftists, Black and white, came from all over Britain. They were met by 4,000 cops, the largest police force ever assembled in Britain.

To clear a path for the Nazis, the cops launched a

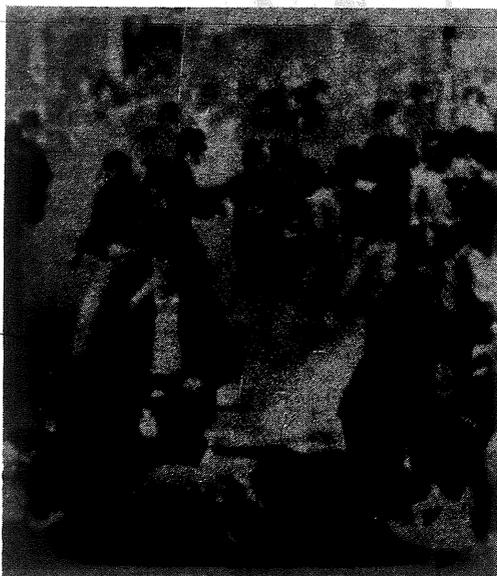
head-on attack on the anti-fascist demonstrators. The workers defended themselves with whatever homemade weapons they could come up with: sticks, rocks, smoke bombs, bottles, bricks. The cops were forced to retreat. They attacked again with mounted police leading the way. But they failed to budge the anti-fascist militants.

The Nazi march was broken into by surging waves of militants. The "master race" thugs huddled on the sidewalk, behind police lines, terrified and humiliated. Eventually the cops got most of the Nazis past the blockade, at tremendous cost to themselves. But it did the Nazis

no good, because by now the whole area was swelling with additional thousands of anti-fascists.

The Nazis were forced to disperse long before reaching their scheduled rallying point. It was an important victory for the working class

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Workers smash fascist march in Britain, August 13.

sección  
en  
español

*Attica-South Africa  
Same Enemy!  
Same Fight!... see page 10*

# Gay Women Fight Back

## Key Case in Detroit

By a WORKER CORRESPONDENT

DETROIT—Two Black gay women—Cynthia Rogers and Deborah Posey—are facing charges of felonious assault because they stood up for their right to live with each other and raise their children in peace. The charges stem from a fight which took place with the landlady of the two-family house they live in. The landlady's family had been harassing the gay women and their children and threatening them with physical abuse. This harassment started after the landlady eavesdropped on private conversations between the couple, and learned that they were gay.

### Gay women threatened

Last July 4, the landlady's 16-year-old daughter started an argument with one of the gay women by calling her derogatory names in front of her children. The gay woman was physically threatened by both the daughter and her boyfriend. Later that evening, another daughter, 22-year-old Sharon Stuggs, sat on the porch with a butcher knife, threatening the two women as they came and went.

When the gay women started carrying knives to protect themselves, the landlady called the police. The cops came and told the gay women that the landlady's family had a right to sit on their property with a knife, but that the gay women couldn't carry knives.

During the following weeks, the gay women and their four children, aged six through nine, were con-

stantly harassed and threatened with physical harm. Then, on August 24, the landlady's daughters began throwing bricks at the gay couple's children and dog as they played in the front yard. When Deborah Posey came downstairs to see what was happening, she was attacked with a butcher knife by Sharon Stuggs. She was cut seriously on her arm, and had to be taken to the hospital.

At the hospital, the cops told her that she could sign a complaint. Then they went to talk to the landlady's family. After learning that the injured woman is gay, the cops called Posey to tell her that she couldn't file a complaint. The landlady's family had claimed that Posey had attacked Sharon Stuggs first. Even though the gay woman was the only one hurt,

the cops took the word of the landlady's family against that of the gay women.

After months of this abuse, and having been shown that they could get no protection from the cops, the gay women decided to take matters into their own hands. A confrontation took place on August 25 between the gay couple and the landlady's daughters, in which the daughters got hurt. The cops came immediately and arrested the gay women for felonious assault.

During their questioning, Posey and Rogers were verbally abused by the cops and told that gay people are always causing trouble. However, the district attorney was forced to charge Sharon Stuggs with felonious assault for her attack on Posey, since it was clear that she had provoked the whole situation.

When Posey and Rogers went home after they were released, they

found that their apartment had been vandalized, with all of their possessions damaged or destroyed. The police said they couldn't do anything about this because there were no witnesses to prove who had done it.

A preliminary hearing on all the charges is being held on September 15. It is important that militant workers and oppressed people band together in support of these gay women. A defense committee has been organized by the Revolutionary Socialist League to raise funds for legal expenses and to organize the support of the working class in Detroit. □

### NEW YORK FORUM

"Gay Liberation Through Socialist Revolution"

West Side Discussion Group

37 9th Ave. (at 14th St.)  
October 16, 7:30

## Workers Must Defend Gay Rights

# Canadian Gays Under Attack

An anti-gay campaign is now underway in Canada. Following the example of right-wing attacks in the U.S., the newspapers, radio stations and politicians of Toronto are whipping up anti-gay hysteria. They want to create a climate where gay people's open existence as gays, as well as their very lives, is threatened. Out of this they hope to start a campaign to bring back the death penalty and increase the repression of all working and oppressed people in Canada.

In this attack on gay rights, one of the oldest lies about gay people is being dragged out—that gay people are rapists and murderers.

On August 1, Toronto police discovered the body of Emanuel Jaques, a 12-year-old Portuguese youth, on the Yonge Street strip. This area of Toronto has a lot of porno stores and body-rub businesses. Close to this strip is a community where many gay people live.

The cops arrested four men for the murder. The cops charge that these men raped the youth before killing him. The Canadian ruling class made the most of this. The Toronto newspapers, the Sun and the Star, opened up the attack. The newspapers labelled the murder a "homosexual orgy slaying." A radio station, CFTR, joined in with an interview from a Los Angeles psychoanalyst, Dr. Melvin Anshell. In it he claims that "a homosexual is a sadist." CFTR ran this interview twice.

Ontario's Attorney General Roy McMurtry announced that his anti-pornography campaign will include a campaign against gay hustlers. He wants to bring back vagrancy laws that were thrown out because they were so arbitrary. McMurtry's plan is to make it hell for gay people to walk the streets in their own community.

Emanuel Jaques was a Portuguese immigrant to Canada. Portuguese people in Canada are oppressed in the same way as Latins are oppressed in the U.S. And they are angry at their oppression.

The ruling class of Canada is seizing on this anger and trying to turn it against gay people. They know that as long as the people are divided, a strong united struggle against capitalist rule won't develop.

So they use a "divide-and-conquer" strategy to maintain their power. Unfortunately, this strategy is working in Canada today.

On August 4, when Jaques was buried, 15,000 people, mostly Portuguese, held a demonstration. They demonstrated for the death penalty,

The rape and murder of Emanuel Jaques is a crime. But the ruling class doesn't give a damn about the life of this Portuguese youth. They want to use Jaques' murder as the cover to step up their attacks on working and oppressed people—through the death penalty, through

# GOOD NEWS \* YES ON \*

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR HOMOSEXUALITY

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Los Angeles poster calls for death penalty for homosexuals.

for more power to the police and for an end to homosexuals.

The Canadian ruling class will be more than happy to bring back its death penalty. And they will use it on gay people today, Portuguese people tomorrow and all working and oppressed people the next day. The ruling class of Canada would love to give their cops more power. And for every gay person the cops beat today, there will be a Portuguese worker beaten tomorrow.

Prior to the right-wing campaign, gay people in Canada were waging a militant fight for their rights. And they were making some gains. A Gallup Poll taken in July showed that a majority of the people polled were for gay rights.

But the anti-gay hysteria since Jaques' murder has set back the struggle for gay rights. A Canadian politician wrote to the National Gay Rights Coalition and bragged: "I would like to see what support you have now after what has taken place in Toronto recently. What is needed is not protection of homosexuals, but for Canadians who are not deviates."

poverty and starvation, through unsafe working conditions. And the hysteria campaign will give the green light to anti-gay thugs to attack and kill gays on the streets.

While the murders go on, the rulers will preach their morals. They will make a federal case out of this rape—while they come down on women and prisoners who defend themselves from rapists. They will say it's wrong to murder—while they set up murder. They will pretend to mourn for Jaques—while capitalism kills young people all over the world.

If the ruling class can get away with its attacks on gay people, and if it can get away with bringing back the death penalty, this will open the door for even more repression and attacks on all working and oppressed people. The working class must stand united to beat back the capitalist assault on gays and all oppressed people.

Defend Gay Rights!  
Down With the Death Penalty!  
Beat Back the Ruling Class Attacks!

## Inside...

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- Canadian gays under attack
- S. African struggle builds
- State capitalism in Ethiopia
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- Jobs demo in the Bronx
- Osborne fights execution
- Dawson 5 battle frame-up
- Rapists, courts abuse women
- Miners end wildcat
- Militants rehired at Chrysler
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- Bethlehem Steel lays off 7,500
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Only revolution will smash  
apartheid Organization  
is key in prisoners' struggle  
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# South African Struggle Builds

The struggle of Black people in South Africa against the racist white minority government is picking up steam. Black parents and teachers in Soweto, the Black township of two million people outside of white Johannesburg, have joined with boycotting high school students against the racist policies—known as apartheid—of the white regime.

## Teachers Join Protests



Left: Protest against racist education sparked last year's Soweto revolt. Right: Soweto demonstrator under arrest.

### Soweto: Heart of the struggle

While protests and confrontations have occurred throughout South Africa, Soweto has been the heart of the struggle. It was in Soweto in June of 1976 that students took to the streets, touching off one of the largest waves of protest against apartheid in South Africa's history. And it is in Soweto that students have organized continued resistance to the racist system.

Led by the militant Soweto Students Representative Council (SSRC), students have boycotted Soweto's high schools for the past two months. The SSRC organized the boycott to try to force the white government to abolish its so-called Bantu education system. This system is a pillar of white rule in South Africa. The government's openly-stated intention in creating "Bantu" education was to give Black children an inferior education that would prepare them for passively accepting "their place" as servants to a white

"master race."

In response to the school boycott, the white government has moved to concentrate all authority over the Black schools in the hands of the central government. Before this, the schools were run by local community boards. Though these were under the control of the government, they did have some limited say over how the

schools were run.

An additional part of the white rulers' efforts to restore discipline was a decision to have all students re-registered by their parents. This meant parents would have to take their children down to school and promise in writing that they would pay for any student damage to school

property. In addition, students would be forced to pledge not to be disruptive.

### Racists' scheme fails

But the rulers' attack backfired in their faces. On September 6, the first day of school after the new program went into effect, of the approximately 27,000 high school students, there was "no attendance at all in the high schools," according to the head of the police riot control. And less than 2 percent of the parents tried to re-register their children.

In addition, on September 7, all of Soweto's 700 Black high school teachers decided to cast their lot in with the students' and parents' boycott. To protest the government's decision to take over control of the high schools, the teachers handed in their resignations, and have come out against "Bantu" education.

This was a big victory for Soweto students and a direct result of their tactics. As part of their boycott, the students had been going to class at the beginning of each day, demanding to know what the teachers had done to change the educational system. When the teachers admitted that they had done nothing, the students would walk out. Once out of the schools, they were attacked by the cops, who would beat and shoot at the students and set trained attack dogs on the students' open-air meetings.

### Workers drawn into struggle

Though the Black teachers are not a central section of the Black South African working class, their participation in the boycott demonstrates that sections of the employed Black workers are getting drawn into the struggle. After the protest strikes that took place last year, the struggle among the workers appeared to have temporarily died down. Hopefully, the teachers' decision to join the students means that broader sections of the Black working class are again taking up active struggle against the apartheid regime.

The task now is to forge a strong alliance between the Black students and the rest of the Black working class. □

## Phony Socialism Exposed

# State Capitalism in Ethiopia

East Africa today is being rocked by war and revolution. At the center of these events is the country of Ethiopia, where the army has come to power. Calling itself "Marxist-Leninist," the army group in power claims to be a socialist government. Yet this same outfit is fighting wars in Eritrea and the Ogaden region, to keep these areas part of the Ethiopian empire. And it has brutally suppressed the Ethiopian workers, students, and leftists.

To understand what is going on in Ethiopia, one has to look at the events of the last few years. During 1972-74 Ethiopia was ravaged by famine, caused by drought. The

reactionary feudal landlords who ruled the country pretended that the famine didn't exist. They kept on exporting scarce food to get hard cash to buy luxuries overseas. As a result, at least 200,000 people starved to death. During this same period, the Ethiopian army was getting carved up in neighboring Eritrea (a former Italian colony that the UN handed over to Ethiopia in 1952).

In February 1974 the strains of famine and war exploded in rebellion. The workers and students launched general strikes and demonstrations and practically took over Addis Ababa, the country's capital. On February 26, the Ethiopian soldiers

in Eritrea's capital (Asmara) mutinied and took control of the Ethiopian government. They left the emperor, Haile Selassie, as a figurehead.

The workers—organized in the Confederation of Ethiopian Labor Unions—quickly became the main force of the struggle. They gained the strong support of the students, the teachers and intellectuals, and large sections of the middle class. With this broad support, the workers pressed for the removal of Selassie; for smashing the ruling landlord class; and for political and economic reforms. General strikes continued throughout the spring and summer of 1974. A revolutionary situation had matured. Selassie and the landlords were powerless to move against the workers, because they had lost control of the army.

The army itself was divided into several factions. The high-level officers supported either the landlords or the traditional capitalists. The middle-level officers—radicalized by the Eritrean campaign—claimed to be for "socialism." The soldiers wanted the war to end, and a socialist government set up. Because of all these divisions in the army and in Ethiopian society, the political situation was wide open. The rule of the landlords was tottering and the question was which class would step into the vacuum at the top.

The workers proved to be strong enough to bring down the old government, but not strong enough to take its place. They were not organized

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Eritreans are fighting Ethiopian colonial rule.

