

Detroit Pickets Hit Racist Bookstore Workers — Unite Against Nazis!



Detroit picket at Nazi bookstore calls for workers' unity against all right-wing forces.

"Death to the Nazis! Power to the workers!" was the chant of the Revolutionary Socialist League and the Workers' Defense Committee (WDC) as our supporters marched against the Nazis in Detroit. As the 60 revolutionaries marched through the communities on Detroit's southwest side, many workers and youth gathered to show their support. Some joined the march as it moved on to 7608 W. Vernor, the location of a new

store." At the Nazi headquarters, the marchers chanted "Show your faces, and we'll kick your asses!" The Nazis met this challenge by refusing to come out. A 30-strong detachment of mainly white police, including the Tactical Unit in full riot gear, arrived. The police lined up in front of the bookstore to protect their friends inside.

This is the first time the Nazis have tried to build a base within the city limits of Detroit, which is mainly Black and working class. Before this, they stayed in the white suburbs that ring Detroit. The bookstore itself is in a white community made up mostly of people of Eastern European descent. Nearby are large Mexican-American, Arab, and Black neighborhoods.

The Nazis hope they can exploit the racial tensions which exist in this type of "border neighborhood." They hope to pick up a militant racist following among the whites. So far, the Nazis have not had much luck. Many of the people in this neighborhood have relatives who died at the Nazis' hands during World War II.

The Nazis are also trying to win recruits from other racist groups like Breakthrough and Mothers' Alert

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MIDEAST:

RULERS PUSH PHONY PEACE PLANS

Palestinians Denied Homeland

BY PAUL BENJAMIN

On Christmas Day, Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat met with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in Ismailia, Egypt. Capitalist politicians in the U.S. and Europe called this meeting "an historic turning point" toward peace in the Middle East. But the Ismailia talks failed. Begin and Sadat could not agree on how to deal with the Palestinians.

Sadat went to Ismailia with a scheme calling for "self-determination" for the Palestinians living on the West Bank of the Jordan River. The West Bank is Palestinian territory that Israel conquered in 1967. Despite his fine words, Sadat's scheme is the opposite of self-determination. It denies the West Bank Palestinians the right to an independent state, and it calls for the recognition of Israel.

The precise details of Sadat's proposal are still unclear. Two things are certain: the Palestinians will have no

state, and the Zionists will be the actual rulers of the West Bank.

Under Sadat's plan the West Bank Palestinians would get an extremely limited autonomy for years. Israel and the Arab rulers would set up pro-Zionist Palestinian politicians as the "real leaders" of the Palestinian people. These flunkies would try to bury the struggle for Palestinian independence. Finally, the Arab rulers would work with Israel to suppress any Palestinian militants who demanded an independent state

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Israeli soldiers attack Palestinian youths in Jerusalem.



Miners Squash Miller's Sellout. . see p.9
Italian Workers Fight Back. . . see p.10

our readers write...

Send letters to:
TORCH, PO Box 562,
N.Y., N.Y. 10036

"We need revolutionary solidarity the world over"

Comrades:
It is now six months that you wrote your letter (dated 9th June) of introduction. For reasons known to us, the enemy-controlled system of communication only allowed us the important letter on the first week of December.

However, we have been receiving your publication, *Torch*, though on an irregular basis. We, who are in the thick and thin of reactionary racist rule, and settler terrorism, are in dire need of revolutionary solidarity by progressives the world over. For this reason our morale is boosted by the views held by the comrades in RSL vis-a-vis our impending revolutionary victory in South Africa.

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Power and Solidarity,
(name withheld)
Southern African
Students' Movement

"What kind of world is this?"

Dear Comrades:

Now tell me. Tell me what you think of this world. If you can't tell me what kind of world this is, I will. It's a place full of different races, tall buildings, different colors. This world isn't good. Why, you say? I'll tell you why! Tell me how many people smile at you? One hundred out of one million. How many will help you? One hundred out of ten million. Look don't lie to me, you know it's true.

Don't you hear on the radio about the war, killings, and hate? Races hating each other because they are different colors, speak different languages. It doesn't matter what language you speak what color you are. Some people think they're better than others. I've got news for you, Nobody is perfect, nobody is better, everybody is the same. I'll tell you what this world

Prisoners hail unity of RSL and RML-Jamaica

Dear Comrades, Greetings:
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It has come to my knowledge that the Revolutionary Socialist League and the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica have collaborated and emerged as one force to struggle on the said grounds.

We here support such a move for this is very important for many organizations to consolidate their movement against the forces of Imperialism, Capitalism, Colonialism, and Neo-colonialism. We here acclaim such magnificent progress as a step toward unity on a democratic centralist basis. By this our struggle must be international.

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Besides, we are not only seeking Jamaica to be emancipated and gain true independence and sovereignty of its people, but we are in favor of an international struggle for a total emancipation of world working-class peoples who are kept under the wings of Capitalism. Therefore, we reject individual struggle and support world international struggle wherever our brothers and sisters are oppressed by the forces of evil.

We the brothers here are known as Rastafarians, probably you might have heard about us. Therefore, we regard ourselves as the most vulnerable vanguards in Jamaica.

A fraternal embrace to all our beloved comrades and companions. The struggle continues. Victory is a must, Victory is certain.

Comrade C.

Gay reader writes on Black lesbian interview

Be what and who you want to be. Who the hell can say, rightfully, you're wrong for being gay?

No one.

They (the system) may not play on our vicissitudes and fears.

NO!

Contrary to this system, where the natural, so-called, is a straight man and a subservient woman and subhuman gay.

If each gay person lets the system make him or her afraid, and hide being gay, in essence they are telling you: hide your pride, dignity, self-respect, and identity.

That's when you are dehumanized.

You give the system their profits and power and you're still left in the closet.

If a landlord can cut a tenant for being gay and get away with it, this says an employer can cut an employee, and parent a child, etc.

If a starving man steals only enough to tide over excruciating hunger pain, it's theft.

If racist bourgeois line their pockets with millions swindled from the public, it's Free Enterprise.

If this is the system intended to be for the coming generation, what besides a revolution can help us?

If there was a god to change things, gay would still be wrong.

I think it's high time the people—Black, white, yellow, brown, gay, straight—say we are mad as hell.

We are not gonna take this bullshit another second.

Stand united: Fight in the manner of the Stonewall Rebellion, the Russian Revolution.

Why is it that a person, human, man or woman, can't be gay?

Do they have to be a dyke, bulldozer, queen, sissy, faggot, punk or the such?

It's because of this system.

The picture they paint: a gay person has to be mixed-up, sex-starved, crazy, evil, mean, wicked, sinister, sadistic, masochistic animal.

They do this to give the people someone to fight against besides the system; by doing this, confusion stays while they keep all the power.

Black or white, gay or straight, rebuild the Fourth International: be yourself, raise hell, kick ass, if that's what it takes.

Be willing to do it in order to make it better for all: you, me, yours, mine, straight, gay.

What's wrong with gay?

Everyone here is surrounded by gays whether they know it or not. Relate, understand, unite, fight.

Make your friends help make the enemies the system, not your white or your Black brother, not a woman, not a gay.

The system, the system only!!!

Be proud, be real, be Black, be white, be straight, be gay, be hell to the system.

Let them know, make them see: we're people, we're power. Make a movement powerful enough to move up, move in, not move over but move out the system, the enemy.

Be a brother, a friend: These things all are what gay can be, when understood and united with all.

That's our purpose, that's my life, that's us.

We're right, unite, fight, stand up, stand together, stand against the system.

Power to the people, to the brothers, sisters, straight and gay. Let's depress our oppressors.

We're people, we're power, we're doing it, we're gonna win, we gotta, we're right!

Power to the Revolution.

BBP

Chicago

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DETROIT: BLACK LESBIANS WIN VICTORY

In late August, two Black gay women were charged with felonious assault in Detroit. Their "crime" was that they dared to defend themselves against physical attacks from their anti-gay landlord's family. The RSL initiated the Gay Rights Defense Committee to help build their defense. The following statement was written by one of the women, Deborah Posey, after the charges were dropped.

On December 21, another victory took place for the working class. All charges were dropped against myself and Cynthia, proving that through unity and struggle, we, the working class, can and will obtain victory after victory, building toward socialist revolution.

But even with the dismissal of the case, the anti-gay attitude of the cops and the courts has still been proven to me—first, by my being attacked and told by the cops that I could not prosecute Sharon Suggs,

and then being arrested for defending myself. My attacker, Sharon Suggs, was only charged when the courts remembered that it would be tactically unwise for them not to prosecute her. So they released Sharon Suggs on personal bond, while Cynthia and I were released on a \$1,000 cash bond each. We, as a gay couple, had to pay a large amount of money to be released. Sharon Suggs, the attacker and instigator of the incident, did not have to pay one dime for her freedom.

Cynthia and I had to obtain a lawyer and the cost of this was out of any working-class person's reach. The courts knew that we, as working-class gays, would never be able to put up such large amounts of money. They counted on the fact that we would be easily railroaded to jail. They thought that the divisions set out by the ruling class for its workers would keep the working class from uniting and standing behind its gay workers. But they were wrong. For this time the RSL, gay and straight

workers, united and formed the Gay Rights Defense Committee. Word of the case was spread. Letters were written. Factories and bars were leafleted. And funds were raised.

This unity of the working class made the cops and court realize that this case was not going to be another easy railroad of gays. Steps were immediately taken by the court to have the case dismissed.

At the time of the dismissal, as we stood before the judge, all warnings were directed only to Cynthia and me. Mary McCoy, Sharon Suggs' aunt who was also involved in the case, announced in court that she was carrying a gun and that Cynthia and I would be shot if she saw us on the streets. The only thing the judge or the prosecutor did about this was to tell Cynthia and me to make sure that she didn't see us on the streets! Again a green light has been given to anti-gays to attack and murder gays.

Even with our victory the need for struggle remains. The capitalist society that makes it open season on

gays remains, so the struggle and the unity shown around this case must not end until every member of the working class is free from oppression.

To straight workers I say: You must all remember that gay workers are part of your class, the working class. And any section of the working class that is being oppressed must be defended.

To gay workers I say: We must no longer separate our struggle from the struggle of straight workers. We are of one class. It has been proven by the work of the Gay Rights Defense Committee that we can and must unite with straight workers to win.

To all workers I say: There can be no divisions within the working class. Divisions make us weak. Unity makes us strong. Together we have made a dent. Now it is time for a change. Fight for socialist revolution!

Yours in struggle,
Deborah Posey

Free Abortion on Demand

STOP THE ATTACKS ON WORKING-CLASS WOMEN!

BY ADELE LOHMAN

An appropriations bill passed by Congress early in December cuts down Medicaid abortions to a point where it's almost impossible to get one. Under the new law, Medicaid will pay for an abortion only 1) if a mother's life would be endangered by giving birth; 2) if she were to suffer "severe and long-lasting physical health damage by having a child;" and 3) in cases of rape or incest that have been reported "promptly" to the authorities. This includes statutory rape (intercourse with a minor).

This law stinks; it takes away a woman's right to choose whether or not she wants to have children! It particularly attacks working-class women, the majority of women in this society. Rich and middle-class women can usually arrange to get safe abortions when they need them. They can pay the price. In addition, they often have the "connections" to get them free.

CONGRESSIONAL HYPOCRITES

For example, members of Congress and their families can get free abortions under their health plan, paid for by the government. (These are the same hypocrites who say it's immoral to spend taxpayers' money for working-class women!)

The Supreme Court ruled that while women have the constitutional right to abortion, that doesn't mean public funds have to be spent on them. So women who are on Medicaid don't have that right at all. What will they do when they're pregnant and don't want to have a baby or

can't afford to have one? In Memphis, Tennessee, where one clinic charges poor women \$60 for an abortion, a woman phoned and said she couldn't get \$60, but could they tell her which was better, turpentine or a coat hanger? How many thousands of women will be killed or mutilated by back-alley butchers and coat-hanger abortions? The ruling class doesn't give a damn, because these are working-class women.

YOUNG WOMEN BLACKMAILED

Last year, one-third of all Medicaid abortions were done on teenagers. Under the new law, a teenage woman has to prove statutory rape; she'll have to go to the cops and turn in her boyfriend to get a free abortion. It's nothing but blackmail.

Very few teenagers use birth-control. In most states it's illegal to give birth-control information to minors. Many young women are intimidated by doctors and clinics; they can't ask their mothers about contraceptives because they are afraid or ashamed. So they get pregnant. If they can't get free abortions, what can they do? Often they'll have babies they don't want or can't take care of.

What happens to a young mother who goes through nine months of pregnancy and then has to give up her baby for adoption? It's hell, and many a woman never gets over it. And if she has to keep her baby? She may be trapped. She can become a prisoner in the house, and may not get out till her kids are grown.

If a woman gets pregnant she may lose her job. She can go on welfare. But the ruling class has cut back welfare. It's hard to get and even harder to live on if you do get it. If you

try to work, you need daycare for the kids. But the capitalists have cut that back until there isn't any. On top of this, women get the lousiest jobs with the lowest pay. By the time a working mother pays the babysitter, there's no money left to eat on.

The anti-abortion fanatics rave about the right-to-life of the unborn. But they don't

give a shit about anyone's right to a decent life after they're born. They don't care if a woman has no right to determine the course of her own life. They don't even support the right of a woman to have a life.

ABORTION WON THROUGH STRUGGLE

Women won the right to abortion through militant struggle. But today capitalism is falling apart. The ruling class is attacking the workers and all oppressed people to

(Continued on page 17)

Canadian Cops Raid Gay Newspaper

On Friday, December 30, Toronto police raided the office of **The Body Politic**, Canada's best-known and leading gay liberation journal. Police seized 12 crates of material, including all past and present subscription lists. Police used Section 164 of Canada's Criminal Code as an excuse for the raid. This is a law against "use of mails for the purpose of transmitting or delivering anything indecent, immoral or scurrilous."

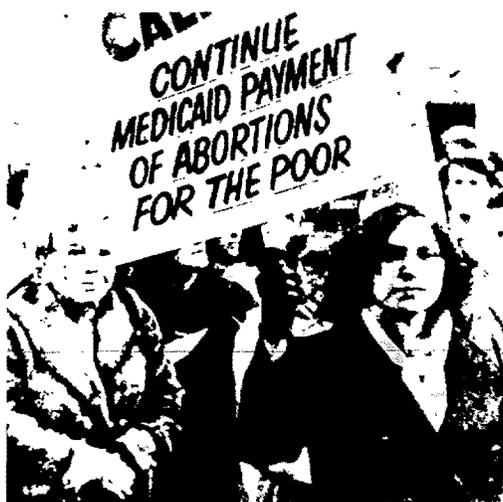
On January 5, charges were filed against Pink Triangle Press, the publisher of **The Body Politic**. Three representatives of Pink Triangle Press were arrested. They are now out on their own recognizance until the trial starts. The state also found the book **Loving Man**, which is distributed by Pink Triangle Press to be obscene.

All this harassment comes in response to an article in the December-January issue of **The Body Politic**. The article titled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men" was part of a series on the sexuality of youth. Given all of the anti-gay myths about child molestation, the article was a brave step toward the truth. Despite what

all of society claims the article points out that young people understand and express their sexuality. The article shows real living examples of older and younger men enjoying sexual experiences together.

