

**PEOPLE OF
THE WORLD
UNITE TO
DEFEAT
IMPERIALISM**

THE CALL

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MINERS FIGHT FOR LIVES ENERGY PROFITS RISE

FIGHT GUN THUGS IN HARLAN COUNTY

Special to THE CALL

Harlan County, Kentucky—Once again, the Brookside, Kentucky mineworkers and their supporters have shown their determination to win a union contract.

On Thursday, February 28, state troopers escorted 5 scabs and some bosses into the mine after weeks of silence and refusal to negotiate. There were only six men on the picket line in compliance with the federal injunction. Other workers were engaged in a roving picket at Duke Power's Arjay mine. The roving picket was successful in getting sympathetic miners at Arjay to shut down operations and planned to continue one-day sympathy strikes at all mines selling coal to Duke.

The company thought it had caught the union's guard down at Brookside. They learned a painful lesson to the contrary, though. At afternoon shift change the scabs were greeted by 100 or so miners and around 200 of their supporters with open arms. The people's arms weren't open to hug them, however.

The mine guards (gun thugs) had their guns at the ready. When they began to wave them around, they were faced by women with sticks. The women held their sticks to their shoulders and pretended to fire showing the bosses just what they thought of such efforts to scare them. One woman shouted out 'Shoot if you dare, I ain't afraid to die.' Another declared that if she were afraid of being shot she wouldn't be there.

VIOLENCE IS COMMON IN HARLAN

Violence is commonplace in Harlan County, especially when you're talking about the coal operators. Miners and their families live under the constant threat of violent death in the guts of the earth and violent retaliation from the operators if they try to organize. The Brookside miners know this first hand and have determined to stand up against it.

The "yellow bellies" who tried to scab were quickly taught that guns and state cops couldn't protect their hides. They were eventually let loose and crawled off to lick their wounds. They won't soon return.

State Trooper Captain Cromer was on the receiving end of an education that day as well. He grabbed one of the members of the Brookside Women's Club from behind in an attempt to pull her from the line. He suddenly discovered he was in the wrong place and couldn't let go. His uniform became meaningless beside his attempts to break the picket line. He was just another scab and was treated in the same manner.

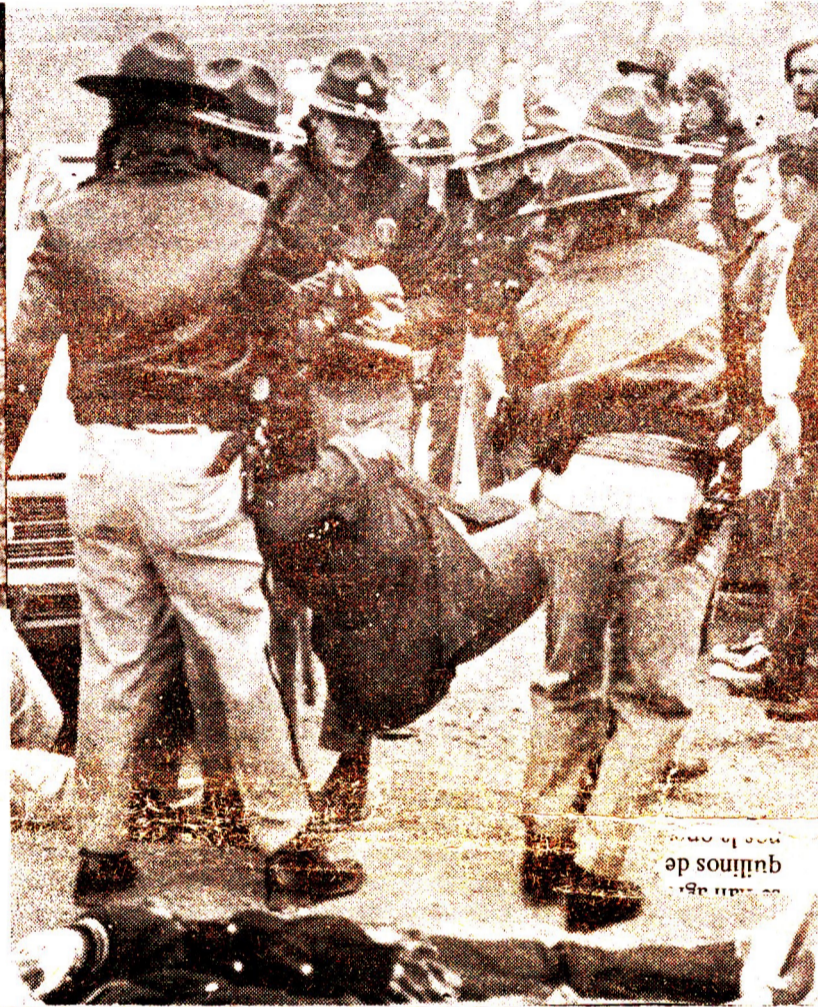
Warrants have been issued for the leading members of the women's club and several miners for disorderly conduct, contempt of court and a variety of other such charges. A warrant was also sworn out by the strikers against Captain Cromer for bumping a striker with his car at the line. The men had to go above the county level to go get this warrant and it will be hard to enforce. In the meantime, the law is unsuccessfully trying to use the warrants to keep people away from the strike. The day was one of victory for the strikers. At the writing of this article no more attempts have been made to bring scabs in.