# Lance's Fingers Caught in the Pie

The Carter Administration is passing through its first major political crisis. Bert Lance, who occupies the powerful post of National Budget Director, is well on his way to being driven out of office. Even ranking members of Carter's own Democratic Party are lining up to demand Lance's resignation.

Each week that goes by brings to light new details of Lance's corrupt financial dealings. Lance cheats on his taxes. He violated federal election laws on the handling of campaign funds. Lance used his authority as

owner of a couple of banks in Georgia to get millions of dollars worth of illegal, interest-free loans, and to write bad checks whenever he needed money. Much of this "news" about Lance is a couple of years old, but Lance has used his political connections to keep federal law enforcement officials off his back.

Creeping around the edges of all the various investigations are hints that Carter himself has used his influence to obstruct federal agencies from delving too deeply into Lance's tangled affairs. Lance is Carter's

personal banker, and so Lance's affairs are usually difficult to separate from Carter's.

Carter has been extremely stubborn in his defense of Lance so far. He's tried to keep his image perfect by throwing all his weight behind Lance and hoping that the scandal blows over.

Carter has a good reason for trying to hold onto Lance. Lance is one of the main ties the Administration has to the upper circles of the ruling class. Lance is the only man in the Carter Administration who enjoys the complete trust of Wall Street. The top bankers regard Lance as "one of the boys" and their private hotline to the President.

Carter's ability to sell himself to the people as a man of deep-seated moral convictions was a big reason why the capitalists supported him in the elections. After Watergate and with corruption scandals breaking out at every level of federal, state and local government, the ruling class needed a man who could restore the faith of the people in the government.

Now it is clear exactly what kind of morality Carter has in mind. It is the same kind of stinking hypocrisy that forms the code which the entire capitalist class lives by.

The capitalists and their press are always trying to whip up public hysteria by demanding harsher prison sentences for ghetto youth convicted of small-time violations of the law. No punishment is too severe for

what the capitalists like to call the "scum" of society.

The scum of society, however, are not the exploited and oppressed people chained to the bottom of the economy—they are the "respectable" scum who own the banks and corporations and the entire capitalist system. They are the rich who keep millions of people unemployed to drive down wages through competition over jobs as a way to increase their profits. And they're the same scum who turn around and blame the poor and unemployed for being poor and unemployed and for the high crime rate that comes from these conditions.

Bert Lance is typical of these respectable scum who steal not from need, but from greed. Lance doesn't steal to feed his family, but to pay for his private airplane, his expense account, his banquets where the tab for a single night runs up to thousands of dollars—enough to feed a poor family for months. Lance has had his fat fingers in the public cookie jar ever since he's been in government.

Lance is on his way out, not because he is corrupt, but because he was not good enough at covering up the specific facts of his corruption.

Lance's removal will make no difference. The Carter Administration will remain corrupt because the system it represents is based on the greatest corruption of all: one tiny part of humanity enslaving the vast majority of people. □



Bert Lance and his pal Jimmy Carter.

## Defense Committee Formed to Fight Nazi Terror in Chicago

**"Bosses, Nazis, cops and Klan; Work together hand in hand."**

CHICAGO—This is one of the chants that rang through the streets of Chicago's West Englewood community as the Black and White Defense Committee held its first rally and march on September 3. The Defense Committee was set up by the Revolutionary Socialist League to fight the wave of terror against Black people on this city's southwest side.

In the weeks before the September 3 action, thousands of leaflets building for the march and rally were handed out at bus and train stations, in the communities and at plant gates. The leaflet called for setting up a Black and white defense committee, and it met with a good response.

On September 3, supporters of the Defense Committee rallied at Ogden Park and then began an organizing march. But the Chicago cops weren't about to let the committee carry its message through the Black community and the march was broken up by the cops. Despite this, over 150 copies of the Torch-La Antorcha were sold, and the organizing is off to a good start.

The Defense Committee was formed to fight the racist attacks on Blacks that have increased steadily in the last three years on Chicago's southwest side. Racist whites have

bombed and burned homes. Black men, women and children have been beaten, stabbed and shot. Cars driven by Blacks have been attacked without warning by racist mobs. Gangs of young whites have roamed the streets looking for Black victims. Literally hundreds of such attacks have taken place in the last three years, while the cops have looked on with approval.



American Nazi Party rally in Los Angeles.

Behind much of the racist violence stands the Nazi Party. Feeding on and whipping up racist hysteria among whites in the area, the Nazis set up their headquarters in all-white Marquette Park a few years ago.

From this base they have encouraged and organized attacks on Black people who live in neighboring West Englewood, who work in Marquette Park, or who merely wait for buses along Western Avenue, the dividing line between the Black and white communities.

The Nazis are the extreme right wing of the racist forces. They openly preach race hatred against Blacks and Jews, and match their words with action. While the Nazis are the most extreme, they are taking advantage of racist hostility which already

support the Nazis and join in with them as much as they can.

But many other people, especially white youth, will look to the Nazis only so long as they appear to be a successful alternative to the growing social crisis. The Nazis thrive on cheap and easy victories over defenseless individuals. But, like any fascists, the more the Nazis meet with organized resistance, the more cowardly they become, and the more their support melts away.

Building this organized resistance to all racist violence is what the Black and White Defense Committee is all about. The Black community must defend itself from racist cowards and police brutality. Escorts, auto caravans, street patrols, defense guards at threatened homes are some of the measures needed on a large scale. All workers must join these efforts because the Nazis are the vile enemies of the entire working class. These steps can smash the Nazis' support and provide a strong united working-class alternative to the Nazis' racist filth, especially to confused working-class white youth.

The Black and White Defense Committee is committed to building this fight. We can start now towards building workers' unity and strength for these and future battles. This work needs the support of all workers and oppressed people of all nationalities.

**"Come and join us, take a stand; Smash the Nazis, smash the Klan."**

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## JOBS FOR ALL!

(Continued from page 1)

World War II, except for the worst months of the 1974-75 recession. For Black people, the rate is more than double, now standing at 14.5 percent. The National Urban League estimates that when the people who are doctored out of official reports are counted in, the rate for Blacks is closer to 25 percent—a depression-level figure.

For the youth in the Black and Latin ghettos, the situation is even worse. One-half to three-quarters of Black and Latin youth have no jobs, and have no chance of getting any.

The ruling class is nervous about what lies ahead in the cities. In New York, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and the rest of the big cities, there are millions of people who are learning that they have no stake in this system. The people who did the blackout looting in New York and the rebelling in the Puerto Rican sections of Chicago are only the advance guards of a growing wave of discontent. They are among many others who see that they have nothing to lose by striking out against a system which offers them nothing but an empty belly, an emptier life and the policeman's club. They are potential recruits to the revolutionary movement.

The threat of a new surge of ghetto rebellions is putting Jimmy Carter on the spot. He was elected through an all-out effort on the part of Black and labor leaders to get people to the polls. The Black vote, in particular, was vital in putting him in the White House. He got this vote through making "A Job For Every American" the main slogan of his campaign. After he was elected, Carter dropped this slogan very quickly. Instead, he started talking about reducing the unemployment rate by the end of his term. Now it is clear that he can't even hold the line, let alone stop it from rising.

### Carter's summer jobs program

The one jobs program which Carter has put through is a complete disaster. He got a package through Congress to create summer jobs for ghetto youths. However, federal investigators are releasing reports on what was done with the funds. In Chicago, the money was spent rewarding loyal Democratic Party machine workers with patronage jobs. In New York, part of it went to

rehire laid-off cops, and the other part went to jobs for white middle-class youth whose parents have Democratic Party connections. The reports by the government show that practically none of the money went to hire Black and Latin youth.

### Welfare "reform" is slave labor

The other Carter plan for expanding jobs is his welfare reform program. Carter says that the government will help people on welfare find jobs and get them off government relief rolls.

In reality, this program is nothing but a vicious attack on the working class. Carter wants to force people off welfare to cut back the federal budget. The capitalists want government funds to go into their pockets instead of to the poor.

Forcing people off welfare will create a huge pool of cheap labor for the capitalists. A key part of Carter's program is to force people on welfare to accept any job the government orders them to, and to work at the minimum wage. This means that the capitalists will have a ready-made workforce to do all their filthiest, back-breaking jobs that no one would accept willingly. And anyone who doesn't bow and scrape before their new boss won't be able to fall back on welfare if he or she gets fired. All this amounts to working under slave-labor conditions.

This welfare plan will give the capitalists a new and deadly weapon to lower the wages of unionized and other steadily employed workers. Why should a boss pay \$5 or \$6 an hour, when Carter will give him someone for less than half that price?

Finally, Carter and the other backers of this plan know very well that there won't be enough jobs for everyone they cut off welfare. They are deliberately condemning a big section of the people on welfare to outright starvation.

### Unemployment is built into capitalism

To increase their profits, the capitalists are always trying to lay off workers and to make the remaining ones work even harder. The result is constant unemployment which grows permanent unemployment which grows as the system decays. The pool of unemployed is used by the capitalists to keep the workers divided, threatening the employed workers with losing their jobs if they fight back. As long as there is capitalism, there will be unemployment. And today, as capitalism heads toward an economic depression, unemployment will increase.

The only way to end unemployment is to do away with capitalism. There is no reason for anyone not to have a job. There is plenty of work to be done. The cities are hell-holes. Good housing needs to be built.

Schools, hospitals and parks need to be built. The roads and transportation systems have to be repaired. The need for this work is there. The workers are there. The raw materials are there. The only reason it isn't done is because it isn't profitable for the capitalists to improve the lives of the people in this society. If the workers, supported by all the oppressed people, took over this society and ran it in their own interests, they could make sure that this necessary work would be done. If the workers overthrew capitalism and set up a socialist system, they could end unemployment, poverty and oppression forever. We must build a movement that can fight for the socialist revolution.

### The fight for jobs today

But this doesn't mean there is nothing we can do today about unemployment. We can and must build a movement that organizes and unites people to fight for jobs. If we organize well, we can get enough people marching, demonstrating and organizing for jobs to scare the capitalists into giving us at least some jobs. And at the same time, we can show people how to fight, show them what unity and struggle can do, explain to them why we have to overthrow capitalism and how we can do it. By organizing a fight for jobs, we can not only win jobs but also prepare the workers, employed and unemployed, for the task of making the socialist revolution.

The Revolutionary Socialist League is taking up the struggle for jobs. We are doing this not only to fight for jobs but also to help build a revolutionary party that can unite the struggles of all oppressed people into a movement that can overthrow this rotten capitalist system. Workers and oppressed people who want to be a part of this fight, who see the need for such a struggle and such a goal, should join the RSL. You should become a part of the work of building the revolutionary leadership of the working class. □

## Jobs Demonstration in the Bronx



Torch Photo/Eugene V. Lee

"We are determined to get our way; Fight for jobs, join us today."

This is one of the chants raised on the RSL's August 26 march for jobs in the Bronx. The march, which began with a rally at a welfare office at 161st Street and Morris Avenue and ended at a Manpower office at 149th and Melrose, was militant and spirited.

At the welfare office 75 people stood outside to greet the demonstration. Some people joined the picket line. One worker explained how she had to work 10 hours or more a day because the capitalists wouldn't hire more people. Speakers told the people at the welfare office that in order to win jobs for all, working and oppressed people will have to fight for the socialist revolution. At the same time, speakers explained the importance of

organizing now to fight ruling-class attacks and win gains.

"We're gonna raise some hell, we're gonna fight for jobs," a speaker yelled to start off the march. Over 40 people marched to the Manpower office. Along the route of the march, people on the streets chanted along with the marchers.

When the demonstration reached the Manpower office, more people joined in despite threats by the cops to "get" people if they did.

The march was an important step in the RSL's work to build a struggle for jobs and decent living conditions in the South Bronx. In the coming months we will be holding more demonstrations and carrying out other organizing activities to build this fight.



# Carl Osborne Fights Execution

## Terror Campaign at North Avenue Jail

The guards at the North Avenue Jail in Bridgeport, Connecticut, are waging a terror campaign against Brother Muhammad Sundiata Zakee. In July, Zakee wrote a press release on the abuse of Dennis Leary, a fellow prisoner. The press release stated that Leary had many personal problems and was very upset. Instead of giving any kind of help, the guards would beat Leary.

Since Zakee wrote the press release, the guards at the North Avenue Jail have been after him. Four nights in a row, his cell was "searched" and ripped apart. A picture of Malcolm X on his wall was cut in half. His family pictures, religious pictures and Islamic calendar were all damaged. Guards drew a flaming cross on the wall of Zakee's cell. Next to the cross they wrote: "We're gonna lynch your Moslem ass, nigger."

On August 22, Zakee overheard two guards plotting to "set him up" to throw him into segregation.

At least one guard at the jail is a Ku Klux Klan member. Zakee fears for his life. Zakee figures the only way he will get help is if people know of this racist harassment and show some support.

Send letters of protest to: Warden, Bridgeport Community Correctional Center, 1106 North Avenue, Bridgeport Connecticut 06604.

## Harassment Continues at Walla Walla

The strike at the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla ended in mid-July. At that time the administrators of the prison promised to grant a whole list of prisoner demands. One of the prisoners' most important demands was that prisoners who had been arbitrarily placed in the Intensive Security Unit (ISU—segregation) be released. Now, two months after the prisoners' strike ended, the keepers of the prison are still holding a number of men in the ISU.

The warden is saying he will not let prisoners out of ISU because he is getting too much pressure from the guards. That is, since the guards want someone in the hole, someone's got to be in the hole.

Joseph Green and Danny Atteberry have been in the hole since 1974, when they seized the prison's hospital. Arthur St. Peter has been in the hole for two years, charged with plotting to escape. Mark LaRue sits in ISU because he got to know a political prisoner when he was at the county jail. Because LaRue hung out with the "wrong crowd," he sat in segregation for almost two years.

The strike at Walla Walla got rid of the old warden, but the new warden is continuing the same policies of harassment and terror.

## Demonstration to Free Dessie Woods

On September 4, the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods held a national demonstration in Atlanta, Georgia. The Committee is demanding the immediate release of Woods, a 31-year-old Black woman who killed a man who was attempting to rape her and a companion.