The truth scared the shit out of the state. And the state responded with a raid on the office of **The Body Politic**. The idea behind the raid is to put the journal out of business by intimidating the subscribers.

The Body Politic is right to speak out against the prejudices of society. It is very important for all working-class and oppressed people to fight against the prejudices that keep gay people and all young people oppressed. The state is coming down on **The Body Politic** only to try to maintain the prejudices and oppression that capitalism relies on in order to survive. **The Body Politic** must be defended from these attacks. **The Body Politic** needs money for its defense. Contributions can be sent to **The Body Politic Free the Press Fund**, c/o Cornish, King, Sachs and Waldman, 111 Richmond St. W., Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 3N6.



Union picket demands end to sexist anti-abortion campaign.

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BBP,

Chicago

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workers, united and formed the Gay Rights Defense Committee. Word of the case was spread. Letters were written. Factories and bars were leafleted. And funds were raised.

This unity of the working class made the cops and court realize that this case was not going to be another easy railroading of gays. Steps were immediately taken by the court to have the case dismissed.

At the time of the dismissal, as we stood before the judge, all warnings were directed only to Cynthia and me. Mary McCoy, Sharon Suggs' aunt who was also involved in the case, announced in court that she was carrying a gun and that Cynthia and I would be shot if she saw us on the streets. The only thing the judge or the prosecutor did about this was to tell Cynthia and me to make sure that she didn't see us on the streets! Again a green light has been given to anti-gays to attack and murder gays.

Even with our victory the need for struggle remains. The capitalist society that makes it open season on

gays remains, so the struggle and the unity shown around this case must not end until every member of the working class is free from oppression.

To straight workers I say: You must all remember that gay workers are part of your class, the working class. And any section of the working class that is being oppressed must be defended.

To gay workers I say: We must no longer separate our struggle from the struggle of straight workers. We are of one class. It has been proven by the work of the Gay Rights Defense Committee that we can and must unite with straight workers to win.

To all workers I say: There can be no divisions within the working class. Divisions make us weak. Unity makes us strong. Together we have made a dent. Now it is time for a change. Fight for socialist revolution!

Yours in struggle,
Deborah Posey

Free Abortion on Demand

STOP THE ATTACKS ON WORKING-CLASS WOMEN!

BY ADELE LOHMAN

An appropriations bill passed by Congress early in December cuts down Medicaid abortions to a point where it's almost impossible to get one. Under the new law, Medicaid will pay for an abortion only 1) if a mother's life would be endangered by giving birth; 2) if she were to suffer "severe and long-lasting physical health damage by having a child;" and 3) in cases of rape or incest that have been reported "promptly" to the authorities. This includes statutory rape (intercourse with a minor).

This law stinks; it takes away a woman's right to choose whether or not she wants to have children! It particularly attacks working-class women, the majority of women in this society. Rich and middle-class women can usually arrange to get safe abortions when they need them. They can pay the price. In addition, they often have the "connections" to get them free.

CONGRESSIONAL HYPOCRITES

For example, members of Congress and their families can get free abortions under their health plan, paid for by the government. (These are the same hypocrites who say it's immoral to spend taxpayers' money for working-class women!)

The Supreme Court—ruled that while women have the constitutional right to abort on that doesn't mean public funds have to be spent on them. So women who are on Medicaid don't have that right at all. What will they do when they're pregnant and don't want to have a baby, pr

can't afford to have one?

In Memphis, Tennessee, where one clinic charges poor women \$60 for an abortion, a woman phoned and said she couldn't get \$60, but could they tell her which was better, turpentine or a coat hanger? How many thousands of women will be killed or mutilated by back-alley butchers and coat-hanger abortions? The ruling class doesn't give a damn, because these are working-class women.

YOUNG WOMEN BLACKMAILED

Last year, one-third of all Medicaid abortions were done on teenagers. Under the new law, a teenage woman has to prove statutory rape; she'll have to go to the cops and turn in her boyfriend to get a free abortion. It's nothing but blackmail.

Very few teenagers use birth-control, in most states it's illegal to give birth-control information to minors. Many young women are intimidated by doctors and clinics; they can't ask their mothers about contraceptives because they are afraid or ashamed. So they get pregnant. If they can't get free abortions, what can they do? Often they'll have babies they don't want or can't take care of.

What happens to a young mother who goes through nine months of pregnancy and then has to give up her baby for adoption? It's hell, and many a woman never gets over it. And if she has to keep her baby? She may be trapped. She can become a prisoner in the house, and may not get out till her kids are grown.

If a woman gets pregnant she may lose her job. She can go on welfare. But the ruling class has cut back welfare. It's hard to get and even harder to live on if you do get it. If you

try to work, you need daycare for the kids. But the capitalists have cut that back until there isn't any. On top of this, women get the lousiest jobs with the lowest pay. By the time a working mother pays the babysitter, there's no money left to eat on.

The anti-abortion fanatics rave about the right-to-life of the unborn. But they don't

give a shit about anyone's right to a decent life after they're born. They don't care if a woman has no right to determine the course of her own life. They don't even support the right of a woman to have a life.

ABORTION WON THROUGH STRUGGLE

Women won the right to abortion through militant struggle. But today capitalism is falling apart. The ruling class is attacking the workers and all oppressed people to

(Continued on page 17)

Canadian Cops Raid Gay Newspaper

On Friday, December 30, Toronto police raided the office of **The Body Politic**, Canada's best-known and leading gay liberation journal. Police seized 12 crates of material, including all past and present subscription lists. Police used Section 164 of Canada's Criminal Code as an excuse for the raid. This is a law against "use of mails for the purpose of transmitting or delivering anything indecent, immoral, or scurrilous."

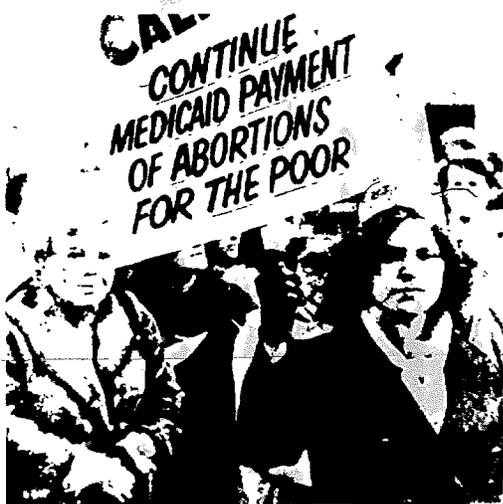
On January 5, charges were filed against Pink Triangle Press, the publisher of **The Body Politic**. Three representatives of Pink Triangle Press were arrested. They are now out on their own recognizance until the trial starts. The state also found the book **The Loving Man**, which is distributed by Pink Triangle Press, to be obscene.

All this harassment comes in response to an article in the December-January issue of **The Body Politic**. The article titled "Men Loving Boys Loving Men," was part of a series on the sexuality of youth. Given all of the anti-gay myths about child molestation, the article was a brave step toward the truth. Despite what

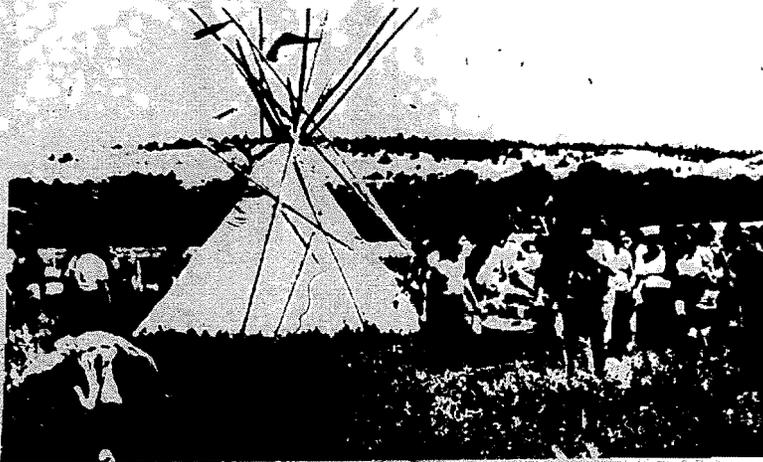
all of society claims, the article points out that young people understand and express their sexuality. The article shows real living examples of older and younger men enjoying sexual experiences together.

The truth scared the shit out of the state. And the state responded with a raid on the office of **The Body Politic**. The idea behind the raid is to put the journal out of business by intimidating the subscribers.

The Body Politic is right to speak out against the prejudices of society. It is very important for all working-class and oppressed people to fight against the prejudices that keep gay people and all young people oppressed. The state is coming down on **The Body Politic** only to try to maintain the prejudices and oppression that capitalism relies on in order to survive. **The Body Politic** must be defended from these attacks. **The Body Politic** needs money for its defense. Contributions can be sent to: **The Body Politic Free the Press Fund**, c/o Cornish, King, Sachs and Waldman, 111 Richmond St. W., Suite 320, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 3N6.



Union picket demands end to sexist anti-abortion campaign.



Burial of John B. Stuntz, Native American killed by FBI in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, 1975. Working class must support self-determination of Native Americans.

DEFEND NATIVE AMERICAN LAND RIGHTS!

BY CARL ROMAN

Native Americans are fighting another battle to protect the very limited rights they have on the reservations. Legislation pending in the U.S. Congress and in several states would abolish the right of Indian tribes to tax, to set up their own courts, or to decide how the reservations' natural resources are to be used.

The capitalist Western Conference of State Governments recently passed the following racist, imperialist resolution:

"The U.S. Constitution provides for only two sovereign powers—the U.S. and the states. Indian tribes are political subdivisions of the U.S. and are not sovereign in their own sphere. Americans are justified in believing that 400 years have been sufficient to quiet title to the continent."

The capitalist representatives from the Western states feel threatened by recent federal court rulings on Indian

land claims and jurisdictional disputes. Representative Jack Cunningham from Washington state calls a recent federal decision reserving for Native American tribes 50 percent of all salmon and steelhead trout in Washington "only the tip of the iceberg" of the new "Indian threat" to the states.

Treaties under attack

In September 1977, the reactionary capitalist servant Cunningham introduced the Native American Equal Opportunity Act. This fraudulent, racist measure would end "special provisions" for Indian fishing and hunting rights and void and abolish all treaties between the U.S. and Indian tribes!

According to John Redhouse, Director of the National Indian Youth Council: "The title of the bill is misleading as is the whole way the bill is presented. It seems

like an all-American approach to break down the barriers between Indian and non-Indian. But it is really a corporate, governmental, and industrial effort to deny Indian people their tribal and individual rights. Among other resources, like fish and timber in the Northwest, Indian people own over 55 percent of the nation's uranium supply and at least one-third of the country's low-sulphur, strippable coal reserves." Now the energy crunch has upped the demand and the value of these Native American reserves. So the capitalists are cooking up all kinds of legal schemes to get their hands on them.

Rulers plan genocide

In December 1977, in a strong sign of unity, 19 New Mexico reservation leaders rightly condemned racist Cunningham's so-called Equal Opportunity Act which is, in fact, an Indian genocide act! They called it "a direct challenge to the survival and continued existence of the Pueblo people and the Indian people of this country as a whole."

Representative Lloyd Meeds, a colleague of racist pig Cunningham, introduced a similar bill called the omnibus Indian Jurisdiction Act of 1977. Swine manure Meeds said there exists "a direct conflict between Indian tribal aspirations and the constitutional rights of American citizens. I believe where tribal aspirations collide with constitutional principles, the tribe's interests must yield" (to U.S. racist-capitalist imperialism!).

Navajo nation rules itself

In the last few years, tribes and pueblos have started to exercise their "treaty-given" and "constitutionally guaranteed" sovereign rights. The Navajo Nation—the largest of the various Native American peoples within U.S. borders—has legislated its own environmental regulations for the power plants and the mining

companies, taxed on-reservation companies, and notified non-Navajos living on reservation land that they would be subject to tribal law and tribal courts.

Several smaller reservations are also currently fighting New Mexico's assumption of "eminent domain" (that is, legalized theft and robbery of Native American land by the capitalist government!). And they are fighting against attempts by the cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico, to claim more of the water that they currently share with these reservations.

Racists hit voting rights

The capitalist legislators have even introduced a resolution denying Native American peoples the right to vote unless they submit to the racist civil and "criminal" jurisdiction of the capitalist, imperialist state! The small-minded, alley-cat bigot, Senator I.M. Smalley, the bill's sponsor, said that non-Indians "have been bearing for too long an undue burden of social service for Indians." Yes, General Custer, the crosses you Indian killers must bear!

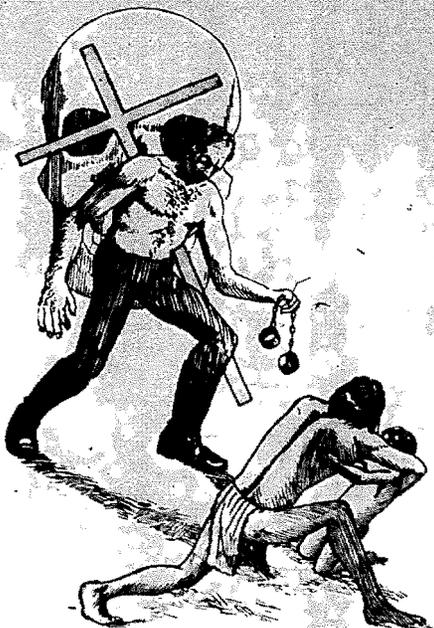
President of the Mescalero Apache, Wendell Chino, called the bill "part of the renewed attack on our sovereignty and our existence as tribal people." Redhouse explained, "Indians are now charging the energy companies taxes. They are making it

Self-determination for Native Americans

All workers should support the just struggles of the Native American Indian people for self-determination, freedom, and control of their own tribal lands.

Since Columbus first landed in the Western Hemisphere, the capitalists have trampled underfoot the Native American peoples. Nobody knows how many millions were killed in the white imperialists' rush to seize, control, and exploit Native American land. This killing and plundering goes on today. Openly in some places like Brazil, where the capitalist rulers still poison and machine-gun thousands of Native Americans to steal their land. And more quietly in other places, like the U.S., where the stealing and killing is done "legally." The effect is the same. The Native Americans are deprived of their land and their resources, and are left to rot and die in unemployment, disease, and malnutrition.

The only thing that will end to the oppression of Native Americans, here and throughout the Western Hemisphere, is the world social revolution that will drive imperialism and capitalism off the face of the earth.



— Reprinted from Akwesasne Notes

New York SCAA Victory



Torch photo/Eugene V. Lee

NEW YORK—On Saturday, December 17, the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid won a victory against the A&S department store in downtown Brooklyn. A&S was targeted by the Solidarity Committee because it has been selling the Krugerrand, the gold coin made in South Africa. Under pressure from a militant picket line, A&S management gave the Solidarity Committee a public letter promising not to sell the Krugerrand now or in the future.