Eastover Mining, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Duke Power, has not resumed negotiations yet. Norman Yarrowrough, Eastover's president, is notorious for his fanatic anti-unionism. He has worked with several other coal companies and turmoil has followed him everywhere. He reaches far back into the bag of repressive and oppressive coal company tradition. His guns, which he openly acknowledges hiring, have failed repeatedly to intimidate the people. He recently ordered the water to the Brookside camp cut off and threatened to cut off the electricity. Threats of eviction and destruction of the camp are being

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THEN AND NOW—Miners in Harlan County, Kentucky have faced company hired gun thugs for 40 years.



MINERS OUT IN WEST VIRGINIA

(SEE P. 10)

SAN FRANCISCO CITY WORKERS POINT THE WAY

San Francisco, California—In an unprecedented display of strength and unity, fifteen thousand municipal workers went on strike March 8, against their boss—the City and County of San Francisco, forcing city officials to throw in the towel after a nine-day walkout. The entire life of San Francisco—all the essential services—were shut down in the strike, with nearly all of the city's major unions in support, thus shattering once and for all the myth that city workers can never get together.

Members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) voted 750 to 241 to accept the agreement which gave them each a \$600 a year raise plus a dental plan. This was nearly twice as large as the first offer of a 5 per cent raise the Board of Supervisors made before the strike. The

workers agreed to settle when the supervisors agreed to across-the-board raises instead of percentage increases which would have favored the higher-paid workers.

The strike involved four locals of the SEIU which represents thousands of hospital workers, clerks, welfare and social workers, and custodial workers employed by the city. A key factor in shutting down the city and winning the strike was the fact that thousands more workers in public transportation, at the airport, Teamsters, longshoremen and teachers supported the strike by refusing to cross the picket lines. This is a living testament to the working class unity that was built in this strike—unity the likes of which has not been seen in this city since the General Strike of 1934. This unity was able to defeat all attempts by the press, the courts, and government and business leaders to split the workers and crush the strike.

The strike was initially scheduled to begin at midnight Wednesday, March 6, but at the last minute there was a feverish attempt to postpone the strike for 24 hours. This attempt was instigated by Mayor Alioto, a Democratic candidate for the governorship of California, and his political cronies inside the labor movement—represented by leaders in the building trades locals and bureaucrats on the San Francisco Labor Council. However, their ploy never succeeded as thousands of workers ignored these pleas for delay and hit the picket lines at midnight sharp. As one striker put it, "I think we surprised everybody. We shocked the hell out of the mayor and the supervisors, and we even surprised the union leaders."