On June 17, 1975, Dessie Woods and Cheryl Todd were hitchhiking. They got a lift from a white guy, Ronnie Horne. Horne pulled a gun on the women and tried to rape them. Woods got hold of Horne's gun and blew him away.

As in many other cases where women defend themselves from rape, the state came down on Woods. She was convicted and is now serving a 22-year sentence.

Woods is being held in a Hardwick, Georgia, jail. She has been beaten, stripped, thrown in an isolation cell and drugged.

But all this harassment does not stop Woods from fighting. Her message to people visiting her recently was: "Tell the people victory is ours and I am strong, strong, strong."

Free Dessie Woods!

## Fight to Free Narciso & Perez Continues

The U.S. government is continuing its efforts to railroad Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez into jail on charges of poisoning and conspiracy. The phony charges stem from a series of breathing failures and deaths in the Ann Arbor Veteran's Administration hospital in 1975. The nurses were convicted in a trial ending July 13. The defense lawyers for Narciso and Perez have requested a new trial because the FBI withheld evidence in the first trial.

The motions will be heard in Federal Court in Detroit on October 11. But Federal Judge Pratt is hurrying to sentence Narciso and Perez before the motions are heard. He has set the sentencing hearing for September 15.

The Detroit Area Coalition to Free Narciso-Perez is mobilizing support for the two nurses. The Coalition will picket the Federal Building in Detroit on Thursday, September 15, at noon. The pickets intend to pack the courtroom at 1:30 p.m.

The Coalition is also planning a large picket line and rally on October 11, when retrial motions will be heard. Supporters of Narciso and Perez will be coming from throughout the Midwest. We urge everyone to join the demonstration to free Narciso and Perez. For more information, write to: P.O. Box 503, Detroit, Michigan 48221.

—FH

Carl Osborne sits on death row in the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville. He is waiting to be executed because the ruling class framed him up. He was found guilty of a 1974 kidnap-murder of Hermalee Ross.

Osborne is innocent.

In early August, Osborne's execution, previously set for August 22, was temporarily stayed. Osborne is now appealing to the Supreme Court.

Below we are printing a statement by Osborne, which was read at an August 21 prisoner rights demonstration in New York City:

"Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the Struggle.

"Although I am not with you today in person, I am with you in mind and soul. The very fact that you were concerned enough to come today is a great showing of strength, and I as well as others here are grateful for your concern.

## Voice opposition

"The struggle inside the prison system is not a new situation. We, the minority peoples have been experiencing these struggles for many years. But until recently the capitalist system has been fairly successful in covering up the wrongdoings and injustices inflicted. But it is absolutely necessary that you come forward and voice your opposition to these inhumane acts. To expect change, you must take an active part in the attempt to right the wrongs being done.

"As you stand here today, prisoners are being beaten, killed and being deprived of their rights as human beings. Many times the only crime these people are guilty of is being Black, poor, unemployed or uneducated. In essence, we, the prisoners, are the victims.

## Crime?—being poor

"I write to you as one of these victims. Because I was guilty of being poor and unable to afford a decent lawyer, I was sent to death row here in Ohio for a crime I am innocent of. As a furtherance of this wrongdoing, the Ohio system also sent my mother to death row. As of this writing I have been sentenced to die in the electric chair on the 22nd of August, tomorrow. But I have received a temporary stay of execution that can be lifted at any time, pushing me down the road to execution. I need your help in fighting this injustice. Contributions, letters to the Ohio officials, helpful suggestions, words of strength. Write to me. I will be glad to tell you the details of the railroading job the system has done to me. Be concerned enough to find out the real facts.

## Fight death penalty

"I ask you not only to help me as an individual, but I also refer you to the 72 other people on death row here in Ohio, and the hundreds of others throughout the United States. Guilt or innocence is not important. What is important is that the capitalist system is flexing its political muscles

by sentencing people to death. Many of these people are innocent. Yet they will be executed too, caught up in the whirlpool of political madness and thirst for blood. Take a stand and show your opposition to this. We need all of you, help us to help ourselves. In closing, realize that I have touched just the very tip of the entire picture of wrongdoing. Beatings, overcrowding, lack of medical treatment, poor and dirty living conditions, insect-infested and low-quality food, racist guards and wardens that refuse to listen to prisoners' pleas for change, are all things we are forced to endure.

## May not survive. . .

"Many will not survive this ordeal, and will die from the lack of medical treatment or the blows of the guards' riot sticks. Perhaps, I will not live to leave this place. But if this happens please remember that I spoke with you today. I would like to think that just one person listened to my words and took action. And that these actions saved just one person from suffering. If this happens, I will feel that I have done at least something to right the wrong that is being done.

"Thank you for listening to my words. And thank you for taking the time to be concerned enough to come out today. You have taken the first step in fighting just by coming out. Now, don't go backwards, take another step forward, gaining some semblance of justice for the unfortunate victims of the capitalist machine."

Brothers and sisters can write to Carl Osborne, #142-532, P.O. Box 787, Lucasville, Ohio 45648. □

## Support the Prisoner Literature Fund

In the past year, the Torch has greatly expanded its coverage of prisoners' struggles. The number of prisoners who read the Torch and correspond with the Revolutionary Socialist League has also increased significantly.

The RSL provides revolutionary literature to prisoners to the extent that we can. Also, large numbers of prisoners receive free subscriptions to the Torch.

Lack of funds keeps us from sending prisoners all the literature they want. Thus, to increase the amount of literature we can send we are launching a "Prisoner Literature Fund." We encourage all readers of the Torch to donate to this fund so that we can supply prisoners with revolutionary literature. Those who can make a monthly pledge, no matter how small, should do so. This money will be used exclusively for providing prisoners with revolutionary literature.

(Send contributions to: Prisoner Literature Fund, P.O. Box 562, New York, N.Y. 10036.)

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# Dawson Five Battle Racist Frame-Up; Support Grows

The prosecution's case in the trial of the Dawson Five—five young Black men in Georgia accused of robbery and murder—is now falling apart. On August 29, Judge Leonard Farkas threw out the phony "confession" of Roosevelt Watson, one of the Five. The cops got this "confession" by threatening Watson's life. But the prosecutor is appealing to the state Court of Appeals, to try to get the "confession" readmitted as evidence.

The Dawson Five are James and Johnny Jackson, Roosevelt and Henderson Watson, and J.D. Davenport. They are accused of murdering Gordon Howell, a white ranch foreman, during a grocery store robbery in January 1976.

The cops had no clues and no suspects in the robbery and murder. They have never found the gun that was used. And they never found the money that was stolen.

But a few days after the robbery, the owner of the grocery store, Linward Denton, charged that Roosevelt Watson had been one of the men who robbed his store.

Denton knew Roosevelt Watson

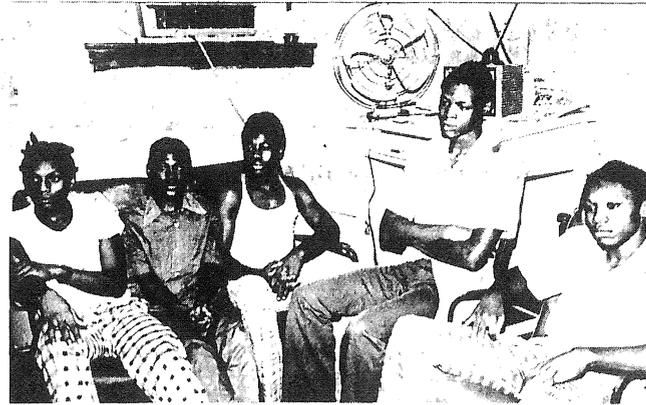
very well. He had given Watson credit at his store. If Watson had been involved in the robbery, Denton would have known this right away. It wouldn't have taken him days to "realize" it.

And neighbors of the Watson family say that all of the Dawson Five were busy carrying water to the Watson home when the robbery was taking place.

The only "evidence" against the Five is the "confession" of Roosevelt Watson. But the way the cops got Watson to "confess" exposes what a racist frame-up the whole trial is. The cops threatened to castrate him. They threatened to electrocute him. And they threatened to murder him. In order to live long enough to tell the truth, Watson "confessed."

But the state won't be satisfied with railroading the Five to prison. Armed with the phony confession—gotten by threats of death—the prosecution is demanding the death penalty for the Dawson Five.

This is what capitalism is all about. This is how capitalism treats young working and oppressed people. Whether it's in the prisons or on the



Dawson Five: J.D. Davenport, H. Watson, Ja. Jackson, R. Watson, Jo. Jackson.

streets, capitalism has nothing to offer young people but oppression, racism, unemployment and miserable living conditions. And then this system blames young people for the lousy shape that capitalist society is in.

The case of the Dawson Five is no isolated incident. Young brothers and sisters all over the country are sitting on death row while the butchers in government try to figure out ways to

murder them.

Today the prosecution's case against the Dawson Five is collapsing. But the state is still determined to railroad the Five. We must build support for the Five and demand that they be freed.

But to ensure that the Dawson Five, and all working and oppressed people, get justice and a chance to live decent lives, this sick system will have to be torn apart. □

## Women Abused by Rapists & Courts

# Support the Right to Self-Defense

Hundreds of thousands of women each year suffer abuse, insult and humiliation—first at the hands of rapists; then at the hands of the capitalist system of "justice." While women are actively discouraged from physically defending themselves from attack, they are encouraged to rely on the rulers' cops, courts and prison systems. But the cops and courts don't prevent rape—they excuse and encourage it.

In a growing pattern of attacks on women's rights at all-levels, the courts are adding the threat—and reality—of rape to their store of weapons. The courts have been hard at work encouraging abuse by spitting out some of the worst sexist garbage about women.

### Judge: Rape is normal

Madison, Wisconsin, Judge Archie Simonson believes rape is normal, acceptable behavior for men. Simonson dismissed a rape case in May, saying that Madison is sexually "permissive" and asking: "Should we punish a boy who reacts to it normally?" The judge later tried to defend his ruling by saying women should accept their role as sex objects—in other words, women have no right to complain or fight against rape. This judge is repeating a basic sexist lie: that women are the natural servants and property of men, to be used for their sexual pleasure as they like. Left to Simonson, no woman in Madison would be safe from sexual assault.

In July, the rape conviction of Clifford Alan Hunt was overturned by the California Court of Appeals. He had raped Chris Tobian—whose car had broken down on a highway—



Madison, Wisconsin, pickets demand ouster of sexist Judge Simonson.

when she was forced to hitchhike a ride from him. Justice Lynn Compton calls this an invitation to sex, saying: "It would not be unreasonable" for a man to rape because "women hitchhikers should anticipate sexual advances" and that a woman hitchhiker "advertises she has less concern for the consequences." Compton blames the victim for the crimes of her attacker. By this reasoning, any woman alone and in need of aid, or any hitchhiker with no other way to get home, is "asking for it."

Capitalist justice cares nothing for the victims of sexist assault. But the rulers exploit women's fear of rape for their own purposes—to beef up their repressive police powers. The capital-

better!

If all this were not enough, the ruling class expects women to bear not only the blame for rape, but also its consequences—possible pregnancy. Congress has repeatedly moved to cut off federal Medicaid funds for abortions for women who have been raped. The capitalist politicians don't give a damn if women are forced to support children who are the unwanted product of sexual brutality.

But these attacks have not gone unopposed. In Madison, the Committee to Recall Judge Simonson held demonstrations and gathered 35,000 names needed to call a special recall election on September 7. As a result, Simonson was defeated and a feminist lawyer, Moria Krueger, was elected in his place.

In Los Angeles, 300 demonstrators have picketed the California Court of Appeals, demanding the recall of Justice Compton and a reversal of his decision. Also in Los Angeles, a group of airline stewardesses have organized self-defense training to fight sexist attacks. And growing numbers of women are defending themselves from attack by any means necessary. Joan Little, Yvonne Wanrow, Inez Garcia and Dessie Woods are just a few examples of women fighting back.

These women must be supported by all working-class and oppressed people. All workers must support women's right to self-defense—no court action against any woman who defends herself from attack! Men must join with women to organize self-defense training and workers' defense guards in each community and workplace. The fight of women must be the fight of the whole working class against oppression. □

## The Struggle Is Not Over

# Miners End 10-Week Wildcat

By BOB ANDERSON

The wildcat strike by rank-and-file coal miners is ending. For 10 weeks, militant miners kept the strike going by using roving pickets to shut down the open mines, by building the August 5 march on Washington (reported in last month's *Torch-La Antorcha*), and by resisting the sabotage of the top leaders of the United Mine Workers union (UMW). At the high point in late August, nearly 90,000 miners were on strike. That's about half the UMW's working members. But, as we go to press, only a few miners in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky remain on strike.

The strike began at the end of June, when the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) announced drastic cuts in health benefits for miners and their families. The cuts mean that miners (whether working, retired or disabled) have to pay the first \$500 of their medical bills each year, and that the miners' clinics have to close down for lack of funds.

Arnold Miller and the other top UMW leaders knew about the cuts from the beginning. For example, Harry Hoge, the UMW representative for the Health and Pension Funds, voted with the coal bosses for the cuts. But Miller waited until after the UMW elections in June to announce the cuts, because he knew he would lose the vote if word got out. When the cuts were announced,

the coal miners took matters into their own hands and launched their wildcat strike.

Miller and every member of the International Executive Board (IEB) opposed the strike and did everything they could to sabotage it. Miller and other UMW bureaucrats went on TV in West Virginia and Kentucky to demand that the miners

go back to work. Miller even asked the government to "investigate" the wildcat and help him end it. But Miller's efforts failed. The strike continued to grow, and the miners' disgust with Miller grew right along with it.

On August 22, Miller held a special IEB meeting in Charleston, West Virginia—one of the main centers of



Striking miners force their way into UMW Executive Board meeting in Charleston.

strike activity. Miller wanted a "private" meeting between the IEB and local UMW leaders to get their help in ending the wildcat. Over 400 striking miners refused to buy this and broke through the closed doors of the Daniel Boone Motel to force their way into the meeting. Many of the miners demanded that the IEB either support the strike or resign.