This victory for the anti-apartheid struggle resulted from protests organized by the Solidarity Committee and the Revolutionary Socialist League. Although the victory only scratches the surface of U.S. support for the racist South African regime, it is an important step. It proves that we, workers and poor people, have power when we get organized. Now we must build on this victory. **U.S. IMPERIALISM OUT OF AFRICA! VICTORY TO THE BLACK WORKERS' REVOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA!**

Chicago Bosses Unleash Killer Cops

Chicago cops have declared war on working-class youth. In the months since June 1977, the cops have murdered eight young men. The cops' gunning down young people is designed to terrorize youth so that they won't fight back. These murders are part of a conscious plan by the mayor and the police department.

8 Working-Class Youth Murdered



Chicago cops stopped anti-Nazi marches in 1976.

people at the drop of a hat. These murders show the true nature of the police and the capitalist system. Every one of the victims was working class. These "accidental" killings rarely happen to rich kids. The children of the capitalists are not beaten or murdered. They get returned to their parents for safekeeping. But working-class youth are fair game for the cops. And the police are at their worst in Black and Latin neighborhoods, though two white working-class teenagers have died as well. The cops serve the capitalist class.

Pigs on the rampage

• On December 3, David Karpiel, a 15-year-old white youth, was in a car that ran a yellow light. The cops flagged down the car in an alley and then blew David's head in two. The cop claims he slipped on the ice.

• On October 20, 14-year-old Tyrone Neal and two friends were standing on a street corner. A cop threw the three Black youths against a wall, yelling: "If you don't have any ID, I'm going to blow your fucking head off." Tyrone didn't have any ID. Now he is dead because this cop's gun also went off by "accident."

• On June 11, John Neuman, 18, was shot in the back while already handcuffed. He bled to death from this "accident."

The other killings are more of the same: a man carrying a "gun" that turned out to be an Afro comb, an innocent young man killed as a robbery suspect just because he was near the scene of the crime, and so on.

Not one of these cops has been

punished for these killings. Of the eight killer-cops, six are still out on the street with their .38s strapped to their sides.

Young people today are getting fed up. They face rotten schools where they can't get an education. There are hardly any jobs. The few who do find work bust their asses all day for peanuts. Young people don't have decent places to socialize or athletic facilities. They have to hang out on the corner where they get hassled by the cops. As a result, working-class youth are rebelling against the capitalist system more every day.

Some of this rebelliousness exploded in Chicago last June. The cops attacked the Puerto Rican Day celebration in Humboldt Park. The Puerto Rican people, led by the youth, fought back. They drove the cops out of the park and kept the street fighting going for three nights. The cops killed two young Puerto Ricans, and beat and jailed many more. Thirty-eight police were hospitalized.

The Humboldt Park uprising scared the daylight out of the politicians and business-owners who run Chicago.

The rulers of Chicago had one answer to try to stop any more rebellions. They told police to "get tough" with young people. They want young people to be afraid to rebel. So they told their cops to beat, pistol-whip and jail young

Organize defense guards

Black, Latin and white workers must unite against these killings. We can build demonstrations and other actions to protest these murders. We can organize defense guards to protect ourselves from the cops and the racists. As this movement grows, it will become part of the only real solution to the police, the socialist revolution. This revolution, by and for the working class and oppressed, will take the guns out of the hands of every cop and jail guard, and destroy the police force as a tool in the capitalist war against the workers.

Stop All Deportations!

FREE HECTOR MARROQUIN

Hector Marroquin Manriquez faces almost certain torture, possibly death, unless public opinion in the United States can be mobilized in his defense. He is a political dissident from Mexico now being held in the Maverick County Jail in Eagle Pass, Texas. U.S. authorities intend to turn him over to the Mexican authorities.

Marroquin is a member of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party. He came to the U.S. in 1974 to escape political repression. In Mexico he faces charges of murder, assault, and conspiracy as a "subversive," as an alleged member of the "Liga Comunista 23 de Septiembre" (a guerrilla group). These charges are a frame-up. The Mexican government really wants to get Marroquin because of his political activism at the University of Monterrey.

Under current conditions in Mexico he faces torture to extract a "confession," a common fate of political dissidents there. Or he may join dozens of other activists who have "disappeared," while in police custody in recent years. Or else his bullet-riddled body may be found after an alleged "confrontation" or "escape attempt." A fellow student who was accused together with Marroquin was arrested in April 1975. He was never heard from again.

Political asylum for Marroquin

His one hope is our support for his appeal for political asylum in the United States. The U.S. government tries to deny to non-citizens the constitutional rights supposedly guaranteed to all those living in this country. In such cases public opinion plays a decisive role. We must not allow him to be turned over to the Mexican authorities!

What is at stake if Hector Marroquin Manriquez is denied political asylum in the United States? The health, safety, indeed the life of our Mexican brother hangs in the balance in our fight

against his deportation! People should write letters of protest to **Leonel Castillo, Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C., 20536.**

The Revolutionary Socialist League expresses its full solidarity with the struggle for political asylum and no deportation in the case of the persecuted Mexican political prisoner Hector Marroquin Manriquez and all other Latin American political prisoners.

Free Hector Marroquin! Open up the borders! End all deportations of so-called illegal aliens, undocumented workers! Build the world Trotskyist revolutionary socialist party! Build the RSL-USA, the RML-Jamaica, and a companion party of a "reconstructed Fourth International" in Mexico. Forward to the international workers revolution which will free all victims of political repression, persecution and wage slavery!



Hector Marroquin Manriquez.

CHICAGO DEBATE

Revolutionary Leadership and the Struggle Against the Oppression of Gay People

Revolutionary Socialist League vs. Spartacist League

January 29, 1978 2:30 p.m.
YMCA
828 South Wabash

Schools Bar Undocumented Workers' Children

A Texas law passed in 1975 denies free schooling to children of non-citizens unless they can prove they are here legally. There are at least 50,000 school-age children of undocumented workers in Texas. None of them goes to school. Even if they're born in the U.S., and are therefore U.S. citizens, their parents are afraid to register them because school authorities might turn them in, to be deported.

In the oil-rich city of Houston, the public schools charge \$90 a month tuition for each "illegal alien" child. But most undocumented workers make minimum wages or less; they can barely feed their kids on that. How are they going to pay for schooling?

In Brownsville, Texas, the school superintendent claims to turn away three or four so-called illegal kids every day. "If the government doesn't stop these people from coming in," he says, "we're going to be overrun."

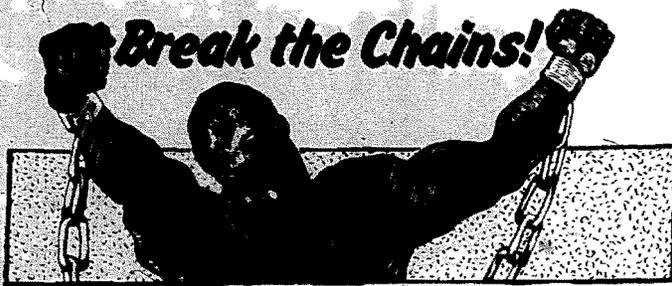
That's bullshit! The capitalists need "these people." Last year, in the same Brownsville area, the U.S. government gave ranchers a special permit to bring in farmworkers from Mexico to harvest the crops.

Giant agribusiness and sweatshop industries make billions of dollars in profits off the backs of undocumented workers, but they don't want to spend a nickel on social services. And they don't want to educate the children of these workers.

In the Old South it was illegal to teach a slave to read, because people who can read make poor slaves. Today, in Texas, it's illegal to educate the children of undocumented workers. They're supposed to grow up illiterate, so they'll do slave labor all their lives at slave wages, afraid to complain, afraid of being deported.

The capitalists say they can't afford schooling for these so-called illegal aliens. That's what capitalism's all about. Capitalism won't work without robbing small children of their chance to get some education. Capitalism won't work without turning these children into plantation slaves—forced to work for shit wages.

The only way we're ever going to get justice is to make the socialist revolution and wipe out the capitalist blood-suckers and their dying system.



WOMEN PRISONERS BLAST SEXIST ABUSE

State backs down in two trials

On December 20, two major victories for working-class and oppressed people were won. Charges against the Dawson Five were dropped. And on the same day two Filipino nurses, Leonora Perez and Filipina Narciso, won a new trial.

In the case of the Dawson Five, Judge Geer had to throw out the confession of Roosevelt Watson. The cops got this confession by threatening Watson with torture and death. Without the confession, the prosecution admitted that it had no case. The legal lynching of the Dawson Five has been stopped.

Narciso and Perez had been charged with the murders of patients in an Ann Arbor, Michigan, Veterans' Administration hospital where they worked as nurses. During the three-month trial in the spring of last year, the prosecution couldn't prove any of their claims. Narciso and Perez were convicted anyway.

But, because of support demonstrations across the country, the judge finally backed down on sentencing the nurses. Instead he ordered a new trial. It is not clear whether the Justice Department will retry the nurses. Over one million dollars was spent on the first trial, and the government couldn't prove a thing.

Black worker fights frame-up in California

Arthur Robinson, a 30-year-old Black factory worker in California, was convicted of rape and assault against two white, teenage women in September 1975. He is now serving a life sentence in Folsom State Prison. Robinson is innocent.

In 1974, a number of women were raped and assaulted in a Long Beach housing project. Robinson was picked up on the basis of a general description of the rapist. Eventually, he was charged with the rape of two women. He was convicted without being positively identified by either victim.

During Robinson's trial, it became clear that he was being framed by the cops. One of the women was attacked early in the morning after Robinson was already at work. The second woman had been attacked in the late afternoon. At the time of this assault, Robinson and a friend were out shopping. Both women were shown Robinson's photograph before viewing a line-up of "suspects." Both were torn between two men in each line-up. And both selected Robinson only under pressure from the cops. These identifications were enough for a conviction, even though both women testified that they had not gotten a clear look at the rapist.

Robinson was able to produce witnesses to verify his whereabouts at the times of both assaults. But this wasn't enough in the racist U.S. He was convicted because he is Black and poor.

Robinson is currently working on an appeal of his conviction. His legal defense has been seriously weakened by a lack of funds. Send contributions and letters of support to: The Arthur Robinson Defense Fund, West Los Angeles Sun Publications, 158 Santa Barbara Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90008.

Community organizer set up by pigs

Frank Shuford is a framed victim of capitalist-class injustice and racism. For the past four years the state authorities of Orange County (a bastion of right-wing reaction in Southern California near Los Angeles) and the District Attorney's office, in particular, have denied justice to this innocent man. They have framed him, imprisoned him, denied him just hearings, and harassed his family, friends, and defenders.

Why are they doing this? Brother Frank Shuford played a leading role in the small, Black community in Orange County. He organized a large Community Youth Council that fought the drug traffic, led a school strike against mistreatment of the youth, helped find jobs for local youth, and set up tutoring and free breakfast programs. Because of these efforts, the local white racist authorities faced an organized Black community that was fighting for its rights and needs. Frank Shuford was framed for a 1973 shooting after the Youth Council traced a drug pusher and a package of drugs back to the racist pig police department.

Frank Shuford is innocent of the charges, and he needs our help now! Now that all avenues through the capitalist courts of injustice have been exhausted, the Defense Committee is appealing to Governor Jerry Brown in Sacramento, California, for a pardon. Letters or telegrams of support and/or donations may be sent to: Frank Shuford Defense Committee, PO Box 12156, Santa Ana, CA 92712; phone: (714)545-5771.

Demonstration planned in Washington

Native American and gay liberation organizations in Washington have united with Men Against Sexism (MAS), a group of prisoners at Walla Walla. The organizations are demanding religious freedom for the Brotherhood of American Indians at Walla Walla and official recognition of Men Against Sexism. A demonstration supporting these demands is planned for January 21 in Seattle.

Men Against Sexism was built in order to fight against rape and other attacks on gay prisoners. So far, MAS has kept a couple of gay prisoners from being attacked by sexist thugs. Official recognition would mean that anti-sexist prisoners would have a place to meet. The administrators, who benefit from sexist divisions among prisoners, do not want to grant this.

The Brotherhood of American Indians is demanding an area in the institution where people could fast and hold services. The growing unity between Native American and gay organizations is an example to all oppressed people. We urge our readers to support these actions.

Women prisoners at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in New York are battling against sexual abuse by male guards. On December 15, during four days of court hearings, the women won a temporary injunction against the guards. Whether the male guards will be kept from harassing the prisoners any further will soon be decided. The hearings continued on January 3, with the male guards testifying.

The prisoners filed their suit against the sexist guards last February. They want the guards banned from the segregation unit, the living units, the toilet facilities and the prison hospital.

The male guards, defended by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), are claiming the suit is a case of "reverse discrimination." The ACLU lawyers are trying to claim that the suit is filed by a group of "man-hating lesbians." And that the guards are just trying to do their jobs.

The truth is that the guards are doing their job and that is exactly what the suit is all about. The prison keepers use the male guards to try to keep women in continual fear of physical and sexual assault. The guards are allowed to watch the women prisoners shower. They are allowed in the living units when the women undress. These existists leer and stare at the women. There is plenty of verbal abuse. All of this day-to-day harassment is intended to keep the women humiliated and degraded—it is intended to keep the women in fear of the consequences of putting up any fight around the conditions in the

prison. And the fact that the male guards have direct control over the women's day-to-day routine practically guarantees that there will be sexual assaults. And it happens again and again.

One woman, recovering from an epileptic seizure, was molested by some of these pigs. Another prisoner was stripped naked, doused with cold water, thrown into segregation and verbally abused.

It is crime enough that women in prison are denied free expression of their own sexuality. But then the state legalizes the sexual oppression of these women. The rulers of this country always try to pretend that they frown upon rape and other crimes against women. But Bedford Hills makes the truth clear. The state endorses the oppression, brutalization and even murder of women.

And the state and the so-called liberals of the ACLU want to keep the male guards at Bedford Hills. In order to do this they are building a "defense" that is based on anti-gay prejudice and a lot of bullshit about the so-called right of the guards to harass and abuse the women prisoners. This is the way the capitalist system as a whole keeps itself operating—with prejudice and hypocrisy. All working and oppressed people should support the fight of the sisters at Bedford Hills. They are fighting for control over their own bodies—a basic right of all people. And a right that the capitalist system continually tries to deny women.



TO ALL MY REVOLUTIONARY SISTERS...

All over this earth women are murdered/tortured, sterilized/raped, stifled/crippled, owned/exploited under the banner of male supremacy!

"So many deeds cry out to be done,
And always urgently;
The world rolls on,
Time presses.
Ten thousand years are too long.
Seize the day; Seize the hour!"

Let light and love and power restore the plan of humanity on this earth.

Happy holiday greetings...?

FUCK XMAS! LET'S GO TO WAR!

By a Prisoner

Attica Brothers Fight Repression



Attica Prison.

"There are alot of problems we're confronted with daily here in the Box. We would appreciate it if you will publish our manifesto in your paper so some attention can be focused on this spot. Things are worse now than they were before the uprising (1971 - Ed.)." - From a letter from A. in Attica. The manifesto is printed below

Behind the euphemistic facade of "correctional facility," this north-western New York bastille is still Attica Prison! A lot of misleading false propaganda has been fed to the masses at large through different



Attica rebels after 1971 rebellion. Today, Attica is still a concentration camp.

establishment media about how it changed. This is nothing more than a smokescreen attempt designed to redeem its infamous cold-blooded history and the fact that the basic causes of that infamy exist even more today.