After six hours, the stormy meeting ended in a compromise, which was a temporary victory for Miller and the coal bosses. The miners are to return to work for 60 days, while the UMW bureaucrats negotiate with the BCOA on the health funds. If the problem isn't solved after 60 days, Miller gave a vague promise to call a nation-wide strike. But Miller's promises aren't worth a thing—he accepted the cuts in the first place.

The UMW bureaucrats weren't content with the verbal compromise with the rank and file at the Charleston meeting. Two days later, on August 24, they sent armed union organizers—actually strikebreakers—to attack the miners' picket lines. Shooting broke out at Cabin Creek, West Virginia, when 50 armed miners fought back against Miller's strikebreakers.

As reports of this armed attack on the picket lines spread through the coal fields, the strike briefly picked up steam. But it didn't last, as most miners see no alternative to returning to work for now. It's not that the miners believe Miller's negotiations will get anywhere or that he will actually call a nation-wide strike in 60 days. The miners are going back to work because they know they can't win the strike without making it nation-wide and they don't see a way

(Continued on page 16)

## LABOR IN STRUGGLE



### Slavery in North Carolina

In some sections of this country, migrant workers are forced to live and work as slaves. In late August, the boss of a migrant work crew in Benson, North Carolina, along with his six assistants, were indicted for holding 11 migrant workers in involuntary servitude.

Migrant workers in some areas along the East Coast are kept in special camps where they are regularly beaten by the crew bosses. One crew boss in North Carolina bragged about having a machine gun which he often fires into the trees just to keep the workers intimidated. In many cases, migrant workers are not allowed off camp property and are not allowed to have visitors coming in. Whatever a worker wants to buy—food, clothes, etc.—must be purchased from the crew boss at high prices. This means migrant workers can slave away in the fields for months and still end up broke and owing money to the boss.

The rich farm bosses try to hire immigrant workers without papers—"illegals"—because these workers live in fear of deportation. By hiring "illegals," the bosses figure they can get away with the lowest wages, the worst conditions and even outright slavery.

The fact that slavery still exists in the so-called democratic United States is one more reason why the working class must bury this rotten capitalist system.

### Iron Ore Miners Continue Strike

Since August 1, nearly 20,000 iron ore miners in Minnesota and Michigan have been striking against the country's biggest steel companies.

These miners, members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), earn 60-80 cents per hour less than workers in basic steel. The miners are demanding equal pay, but the steel companies which own the mines are refusing to negotiate.

The steel bosses claim that wages are a national issue, covered by the rotten USWA contract that was negotiated last spring. They also say the strike is illegal under the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), adopted by the USWA bureaucrats and the steel companies in 1974. The ENA prohibits national strikes and forces the USWA to submit contested contract issues to binding arbitration. The ENA allows only "local strikes over local issues."

The iron ore miners are the first section of the USWA to put the ENA to the test. Through their strike, the iron ore miners have the opportunity to break the bosses' no-strike agreement and win a real victory against the steel companies.

Militant steelworkers in many basic steel locals are organizing support for the iron ore strike. They understand that a victory for the iron ore miners can open the way to increased struggle in the rest of the union. At USWA Local 65, U.S. Steel's South Works, supporters of the Revolutionary Steelworkers Caucus got a motion passed calling on the local to send \$1,000 to the iron ore strikers right away and to send \$500 a month for as long as the strike lasts.

### U.S. Steel Threatens to Close Mill

U.S. Steel is threatening to close its South Works steel mill. The company has laid off nearly 500 workers who are members of USWA Local 65, and hundreds more are on short work-weeks. The U.S. Steel bosses claim that they aren't making

enough money, that they're losing out to foreign steel corporations. They claim that steelworkers are too lazy and that South Works is too old.

The immediate purpose of the shut-down threats seems to be a speed-up campaign and productivity drive directed against Local 65 members. At stake are 6,500 jobs at South Works, and steelworkers there must begin organizing now if they're going to beat the speed-up and layoffs.

### Struggle on Rise in Britain

As of this writing, Britain is without bread. A strike by 57,000 bakery workers has shut down 80 percent of production. The rest has been cut off by picketing of ports where flour is unloaded. The workers are striking for more pay on working holidays. Other strikes at airports, newspapers and automobile plants show that Britain's workers are determined to smash the government's 10 percent "wage guidelines." Several thousand Ford workers have shut down production, demanding 80 percent layoff pay. Air traffic controllers have been on strike or slow-downs for more than a month, since the government postponed a previously approved 16 percent wage increase, because it exceeds its "guidelines."

Meanwhile, at the Trades Union Congress, the union bureaucrats scabbed on the workers by refusing to vote against the government's wage policy. They also approved a 12-month rule, which was rejected by many unions during the summer. The rule outlaws strikes to make up for income lost in the recent wage freeze. But the workers have other ideas. A miners' strike set for November will end the 12-month rule. Dock workers are also set to strike for a 20 percent raise in the near future.

—BA and TC

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BA and TC



Strikers confront company thugs (with clubs) and scab driver at Star Meat strike.

## Workers Fight Union-Busting at Star Meat

WARREN, Michigan—Workers at the Star meatpacking company in this city near Detroit have been on strike for close to four months. During the strike, a picketer has been hit by a scab truck, four strikers have been arrested, and several confrontations have occurred with the security guards.

Shortly before the strike, Star Meat was purchased by Kane-Miller Corporation, which owns over 200 plants in the U.S. and Europe. Kane-Miller set out to bust the union at Star Meat—Amalgamated Meat Cutters Local 26. When the contract ran out last May, the managers of Star Meat were instructed by Kane-Miller not to sign the same contract that the other Detroit packing houses signed.

Instead, the company proposed to cut out many benefits included in the last contract, such as the cost-of-living raise, a guaranteed 40-hour week and overtime pay over eight hours. Piecework was to be ended, resulting in a wage cut of up to 50 percent for some workers. The company wanted to take the medical and dental plan out of the union's hands. The company also demanded that union membership be voluntary—an open shop. For all these takeaways, Kane-Miller offered only a \$1.00-an-hour raise over three years.

The workers at Star are fighting this attack, but the company has refused to negotiate. Instead, they have hired scabs to work in the plant, bringing them in every day in closely guarded vans.

Star Meat strikers have carried on their struggle with little help from their union or the rest of the labor movement. They only recently got authorization for their strike from the International union, and only now are getting full strike benefits. Members of several other AFL-CIO unions, including electricians, cross the picket lines. Teamster drivers bring their rigs up to the plant gates, then allow non-union drivers to take the trucks across the picket lines.

Several Star strikers, along with members of the Revolutionary Auto-workers Committee (RAC) and supporters of the Revolutionary Socialist League, have formed a strike support committee. To publicize the strike and build support for it, the committee passed out a leaflet at meatpacking plants in the Detroit area, and built a sizable picket line at Star on August 31. RAC reported on the Star

strike in its bulletin, *Revolutionary Autoworker*, which is distributed at the auto plants in the Detroit area. The support committee is continuing to build support for the strike.

Recently the company has agreed to meet again with the union, and the union leadership has become a little more involved in the strike. To win the strike, the key tasks are to intensify the pressure on the union leadership and to expand the support work to other packing houses, AFL-CIO unions, the Teamsters and the entire labor movement.

Star Meat is a small packing house, and Kane-Miller is a giant corporation. But if the union is crushed at Star Meat, anti-union attacks will increase at other packing houses, and will continue to spread. Kane-Miller will be encouraged in its efforts to drive down the living conditions of workers at its other 200 plants. When any one local is threatened, all of organized labor is threatened. As the support committee leaflet stated: "We must stand together or the bosses will pick us off one at a time. Organized and united we can win."

Support the Star Strike!

## Bethlehem Steel Lays Off 7,500

Bethlehem Steel threw 7,500 workers out of their jobs in mid-August. Steelworkers with up to 14 years seniority at the Lackawanna, New York, and Johnstown, Pennsylvania,

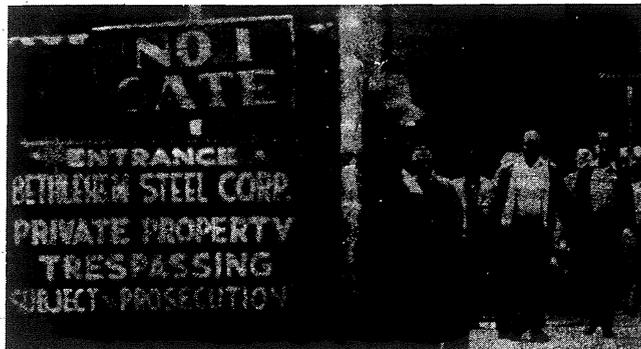
mills got layoff notices. Everyone involved knows these layoffs are permanent. The workers are eligible for unemployment checks, and some can still get Supplemental Unemploy-

ment Benefits. But after that, the workers are left with nothing. No money coming in, no job and not much hope of finding one.

These Bethlehem mills are old. Many workers believe that the layoffs are only the first step in closing down the mills completely. Over 20,000 jobs are at stake. The mills provide most of the jobs for the working people in Lackawanna and Johnstown. The workers in Johnstown are still digging out from the worst flood in years where many died and thousands are homeless. If the layoffs go through and the mills close down, these towns will begin to die. There aren't other jobs, so the workers will either move or try to survive on welfare.

Bethlehem is the second biggest steelmaker in the U.S. The owners of the company claim that it is on the "verge of collapse." They point to

(Continued on page 16)



Bethlehem Steel works, Lackawanna, N.Y.

# Chrysler Forced To Rehire Walkout Militants

By a WORKER CORRESPONDENT

DETROIT, September 2—Chrysler Corporation has agreed to rehire 52 workers fired as a result of the July heat walkouts across the country. This is an important victory for all autoworkers.

In many plants, workers wildcatted over the firings. Numerous meetings took place to organize to prevent the disciplines. The organizing and the militant actions have forced Chrysler to back down and bring back many of the strongest shop floor fighters in the plants. This proves that when rank and file autoworkers organize to fight they can stop all of management's attempts to treat them like slaves. It proves that workers don't need to accept any of the firings. As of this writing, Chrysler is going ahead with plans to fire seven leaders of the Trenton Engine wildcat, and many others across the country. The 52 workers rehired can now help lead the organizing to demand that everyone fired as a result of the walkouts be rehired.

But the United Autoworkers Union (UAW) international leadership sees things differently. They see the new wave of militant actions as a serious threat to their control over the union membership. Marc Stepp, UAW Chrysler head, has announced that the International union is setting up meetings with local union officials to demand that the walkouts and wildcats be stopped and that they learn to follow "their responsibilities for handling disputes through the use of normal grievance procedures."

Stepp has said: "I want to serve notice that we will no longer tolerate outsiders who choose to interfere in the affairs of our union and its members and who try to obstruct the collective bargaining process." What he means is that the UAW leaders won't defend the jobs of the most militant and politically conscious workers in the plants. Both the UAW leaders and management want to see the revolutionaries lose their jobs for

good. This is a betrayal of their responsibilities as UAW leaders. It shows that they have no business being union members, let alone union leaders. It is up to rank and file autoworkers to win back the jobs of all fired militants, and to throw out the management flunkies who are running the union.

The walkouts and wildcats have taught autoworkers around the country that it is possible to organize to fight for their rights. As rank and file autoworkers learn this, more and more will see that the same organizing can turn the UAW into a weapon for the revolutionary struggle to do away with management altogether. More autoworkers will become politically conscious revolutionaries. These are the workers whom the present UAW leaders want to see thrown out of the plants. The jobs and working conditions of all autoworkers depend on keeping the militants and revolutionaries in the plants to lead the fight against management. This is why all rank and file autoworkers must unite to defend the job of every fired worker. The 52 jobs won back are a good start. We demand that ALL the fired workers be rehired! □



July walkout at Dodge Truck, Detroit.

# ATTICA—SOUTH AFRICA: SAME

## Day of Solidarity

### "Build the Revolutionary Party"

On September 11, the New York branches of the RSL and the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid held a Day of Solidarity: Attica-South Africa, Same Enemy, Same Fight! The meeting, attended by over 60 people, was endorsed by more than 100 prisoners incarcerated in jails across the country. Held on the sixth anniversary of the September 9-13, 1971, Attica uprising, the meeting focused on the struggles taking place today in South Africa and in the U.S. prisons. Two movies were shown: "Attica," a documentary on the 1971 rebellion and "Last Grave at Dimbaza," a film made illegally and smuggled out of South Africa. Following the films there were talks and a workshop on the work of the RSL and the need to build a revolutionary party that can lead the fight for socialist revolution.

Below are excerpts from the main talk given at the Day of Solidarity:

With this Day of Solidarity, we are dealing with South Africa and the U.S. prison system, two of the worst pits of exploitation and oppression which this world capitalist society has to offer.

If you want to know the reason why U.S. corporations are the biggest, wealthiest, most powerful capitalist organizations in the world, you have to go and look at South Africa. The super-profits of the U.S. class of capitalists don't come just from exploiting the working class here. Their billions are directly based on the fact that the U.S. has a world network, an empire of smaller countries whose people it exploits and oppresses. South Africa is one of the biggest prizes in this empire.

South Africa is a place where the wages of Blacks are measured in pennies, not dollars. Management is free to work Blacks to death with 12-

and 14-hour days and at a man-killing pace. The wages are so low and unemployment so high that half the children who are born Black in South Africa die before the age of five—mainly from not getting enough to eat. And standing over all of this is one of the worst dictatorships in the world today. Prison and death is the penalty for doing anything to fight against the conditions of Blacks in that country.

If you want to know what is behind these fascist-like conditions in South Africa, you have to look back at the "democratic" United States. Vorster, the prime minister of South Africa, is guilty of as many crimes against humanity as any Nazi hung after World War II. But the thing to understand about Vorster is that he's just the hired overseer. He's the man who runs this colonial plantation on behalf of someone else: on behalf of

the U.S. and European corporations that own more than half the industry and mining there.

South Africa isn't the only place in the world where human beings are kept under these conditions. Right here in the so-called democratic United States, the headquarters of Jimmy Carter and the human rights crusade, there are hundreds of thousands of people of all colors who are being held under conditions not much better than those of apartheid.

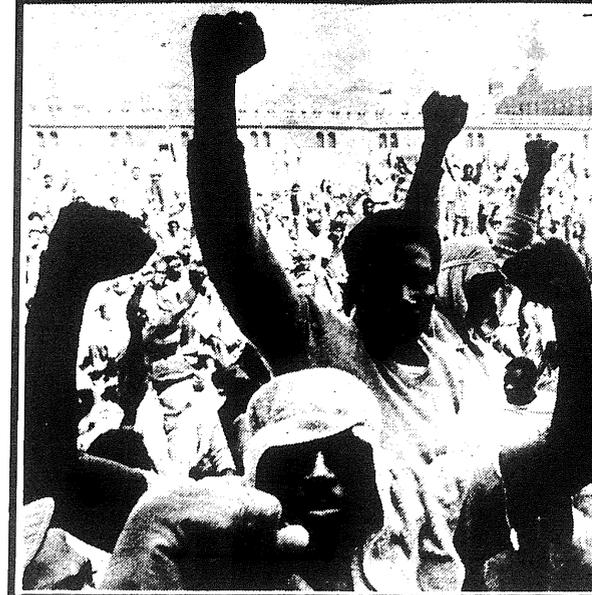
#### Who goes to prison?—workers and poor people

This is in the U.S. prison system. The prisons, we are told, are for people who are criminals, who are dangerous to society. But who goes to prison? The bankers and corporation executives whose yachts, swimming pools, and mansions are built with the blood of Black children in South Africa? Is it Nixon and Kissinger, who ordered the deaths of millions of Vietnamese? No, these aren't the people who go to prison.

It is the victims of the ruling class of society who go to prison. It is the people who are driven to petty crime because they can't find a job to feed their families with. It's the people who steal a loaf of bread who go to prison. It is working-class people who go to prison, the unemployed, the poor and desperate who have been driven to the wall by this system.

The reason that we picked South Africa and the prisons for this Day of Solidarity is that the people who are the victims of apartheid and the prisons are doing something about their oppression. They may be thousands of miles apart, and may not even know very much about each other's struggles, but they have both made the same kind of decision.

They have come to the conclusion that there is no future for them in this society. They have begun to realize that the only future that exists lies in revolution—a struggle that won't be finished until all the bosses, all the parasites, all the exploiters and the politicians, judges and police that do their dirty work for them are wiped



out once and for all.

The Blacks of South Africa have turned this country into the number one nightmare for the U.S. ruling class in the world today. The past year has been one of street fighting, general strikes and bloodshed. And the capitalists know that standing behind the forces of revolution in South Africa are the forces of revolution in the rest of Africa—and that successful revolution there won't stop with Africa.

#### Prisoners fight back

The struggle in the U.S. prisons has grown in strength over the past year as well. It's very hard for people in prisons to organize, to strike back, because of the absolute power the guards and wardens have over them. People can be thrown into solitary, tortured, injected with mind-wrecking drugs or given brain surgery, even murdered with few people on the outside ever hearing about it. In spite of all this, we have contacted small

groups of revolutionary who have organized the prisons across the country.

If you read the letter prisoners, one thing will be that is how many of these and breathe revolution. Revolution is necessary. Many of them will never unless there is a revolution.

It is not just people in South Africa who need a revolution. It is the prisoners who need a revolution. It is the whole working class of the Black, Latin, Asian and white who need a revolution—and by working class don't just mean people with the overwhelming majority who are the victims of the society—the unemployed, the welfare—people who have lost their ability to work.

#### Capitalism based on exploitation

We can't get what we need from this system because this system is based on taking from us. It is the capitalist class who are exploiting our labor power and keep their system running through grinding us down to live on less and less.

This country and this system means to give every Black a decent life. The technology is there, the raw materials are there. We have factories and farms from one country to the other. And technology is definitely there. But the system can't put these things to use to meet even our basic human needs for food and housing, let alone to take us to a higher level.

To take away the economic power of the capitalists, we have to take away the political power with us. We have to smash the state, their government, their army, their courts, their bureaucracy. All of this which they use to suppress

#### Day of Solidarity Message to Revolutionary Prisoners

On September 9, 1971, prisoners at Attica seized two cell-blocks and one of the prison yards. In defiance of the prison administration and the entire U.S. ruling class, they began the Attica Rebellion. The ruling class drowned their rebellion in blood—they murdered 39 of our brothers at Attica. But the rulers cannot crush the spirit of Attica or the resistance of the prisoners. Their struggle continues today.

On June 16, 1976, Black students in Soweto shook the racist South African regime with mass demonstrations and marches. With their courage, their determination and their lives, they rekindled the struggle against apartheid.

These two events, five years and thousands of miles apart, stand as testimony to the courage and anger of oppressed people throughout the world. Our brothers and sisters rose up out of a desire to destroy the system which keeps them in poverty and robs them of their children and their future, a system which denies their dignity and worth as human beings.

Today we have held a Day of Solidarity in support of these struggles. We have met, not only to remember those who have given their lives in the struggle for liberation, but to dedicate ourselves to continuing and strengthening that fight.

You, our brothers and sisters in the concentration camps that are America's prisons, have shown your commitment to this struggle. Your messages of solidarity reach across the bars that the ruling class has built to keep us separated. Although you could not be here, you are a very real part of this conference. We return your solidarity.

Our struggles are one. Inside and outside the prisons, we face the same enemy—the capitalist system. It is a system which survives by robbing, exploiting and oppressing the majority for the profit of the few. The existence of prisons and the brutal conditions you describe are no accident—they are the extreme example of what the ruling class in this country has to do to maintain its control.

There is only one solution—the socialist revolution. A revolution which will smash the capitalist class and its henchmen—the politicians, the cops, the courts and prison administrators. A revolution which will place in power the working and oppressed people. A revolution which will create a society based on the needs of the majority—socialism.

In order to succeed, our anger and rebellion must have direction and organization. Our struggle is a difficult one, with many victories and defeats. We must build a revolutionary party that can draw on the lessons of past struggles and chart a course for the future. From South Africa to Attica to the South Bronx—from every prison, every factory and every ghetto, we must unite our many struggles into one organized front on the capitalist system that keeps us all in chains. Forward to a world revolutionary party. Forward to the socialist revolution.

#### ATTICA ATTICA WHOSE BLOOD IS ON THE WALL



Pigs, machine guns and bullets flying.  
Killing brothers, black, white, and brown.  
Blood's on the walls running soaking  
in the ground to nourish Rocky's land.  
Widow's orphan's broken hearts and homes,  
mother's tears, father's grief,  
all because of this man.

Six years have been gone but forget we will not  
the blood that nourish your lot.  
Attica Attica whose blood is on your walls.  
Whose lifeless body is in your yards.  
How can you forget in so short a time  
the butchering of innocent men  
by Rocky's hands.

Yea today we stand to let you know,  
we will not forget.  
Whose blood is on your walls  
running nourishing Rocky's land...

In dear memories of my  
murdered brothers in Attica  
— Fitzpatrick Jones,  
Somers, Mass.

# AFRICA: SAME ENEMY, SAME FIGHT!

## Day of Solidarity



ut once and for all.  
The Blacks of South Africa have turned this country into the number one nightmare for the U.S. ruling class in the world today. The past year has been one of street fighting, general strikes and bloodshed. And the capitalists know that standing behind the forces of revolution in South Africa are the forces of revolution in the rest of Africa—and that successful revolution there won't stop with Africa.

### Prisoners fight back

The struggle in the U.S. prisons has grown in strength over the past year as well. It's very hard for people in prisons to organize, to strike back, because of the absolute power the guards and wardens have over them. People can be thrown into solitary, tortured, injected with mind-wrecking drugs or given brain surgery, even murdered with few people on the outside ever hearing about it. In spite of all this, we have contacted small

### ATTICA ON THE WALL

machine guns and bullets flying. Brothers, black, white, and brown. On the walls running soaking ground to nourish Rocky's land. Orphan's broken hearts and homes, mother's tears, father's grief, because of this man.

They have been gone but forget we will not forget that nourish your lot. Attica whose blood is on your walls. Lifeless body is in your yards. You forget in so short a time watching of innocent men in Rocky's hands.

Let us stand to let you know. We will not forget. Blood is on your walls. Let us nourish Rocky's land.

Remember the names of my fallen brothers in Attica. Remember the names of my fallen brothers.

groups of revolutionary prisoners who have organized themselves in prisons across the country.

If you read the letters from the prisoners, one thing will stand out: that is how many of these people live and breathe revolution. They know revolution is necessary. They know many of them will never get out unless there is a revolution to free them.

It is not just people in South Africa who need a revolution. It is not just prisoners who need a revolution. The whole working class of this country, Black, Latin, Asian and white, needs revolution—and by working class, I don't just mean people with jobs, but the overwhelming majority of people who are the victims of the capitalist society—the unemployed, people on welfare—people who have nothing but their ability to work.

### Capitalism based on exploitation

We can't get what we need under this system because this system is based on taking from us. The profits of the capitalist class come from exploiting our labor power. They can keep their system running only through grinding us down and forcing us to live on less and less.

This country and this world have the means to give everyone in it a decent life. The technology is there, the land is there, the raw materials are there. We have factories and mines and farms from one end of this country to the other. And the labor is definitely there. But the capitalists can't put these things together to meet even our basic human needs like food and housing, let alone anything on a higher level.

To take away the economic power of the capitalists, we have to smash the political power with which they guard it. We have to smash their state, their government, their police, their army, their courts, their bureaucracy. All of this machinery which they use to suppress us has to

go, has to be broken up and crushed. We have to overthrow it with revolution.

When this has been done, and the last resistance of the capitalists to the revolution has been mopped up, the working class can go about the job of building a socialist society. This will depend on two developments. One, the working class will own and control everything collectively. All industry, farming, science and so forth will be the property of the working class as a whole to use in developing the new society. The working class will control everything in the economy and politics through its own democratically elected and run organizations. Under the rule of the workers, the entire mass of the working class and its allies will be armed as the best way to guard against any attempt to restore any form of oppression, exploitation, bureaucracy or special privileges.

Two, the working class will use its control over society's resources to develop the economy in such a way that people will be guaranteed what they need to live, will have to work less and less to receive it. Every man and woman in society will no longer have to spend their lives slaving away for food and shelter, but instead will have time to turn themselves toward developing themselves in an all-sided way.

### For socialism— not state capitalism

This is the socialism and communism that Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky were fighting for. It is a society based on human freedom and cooperation, not violence and suppression. It has nothing in common with the counterfeit socialism and communism practiced in Russia and China today. These regimes do not represent the rule of the working class, but the suppression of the working class. These regimes are state-capitalist: The state owns all property and exploits and oppresses the working class as a single giant capitalist organization. The struggle of the working class to overthrow state capitalism in these countries is part of the struggle for world revolution.

This country is headed for an explosion, the same kind of explosion

we are seeing in South Africa today. There will be strikes, riots, mass marches, street fighting, violence. All of this lies ahead on a scale like we have never seen before.

The question is not whether the working class is going to rise up, but what will this struggle for power lead to? Will it end in revolution? In victory over the capitalists? Or will it wind up being another rebellion that gets crushed?

### Revolutionary party

The answer to this—do we get a successful revolution or a crushed rebellion—rests heavily on one factor: that's what kind of political leadership the working class puts together for this struggle for power. The working class needs an organiza-

tion, a political party which has as its only purpose and aim the task of leading the working class to socialist revolution.

Building this kind of revolutionary party is what the RSL is all about. We are recruiting and building an organization of trained and professional revolutionaries who will form the hard core of this future mass party.

The kind of party that is needed is a big order. What we are talking about is a party which can unite all those people in the working class who are clear on the need for revolution and who are ready to dedicate their lives to seeing it happen. It will have to be a party which has local organizations, units, in every key section of the working class.

Groups will be formed to carry out  
(Continued on page 16)

## Attica Memorial Held in Detroit



is the means. Join us in this fight—a war without terms."

These words capture the spirit of the commemoration of the Attica rebellion held in Detroit, sponsored by the Revolutionary Socialist League, the Revolutionary Auto-workers Committee, and the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid. Sixty-five young workers—employed and unemployed, Black and white, men and women, straight and gay—took part in a lively debate and discussion which followed the showing of the movie "Attica" and a speech from the RSL.

The discussion focused on the need to build the fight for socialism and the revolutionary party among the most oppressed sections of U.S. capitalist society. Several struggles now being waged in Detroit by the RSL and our supporters were discussed as well.

"In the plants, in the communities and in the prisons the message is the same. The fight is for revolutionary socialism. As workers, as oppressed people, we must organize ourselves, educate ourselves and arm ourselves for our own liberation. Now is the time, socialism is the goal, revolution

The commemoration was an important step in uniting the forces that must play a leading role in the struggles facing the working class now and in the future. For many people this day was their first political event and represents a first step on the road to revolution. □



New York "Day of Solidarity."

Torch photo/Eugene V. Lee

# British Workers Smash Nazi March . . .

(Continued from page 1)

and a serious defeat for the fascists and their protectors, the cops.

Britain's Socialist Workers Party (SWP) was the main organization behind this anti-fascist mobilization. Other leftist groups, such as Socialist Unity, were also involved to a lesser degree. A few days after this action, the SWP took on the Nazis at one of their election rallies in a working-class neighborhood of Birmingham, where half the residents are of African, Indian, or Pakistani background. A total of 115 cops were put out of action trying to protect the Nazis here and at the Lewisham march.

## Nazi marches shrinking

These militant confrontations are a good start in the campaign to stop fascist terror and drive the Nazis off the streets. They prove that the fascists can be beaten, and these actions are already beginning to have a good effect. As *Socialist Worker*—the SWP newspaper—points out, a year ago the Nazi marches were 1,500 strong. The first time that they met tough, organized opposition, they went down to 1,000. At Lewisham there were barely 500. They were outnumbered more than six-to-one by the anti-fascist forces.