At Attica, as at other prisons throughout this capitalistic empire of New York, the inherent intent of the ruling class, its subordinate administrators and personnel is still to perpetuate oppression to the maximum. The methods employed in carrying out the wishes of their slave-master rulers by still below average mentality robot guards have not changed. In spite of the cover of different uniforms, the order of the day behind these facades is still the attempt to break the will and spirit of men to survive captivity and forced conformities with their individuality intact.

Struggle builds against repression

In the Box here at Attica as elsewhere, we are increasingly engaged in the day to day, year to year struggle against such tools of repression as: The physical brutalizing of inmates who refuse to submit to strip and rectal searches by mobs of coward guards. This tool is used when an inmate enters the Box and when leaving to go to the prison hospital; for visits with family, friends, lawyers, clergy, and all other visits; when he goes to county court which is held on the first floor of the same building the Box is located in; or in

the town of Warsaw; or when he goes to any other state or federal court in chains, belts, shackles and cuffs.

A class action suit, *Monroe and Harriet vs. Pr. 74-Civ.*, challenging these searches in 1974 was filed in U.S. district court in Buffalo. While the brother (Ismail-Monroe) was away from the Box awaiting hearing for another case (concerning reprisals against him after lawyers gained a court order permitting inmates to wear their beards, *Monroe vs. Bombard, 422 F. Supp. 211*), the rectal search suit was dismissed allegedly for failure to prosecute. The dismissal

Eastern prison, where a riot had occurred in protest of the conditions that existed at that prison. In spite of the Commissioner's promise of no reprisals, he was, without ceremony of any disciplinary proceedings, placed in the Box at this prison under long term confinement and repeatedly denied certain medications prescribed by the doctors in Eastern for his ulcers.

Brother Sabor Abdul Salam was transferred to the Box from Clinton after being beaten for refusing to submit to rectal search. He is now on the North Side after protesting the lack of medical attention and is awaiting court appearance.

Brother G. Charleston (Abdul) has been thrown in a filthy cell on the North Gallery after resisting constant harassment. He has been subjected to beatings for no other reason than resisting rectal searches.

Other brothers, who are transferred here from other institutional segregation areas, are immediately placed in the Box without hearings or a review of their charges by this administration. In most cases, they are harassed to the extent that more charges are brought against them and they usually remain in this Box 6-12 months or they are transferred to another prison.

Prisoners denied food, recreation, mail. . .

Another tool of repression in use here is a minimum ration of chow (food) leaving inmates perpetually hungry, especially those who don't or can't eat pork or meat. Portions of everything else are so small as to deprive them of daily required minimum nutrients. Chapter V and VI (NYSCRR) stipulates that men who are housed in the Box (S.H.U.) should be allowed the same portion of food that the men in the general pop-

ulation receive, unless you're on a disciplinary diet. Yet we are denied that right.

The cruel tool of no recreation and pretense of recreation is a form of repression in daily use. Inmates in the Box are put into "Tiger Tanks" which have been outlawed by the Geneva Convention as a violation of human rights. There's also a law which outlawed the same form of recreation in Clinton (*Frazier vs. Unit 14*). It's clearly a form of harassment because they have a yard for this Box.

Inmates on the North Side are never allowed to go to recreation. They are also denied access to soap, tooth paste, books, combs, and are forced to go to the shower nude while windows are wide open. They are also denied access to letters that they had in their possession prior to being placed on the North Side. Unauthorized censoring of legal mail and withholding and delaying mail from family and friends are all attempts to discourage contact with the outside. Refusal to allow inmates use of their own or a prison typewriter for legal purposes is another tool designed to discourage access to the courts. This is permitted at other prisons.

The foregoing constitutes only a partial list of ever intensifying acts of repression perpetuated against pris-

(Continued on page 17)

Free Fred Curl Now!

Fred Curl is a young white brother serving a nine-year sentence in New York prisons. Like hundreds of other prisoners, he is innocent. He was framed by the prison keepers because he refused to bow to their authority. Now, he is afraid the prison keepers are going to kill him.

In a letter to the Torch/La Antorcha, Fred described the events leading to his conviction. They began at Auburn prison. On August 31, he was in the box (segregation) with less than a month left to serve on a four-year sentence. Having already spent over three years in segregation units at different prisons, he fought back when the prison administration gave him an extra week in the box for no reason.

His letter stated: "I told the Adjustment Committee that I did not do anything. When I went back to my cell, I kicked the toilet bowl off the wall. They then put me in another cell until they cleaned up and gave me a bucket to shit and wash in. I got mad and said I'd burn the joint down, not really meaning it. Later that night, sure enough a fire started in front of my cell. I had nothing but a mattress and a bucket in my cell. And the fire had some of everything in it. So, on September 23, when I was due to max out, I was indicted by a grand jury."

Fred was charged with arson and reckless endangerment. The frame-up ended in a conviction and the nine-year sentence.

Fred Curl is being victimized for what he calls "rebellious against institutions within the prison." In other words, he refused to be treated like an animal. This is why he is seen as a threat to the prison administration. In his letter he said: "Help me. If I don't get out of jail on appeal, I'll not live nine months, let alone nine years."

Fred is working on an appeal of his unjust conviction. Realizing that you can't depend on the capitalist courts for justice, he is asking for support. Letters demanding immediate freedom for Fred Curl should be sent to: Commissioner Benjamin Ward, New York State Department of Correctional Services, State Office Building Campus, Building # 2, Albany, NY 12226.

City Workers and Oppressed Unite!

NY UNIONS FACE MAJOR SHOWDOWN



N.Y. Mayor Edward Koch.

BY CLIFF GORDON

A major showdown is in the making in New York City. Contracts are running out this year for nearly all the city workers' unions. On one side is the city government and its new mayor, Ed Koch, backed by the banks and corporations. On the other side are 330,000 union workers, including transit (bus and subway), sanitation, hospital, teachers and others. The question is, can the city government and its capitalist masters keep on making the working and oppressed people pay for the city's financial crisis.

City workers have taken a bad beating in recent years. The city government has been paying off the

banks with money squeezed out of the workers.

The Transit Workers Union (TWU) is a good example of what's been going on. Like all city workers, transit workers have not gotten a pay raise in two years. Their cost of living allowance has increased their hourly rate by a lousy 15 cents. With inflation averaging 5.8 percent a year, their real wages have actually gone down since the last contract was signed.

Worst of all, the union has been seriously weakened by membership losses. Seven thousand TWU members have lost their jobs in the last four years through layoffs, adding to the huge army of unemployed in New York City.

Pro-strike feeling is building up among the rank and file of the TWU and the other unions. In the past, the sellout leaders of the unions were able to get the workers to accept these attacks without a fight. They told the workers that the sacrifices would be temporary, "until the crisis gets better." But the crisis is getting worse and the "temporary" sacrifices are turning out to be very permanent. The union officials are now under a lot of pressure from the workers to win back what has been lost.

All working and oppressed people in New York City have a stake in the outcome of this round of contracts. The city will have a budget gap of nearly half a billion dollars this year—money it will owe but can't

pay. To get the loans from the federal government to tide the city over this year, Koch has to show that he is serious about slashing the budget. This means that he has to go all out against the whole working class.

Part of Koch's attack is aimed straight at the unions. In fact, the capitalists put him in office because he promised to "get tough with the unions." Far from granting the city unions any improvements, Koch has to hold down wages and lay off tens of thousands of additional city workers.

But Koch is not just going after the unions. He will press down hard on all workers and oppressed people, in a way that this city hasn't seen in a long time. Education, welfare, health care, jobs, and everything else which the people of this city depend on for survival is going to be cut back even more.

At a time when one-half of all welfare applications are being turned down, Koch says that the big welfare cuts are still ahead. This is just one example among many. It shows that union members are part of a very long hit list that includes the unemployed, families on welfare, youth, and the Black and Latin com-

munities in general.

To make 1978 a year of struggle against the cutbacks, the working and oppressed people of New York City must give the union rank and file full backing. Strikes by the city workers' unions could be one of our hardest hitting weapons against the government and the big banks. For their part, the city workers must fight to have their unions strike not just for their own demands, but for a program that can unite all the working class against the cutbacks. Strike demands must include:

- Defense of welfare benefits.
- A public works program to rebuild the city and provide construction jobs at union wages.
- A shortened workweek with no cut in pay, to create jobs for those out of work.
- All cutbacks in services be restored.
- Taxation of the banks and corporations to pay for all of this.

Victory is possible through unity. This kind of program is the way to build unity between the city workers' unions and the millions of oppressed people in this city whose lives are being destroyed for the profits of a few capitalists.

The New York City Council members voted 33 to 7 in December to raise their salaries from \$20,000 a year to \$30,000.

Koch, the state government, Congress, the capitalist newspapers—almost the entire ruling class—were outraged. How could city government be so stupid to vote itself 50 percent pay increases at the very moment they are about to start negotiations with city unions? Under all this pressure, the Council backed down.

This incident points out what is behind all the politicians' talk about cutbacks, equality of sacrifice and the rest. Sacrifice is for the workers, for the poor, for the jobless and people on welfare. Sacrifice and cutbacks do not apply to the profits of the banks or council members' salaries.

For his part, Koch has made clear that he is open to pay raises for Council and city officials later in the year—after the city labor contracts have been settled.

LABOR IN STRUGGLE



Fraser backstabs strikers

DECEMBER 21—After eight and a half months, members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 1663 in Elwood, Indiana, were forced to settle their strike against the Essex Wire Corporation. The strikers, mostly women, were sold out by Doug Fraser, UAW president.

Strikers were beaten, shot at, and jailed during their fight for a decent contract. Instead of defending the militants, Fraser threatened to cut off union support if the proposed contract was voted down. The agreement includes a 61 cents an hour raise over the next three years. The increase will raise the average wage to only \$3.37 an hour by 1980. This is less than half the wage paid in most UAW plants.

In addition, 11 workers are still fired and 80 more face felony charges or charges stemming from violations of an anti-picketing injunction. The most humiliating part is that 110 scabs will continue working while 104 strikers are waiting to be recalled. Only 66 strikers have been called back.

The betrayal of the Essex workers is a clear indictment of the pro-capitalist scum that lead unions like the UAW. Pigs like Fraser must be driven out of the labor movement and replaced by a revolutionary leadership.

Stearns miners freed

On December 22, 10 Stearns miners were released from jail a full four months before their sentences were up. The Stearns miners have been on strike for 18 months against the Blue Diamond Coal Company, fighting for union recognition. They were convicted of violating a court injunction which

limited to six the number of pickets allowed at the mine.

The arrests were made on October 17. Over 100 miners and supporters gathered at the Stearns mine to stop scabs from crossing the picket line. The police attacked the miners and arrested them for violating the injunction. Sixty-eight other miners were also convicted with the 10, but they were given conditional releases.

The freeing of the 10 miners is the result of a growing movement to support the Stearns strike. An additional victory came when a grand jury, considering the charges against 24 women arrested at the same time, decided not to hand down an indictment.

The Blue Diamond Coal Company is one of the most hated mining outfits in Kentucky. By continuing to build the support which brought the two recent victories, the miners can defeat the Blue Diamond bosses.

Arizona onion strike continues

Support for the Arizona farmworkers' strike is growing. Recently, the United Farmworkers union (UFW) officially took over the leadership of the eight-week-old strike involving 3,000 workers. Many are undocumented. The strike is the longest in the history of Arizona farm labor.

The day the UFW took leadership of the strike, 13 pickets were arrested for illegal assembly and disorderly conduct. The arrests are part of continuing harassment and violence against the strikers. The Maricopa County sheriff has worked hand-in-hand with the growers to break the strike.

In response, the UFW and the Maricopa County

Organizing Project, the previous strike leadership, have filed numerous lawsuits against the growers and cops. The strikers are demanding \$180,000 in damages from the growers.

Appealing to the courts will not stop the growers or the cops. The courts, like the cops, serve the growers. The strikers, including Mexican workers in danger of being deported, are ready to fight. To stop the cops and win the strike, workers must be organized for militant action in the fields. The first step is building workers' defense squads to defend the picket lines against the cops and company thugs.

Iron ore workers settle

The last of the striking iron ore workers in Minnesota ratified a new contract on December 16. This ended the longest strike in the history of the United Steelworkers union (USWA). The strikers held out for 138 days against pressure to settle from USWA President Lloyd McBride.

The settlement itself is almost identical to contracts accepted earlier by other iron ore locals. The major gain was an incentive pay plan, but it doesn't take effect until November 1979. Also, nearly 25 percent of the presently employed workers are not covered by the plan, and workers hired after December 16 will not be covered.

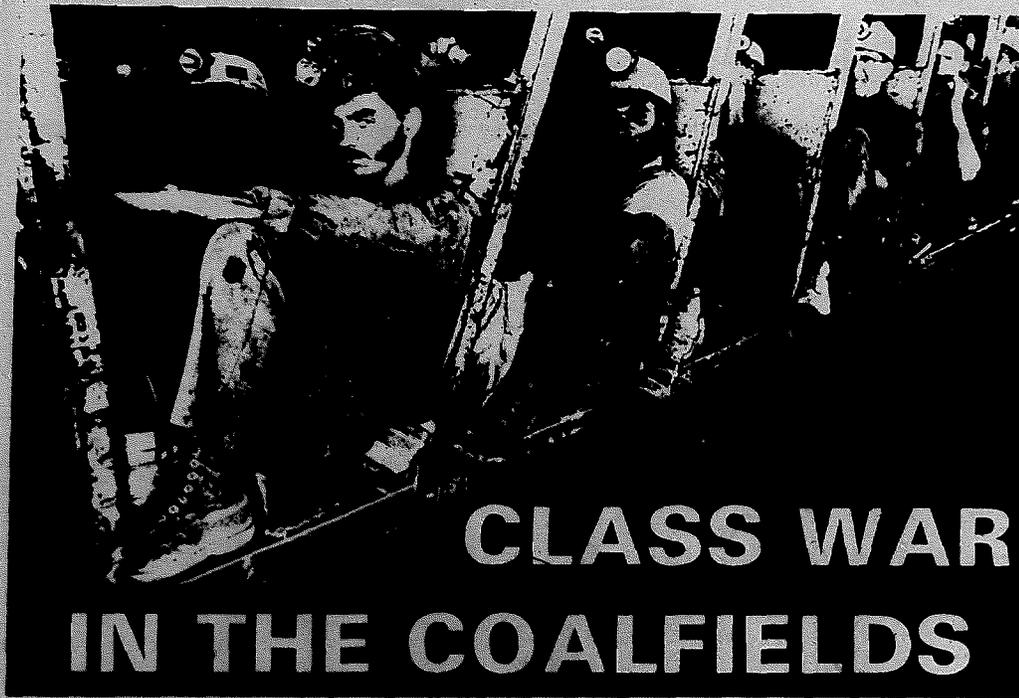
Despite the weaknesses of the settlement, the strike represents a victory. The militant strike was the first successful challenge to the "no-strike" Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA) since it was signed by the steel bosses and USWA bureaucrats in 1973.

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Miners Squash Miller's Sellout



CLASS WAR IN THE COALFIELDS

BY PAUL ALDRIDGE

Thousands of striking miners have shut down scab coal operations from Virginia to Utah. The militant rank and file of the United Mine Workers (UMW) are fighting scabs, company gun-thugs, cops and the courts. After six weeks, militant miners have brought UMW contract negotiations with the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA) to a standstill.

Since the national coal strike began on December 6, miners have fought to stop the mining and shipment of scab coal. Working their way through the coalfields, miners have shut down small scab mines by the dozens and dumped scab coal on the highways of Kentucky, West Virginia, and other coal states.

Six days after the strike started, 400 Ohio miners invaded Cattlesburg, Kentucky, in a 100-car caravan. They forced over 20 trucks to dump their coal on the road. Sixty tons of coal were left on the highway to be collected by the poor people in the area.

Miners battle cops in Indiana

On January 7, 400 miners armed with clubs and guns stormed a coal loading dock in Rockport, Indiana. The miners were attacked by the cops after a dynamite explosion destroyed part of the dock and several vehicles were put to the torch. One hundred and ninety-four miners were arrested. This was the second time miners clashed with the cops in Rockport. Earlier, hundreds of miners battled the cops on the dock and seven miners were arrested.

All told, hundreds of miners have been jailed since the beginning of the strike. In Wise County, Virginia, 110 miners were arrested on January 2 for refusing to obey a police order to disperse. At the Pleasant Ridge mine in Kentucky, a pitched battle between the miners and the cops sent three pigs to the hospital and 15 miners to jail.

Despite the militancy of the roving miners, coal production remains near 40 percent of normal production. During the last seven years, UMW-mined coal has dwindled from 75 per-

cent of U.S. production to a little over 50 percent. Between scab coal and the three-month stockpiles held by most major coal users, the miners are still in a weak position.

This is clearest at the bargaining table. Behind the backs of the rank and file, UMW President Arnold Miller and the union negotiators have made one concession after another to the BCOA. At every turn, Miller has sold out the demands of the miners.

Right to strike— life and death for the miners

The miners' key demands are tied to health and safety. These include the right to strike, the restoration of medical benefits cut back during the summer, and a refinancing of the near bankrupt Health and Welfare Fund.

The right to strike and its connection to miners' safety is literally a question of life and death. Over the last 100 years, miners have been murdered in the mines at a rate of 100 a month. Recent death rates have dropped to about 150 a year, but this is mainly due to the militant strikes against unsafe conditions. During the last three years, miners have shut down mines over 5,000 times.

A recent example of what miners are up against is the Scotia mine disaster. On March 9, 1976, 15 miners were killed in a methane gas explosion in a mine owned by the Blue Diamond Coal Company. Eight miners and three federal inspectors went down in the mine to rescue possible survivors. They were killed in a second blast.

After months of cover-up, the truth came out. The rescuers had been given a map falsified by the owners to cover up ventilation violations responsible for the first explosion. Rescuers following the map had gone up another unventilated tunnel to their death. The cold-blooded murders of these men show the criminal disregard the mine bosses have for the miners' safety and lives.

In addition to the "accidental" deaths, thousands of miners are crippled for life in roof cave-ins or by unsafe machinery. Countless other miners are killed by Black Lung dis-

ease. These conditions leave miners constantly in danger of having their lives snuffed out. Without the right to strike, miners will be little safer than cattle being led to slaughter. And this is exactly what the mine owners and the union bureaucrats want.

The BCOA and the UMW leadership are dead set on destroying the fighting miners' movement. First and foremost, this means stopping the strikes in the coalfields. This is what is really being talked about at the bargaining table.

With the strike barely three weeks old, Miller had already agreed to the major points of the BCOA's strategy for breaking the miners' movement. The first part of the proposal concentrates on the roving pickets used by the ranks to spread wildcat strikes. Miners set out from a struck mine to shut down surrounding mines. Under the proposal, the coal bosses can fire miners picketing mines other than their own and discipline any miner

who refuses to cross a picket line.

In return, the BCOA's big "concession" is a uniform policy on absenteeism. In fact, it is part of the bosses' attack. The proposal involves a series of stiffer and stiffer penalties against miners with unexcused absences. Any miner with six unexcused absences in four months would be fired.

The third part of the pact is aimed at miners involved in unauthorized work stoppages. They will be docked part of their pay for the time off the job. Originally, the BCOA wanted 40 percent of the miners' pay for the two-week pay period covering the absence. Twenty-two dollars would go to the Health and Welfare Fund for each day missed. The rest would go into the pockets of the bosses. Even Miller found this too much to take, but negotiations over a different formula were cut short.

When rank-and-file miners heard that Miller was following the general line of the BCOA strategy, a demonstration of 300 miners was held in Bellaire, Ohio, to denounce the sellout. Thousands of protest letters were sent to Washington, D.C., where the negotiations are being held. The union bargainers were forced to back off a fast settlement.

The bosses have accused the union leaders of being unwilling to make the "hard decisions" necessary to guarantee "labor stability." The truth is that miners' determination to win a good settlement is still too strong to accept the wholesale defeat being cooked up. Miners understand that the BCOA proposal is designed to drive every militant out of the mines, which would become death traps.

Miners force Miller to back down

By allowing the strike to drag on, the union leaders hope to wear down the ranks. After a couple of months with no income, it will be easier to force the miners to accept a sellout. Militants in the coalfields can counter this threat by mobilizing support from the rest of the labor movement. Building a classwide movement to defend the miners is key to a victorious strike.

(For further analysis, see this month's editorial, page 16.)



Militant miners have spread strike despite union leaders' plans for sellout.

Communist Party Betrays

ITALIAN WORKERS FIGHT BACK



Fascists overturn a car in Rome riot. Workers must unite to smash right-wing threat.

BY TONY CURZO

After more than a year of taking it on the chin, Italy's workers are swinging back. Last month, the bureaucrats in the Metalworkers' Federation called a march on Rome (see the accompanying eyewitness report). The march was called to protest unemployment and inflation. Unemployment has reached 10 percent of the workforce, and inflation is 18 percent, one of the highest rates in Europe.

The Rome march became the gathering point for the most class-conscious workers throughout Italy who wanted to bring down the government. Over 200,000 workers, employed and unemployed, marched for jobs and for increased investments to revitalize the economy. Tens of thousands of students and unemployed youth joined the metalworkers.

This powerful workers' mobilization sent a none-too-subtle message to the Italian Communist Party (PCI). The PCI is the largest left party. It has always enjoyed the support of most workers. Since 1973, it has been trying to achieve an "historic compromise" with the ruling capitalist party, the Christian Democracy (DC). In other words, the PCI wants to share power as the junior partner of the capitalists.

Last July, the PCI signed a formal agreement with the DC and four other parties. This agreement gave the government of Premier Giulio Andreotti a free hand to impose the cutbacks necessary to keep Italian capitalism alive.

Since then, the Andreotti government has been shutting down the less efficient plants, and throwing hundreds of thousands of workers on the street. It has implemented big increases in the controlled prices of basic consumer

goods and public transportation. And it has dismantled a good part of the workers' comprehensive cost-of-living mechanism and the national health insurance.

Andreotti has taken from the workers with one hand, and with the other he has doled out huge giveaways to various industries. For those who might fight all this, Andreotti and the PCI have drawn up measures designed to strengthen the capitalist apparatus of repression. For example, the July accord allows police to hold suspects for 48 hours without arrest, and question them without a lawyer.

But all this is not enough to save Italian capitalism. Italy is bankrupt. It owes \$20 billion to the stronger imperialist powers, and it can't pay. These powers will reschedule this debt only if the Italian capitalists show that they are able to slash government expenditures, trim the national debt, and raise profits. These measures will mean an escalation of the attack against Italy's toiling masses.

The PCI leadership fully supports the capitalist attack. Its view is that Italian capitalism must be made more competitive on the world market through reductions in the workers' living standards. The less efficient plants must close. The underdeveloped South has to wait. If profits can rise enough today, reasons the PCI, there will be enough wealth for everybody tomorrow.

But this reformist line of reasoning is nonsense. Italian capitalism is in its death agony. It needs to be killed. So long as it breathes, it will try to extend its life by sucking the blood of the workers.

Italian workers have the power, the organization, and

the fighting will to deal capitalism its death blow. What is missing in Italy is a revolutionary working-class leadership that can organize the struggle for revolution. That leadership must be forged in

Reprinted below are excerpts from an on-the-spot report by an Italian comrade on the recent metalworkers' march. We regret that because of space limitations, we are not able to print more of the report.

BY MARCELLO BRACCINI

TURIN, Italy—In Rome, on Friday, December 2, the most important working-class demonstration took place since last July's accord among the six parties supporting the government. This demonstration was organized by the Metalworkers' Federation (FLM), the organization which groups together the metalworkers from Italy's three union federations (CGIL, CISL, UIL). The FLM represents the strongest nucleus of the Italian working class, and is also the stronghold of the left-wing labor bureaucracy.

Forty special trains and 800 pullman cars descended on Rome. There were three gathering points: two train stations and the Colosseum. From these points three giant contingents headed for Piazza San Giovanni—more than 22 kilometers (13.5 miles) of banners and red flags.

In the meantime, the Autonomous Committees called a

the upcoming struggles.

The Italian workers have begun to fight back. The Rome march was the first shot. Now tens of thousands of workers are taking over plants that are threatening to shut down. More than 40,000 workers have taken over 38 textile and shoe factories across the country. Eight plants belonging to UNIDAL (a candy company) have also been seized. The workers are seizing additional plants every day.

More than one-third of all strikes are political strikes against the government. The workers are demanding a general strike, and the PCI and the union hacks are having trouble holding them back.

This increased struggle is sowing panic in the leadership of the PCI. But instead of breaking with the DC government, the PCI is pressuring Andreotti to bring them into it. The PCI formula of a "government of national emergency" is not in any way a break with past policy. On the contrary, it pushes the PCI's class collaboration to its logical conclusion.

It is likely that the workers' struggles will topple Andreotti in the weeks ahead. But what replaces him won't be any different. The "government of national emergency," if it comes about, will be a Popular Front. In other words, parties which claim to represent the workers will put themselves at the service of the capitalist state machine in its attack on the Italian workers and peasants.

The task of socialist revolutionaries in Italy today is to form a nucleus for a revolu-

tionary working-class party. Such a party can be built if the revolutionaries provide leadership to the most class-conscious workers in the months ahead. The field is wide open. All the current leaderships kneel down either before the capitalist class or before the PCI. The most oppressed workers—the unemployed and the youth—have been ignored and abandoned by all the parties. All the major political forces condemn the violence of the youth, who are in rebellion against the state. The so-called ultra-left share the prejudices of the middle class about bourgeois legality and thus leave the youth wide open to the government's attack.

Revolutionary socialists will have to take part in the coming wave of struggles. They will have to call for (and help organize) workers' defense guards to smash fascist violence, which claimed hundreds of lives this past year. They will have to fight for the maximum unity of the working class. This means supporting all the demands for more jobs, higher wages, curbing inflation, and restoring all the cuts. It means exposing the treacherous role of the PCI and all the organizations that promote class collaboration.

Above all, revolutionary socialists must become the champions of the youth and all the most oppressed: women, gays, the unemployed, the unorganized, the Southern workers and peasants. It is these people who will be the hardest and most uncompromising revolutionaries.

Rome March Heats Up Class Struggle

meeting on the campus of Rome University for that morning. (The Autonomous Committees are groups of leftist students, workers, and youth who oppose the Communist Party of Italy—PCI.) From this meeting, the Committees planned to go to Piazza San Giovanni with their own contingent. They thought they had an agreement with Rome's FLM section. But

under PCI pressure, the national FLM broke the agreement. It put out a statement saying "no agreement is possible, not today, not on any other occasion, with those who explicitly declare themselves supporters of the logic of violence."

The students, enclosed in the university compound were surrounded by huge con-

(Continued on page 17)



Rome: students attack PCI supporter of capitalist government.

Rome March . . .

(Continued from page 10) contingents of cops who prevented them from leaving campus. A group of students managed to slip by the cops and reached a contingent of the march. They ran up against FLM marshals, who prevented them from joining the workers. Meanwhile, the bureaucrats were getting worried by the militancy of the workers. They ended the demonstration as quick as they could. Various trains were a couple of hours late, among them three trains from Turin's Fiat plants. These workers got

to Piazza San Giovanni when everything was already over. Among the workers there were lively discussions about the importance of the demonstration. There were even isolated battles with the union marshals, who were tightly controlled by the CGIL and the PCI. . . . A delegation of workers grouped around the banner of a large Milan plant refused to listen to its marshals who wanted it to keep watch against "infiltrators" (meaning the autonomous militants) in one corner of the piazza. Even some working-

class sectors of the PCI got involved in the calls for "a general strike" and for "the fall of the Christian Democratic government."

After the trade unionists' speeches, the workers were sent back to the gathering points, to wait for the trains that would take them home in the evening. In the meantime, the "Rome movement" passed out a leaflet inviting all the workers to join a meeting called by "the left-wing workers of Alfa Romeo" (the second largest Italian automaker after Fiat).

At noon the cops lifted their siege of the university. By 3 p.m. there were 5,000 workers and students on campus. The meeting was chaired by dele-

gates from the major Italian plants. Delegates representing workers from all over the country took the floor: from Milan's Alfa Romeo; from the Italsider plants of Taranto and Bagnoli (Naples); from the shipyards of Trieste and Salerno; from Honeywell and Carlo Erba of Milan; as well as the delegates of the Political Committee of the Railway Workers of Rome, of the Workers' Collective of Genoa, the Committee of Unemployed Intellectuals, and a representative of the Democratic Solidiers.

All the fighting spirit of the working class came alive in the words of the delegates: its refusal to become a part of the system, and its condemnation of the union bureaucrats'

class collaboration. . . . The political conception of the speakers seemed to be that of rebuilding the organizations of struggle, starting with the most advanced workers in the plants and moving in tight union with the women and youth. . . . The notion of working-class "integration" into the system was forcefully rejected. Whimsical notions about leaving the unions were also rejected. The proposals that were adopted revolved around calling a national assembly of the working class and setting up a stable coordinating body of the workers' leading bodies in the plants. . . . The conclusions of the meeting will be put to the test in the struggles of the months ahead.

CHILE

RESISTANCE TO THE DICTATORSHIP GROWS

On January 4, Chile's dictatorship called a "referendum" on military rule. Not surprisingly, it "won" by a staggering 75 percent. This vote is a fraud from beginning to end. The military ran the whole show. They announced ahead of time that a "no" vote would not be allowed to win. They stuffed the ballot boxes at will. And, of course, no one was allowed to campaign against the government.

This referendum was called in response to a UN General Assembly vote, which last December condemned Chile's bloody dictatorship for its "constant and flagrant violations of human rights." Most of the Western powers who prop up the Chilean government—Belgium, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Israel, and the U.S.—supported this UN vote.

The referendum was also used to strengthen the hand of the government in the face of increasing opposition to the dictatorship at home. The article below, which was written before the referendum results, outlines the extent of internal resistance in recent months. It also discusses the role of U.S. imperialism in Chile today.

For the first time in four years, key sections of Chile's working class have defied the military dictatorship's ban on strikes. Last November, Chilean miners at the huge copper mine of El Teniente went out on strike. Around that same time, dock workers in Valparaiso and San Antonio staged a slowdown for higher pay.