All the same, it isn't yet time to celebrate the end of the Nazi threat in Britain. This threat comes out of the most basic problems of British capitalism. As the *Torch-La Antorcha* has pointed out in the past, the British capitalist system is falling apart more and more every day. As

be easy, because they are highly organized. The capitalists will have to drop their "democratic" cover and turn to the fascists of the National Front. The fascists stand for a no-nonsense program of smashing the workers head-on. They use racism to organize middle-class people against the workers, and to split the workers themselves. And they build an army of thugs in the streets to attack Blacks, Jews, leftists, and the trade unions.

The capitalists will begin by financing the fascists to attack and terrorize the workers. However, when the capitalists are really pressed, they will turn their government over to the fascists. This is what the capitalists did in Germany and Italy before World War II, when they handed their governments over to Hitler and Mussolini. It must not be allowed to happen again!

Britain's workers and oppressed people must do two related things to stop the Nazis of the National Front: 1) continue to organize to drive the Nazis off the streets; and 2) use this struggle to build a movement for the socialist revolution, which can overthrow the capitalists and put all power in the hands of the working class and its allies.

## Socialist revolution: Permanent solution to the Nazis

The current struggle to stop the Nazis must be extended into a united-front effort that includes all of



Britain's fascists.

crisis but feel powerless to fight it. The fascists try to convince them that the cause of their problems is not rotting capitalism, but Black people, Jews, revolutionaries and the workers' movement in general. The fascists organize these confused people into bands of thugs who try to hire themselves out to the capitalists to smash the workers.

But many of these disoriented people are ready to follow any bold leadership that appears to offer them a way out of the crisis. If the workers don't organize, they will abandon the demoralized middle-class forces to the fascists. But if the workers organize themselves for revolution, if they can show that they have an alternative to the decaying system, then they can win the support of wide layers of the middle class. To do this the workers have to fight to overthrow capitalism and set up a socialist society—a society run by and for the working class and oppressed people.

Therefore, side by side with militant actions in the streets, British leftists have to carry out a campaign to win the rest of the workers to the need for socialist revolution.

## SWP afraid of revolution

Unfortunately, the Socialist Workers Party—the organization leading these actions—is not up to this task. It is afraid of anything that smacks of revolution. Instead, the SWP organizes by giving in to the workers' illusions in the system. It doesn't put forward a revolutionary program to deal with the crisis. It isn't laying the groundwork for a workers' government. It fights for a mish-mash of reforms, in a situation where only revolution can provide a way out. It always tries to place itself one step to the left of the ruling Labor Party.

The SWP puts forward the idea that British capitalism can deliver, if only the workers put on enough pressure. This is a very dangerous illusion—precisely the illusion which is most common among workers. It leaves the workers confused about the real situation, and about what they must do.

## What are the Nazis all about?

Throughout this anti-Nazi campaign, *Socialist Worker*, the SWP newspaper, has never explained what the Nazis are all about. In the August 20 issue, for example, they write that the goal of the Nazis is "to build a movement that can dominate the streets and intimidate black people, Jewish people, and anyone who opposes them." Period. That is all that the SWP has to say about what

the Nazis are up to.

There are two things wrong with this statement. First, it doesn't point out that the main goal of the Nazis is to smash the working class. The Nazis launch their most brutal attacks against national minorities in order to build themselves a mass base in society. But the central aspect of fascism is that it is a movement of frenzied middle-class forces which hires itself out to the capitalists for the purpose of smashing the workers. The SWP has never pointed this out to the British workers.

Second, the SWP misleads the workers when it says that the Nazis are out to build a movement to "intimidate people" in the streets. The Nazis want to do a lot more than that. They want to take over the government and all of society. The SWP never really says this out front.

Most important of all, the SWP's newspaper never mentions the tie-in between fascism and decaying capitalism. Yet the main thing that makes the Nazis a threat is the support they get from the capitalists. The SWP refuses to level with the British workers on this point because to admit this is to admit that capitalism is in its death agony. The SWP won't admit that capitalism is in its death agony because it doesn't really believe it.

The SWP can fight the fascists in the streets today and have a certain amount of success. But to smash the fascists in Britain, it has to mobilize millions of workers. The SWP can't mobilize workers if it won't tell them that fascism is out to cut their throats. And it can't eliminate the fascist threat if it doesn't work to overthrow the capitalist system that breeds it. Since the SWP doesn't do any of these things, it is setting up the workers for defeat.

The Socialist Workers Party is nothing more than the left wing of British reformism. A party of this type will never lead the workers towards revolution. The more such a party attracts the left-wing workers, the more it becomes an obstacle in the path of revolution.

## A revolutionary party needed

Britain's revolutionary workers should join with the SWP in an anti-fascist united front. Through joint struggle with the SWP, the workers (and honest members of the SWP itself) will have to learn the real nature of this party. They will have to use the struggle against the Nazis to organize a genuinely revolutionary party. The future of Britain, and of the workers everywhere, depends on their ability to do this. □



British fascists cower behind cops after workers broke up march.

the world economic crisis deepens in the years ahead, Britain will be ground up by the stronger capitalist countries on the world market.

The more this happens, the less the capitalists will put up with the unions and with the Labor Party. In the not-too-distant future, the British capitalists will move to deprive the workers of their rights to strike, to organize, to peacefully assemble, to fight back. They will do this because it's the only way that Britain's capitalist system can hang on. By wiping out the workers' living standards, the capitalists can cut costs and manage to survive on the world market.

But smashing the workers will not

Britain's labor unions and leftist organizations. All British workers must be mobilized for this fight, especially the Black and Brown workers who are the direct targets of the fascist scum.

But street confrontations, by themselves, can only be a holding action. Unless the conditions that breed racism and fascism are eliminated, the Nazis will eventually make a comeback. That is why socialist revolution is necessary.

Fascism appeals to demoralized people, mostly from the middle class, but also from backward sections of the white workers. These people are being chewed up by the economic

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Commemoration of

# Remember the Grito de Lares

The Grito de Lares, Puerto Rico's heroic armed rebellion against slavery and foreign rule, took place more than a century ago on September 23, 1868. On that date 400 Puerto Rican revolutionaries under the leadership of Manuel Rojas entered the town of Lares, took it over, and proclaimed the Republic of Puerto Rico. They were poorly armed and ill-prepared. At the last minute the rebellion had to be moved up six days because the Spanish rulers had got wind of their plans. The revolutionaries' arms and ammunition were embargoed by the government of neighboring Santo Domingo. Their only supply ship was seized on St. Thomas. These last-minute setbacks doomed the uprising to defeat. The 400 fought heroically, even though their knives and machetes were no match for the Spaniards' modern firearms.

Although it was put down in blood, the Lares revolt was not in vain. Fearing the Puerto Rican people's rising spirit of rebellion, the Spanish imperialists had to abolish Black slavery within four years. They also issued laws protecting freedom of the press and generally relaxed their 400-year-old brutal hold over Puerto Rico.

Most important, the Grito de Lares became the living symbol of the Puerto Rican people's struggle for freedom and independence. This struggle has been a long and hard one and is still being fought to this day.

In 1898 the monster of the north—U.S. imperialism—made war on a weak and decaying Spain to grab Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and to launch itself as a major power in the Caribbean and the Far East. Puerto Rico has been ruled as a colony ever since. The so-called "self-governing Commonwealth" status that has been in effect since 1952 is just a fig-leaf to hide the fact that Puerto Rico is an exploited and oppressed colony of the U.S. Moreover, since 1898 the U.S. has regarded the Caribbean Sea as its private lake. There have been countless U.S. armed interventions—in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, etc. U.S. control of Puerto Rico provides the U.S. ruling class with a base from which to threaten and intimidate the whole Caribbean area.

U.S. domination has brought Puerto Rico nothing but poverty, misery and plunder. The island has been covered end to end with sweatshops, which moved there to take advantage of government-enforced low wages. Yet even though there is a very high level of industrialization, at least 40 percent of the people can't find jobs. And although wages are low, the cost of living is as high or higher than in the U.S. The tax burden is entirely on the shoulders of the Puerto Rican working class, since U.S. industry pays no tax of any kind (corporate, personal, or property tax) to the island's puppet government. Forty percent of Puerto Rico's population has been forced to move to the U.S. to try to escape this unspeakable oppression. This long-term bleeding of Puerto Rico's population is a serious threat to its national survival.

## For independence and socialism

Puerto Rico is a separate and distinct nation which is colonized by U.S. imperialism—and should be independent and free of U.S. control. All U.S. workers and oppressed should oppose U.S. domination of the country. But Puerto Rico cannot be truly independent under capitalism. Even if Puerto Rico were politically independent, it would still be dominated by the economic might of U.S. imperialism. Puerto Rican independence can be ensured only by a working class revolution in the Caribbean and throughout the entire world.

In today's world, the struggle for an independent, socialist Puerto Rico and for a Caribbean Socialist Federation is the continuation of the revolutionary spirit of the Grito de Lares. U.S. workers must give their full support to this struggle because it weakens the U.S. imperialists and makes it easier for us to settle our own accounts with them.

The best way that we can support this struggle is by building a movement for socialist revolution here in the U.S.—a revolution that can drive U.S. imperialism out of Puerto Rico, out of the Caribbean, and off the face of our planet. □



## Black Youth Rebel at Notting Hill

During London's annual West Indian Carnival at Notting Hill on August 28, Black youths started a two-day rebellion. By the time it was over, they had put 170 cops in the hospital.

The rebellion happened even though the organizers of the Carnival tried to keep things quiet. The police—who broke up last year's Carnival—were kept on the sidelines, and Black stewards were there to keep order. This strategy worked until after dark, when the youths started getting restless. Most didn't have the money to have a good time at the Carnival. They didn't see much reason to celebrate when they can't find work in the squalor and misery of London's slums.

Also behind this rebelliousness of the Black youth is the storm of racist attacks that have fallen on Britain's Blacks. Besides frequent fascist attacks, the cops have staged midnight raids on Black people's homes, dragging young people from their beds and taking them to the stations to work them over.

What happened at the Carnival is another indication that British capitalism has nothing to offer these youths. This rebellion shows the hatred of the system that lies just beneath the surface, and the potential for struggle present among Britain's most oppressed workers.

## Chile: The Repression Continues

Last month, Chile's brutal military dictatorship supposedly disbanded DINA, the secret police force. DINA has carried out arrests, tortures and murders of thousands of people who it considered a threat. In its place, a new agency—National Information Center (CNI)—has been set up. The CNI will have no powers to arrest.

The change is phony. By law, DINA never had the right to make arrests and shoot people either, but that never stopped it. The CNI is made up of DINA's 20,000 agents. It won't function any differently. The name changes; the repression remains the same.

Why then is the change being made? Pinochet—the head of the government—has been under increasing pressure from the U.S. Carter wants some surface changes to make it look like Chile is becoming more democratic and less brutal. By changing DINA's name, Pinochet makes it look like he is changing things, without giving up anything.

This whole operation shows the hypocrisy of U.S. imperialism and its "human rights" smokescreen. The U.S. used Pinochet to overthrow the elected Allende government in 1973, and to smash the growing struggles of Chile's working class. Now that tens of thousands have been killed, imprisoned, or have "disappeared," the U.S. has accomplished what it set out to do. So it is pushing Pinochet to clean up his image a bit. Nothing can end Chilean repression as long as Pinochet and his hangmen remain in power.

## Defend Québec's Language Rights!

Last month, the Québec National Assembly passed a law to defend the language rights of the Québécois (commonly known as French Canadians). The law restricts English school attendance to children already enrolled; their brothers and sisters; children with at least one English-educated parent; and their descendants. All future immigrants—whether from abroad or from English Canada—will have to send their children to French schools. Québec's English-language schools have announced that they will defy the new law.

This law is justified. For a long time, English-speaking U.S. and Canadian capitalists have been coming to Québec and turning the Québécois into an oppressed group inside their own country. The capitalists have made English the language of business in Québec, and they discriminate against the French-speaking population. The Québécois—who make up more than 80 percent of Québec's population—rank last in income out of the nine biggest nationality groups there. Besides the economic exploitation, the English-speaking capitalists are threatening the survival of the Québécois' culture and language. For these reasons, revolutionaries defend the right of the Québécois to take measures to protect their language and culture from the intrusions of English Canada and the U.S.

## Sri Lanka's Rulers Attack Tamils

Violence against the Tamil minority has erupted in Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon). Hundreds of Tamils have been killed. Thousands have been driven from their homes. Their stores and homes have been looted and burned.

The oppression of the Tamils has been increasing in recent years. They have been discriminated against in jobs and housing. And in 1972, the capitalists adopted a new constitution making Sinhalese—the language of the majority—the official language of Sri Lanka. This is an attempt to write the Tamils out of the picture.

The Tamils' oppression has led to the rise of separatist feelings. A separatist party, the Tamil United Liberation Front, won the second-largest number of seats in last July's elections, making it the official opposition. This is why the Sinhalese capitalists have unleashed this latest wave of terror.

Revolutionaries should support the Tamils if they choose independence. The recent events are one more proof that capitalism equals racism and repression.

—TC, SE and CG



Commemoration of Grito de Lares in Puerto Rico.

# EDITORIALS

## Panama Canal Treaty: Imperialist Hoax

The proposed treaty on the Panama Canal is an imperialist swindle and must be opposed. The Panama Canal belongs to the people of Panama. The treaty which Carter worked out with Panama's dictator, General Torrijos, is supposed to turn over full control of the canal by the year 2000. In reality, it guarantees that the U.S. will stay in effective control of the canal permanently in exchange for a bribe to the Torrijos regime.

Here are the main provisions of the treaty:

- 1) The canal will be run by a board of five Americans and four Panamanians. The Panamanians will be appointed by the U.S. The canal will be administered by a U.S. citizen.
- 2) The U.S. can retain all 14 of its military bases in the Canal Zone until 2000.
- 3) Under the "guarantee of neutral shipping" clauses of the treaty, the

U.S. has the permanent right to pass its military shipping through the canal and to use military force to occupy the canal any time it decides that there is a threat to the security of the U.S.

4) In return, Torrijos gets nearly \$300 million in various loans from the U.S.

5) The U.S. will pay \$10 million a year in rent for the canal, instead of the current \$2.3 million, and will share revenues from canal tolls with Panama.

This treaty has nothing to do with establishing the sovereignty of Panama over the canal. The U.S. is simply paying a bit more to retain its absolute control over the canal until 2000. After 2000, the U.S. can still send in the Marines whenever it wants, perfectly legally under the terms of the treaty. This provision is not aimed so much at the threat of a Russian take-over as it is at the

Panamanian people themselves. The U.S. is concerned about the possibility of revolution in Panama and the Panamanian masses seizing the canal.

In fact, the main reason that Carter negotiated this treaty is to try to cool down the bitter anti-U.S. feeling among the people. Negotiations over the canal began in 1964 when rioting broke out in the Canal Zone against the U.S. presence there. Three U.S. soldiers and 21 Panamanians were killed in these outbreaks. The canal itself is very vulnerable to guerrilla actions—even a few hand-grenades in the lock mechanisms would do enough damage to close it down. Carter hopes that Torrijos can sell this treaty to the masses as a "blow against imperialism" and lessen the risk of more anti-U.S. uprisings taking place.

The second reason Carter wants this treaty is as part of his general

effort to improve the U.S.'s false international image as a democratic and anti-colonial power. This is especially crucial to Carter if he is to succeed in tricking Blacks in southern Africa into relying upon the U.S. for support against apartheid in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

The treaty provisions, however, demonstrate that Panama as a whole is to remain politically and economically under the thumb of the U.S. Just in case Torrijos can't ram this treaty down the throats of the masses, he is working on a deal to get U.S. military assistance. Its purpose will be to defend Torrijos from the people he rules.

The working class in the U.S. must support the fight to liberate Panama from U.S. rule. Withdraw all U.S. troops from Panama immediately! The canal must be turned over to Panama's full control. □

## Avenge Frank Thompson!

On September 2, Roger Scheid, an off-duty cop, shot and killed Frank Thompson, an 18-year-old Black man, in Coney Island, a neighborhood in Brooklyn, New York. After Scheid had driven around the neighborhood for a few hours hassling Black people, girlfriend, who was with Scheid, claimed Thompson had tried to steal her radio. Scheid shot Thompson once. Thompson ran, though he was hurt badly. But Scheid found the youth and shot him again and again.

Once again a New York cop has committed a cold-blooded and racist murder. The cops know that and the community knows that. But the New York Police Department is already busy making up lies about how Scheid fired in self-defense. They are claiming that Thompson had a knife and cut Scheid's lip. People in the community say that Thompson had no knife. They say Scheid cut his lip when he fell on his face while trying to gun down Thompson. People in the community know that the cops are trying to cover up this murder.

### "Law and order"

#### means more killer cops

Along with the cops, the politicians in this city also want to cover up the murder real quick. All the mayoral candidates have been running heavy "law and order" campaigns. They don't want people to see that "law and order" means more killer cops like Scheid. A grand jury "investigation" is being set up, but this is being done only to try to cool down the community. The rulers are trying to convince the people of the Coney Island community that the cops and courts will "handle" this case. They are trying to tell the people not to do anything about this racist murder.

Community leaders are also pushing this line. These leaders set up a meeting for September 6. Over 500 people turned out to hear what was going to be done about the murder. Most were angry. And many were ready to do something to make sure Scheid got kicked off the police force, at a minimum.

But instead of discussing what to

do about Thompson's murder, the so-called leaders used the meeting to try to cool things down. One of the community leaders got up and made a speech—a lot of heavy militant talk. But when he got to what should be done, it was the same old thing—almost nothing. He told people to go to the funeral, to give money to Thompson's family, and to testify at the District Attorney's office. He also told people not to organize anything.

Other speakers were paraded in front of the meeting, but none of them had any more to say about what should be done. People in the community who did have something to say about what should be done never had a chance to speak. The meeting was never opened up for discussion.

The captain of the 60th Precinct got up in front of the meeting and said he was sorry about the killing of Thompson, but didn't know who was at fault. He also promised an investigation. That's what he had to say to the community. But what he said to television reporters was that he had come to the meeting to calm things down.

The community leaders sold out the community at this meeting. After a cop shoots down a Black youth in cold blood, these so-called leaders invite the cops to come and help cool things down. This shows once again that if working and oppressed people in New York want anything done about racist cops, jobs, housing or anything else, they have to rely on their own strength. The police, the courts, the politicians and the frightened, conservative community leaders are not going to do anything about anything.

### How to build the struggle

Working and oppressed people have to organize and unite their forces. To start with, the people of Coney Island should get publicity out to other communities. Make sure as many people as possible know the truth about Frank Thompson's murder. Organize demonstrations and picket lines to publicize the case and mobilize community residents—this is how to start the fight against the

racist cops.

Most important, the community must organize to defend itself. The cops are not there to protect the people. They are there to defend property and the system from the people. By relying on the cops and the politicians for defense, people are setting themselves up for more murders. The community must defend itself. It must organize community patrols and defense guards.

Coney Island is not the only community that has suffered at the hands of the brutal and racist cops. A couple of nights after Thompson was killed, a pregnant Black woman was beaten by a cop in Manhattan. Brooklyn, Manhattan, the Bronx—throughout this city and the entire country, brutality goes on all the time against working and poor people, and especially against Blacks, Latins and other oppressed groups. Oppressed people must unite their forces to defend themselves from the cops and other agents of this system.

### Cops are agents of the capitalist system

The cops are not just bad people. They are agents of a system—capitalism—which is based on the exploitation of the poor by the rich. The

cops' job is to protect this system. They are armed protectors who walk among the people—making sure that people "stay in line."

It is the cops' job to attack the most oppressed people. It is the cops' job to keep people from fighting for jobs. It is the cops' job to go after workers who are on strike. And it is the cops' job to beat and bust people, like during the blackout in New York or the Humboldt Park rebellion in Chicago. As long as the system is around, the cops will be around. And as long as the cops are around, there will be racist attacks.

### Smash capitalism!

To end racist murders once and for all, working and oppressed people must organize to smash the system that needs cops. We must fight to overthrow capitalism. What we need is a system that the people themselves—led by the working class—run in the interests of the great masses of people. We have to overthrow capitalism and build socialism.

This is what really needs to be done to avenge Frank Thompson, to avenge all the people who have been beaten or killed by the cops, and to free all the people brutalized by capitalism. □

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# LETTERS

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## "Only Revolution Can Smash Apartheid"

(The following is a letter from the October 30th Revolutionary Collective at Ashland Federal Youth Prison in Kentucky. The letter is a reply to the series of Torch articles on the struggle for revolution in South Africa.)

Uhuru,

I found many points... that I want to discuss. I feel there is no way the

capitalists can defeat the masses in South Africa, and I agree with the Revolutionary Socialist League that the wave of struggle in South Africa will mean a tremendous impetus to the struggle of Black people in the heart of the Monster. It has already given many sisters and brothers a whole new political awakening and will continue to do so as things get

## Organization Is Key In Prisoners' Struggle

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

You accurately reported that the U.S. supreme court ruled against the North Carolina Prisoners' Labor Union on June 23rd. This is nothing but the highest capitalist court putting its stamp of approval on what prison mismanagers have been trying to do all along: crush prisoner efforts to organize.

As we know from history, the capitalist courts have always acted to prevent the people from uniting. Who can count the court decisions that went against labor unions in the 19th and early 20th Century? The capitalist courts have always been on the side of the managers, whether factory managers or prison managers.

The court decision only indicates to us, as prisoners, the fear of the managers that we will unite and eventually bring them down. This is what the court decision really means. It tells us that the capitalists fear us, and it points out to us the direction in which we must move, namely, towards unity and organization.

Whatever the capitalists and their puppets are against must be good for us.

Neither court decisions nor all the violence represented by the state apparatus can prevent us from uniting and organizing. By the same token, we know in advance that the state apparatus will always act to prevent us from organizing. But they cannot prevent us while we live and struggle.

Of course we "are in an adversary relationship with the prison administrators." We are part of the revolutionary working class, and the prison managers are lackeys and puppets of the capitalist overlords. How could we be in anything other than an "adversary relationship?"

The court decision is meaningless to all except those who respect the capitalist laws. And those laws are intended to disarm us and to keep us in a position to be oppressed and exploited. Our task is to keep on struggling for unity and organization, until the time when we are strong enough to smash the entire capitalist system. Long before then, the capitalist courts themselves will throw away their useless laws in their

efforts to repress us. Why should we respect laws that they themselves do not respect and have never obeyed? We will continue to do what we must do to bring this oppressive and exploitative capitalist system down. Unity in struggle, C.A., Somers Prison

PS: Thank you for printing the letter I wrote, and for discontinuing use of the word "inmate." Of course, what we are seeing, what we are a part of, is prisoners learning who they are and why they are in prison. They are claiming an identity other than the one the puppet prison managers have chosen for them. I believe this is a necessary aspect of the struggle. It is part of the process of revolutionary transformation that must occur. When we know who we are, and why we are in prison, and why this society is in an advanced state of decay, then we know who our enemies are. And we begin to see and understand what we must do to smash them. It is becoming more and more obvious that we cannot fulfill our human aspirations in this decaying capitalist prisonhouse. We owe it to ourselves and to our children, to future generations, to exert ourselves to the utmost. Otherwise, future generations will curse us for leaving to them tasks which we should have accomplished. The present suffering and misery of millions of people will pass only when they rise up in righteous anger and rid themselves of the oppressors and exploiters, those who are rotting in luxury and profits. The capitalist wealth is ours, it is the surplus labor they have stolen from us under their laws. It is right and just that they in turn be expropriated, and that all that they have stolen be returned to the people to be used for the collective good of all. To this task, more and more people are dedicating their lives.

Stay strong in struggle!

Forge simple words that even the children can understand, words which will enter every house like the wind and fall, like red hot embers on our peoples' souls.

—Jorge Rebelo  
FRELIMO

hotter.

Nothing would make me happier than a direct international alliance between the struggle in South Africa and here in the center of the Empire. We of the Revolutionary Collective understand very well that apartheid and capitalism cannot be separated and can't be eliminated through reforms, only through revolution, armed struggle and yes, the struggle must continue long after the defeat of the capitalists. I have always felt that the Black working class in South Africa was the only class brutally exploited and again I agree that they are the only class with the true ingredients of a revolutionary movement that can defeat the capitalists.

It is our hope that the South African proletariat will not have to depend on Russian arms, but if they don't depend on Russian arms, or the guns of the Black state-capitalists then where will they get arms? I feel

the revolution in Angola was a defeat because Russia played a big part in the so-called victory. In fact, if my readings are correct there is no truly liberated state in Africa. And as long as you have a so-called "President" for every four or five million people there will never be a unified Africa. In the future this will have to change and hopefully it will.

The potential for a revolutionary party in South Africa at this time is very weak, but if we can make contact with our comrades and as you say, really learn the situation and convince them of our politics I think we can play a concrete role in helping to build a revolutionary party.

Your analysis of South Africa and the struggle going on there is by far the best I have read. It will be of great help to me and the brothers here at Ashland. I have always thought that guerrillas could defeat any army no matter how strong!

Jomo, with much love and unity.

## Slave Labor at Angola Penitentiary

Dear Editor:

I take time out to write this scribe to express my sincere thanks for myself as well as the other brothers here in this mad dog concentration camp at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, who read the Torch paper you send me.

Your paper carries a message and I'm proud to say I like and enjoy it a great deal.

I also hope and wish that alot more brothers and sisters would read and get into the Torch because it's definitely a together Right on paper!

Each day hundreds of men, most of them Black, are marched from their cells under armed guard, out into the sprawling farmlands here at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. There, the prisoners spend the day digging irrigation ditches, putting up fence, and planting or harvesting crops. Some pick cotton.

Under Department of Corrections orders, the inmates at Angola must pick a certain quota of cotton each week. If by Friday they have not reached their quota, they are forced to work on Saturday. If Saturday's pick isn't sufficient, they work Sunday. Beyond that they are disciplined: they may lose their privileges or they may be confined in punishment cells.

For their work, the prisoners can earn two cents, three cents or five cents an hour. They don't get that. If they refuse to work, or cannot keep up with the work pace established by the warden, they can be thrown into what is known as the "strip tier" where they are subjected to various forms of punishment: diminished rations, belongings are confiscated, personal hygiene articles are often denied, and medical attention is sporadic at best. At one point, personal mail was being confiscated from the inmates on the strip tiers until the Louisiana Coalition on Jails and Prisons brought this to the attention of Department of Correc-

tions and outside authorities.

There is no television. No radio. No hair combs. No toilet articles. No dessert is served and your food is rationed. You cannot keep pictures of your loved ones. You cannot receive packages, so you hope your underwear is in good shape, because you can't buy needle and thread. All legal papers are taken from you.

When placed on the special tier, all the inmate's belongings that he isn't allowed to have in his cell are placed in a locked storage room. There have been cases where an inmate, upon leaving the special tier, discovered his "locked" belongings missing.

Sick call is very seldom held on the special tier. The position apparently taken by prison officials is that "they (the inmates) don't work in the fields, so they don't need medical treatment."

Such conditions are analogous to those prevalent two hundred years ago when plantation owners disciplined their nonworking slaves.

Your Comrade in Struggle,  
Iku  
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# Build the Party...

(Continued from page 11)

the party's work in all the major sections of industry and to struggle inside the unions to throw out the bureaucrats who run them and make the unions into powerful weapons of the revolutionary struggle. There will be neighborhood groups to organize the unemployed, the high school students, the housewives. Underground cells will have to be constructed inside the army, navy and air force to win over sections of the troops to fight on our side and to prevent the government from using the armed forces against us.

The Russian working class had this

kind of party in 1917, the Bolshevik party led by Lenin and Trotsky. The Bolsheviks had the working class so well-organized and well-prepared that there was very little bloodshed the night they seized power.