In spite of brutal repression, the workers are starting to fight because they are being pushed to the edge of starvation. Over 13 percent of Chile's workers have no jobs at all. Another nine percent work under the Plan de Empleo Mínimo, at less than half of a minimum subsistence wage. With the coming of the new



Chilean political prisoners in one of Pinochet's concentration camps, September 1977.

year, this plan is being scrapped, and these workers will also be out of work. The rest of the country's workers earn only enough to feed their families 21 days out of the month.

The November strikes followed a year of growing resistance to the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet. The following is a list of public actions against the government in 1977:

March: Protesters demonstrate against the Chilean Supreme Court's cooperation with the military rulers.

April: More than 100 unions issue a manifesto demanding political freedoms and the right to strike.

May: After Pinochet bans a May Day rally in Santiago, workers attending Mass start chanting "Freedom!" and turn it into an anti-government demonstration. Later in the month, demonstrators demand freedom for political prisoners when a U.S. State Department official visits Chile.

June: Twenty-eight men and women hold a sit-in demanding to know the fate of 1,500 prisoners kidnapped by Pinochet's secret police.

August: More than 800 unions issue a second manifesto against military rule.

November: Miners and dock workers strike. One hundred demonstrators demand the release of political prisoners when a new U.S. ambassador arrives in Chile.

The workers are the key ingredient in these first stirrings of open resistance to the dictatorship. But the movement is still far too weak to overthrow the government. And this weakness has left an opening for liberal capitalist forces around the Christian Democratic Party to enter the picture.

The strategy of the Christian Democrats is to rely on the U.S. to pressure the military into granting reforms. This strategy will never win freedom for Chile's oppressed workers and peasants.

It was U.S. imperialism—

and Chile's Christian Democrats—who called on the armed forces to overthrow the elected government of Salvador Allende in 1973. They did this to smash the workers and peasants, who had launched a militant wave of strikes and land takeovers.

With the full backing of the U.S., Pinochet led an army revolt on September 11, 1973, and slaughtered 30,000 workers. He then jailed, tortured and murdered thousands of other leftists and working-class leaders. The workers' political parties were banned. The trade unions were smashed, because their leadership was replaced with government hacks. The workers were left defenseless. But this did not end the repression. The Pinochet regime is still today one of the bloodiest butcher governments around.

After the task of smashing the workers had been completed, the U.S. and its Christian Democratic allies in Chile began making a few mealy-mouthed criticisms of Pino-

chet's policies. Now they are putting some mild pressure on him to move toward a civilian government.

These mild criticisms are a necessary cover for U.S. imperialism's phony human rights campaign. The U.S. and its European partners find it embarrassing to be openly allied with Pinochet. They want him to clean up his image a bit.

Moreover, U.S. and Chilean liberals believe that the dictatorship's policy of continued repression is beginning to backfire, instead of preventing workers' struggles, more and more it appears to be triggering them.

If the workers' struggles in Chile continue, U.S. imperialism and its liberal Chilean lackeys will become even more edgy. But they will not break with Pinochet, because they really don't want to return to bourgeois democracy just yet. That would open a door for the workers to pour through. In fact, the U.S. and its Chilean clients won't hesitate to join forces with Pinochet to crush the workers again if things get out of hand.

The only way the Chilean masses will win their freedom is by building a revolutionary movement for a workers' government. Only such a government will really crush U.S. imperialism's hired butchers in the country. And only such a government will drive the U.S. out of Chile for good.



The Butcher, Pinochet.

JAMAICA

MANLEY TRAMPLES WORKERS' RIGHTS

The accompanying article is a reprint from the November issue of **Forward**, the monthly newspaper of the Revolutionary Marxist League (RML-Jamaica), fraternal organization of the RSL.

The revolutionary workers' movement in Jamaica is up against a problem common to many underdeveloped and oppressed nations. After getting formal independence from the imperialist power, the local ruling class pretends to stand for "socialism" as a way of hiding its exploitation of the masses and its continuing ties to imperialism.

In Jamaica, this trend is represented by the ruling People's National Party (PNP) Prime Minister Michael Manley, head of the PNP government, claims to be an anti-imperialist who is building democratic socialism. Behind a smokescreen of "socialist" rhetoric, this liberal capitalist politician is trampling down the living standards and democratic rights of the Jamaican masses.

Since the article was written, Manley reinstated a ban on all political meetings, marches and demonstrations. His government has proposed a national ID card system. This amounts to an internal passport system similar to the one used by the racist South African regime. Censorship of the press is threatened.

Kingston under siege

Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, has become a city under siege. Army camps have been set up in residential neighborhoods. People traveling in town are stopped at roadblocks, searched and interrogated by the troops. Police and soldiers walk the streets with their rifles raised. They keep their fingers on the trigger, ready to shoot anyone who gives them an excuse.

Workers' strikes have been branded as reactionary. Beaten down by raging inflation, shortages and growing unemployment, workers are struggling for higher wages. When firemen staged a slowdown to protest the government's limits on wage increases, Manley's troops went in to break it up. This is what Manley's so-called democratic socialism has meant for the Jamaican workers and oppressed.

Manley's reputation as an anti-imperialist is equally phony. He has been making one deal after another with the imperialists. Each deal comes at the expense of the working and oppressed masses of Jamaica.

Millions of dollars have been borrowed from the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund and various capitalist countries. As a condition for getting these loans, Manley had to devalue the currency by 37.5 percent. The effect of this is to cut workers' wages by more than one-third.

The full measure of Manley's so-called anti-imperialism was recently shown by President Carter's announcement of a \$62 million loan to Jamaica. In return, Manley is allowing Carter to use Jamaica as a showcase of U.S. imperialism's supposed support for Black self-government. By providing a left cover for the U.S. imperialist monster in the Caribbean, Manley's so-called socialist government is exposed for what it is—capitalism in disguise.

How is Manley trying to cover this treachery? By playing on the illusions of the workers. Manley has invited fake-socialists like Samora Machel of Mozambique and Cuba's Fidel Castro to Jamaica. He has used the visits of these state-capitalist leaders to bolster his anti-imperialist image.

Lenin on the fake socialists

Jamaican workers cannot afford to be fooled by this sideshow. Over 50 years ago, Lenin warned the Second Congress of the Communist International about capitalist political leaders in oppressed nations using the language and forms of Marxism to deceive the masses. At that time, he said:

With regard to the more backward states and nations... it is particularly important to bear in mind... the need for a determined struggle against attempts to give a communist colouring to bourgeois-democratic liberation trends in the backward countries; the Communist International should support bourgeois-democratic national movements in colonial and backward countries only on condition that, in these countries, the elements of future proletarian parties, which will be communist not only in name, are brought together and trained to understand their special tasks, i.e., those of the struggle against the bourgeois-democratic movements within their nations. The Communist International must enter into a temporary alliance with bourgeois democracy in the colonial and backward countries, but should not merge with it, and should under all circumstances uphold the independence of the proletarian movement even if it is in its most embryonic form." (Our emphasis.)

The RML is carrying out this Leninist policy in Jamaica today. The RML is ruthlessly exposing Manley's efforts to give himself a "communist coloring" and is showing how Manley's own actions prove he is a capitalist oppressor.

Should the U.S. threaten once again to overthrow the Manley regime as it did in the 1975-76 period, the RML is prepared to make a tactical military bloc with Manley for defense. In no way would this mean any kind of political support for Manley's rule over the workers and oppressed. To the contrary, while fighting alongside Manley's forces to defeat U.S. aggression, revolutionaries would continue the political struggle to expose Manley's government and overthrow Jamaican capitalism.

RML builds revolutionary party

It is through such revolutionary policies that the RML is bringing together "the elements of the future proletarian party" in Jamaica. Unlike the Stalinist Workers' Liberation League (WLL) and the Communist Party of Jamaica (CPJ), which are nothing more than support groups for the capitalist government, the RML knows that there will be no socialism in Jamaica until the workers and oppressed overthrow the capitalists and put themselves directly in power.



Kingston, Jamaica, 1976: Capitalist ruler Michael Manley uses army to protect bosses' property out the army in response to growing working class militancy.

AWAY WITH MISLEADER

BY JON THOMAS
Revolutionary Marxist League

As Jamaica stumbles even deeper into crisis, the local capitalists and their friends abroad are licking out harder against poor people, especially workers. So when we go to the shop to buy food, we find the shelves almost empty. And when food does come, we find the price has shot up.

PNP against the workers

Workers are being asked to sacrifice and produce. Yet more and more workers are being laid off every day. More and more factories are being closed. This is what the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan and the Emergency Production Plan means. Workers have to suffer so that capital-

ists can keep up their profits

When workers try to stand up to their rights, the so-called socialists of the People's National Party (PNP) government mercilessly beats them down—the past few months, the army has been used to:

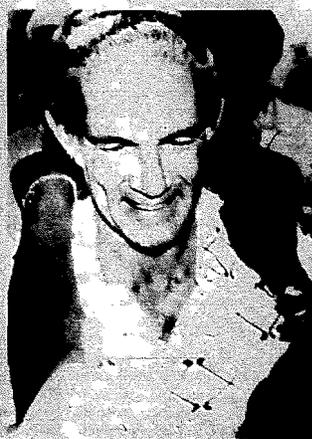
- Break the Esso technicians strike
- Stop the occupation by unemployed seamen of a sugar shop in Clarendon.
- Intimidate women demonstrating in Montego Bay against rising prices
- Mash up a protest go-slow by busmen.

All this has made more and more workers see the PNP in its true colours—an anti-working-class, capitalist party. It is clear that workers are getting fed-up with the PNP and are looking for another party.

The JLP mobilizes

The right-wing capitalist Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) wants to be the party. There have been many demonstrations, mostly by such "left" come-up" JLP groups as the Workers' Freedom Movement, Progressive Workers Association and Jamaica Association of Higglers. The JLP says it is fighting against victimization, unemployment, and the high cost of living. This is a lie. The JLP is as corrupt and reactionary as it was during 1962-72.

The JLP wants to replace the PNP as government representatives of the capitalist clique that runs Jamaica. It wants to take hold of the suffering, frustrated masses and use them as a big stick to beat the PNP in the next election. Or if it doesn't win, it will use the big stick to kick out the PNP by force. If the JLP comes back in power, it will carry out the same capitalist and pro-imperialist policies like the PNP.



Michael Manley, fake "socialist."

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Of course, the JLP is well supported by the big capitalists and their henchmen in the churches. Ron Sasso, manager of Royal Bank, says he is a "firm believer in capitalism as an economic system." And the "venerable" Archdeacon Maxwell licks out against "the preaching of an ungodly doctrine" and "the forces of darkness." He means communism, of course.

So what has the PNP "left wing" been doing against all this right-wing activity? Precisely, nothing. Duncan, Small, Bertram and others have sat back quietly, while the workers have been taking all the licks. This has made it easy for the right wing to organize itself, and led to the defeat of the PNP "lefts" at the Annual Conference. D.K. Duncan's forced resignation as PNP General Secretary and Minister of Mobilization came soon after.

In any case, Duncan, Small and Bertram are not interested in sticking up for workers' rights. They are not revolutionaries; for revolutionaries do not join capitalist parties. No revolutionary swears everlasting loyalty and obedience to a capitalist party, as Duncan did in his resignation statement. No revolutionary stops an anti-imperialist demonstration as Duncan did in 1975. This miserable middle-class "socialist" faker boasts about wrecking this demonstration, one of the main attempts at united action by all left groups and the PNP Youth Organization (PNPYO).

Contempt for the masses

D.K. Duncan's handling of his resignation shows why it was easy to get rid of him. First he explained his resignation to the PNP capitalist politicians,

and then he resigned. Only then did he explain to his supporters, when the deed was done, and they could not influence his decision in any way. This shows the contempt that Duncan and other PNP "lefts" really have for the masses.

Their attitude is just like Manley's. He has such a low opinion of workers that he expects them not to realize that the visits of Samora Machel of Mozambique and Fidel Castro of Cuba were timed to coincide with the defeat of the PNP "lefts." Something was needed to put back Manley's socialist image, and these visits were intended to do just that. So we had Machel and Castro calling Manley a "great revolutionary." How can they use that word to describe a man who bows down to the IMF, lowers workers' living standards and uses the army to smash strikes? The answer is that they are in the same boat as Manley.

Machel, Castro—state capitalists

It's true that Machel led the freedom struggle of the Mozambican masses which defeated Portuguese colonialism and ended fascist rule in Portugal itself. But in that struggle, Machel really represented the interests of the radical middle class. This group was being stifled by colonialism and wanted more room to develop as capitalists in their own right.

Despite their socialist image, they did not want to smash capitalism. When the colonialists were kicked out, Machel's group began to develop capitalism based mainly on Government-owned property—that is, state capitalism. For the workers, little has changed. They are still oppressed. Their strikes are still smashed. Thousands are still sent to work and die in the diamond mines of racist South Africa in return for gold paid to the Mozambican government.

Yet Machel talks about revolution. So does Castro. But as in Mozambique, the workers of Cuba control nothing. They had no elections for 10 years after Castro took over. Their trade unions are completely under the control of the Communist Party. As far as Castro is concerned, his nationalization of factories and land was "the revolution."

But both in Cuba and Mozambique, there was and is no revolutionary workers' party. In any system where the state owns and controls all the property, if that state is not controlled by the working class, then that is capitalism—state capitalism.

Misleader Manley

So the support given by Machel and Castro to Manley must not fool the workers into believing that Manley has their interests at heart.

He has allowed capitalism to strengthen its hold on Jamaica. This means more repression against workers and revolutionaries, carried out by the PNP with the full backing of the JLP. The recent tightening up of the rules on demonstrations is one sign of this.

The capitalists got worried that the demonstrations and mobilizations might get out of hand and threaten the capitalist system itself. This is the reason for tightening up the rules.

Despite the restrictions, it is clear that the JLP, the PNP, and its supporters on the left (like the Stalinist Workers Liberation League—WLL) will still be allowed to hold demonstrations. But not so with revolutionaries. Their activities will be smashed by the capitalist state forces—the army and

police. At the moment they seem only to be fighting the crime wave that has been caused by the rotting situation of local capitalism. But the government will not jester to clamp down on all opposition to the two main capitalist parties. The press is already whipping up a wave of hysteria, calling for "law and order" and "discipline," not only to curb violence, but to stop strikes.

Workers must unite!

Now more than ever before, it is vital for all workers and oppressed people to unite in struggle against the capitalists. All genuine revolutionaries must work now to build this unity. But revolutionaries must be clear that we do not call for unity as a means of keeping the PNP and its rotten policies afloat as do the WLL, the Communist Party of Jamaica (CPJ), and other so-called communist groups. These groups talk about the threat of fascism as a way of taking the heat off the PNP, and treacherously cover up the PNP's anti-working-class policies.

Revolutionaries have to understand clearly what fascism is. It is the last resort of dying capitalism. When the working masses get too organized and conscious, the normal solutions of capitalist crisis (wage freeze, unemployment, etc.) can't work any longer

Then they murder and imprison revolutionaries and militant workers, and smash trade unions and other workers' organizations, as they did in Chile in 1973. That is fascism.

With capitalism in as sickly a state as it is now, fascism is always on the cards. But it does not seem as if the capitalists are desperate enough to play their last trump at this time.

To make sure that fascism does not become an immediate threat, revolutionaries must begin to patiently explain to workers and oppressed:

- 1) No confidence in the capitalist JLP, nor the PNP, nor the PNP middle-class radicals, nor their support groups on the left. No confidence in the leaders of state-capitalist countries like Russia, China, Cuba and Mozambique.
- 2) The need for unity of all oppressed under the leadership of the working class, organized in a Marxist-Leninist workers party. The aim of this movement of the oppressed must be the overthrow of capitalism and the overthrow of the world.

The Revolutionary Marxist League is building this party in Jamaica as a section of an international revolutionary workers party. We call on all revolutionaries and class-conscious workers to join us in building this party to lead forward our struggles to victory in the socialist revolution.

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CHINESE STATE-CAPITALISTS CHANGE POLICIES



Teng Hsiao-ping, leader of Chinese "moderates."

"Moderates" Consolidate Rule

BY SUSAN EDMUNDS

After Mao Tse-tung died in September 1976, a power struggle broke out inside the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Within a month, Mao's long-time opponents had seized the helm of the party, and took the offensive against his closest associates. These people, labeled the "gang of four," were purged, arrested and blamed for all of China's problems. This campaign continues to this day.

"Moderates" Junk Mao's policies

Meanwhile, the new leaders—whom the bourgeois press calls the "moderates"—have wasted little time in calling an abrupt aboutface on Mao's policies. In the last six months, they've announced sharp changes in economic, educational, military and foreign policies.

Behind this power struggle is the long-standing warfare between the "Maoist" and the "moderate" wings in the CCP over the best way to consolidate and modernize China.

For centuries, China had been split up geographically, by nationality, by the decentralizing nature of the feudal warlord regimes, and by the effects of imperialism.

The 1949 Revolution accomplished much toward unifying and consolidating China. However, even after the revolution, China was not a fully unified country. The local and regional bureaucracies of the state-capitalist regime wound up with tremendous power. This undermined the building of a centralized and modernized Chinese society.

Mao wanted to turn this around. He wanted to limit the powers of the local bureaucracies and subordinate them totally to a national, centralized leadership. This was a key part of Mao's economic and political strategy.

Mao also wanted China to be self-reliant. He felt that as long as China had to deal with foreign imperialism from a position of weakness, the imperialists would dominate, and hold back China's development. As part of the drive for self-reliance, Mao wanted to use the resources that China

actually had. Above all, this meant using China's vast human resources—over 800 million people—to boost the country's productive capacity. Mao summed this up in his slogan "man over machines."

To implement his strategy, Mao emphasized ideology—"good ideas"—and moral appeals to the Chinese people. His approach called for the masses to work harder and make sacrifices for the good of the country as a whole, not out of any personal gain. This was what Mao called "moral incentives." He also called for reducing some of the power and privileges of the bureaucracy so that it would look like the sacrifices were being made by all sections of the population. Finally, Mao tried to mobilize the masses against the local and regional bureaucrats, and to strengthen his hand against the "moderate" wing of the CCP.

The "moderates" emphasized economic development above all else. They took Mao's "man over machines" and turned it upside down. To them, technology was more important than ideology. To introduce the latest tech-

nology in industry, agriculture and the military, they were prepared to allow the local and regional bureaucracies to increase their power. As part of their emphasis on technology, the "moderates" took two distinctive positions in opposition to Mao.

First, they wanted to make sure that the functionaries, technocrats, scientists and skilled workers were well rewarded. This included giving them a wide range of privileges in wages, housing and access to scarce consumer goods. These were "material incentives."

Second, was a desire to establish relations with the imperialist powers as a means to get the technology they wanted. Above all, they wanted to depoliticize China—to turn the people's attention away from ideology and toward production.

The goal of both strategies was to increase the exploitation of the masses. Both Mao and the "moderates" wanted to modernize China off the sweat and blood of the workers and peasants.

When Mao was in power he used his ideology to try to keep the workers and peasants under his control. Those who stepped out of line were accused of being with the "moderates," and faced exile, imprisonment or death. Workers' strikes or protests were labeled "counter-revolutionary" and broken up by the troops if need be.

This goes on today under the "moderates." Mao just wanted to keep more of an egalitarian cover on Chinese state-capitalism. This can be seen by looking at the changes the "moderates" have made in Mao's policies.

The party:

Mao launched mass campaigns against the "moderates" and their supporters within the CCP. The largest of these was the Cultural Revolution of the middle '60s. Thousands of functionaries were purged from the party for being "capitalist roaders"—that is, placing economics and technology ahead of ideology.

The "moderates" have brought back many of these officials and put them in their old positions. First and foremost of these is Teng Hsiao-ping. Teng was purged during the Cultural Revolution, rehabilitated in the early '70s and then purged again in early 1976 for being the "number-one capitalist roader." Teng was again rehabilitated in July 1977. He is now the deputy prime minister and is probably the real power in Peking.

Industry, agriculture:

Mao emphasized "moral incentives" and wanted to downplay wage differ-

entials, bonuses, and similar measures.

The "moderates" announced at the end of October wage increases retroactive to October 1, 1977, for sections of the industrial workers and for scientists and technocrats. Around the same time, Jenmin Jih Pao, the CCP newspaper and indicator of the rulers' thinking, wrote a series of articles pushing the need for piecework and time-rate wages, bonuses, and other material incentives to wring more work out of the workers and peasants.

Education:

Mao, during the Cultural Revolution, substituted "ideology" and class background for examinations as the basis for entrance to the universities. In addition, all students had to do several years of manual labor before entering the university, and several weeks a year during their studies. The schools emphasized the study of politics.

The "moderates" announced on October 21 that exams would be the basis for acceptance to the February semester, and all semesters after that. On the same day, Jenmin Jih Pao announced that manual labor for students both before and during their studies would be gradually phased out. The schools themselves were directed to start up postgraduate classes specifically to train scientific researchers.

The military:

Mao called for an army based largely on manpower. During Mao's rule, the military was subordinated to the political center of the party. And rank was abolished within the army.

The "moderates" are shifting the emphasis in the military over to advanced technology. In early October, the New York Times reported that "China would purchase new weapons and introduce new technology from other countries." In November, the Chinese leaders announced that they were negotiating for British jet fighters. There have also been reports that the "moderate" leadership is in the market for missiles and nuclear technology.

As part of the leadership reshuffling since the rise of the "moderates," more senior officers from the military have been named to leading bodies of the CCP.

In addition, Western bourgeois analysts claim that an informal, covert system of rank is on its way back.

In these and other ways the "moderates" are junking Mao's policies while
(Continued on next page)



"... a lot of workers went to their workplaces only once a week, then marched back to their living quarters... carrying placards saying that anybody who believed in fulfilling production quotas was a neurotic sheep."

(Continued from previous page) they are continuing to give lip-service to Mao's teachings.

The changes brought by the "moderates" were summed up by Jenmin Jih Pao in late December. In contradiction to Mao's rhetoric, the paper wrote: "Production is the basis of society and the struggle for production comes before class struggle."

Despite appearances, the changes do not represent a change in the fundamental class nature of Chinese society.

China is a state-capitalist society. The fight between the "Maoists" and the "moderates" is only a reflection of differences in strategy within the state-capitalist ruling class. The two factions have never disagreed that there should be an elite, over and above the workers and peasants, ruling China. Neither faction believes the workers and peasants should rule directly, through real workers' and peasants' councils, factory committees, and similar institutions. China is not and never has been a socialist society.

A look at the CCP's history and rise

As the Red Army marched into the cities, the workers were told to stay on the job and keep working. The workers didn't rise up. They didn't form workers' councils. The CCP didn't turn the factories over to the workers. In fact, they kept on many of the same capitalists and factory managers to run the factories—just as before.

The 1949 Revolution was a bourgeois-nationalist, anti-imperialist revolution. It kicked out the imperialist bloodsuckers and their Chinese lackeys—the feudal warlords and the comprador capitalists. And it took important steps toward the national consolidation of China.

But China in no way should be taken for a workers' state or socialism. There was no workers' insurrection, where the working class smashed the old state apparatus and replaced it with their own rule. The workers and peasants never took over the economy and ran it in their own interests.

Today, through their actions, the Chinese workers are proving that China is a capitalist country. They have

World in Revolution



Black workers battle South African cops

Black militants in South Africa continue to rebel against the racist apartheid regime. On December 27, a group of Black workers tried to burn down a beer hall in a Black township near Port Elizabeth. The beer halls, which are run by the government, are hated symbols of apartheid rule. The cops shot down three men.

On the same day, Port Elizabeth cops used tear gas to break up the funeral of Mzukisi Nobadula. He was murdered in prison while awaiting trial.

On January 8, Black people in several townships around Port Elizabeth showered stones on the cops. The crowds were attending the funerals of four other Black militants killed in mass demonstrations. At least six demonstrators were wounded by police gunfire.

The Black townships around Port Elizabeth have become centers of resistance to the apartheid state since the murder of Stephen Biko last September 12. Biko was a Black consciousness leader who was beaten to death by the racist police. He spent the last years of his life in the Port Elizabeth area.

The racist rulers of South Africa are trying to crush Black resistance by killing leaders like Biko and terrorizing the Black masses. But these protests show that despite the many deaths, the flames of revolt are still strong.

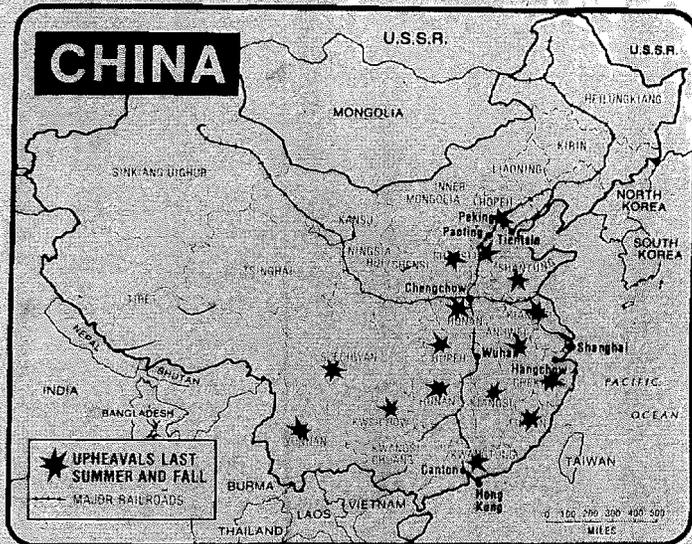
Russian rulers release jailed Tatar leader

On December 22, the Russian ruling class released Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev from prison. He had finished a two and a half year term at hard labor for "anti-Soviet activities." Dzhemilev has spent eight of the last 13 years in prison. His "crime" is that of defending the Tatars' national rights.

The Tatars are a nation of about half a million people who used to live in the Crimea. After the Russian Revolution, the victorious workers recognized the Tatars' right to self-determination. With the assistance and encouragement of the new workers' government, the Tatars established a Crimean republic.

After Stalin's state-capitalist counterrevolution in Russia was completed, the Tatars lost their homeland. In 1944 the Russian rulers deported the entire Tatar population from the Crimea to Central Asia. Borrowing a page from the Hitler regime, they packed hundreds of thousands of people in trains like cattle, without sleeping or toilet facilities. Thousands of women, children, and the aged died along the way. Why this forced exile and death? The state capitalists wanted the Crimea for themselves. In 1946 they formally abolished the Tatar Republic. Today, the Crimea is a playground of resorts and mansions for the Russian rulers.

The Tatars are one of more than 50 nationalities trampled on by the Russian ruling class. These nationalities will recover their homelands when— together with the Russian workers—they manage to smash capitalist rule and establish real socialism.



Map shows cities where workers have struck against state-capitalist bosses.

to power shows this.

In the early 1920s, the CCP was a workers' party. Communists helped organize trade unions in the industrial centers, and were the main force inside the labor movement. But throughout the mid to late '20s, the CCP followed Stalin's counter-revolutionary line. They liquidated into the bourgeois-nationalist Kuomintang and built and cohered that organization. The Chinese workers and peasants paid the price of this rotten policy in March and April 1927. In these months, the Chinese workers rose up against the imperialists and their agents in Shanghai. The Kuomintang, under Chiang Kai-shek, then turned on the workers' movement, and slaughtered tens of thousands of workers.

After that, the CCP turned its back on the workers. They went out into the countryside and built an army based on the peasants. They developed a strategy for a rural, peasant-based, but not socialist, revolution. In this view, the Red Army would conquer and run large sections of the countryside. From there, they would encircle and then take over the cities.

This was the strategy successfully followed by the CCP. After World War II, China was divided between Communist-ruled and Kuomintang-ruled territory. By 1949, the CCP had militarily defeated the Kuomintang and marched into Peking.

The CCP came to power as a bloc between sections of the nationalist middle class, which ran the party and the army, and the peasants, who acted as the battering ram for the leadership. The workers were entirely cut out of the picture.

seized the opening provided by the post-Mao faction fight to struggle for their own interests independent of either faction, the workers in several cities have waged militant strikes. Here are some highlights:

The Economist, a British bourgeois journal, reports that in October '76, in many factories throughout China: "... a lot of workers went to their workplaces only once a week, on paydays to collect their ration tickets or wages, and then marched back to their communal living quarters... carrying placards saying that anybody who believed in fulfilling production quotas was a neurotic sheep."

In a 10,000-worker factory in Manchuria, the workers pilloried the vice-chairman of the revolutionary committee for scabbing on their strike.

And in as late as February 1977 there was a major work stoppage at the Wuhan steelworks.

The new rulers were able to suppress these struggles only through intimidation, massive arrests and executions, and other forms of repression.

But even if the state-capitalist rulers were temporarily able to suppress the struggle, it will rise again. All indications point to the fact that the workers are tired of a phony ideology they can't eat from the "Maoists." And the longer the "moderate" leadership maintains its power, the more naked the capitalist nature of China will be.

The struggle of the Chinese working class is the same as the struggle of workers everywhere—to overthrow their oppressors, capitalist and state-capitalist alike, and build a truly socialist society.

Haiti: Thousands storm food warehouses

On Christmas Eve, thousands of people in Haiti's northern city of Gonaives rebelled. They stormed warehouses stuffed with food belonging to CARE, Food for Peace, and other U.S.-sponsored "relief" organizations. Troops were sent to quell the rebellion.

The Haitians took the food because they were starving. In the best of times Haiti's oppressed workers and peasants live on the edge of survival. The country has the lowest standard of living in the Western Hemisphere. When drought hit northern Haiti last summer, thousands starved to death.

CARE packages are another expression of imperialist exploitation. They are a slap in the face for the workers and peasants, who are being starved by the same people who are mailing the packages—the U.S. imperialists. The way forward for Haiti's oppressed masses lies not in imperialist handouts, but in building the spirit of rebellion shown in Gonaives into a movement for socialist revolution.

Fascists grow in crisis-ridden Turkey

The Turkish government collapsed on December 31, after Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel lost a vote of confidence in the National Assembly.