In Petrograd, the main city of Russia, armed detachments of workers occupied all the strategic buildings, crossroads and bridges. Leading capitalists, government officials and military officers were arrested to prevent them from organizing resistance. The factories had, for the most part, already been taken over by the workers. The telephone and telegraph exchanges were seized. The govern-

# Miners' Wildcat...

(Continued from page 8)

to do that now. After striking for 10 weeks, the miners need some money coming in. They will watch the negotiations with the BCOA and prepare for another strike. They may not wait 60 days to start it.

Behind the battles inside the UMW and in the coal fields stand the BCOA and the government. The coal capitalists and their government want to end the wildcat strikes which have raged through the coal fields for the past few years, and they want to break the back of the growing rank-and-file miners' movement. The BCOA and the government want a



UMW head Arnold Miller.

weakened UMW and more coal production to meet the capitalists' energy needs. The bosses want to break the miners' struggles before their militant example spreads to workers in auto, steel and the rest of the labor movement.

The BCOA is using the medical cuts to force a showdown with the miners. They claim the cutbacks are necessary because the amount of money paid into the benefit funds depends on the amount of coal produced—and previous wildcats have cut production. The BCOA is also threatening to slash the pensions paid to retired and disabled miners for the same reason. This is a smoke-screen. They could easily transfer money from other UMW Trust Funds to pay for medical care and pensions—they've done it before. The coal bosses are using cutbacks in medical benefits and possibly pensions to blackmail the miners into ending their militant struggles.

The BCOA and the government

hope they can use Arnold Miller to break the rank-and-file movement and get the fighting miners under control. Miller is clearly trying to do everything the bosses want him to, but he is ineffective. There is a growing movement among miners, including some district and local UMW leaders, to demand Miller's resignation.

## Government serves coal bosses

The government of Jimmy Carter serves the coal bosses and the rest of the capitalist class. The FBI announced that it has sent agents into West Virginia to "monitor" the situation. The FBI agents are reportedly gathering information for charges of "crossing state lines to incite a riot." This would be used against miners who are roving pickets. All of this lays the basis for open government attacks on the miners.

Rank-and-file miners are facing concentrated attacks from the coal bosses, the government and their own union leaders. The existence of the miners' movement and the future strength of the UMW are on the line.

The miners' struggle is one of the clearest examples of why the working class must build a revolutionary leadership inside the trade unions. The miners don't hesitate to strike and sacrifice to do battle with the coal bosses. They have proved this time after time. And the rank-and-file miners' movement already exists but, unfortunately, it hasn't had the strategy, the leadership and the level of organization needed to dump Miller and take full control of the UMW. The most class-conscious miners must begin now to build a revolutionary leadership in the UMW that can carry out these tasks, and that can build an alliance with the rest of the working class. This is one crucial front in the struggle to build a revolutionary party to lead the entire working class to power.

Militant miners can begin right now, as they regroup their forces and build their network to prepare for another strike. An effective nationwide coal strike is the only language that the BCOA and the government understand. Rank-and-file miners have to build the kind of organization that can lead this struggle.

The strikes may begin again in a few days, or after 60 days, or when the UMW contract expires on December 7. But the miners' struggles will continue and critical battles are still ahead. □

ment was paralyzed. The army was useless to the capitalists.

We are a long way from such a party today. But we know the opportunities to build this party will come about in the period ahead. This is why we do work among prisoners. This is why we get involved in every outbreak of the class struggle that we can. The auto strikes this summer, organizing for jobs in the South Bronx, the Livernois Five defense case in Detroit where we succeeded in freeing five young Black men who were being framed on murder charges.

It is why we are organizing to fight the Nazis in the streets of Chicago. We have to be in the spots where the struggle breaks out the fiercest to try to influence these struggles with our ideas, to organize support for them, and to lead them as far as they will go. We have to win the people who see the need for this kind of action to our organizations.

It is also why we organize to support the revolution in South Africa, and why we are building ties with the Revolutionary Marxist

League in Jamaica. The struggle is a world struggle. Our aim is to build an international party of the working class which can lead the struggle for revolution on a world scale.

We want people to support our activities, to take part in our work, to fight alongside of us. But if we are going to win, it takes more. It means you have to join. You have to be a member. It's not for everyone, because it means giving up a lot. It's the deepest kind of commitment a person can make. You have to hate this society pretty bad to be a revolutionary; you have to want revolution more than anything else.

But if this is the way you feel, and that's how bad you want revolution, then your place is with us, in the Revolutionary Socialist League.

We have a long way to go from here and it won't be easy. But if we are ever going to rise above the level of being slaves dying a slow death for a system which is itself dying, then this party must be built and this revolution must be made. There is no other way out. □

## Build the Prisoner Literature Fund!



We need donations to help us supply revolutionary literature to prisoners. Everyone who sends us a donation or monthly pledge will receive the pamphlet, "Prisoners' Messages to the Day of Solidarity." Help build the revolutionary struggle in the prisons!

# Bethlehem...

(Continued from page 9)

competition from foreign steel, the age of the mills, government pressures to keep prices down, environmental regulations and the Johnstown flood as the causes of the layoffs and the threatened plant closings. The simple fact is that the Bethlehem bosses were not making enough profits from these two mills to suit them. The bankers and millionaires who control Bethlehem Steel figure they can make bigger and quicker profits somewhere else, so the workers and their families be damned.

You might expect that the leaders of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA), the union that represents these workers, would have a different attitude. You'd be wrong. Lloyd McBride, president of the USWA, had this to say: "It gets down to the basic question that in this free economy, nobody is going to be in business that can't make a buck. I see more closings." McBride sides with the Bethlehem bosses and defends their right to lay off the workers and close the plants. He says there is nothing the union can do. McBride and the other top USWA bureaucrats support this "free economy" where the capitalists are free to steal profits, exploit the workers, throw them out of their jobs and wreck their lives.

The Bethlehem workers can't rely on their union leaders or the "good will" of the bosses to get their jobs back. It will take the organized power of the Bethlehem workers to stop the layoffs and keep the mills open. But these layoffs are not isolated examples. Other big steel companies are

laying off workers, forcing short work weeks and threatening plant closures.

Bethlehem workers must unite with other steelworkers to throw the pro-capitalist leadership out of the union. The USWA needs a leadership of workers who will fight to defend the interests of the rank and file—not the interests of the bosses.

Bethlehem says they can no longer produce the steel profitably. But workers need the jobs and society needs the steel. Since the capitalists can't do it, then the workers will have to. This is the lesson of Bethlehem. The working class must prepare to take over the mills and all of society and run them in the interests of the masses of working people. □



Racist cartoon put out by Bethlehem Steel pushes protectionism.

The struggle is a aim is to build an of the working d the struggle for rld scale. e to support our art in our work, to us. But if we are es more. It means ou have to be a for everyone, be- ing up a lot. It's of commitment a ou have to hate ad to be a revolu- want revolution g else. way you feel, and want revolution, with us, in the alist League. way to go from e easy. But if we se above the level g a slow death for tself dying, then e built and this made. There is no

# Ethiopia . . .



(Continued from page 3)  
 into a revolutionary, Leninist party—which is another way of saying that the workers had no organized leadership with a strategy for taking power. This gave the army the opening to move in. The army took power, but it was too internally divided to make a decisive move.

This was a different army from the one that had served Haile Selassie's landlord class for many years. The middle-level officer corps, the non-commissioned officers, and the rank-and-file soldiers had become radicalized by the Eritrean campaign and by all the upheavals in Ethiopian society. Claiming to be for socialism, these forces organized themselves in the spring of 1974. Various military units held secret elections and formed a 120-member committee of officers and enlisted men (what has come to be called the Dergue, meaning "Committee"). The Dergue leadership then shot the senior officers who supported the landlords and took control of the country. By September of 1974, the Dergue was firmly enough in the saddle to remove Selassie. By December, it was declaring itself for "socialism."

## Radical middle class

The political outlook of the Dergue is the outlook of the radicalized middle classes throughout the Third World. In the Third World, the middle classes long to break out of the stagnation and backwardness caused by imperialist exploitation. They long for "socialism." But for the middle classes, "socialism" doesn't mean workers' rule. What the middle classes really mean by "socialism" is order, planning, economic development through centralization and statification of the economy—in other words, state capitalism.

In situations of extreme chaos, where the ruling class can't rule effectively anymore, segments of the middle classes often move in. Under the labels of "Marxism" and "Leninism," they put themselves at the head of the masses. They take over the government and then implement a state-capitalist program under the guise of "socialism." They take over some or all of the property of the other classes and they streamline and centralize the economy. They become a new capitalist class. By nationalizing the key industries, they put themselves in a better bargaining position in their dealings with the imperialists.

The new bourgeoisie denies the workers their most basic democratic rights to organize, to strike, to have unions independent of the government. It outlaws all political parties except its own ruling party. As a result, the new bourgeoisie is able to

step up the exploitation of the masses, and to use the profits to consolidate its rule. This was and is the political outlook and program of the Dergue.

But before the Dergue could consolidate itself as a state-capitalist bourgeoisie, it had to eliminate its enemies on the left and right. It had to smash the workers and students who continued their struggles, and it had to smash the landlords, who still held the land, and those capitalists and middle-class forces that didn't go for state capitalism.

The first thing the "socialists" of the Dergue had to do was to cement an alliance with U.S. imperialism, the old backer of the landlords and the supplier of all military hardware. This proved fairly easy to do, because both the Dergue and U.S. imperialism were fighting to maintain the existing set-up in East Africa.

With U.S. imperialism behind it, the Dergue began to tackle its internal enemies. In the cities, it had to isolate the workers from their student allies. In the countryside, it had to mobilize the peasants behind the army government. It accomplished both things by ordering the students to the countryside to implement a land reform program. Fifty thousand students were shipped out in late '74 and early '75 to organize peasant associations. All holdings over 25 acres were seized. The power of the landlords was broken. The peasants were armed and mobilized in peasant militias.

With the countryside safely in its hands, the Dergue started to attack the workers in the cities. From the middle of 1975 on, the repression has been getting more and more brutal with each passing month. During 1975, the main organization of the workers—the Confederation of Ethiopian Labor Unions—was outlawed, along with the powerful Teachers

Union and University Students Union. The leaders of these and other organizations were arrested and executed.

As the repression increased, the workers, students and intellectuals more and more clustered around the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP). This is a state-capitalist organization with Maoist-type politics that are very similar to the Dergue's—but its politics didn't save it from brutal repression.

On April 29 of this year, young students and workers staged May Day marches throughout Addis Ababa. They were brutally gunned down by the Dergue's machine guns. Perhaps as many as 300 died that day. The next day, hundreds more who had been arrested were taken out of their cells and executed. Estimates of the slaughter for these two days range from 900 to 2,400.

As the Dergue's military situation got more and more out of control in Eritrea, rebellions broke out in various provinces: Tigre, Gojam, and the Ogaden. At this time, U.S. imperialists decided to drop the Dergue and try to make a deal with the Eritreans and the Somalis. In response, the Dergue looked for a new sponsor in Russian imperialism.

Imperial Ethiopia is collapsing. The Dergue is getting caught in the hopeless task of trying to hold the empire together.

It is not clear what the future holds for the Dergue. Its own ranks have been thinned by internal disputes. Of the original 120 members, fewer than 20 remain. Most of the others have been gunned down in internal squabbles. Lt. Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam has emerged as the undisputed leader, but it is unclear how long he and the Dergue will be able to ride the tiger.

## State-capitalist ruling class

The Dergue is a classic example of a state-capitalist ruling class. The Dergue claims to have set up a "socialist" and "Marxist-Leninist" regime and to represent a government of the workers and oppressed masses. But it follows a strategy of basing itself on the peasants and rural population.

The state-capitalists' reliance on the peasantry is no accident. They use the peasantry as a battering ram to come to power. They claim that peasants can lead the armed struggle to set up a workers' government. This is a fundamental revision of Marxism.

As a group, the peasants are non-political, cut off from the outside world, narrow-minded and superstitious, and ready to follow any leadership that promises them land. With-

out the leadership of the working class, the peasants cannot move towards socialism. They will only be manipulated by middle-class forces to build state capitalism. This is the lesson of recent Ethiopian history and of every state-capitalist revolution in the Third World since Mao Tse-tung took power in 1949.

The Dergue (like Mao) stole a page from the Russian Revolution by mobilizing the peasants under the formula of "land to the tiller." The Bolsheviks gave land to the peasants to build a worker-peasant alliance that would safeguard and strengthen the workers' government in Russia. The Bolsheviks—like all Marxists—never believed that the peasants could lead the struggle towards socialism. The Dergue—like all Stalinists—has no intention of moving towards socialism (that is, towards workers' rule). Instead, the Dergue mobilized the peasants to smash both the landlords and the workers; to build itself a mass base for state capitalism. Lenin's Bolsheviks established a workers' government based on the Soviets (democratically-run workers' committees). The Dergue outlawed all independent workers' organizations and shot their leaders.

## Dergue—opposite of Bolsheviks

The Bolsheviks supported the right of independence and self-determination for all oppressed peoples in the Russian empire. The Dergue, like Stalin and Mao, is trying to smash the struggles of the Eritreans and Somalis, who want to separate from the Ethiopian empire. The Bolsheviks worked to spread the socialist revolution world-wide and formed the Third International to rebuild the leadership of the working class. The Dergue has made deals with imperialists for its own nationalist interests—first with U.S. imperialism and then with Russian imperialism.

State-capitalist outfits like the Dergue have absolutely nothing in common with a workers' government. Their claims to Marxism and Leninism are just another example of capitalist ideology dressed up in revolutionary socialist clothing to fool the working masses.

The overriding lesson that comes out of Ethiopia and all of East Africa is that the workers of the world have to build a revolutionary leadership. If a Bolshevik-type party had existed in Ethiopia in 1974, the situation in East Africa would look quite different today. The workers of the world have to continue the work of Lenin and Trotsky and the Bolsheviks. They have to rebuild the Fourth International, the world party of socialist revolution. □

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