Turkey has gone through four governments in seven months. Demirel and Bulent Ecevit, head of the Republican People's Party, have taken turns running the country. Neither one can rescue the crumbling Turkish economy.

Turkish capitalism is bankrupt. Foreign banks are even refusing to cash checks from Turkey's central bank. The country is staggering under a huge balance of payments deficit and a 25 percent inflation rate.

The ruling class has not dared to openly take on the militant Turkish trade unions. Last year workers won wage increases of 30 to 50 percent. Instead, the ruling class has encouraged fascists in the National Action Party to organize gangster attacks against left-wing militants. On May Day of last year, for example, fascist thugs attacked a workers' rally in Istanbul, killing 39 people and wounding 200. The National Action Party is the fastest-growing party in Turkey. It is winning mass support by appealing to the impoverished peasants.

In 1974, 41 percent of the Turkish population worked on the land. Since then, hundreds of thousands of peasants have been driven off the land and into the cities. There they live in misery, without jobs or decent housing. They despise the major capitalist parties which ignore their needs. The fascists will try to recruit them by combining nationalist rhetoric with anti-communist lies.

The workers have to begin organizing against the growing fascist threat. They have to organize defense squads to smash the fascist thugs in the streets. And they must fight for jobs for all and land to the peasants to win over the dispossessed rural masses and isolate the fascists.

EDITORIALS

Defend the Miners' Strike!

Nearly 180,000 miners are on strike against the coal bosses. The outcome of this battle is crucial for all working and oppressed people in the U.S.

Capitalism is stumbling toward a severe economic crisis, a depression like that of the 1930s. To try to protect their profits, and save their system, the capitalists are stepping up their attacks on the working class. They know that the only way they can save their rotten system is to increase the exploitation and oppression of the masses of workers and oppressed people.

Right now, the U.S. capitalists are afraid to directly take on all the workers at one time. They understand that an all-out offensive against the entire working class could provoke a tremendous militant response that could threaten their rule.

To try to avoid this, they are using the old tactic of divide and conquer. They are attempting to attack one section of the working class at a time.

So far, the main attacks have been aimed at the most oppressed sections of the working class. Blacks, Latins, women, gays, young workers, undocumented workers and others have been the hardest hit. The capitalists figure that these groups, who are generally unorganized, are the least able to defend themselves.

But the bosses' attacks are not limited to the most oppressed workers. Recently, the bosses have begun to take on more organized sections of the working class. While trying to avoid major showdowns, the bosses have been able to lay off, speed up and tighten discipline against even well-organized workers like autoworkers, postal workers and steelworkers.

Most of the bosses' effort against the organized labor movement has been directed at the fringes. For example, the capitalists have launched a union-busting campaign in hundreds of small shops around the country.

The attack on the miners is another step in the bosses' plan. The present strike is not just another "management-labor" dispute. It is not just some wages and benefits that are involved. The very existence of the United Mine Workers (UMW) union as an effective labor organization is at stake.

Behind the coal strike is the energy crisis. The capitalists want to decrease their dependence on imported oil. To do this, they want to substitute coal for oil. Carter, for example, has proposed to double coal production by 1985. To maintain their profits, the bosses want coal production to be firmly under their control. And they want to keep coal prices down.

But there is a big obstacle to the capitalists' plan. This is the rank and file of the UMW. For years, the coal miners have waged a militant struggle that the capitalists have been unable to control. For a while, the capitalists hoped that the UMW leadership, headed by Arnold Miller, could tame the rebellious miners. But Miller hasn't been able to do this, and the capitalists now want to do the job themselves. They want to break the back of the miners' movement and turn the miners into passive mine slaves. The capitalists are hoping that they can get away with this move because the miners are isolated from the rest of the working class. They are praying that the workers elsewhere will not come to the support of the miners.

It is in the interest of every worker,

everywhere, to support the coal miners in their struggle against the coal companies and the capitalist government. If the capitalists get away with murdering the miners' movement, they will turn with renewed energy against the rest of the workers.

The miners' strike must become a rallying point for the entire working class. Militant workers should keep informed of the strike. They should work to make all their co-workers aware of the significance of the miners' struggle. And they should fight to get

the unions and other organizations to support the miners. Union locals should organize miners' support committees to publicize the issues in the strike, raise money and send messages of support to the miners. These committees can also take the lead in planning solidarity actions, such as demonstrations and sympathy strikes. If such actions become necessary, we must build a movement to defend the miners. Every worker must understand that the miners' struggle is our struggle.

RSL Builds Los Angeles Branch

A new branch of the Revolutionary Socialist League is on its way! The Political Committee has set up an RSL organizing committee in Los Angeles, California.

So far, the activities of the organizing committee have centered on defense of undocumented workers; showings of the film on South Africa, *Last Grave at Dimbaza*, in English and Spanish; a private forum on RSL perspectives; and building for a public forum on gay liberation. These and other activities have brought new readers to the *Torch/La Antorcha* and won new supporters for the RSL.

The Los Angeles organizing committee is an important step forward for the RSL. It has established our presence on the West Coast, giving us a direct link to revolutionary workers there. It is a concrete sign of the progress of the RSL toward building the revolutionary party.

A comradely welcome to the Los Angeles organizing committee! Forward to the Los Angeles branch!

(Anyone interested in getting in touch with the Los Angeles RSL, write to: RSL, PO Box 327, Hollywood, CA 90028.)

COME TO A PUBLIC MEETING!

GAY LIBERATION THROUGH SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Sunday January 29
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MIDEAST...

(Continued from page 1)

or who continued the fight to smash Zionism.

Despite Sadat's wholesale concessions to Israeli imperialism, his scheme does not satisfy the Israelis. Instead, Begin proposed a different version of "self-rule" for the West Bank.

Under Begin's plan, Israeli troops would remain on the West Bank for at least five years to preserve "public order." The Palestinians would be able to set up an Administrative Council to run local affairs under Israeli supervision. But they would have to give up their right to nationhood and choose between Israeli or Jordanian citizenship.

The Begin plan amounts to maintaining the West Bank as a Zionist colony. The Israelis and the Arab rulers would continue to round up the Palestinian militants and disarm the masses. Israeli settlers and industry would continue to move in to take over the economy. Even more than today, the Palestinians would be reduced to semi-slaves working for the Zionists at starvation wages.

Begin and Sadat have nearly identical plans for the West Bank. But they can't agree on how to dispose of the Palestinians' demand for their own homeland. The barriers to this agreement are the Palestinians and other Arab masses who support the Palestinians' struggle.

In 1948 the Zionists stole Palestine from the Palestinians to set up the

state of Israel. Since then the Palestinian liberation movement has been the heart of Arab resistance to Zionism.

Sadat's trip to Israel last November was a blatant sellout of the Palestinians. It amounted to open acceptance of the Zionist conquest of Palestine.

Palestinian militants are now calling on the Egyptian people to overthrow Sadat. For these reasons, other Arab rulers can't afford to come out openly in support of Sadat until he comes up with a deal they can sell to the Arab masses.

Sadat must pretend to support self-determination for the Palestinians on the West Bank. This is the only way he can justify his surrender to Zionism. If he doesn't come up with something that looks like a victory for the Palestinians, he may well be overthrown.

Begin faces a similar problem. The Zionist ruling class opposes self-determination or any other formula which recognizes even in words the existence of the Palestinian nation.

The Israeli ruling class will not be satisfied until it has crushed the Palestinians, and liquidated the "Palestinian question." As a result, it suspects anything which sounds like an independent Palestinian state, even one which would be an economic and political satellite of Israel. It correctly fears that this state might become a base for renewed Palestinian attacks against Zionist control of Palestine. So Begin cannot agree to any proposal that even implies the Palestinians are a nation and have national rights. Despite Sadat's concessions to Zionist imperialism, he hasn't gone far enough to suit the Israelis.

The U.S. imperialists want an imperialist peace which will prevent a new

war in the Middle East and keep the anti-Zionist Arab masses under control. As a result, Carter and the U.S. ruling class are trying to work out a compromise between Begin and Sadat.

Carter has come out against what he calls "a radical Palestinian state in the heart of the Middle East." But he realizes that the Arab rulers need an excuse for making peace with Israel. So he is pushing for a Palestinian "homeland," a mini-state administered by Jordan but actually under Israeli military and economic control.

It's not clear whether Carter and the U.S. imperialists can work out a deal which both the Zionists and the Arab rulers can accept. Even if they succeed, such an imperialist settlement

will not bring peace to the Middle East. The Palestinian people have shown that they will continue to fight for their homeland any way they can. As long as they do, the oppressed masses throughout the Arab world will continue to support them.

But the Palestinians cannot defeat Israel by themselves. They will have to call on the oppressed Arab masses throughout the Middle East to join them in a revolutionary struggle against Zionism and U.S. imperialism. Only the revolutionary mobilization of the workers and peasants of the entire region can smash the plots and counterplots of Sadat, Begin, and Carter. And only such a mobilization can smash Zionism and liberate all of Palestine.

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WORKERS—UNITE AGAINST NAZIS!

(Continued from page 1)

(a racist anti-busing outfit). They are trying to become the spearhead of the racists by moving into the city itself.

To further their goal of uniting all racists and right-wingers under their leadership, the Nazis are trying to build a broad coalition called the "White Confederacy." They use their bookstore as a clearing house for all kinds of racist and fascist filth. Besides Nazi literature and decorations, they push Ku Klux Klan sheets, Klan literature, and so on.

The Nazis are small today, but they represent a big danger for the future. As in Germany, they are starting out with isolated attacks against minority workers. As they gain strength, they will take on the whole labor movement. They will become a deadly threat to all workers, and to Black, Latin, Asian and other minority workers in particular.

To win the war against the Nazis in Detroit, more people have to get active with the RSL and WDC, and build on the good start we've made. Workers, youth, unemployed, and housewives must be drawn into the anti-Nazi fight.

The trade unions—the basic organizations of the working class—must be mobilized. In Detroit, workers must join the struggle of the Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee against Fraser and the rest of the union bureaucrats to get the United Auto Workers (UAW) to put this union's huge resources into the fight. There are hundreds of thousands of UAW members living and working in Detroit. Many are Black and Arab workers who see more clearly than anyone else the threat the Nazis and their racist alliance represents. We must fight to get the unions to orga-

Attica Brothers Fight Back

(Continued from page 7)

oners by those in the punishing business here in this capitalistic Concentration Kamp.

No amount of savagery or suppression will silence our protest to you, our comrades at large, the courts and all others supposedly concerned with the preservation and protection of human rights.

We therefore urge you Torch-La Antorcha, and all concerned to petition 1) the UN Committee on Human Rights to send observers; 2) Governor Carey to order an immediate halt of illegal and unconstitutional strip and rectal searches; and 3) State Senator Marino, Assembly people Gottfried and Runyon to include the Box in an unannounced tour of the Kamp.

You will not see the animals in these cages that the Smith regime has tried to depict us as. You will see and hear civilized human beings—the contradiction of his propaganda. A class action suit, Inmates of North Gallery vs. Smith 11-Civ-187, challenging conditions in this prison's maxi-maxi-isolated Box has been pending in U.S. district court in Buffalo, New York. We call upon you all to urge the court for an immediate ruling.

Oppressed Prisoners at Attica
Concentration Kamp, 1977
"Power to the People's Struggle"



Detroit pickets chant "Death to the Nazis" as cops protect racists.

nize workers' defense guards to protect all workers from the Nazis and drive them from the city.

Fighting groups of workers are only part of what is needed to beat back the Nazis. To destroy the racist threat once and for all, we have to build a revolutionary workers' movement.

Economic crisis throws middle class into panic

U.S. capitalism is falling apart. The growing economic crisis is throwing many white middle-class people and white workers into a state of confusion and panic.

For years, these white people swallowed every lie about the "American Way of Life" that the U.S. propaganda machine fed into them. They actually believed that the steady and good paying job, the house in the suburbs, the chance of getting the kids into college would last forever.

Now it's all going down fast and these people can't figure out what happened. They are resentful and angry at having to face unemployment and poverty. They feel like society has betrayed them.

Most of all, they are scared. They are scared of living in rotting neighborhoods. They are scared of the rising crime rate that comes with high unemployment. They are scared that they won't survive now that they are losing their privileges as part of "White Middle-Class America." And they are extremely scared of Black and Latin people because of the racist brainwashing they have gotten.

All of this leaves these whites wide open to the Nazi lies. The Nazis play on their fears and their feelings of

class and racial superiority over everyone else. The Nazis lie to them. They tell them that Blacks, Latins, and foreign-born workers are getting jobs that "belong to whites." They tell them that "Jewish bankers" are taking their money, and "Jewish communists" are "stirring up" the ghettos. The Nazis promise to make these whites a "master race" by enslaving everyone else.

To beat the Nazis, we have to strike at the conditions which breed them. People are being drawn to the Nazis because they see no other way out of this dying society. This is particularly the case with urban white youth, who are the Nazis' main source of support.

We have to give these white youth and other potential Nazi supporters a way to aim their hatred against their real enemy, the capitalist class. Against the Nazi program of "White

Power," which will turn white youth into tools of their own oppression, we have to put forward the power of the working class.

The working-class movement must begin a united struggle against the capitalists. We need to fight for better housing. We have to stop the government cutbacks in so-called welfare benefits, education, health care and other social services. We have to fight for jobs at union wages for all who need them—a struggle of special importance for winning over youth.

We have to get the trade unions to play a major role in leading and unifying these struggles. There are millions of working and oppressed people who would fight the capitalists if they could see a way to win. By getting the trade unions into action, we will have the power and organization we need to draw these people into a united mass movement.

Within the mass movement we have to build up the strength and influence of the revolutionary vanguard. We have to use the developing struggles to prepare more and more working people for the socialist revolution. Our struggle cannot be limited to reforms within the capitalist system. The masses of confused white middle-class and working people are not going to follow a movement that offers nothing more than half-way measures and temporary relief. They are looking for permanent change and an end to the capitalist crisis and the misery it brings.

To win these people over, we have to build a revolutionary workers' movement that is determined to fight the capitalists to the end and overthrow the capitalist system. This will get to the root of the problem. It will eliminate racism, oppression, and the dog-eat-dog mentality that capitalism breeds. And by putting the oppressed workers in charge of society it will eliminate the Nazi threat for good.

Free Abortions . . .

(Continued from page 3)

try to shore up their system. The recent law cutting back Medicaid abortions is part of this attack. But there is more here than saving money on taxes.

As the system falls apart, the capitalists look for ways to control the workers. There's always the police and the army. But the ruling class also wants to control the workers' minds. They want to beef up the influence of religion, the family, and the traditional (and reactionary) "moral virtues." The ruling class hopes that if the workers stay religious and tied to the family, they won't fight back. The attack on women's right to free abortions, like the attack on gays, is part of this ide-

logical attack on the people.

The ruling class doesn't have the right to decide whether a woman who has a child. No one has that right except the woman herself. Women, and particularly working-class women, must have the right to choose whether or not they want to be mothers. The whole working class has to fight for that right.

Babies are beautiful, but under capitalism having a baby can be a tragedy. We have to get rid of this system. Under socialism, all children will be taken care of. Women will have a real choice, and when a baby is born, it will be a joy.

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