Within hours after the walkout began, most city services were either closed completely or severely crippled. The city wide strike intensified the next day when the Labor Council strike sanction became official, and as members of other unions honored the SEIU picket lines.

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**SECCION
EN ESPAÑOL**

People in Struggle

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DUMP NIXON MARCHES CONTINUE TO GROW

Three thousand angry demonstrators greeted Nixon's first visit to a northern city in over a year. Speaking to the "Executives Club" in Chicago's plush Conrad Hilton Hotel, the marchers outside shouted "Nixon must go," "We want Nixon with a rope around his neck" and "Jail to the Chief." Late in the afternoon, the remaining 300 demonstrators ran to boo the President, as he tried to sneak out a side entrance.

The demonstration was sponsored by a coalition of Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization, the National Lawyers Guild, the Student Impeach Nixon Committee (mainly based at Chicago's Circle Campus), Youth Against War and Fascism, and the October League. Most of the marchers were students, but several suburban impeachment groups were present and people came from as far away as Ann Arbor, Michigan.

While inside the Executives Club, Nixon talked of "Saving the Presidency" and the necessity "to be tough in the face of challenges," the demonstrators outside called on Nixon to surrender and come out with his hands up. The visit showed clearly that in Chicago, Nixon can only talk to a handful of imperialists and that the great majority of Chicagoans and Midwesterners only want Nixon "with a rope around his neck."

Tampa, Fla.—Bay Area Citizens Opposed to Nixon, (BACON) called a demonstration in response to the overall attack on the people instituted through the Nixon administration.

Food and fuel price increases; spying on individuals; cut-backs in programs for the poor and unemployment were issues raised in the call for the demonstration. Groups participating included the United Farmworkers Support Committee, African Peoples' Socialist Party, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, and the October League.

The demonstration was called on the day Vice President Gerald Ford visited Tampa to rally support for the floundering administration. 100 people marched outside the University of Tampa while a \$200-a-plate dinner was going on inside where Ford lashed out against the democratic rights of the people.

Chanting "Dump Nixon, Stop Ford, No More Years," the pickets marched for several hours.

PROF JAILED IN BOMBING FRAME-UP

Portland, Ore.—Frank Giese, professor of French at Portland State University, and long-time radical activist in Portland, was arrested last month on a six-count charge in connection with the January 1973 bombing of two military recruiting stations. Bail was initially set at \$75,000. Four other individuals, including James Cronin, a Portland State University student, were also charged in the indictment.

In an interview with the Scribe, a Portland paper, Geise explained that he had been a prime mover in opening the "Radical Education Project" bookstore and had sent books to prisoners in the Oregon prison system. By invitation of the prison authorities and the Catholic Chaplain, he had been counseling a group of prisoners. He told the Scribe, "When the bombings took place in Jan. 1973, I knew most of the people accused of being involved...I was ready to be set up as the 'mastermind.' I say that tongue in cheek, because I was not that at all."

As Prof. Giese sums up the situation, "It is clear now that the government's own position is becoming obvious to most people who may begin to question the system itself. Therefore the arrest of individuals under the conspiracy law, hopefully, will deflect people's thinking from their real problems which are: high prices, low wages, unemployment, shortages of necessities, racism and the government's continuation of its disastrous policies in Indochina."

For more information, write: Giese & Cronin Defense Comm. K. House, Portland State Univ., Portland, Oregon.

DENVER CRUSADE RALLY COMMEMORATES MASSACRE

Denver, Colo., March 17—Amid rumors that there would be a repeat of last year's St. Patrick's Day Massacre, during which the Denver Police murdered one member of the Crusade for Justice, 1,500 people marched in a Day of Solidarity With the Chicano Movement and Against Political Repression.

One year ago a shoot-out occurred between the Denver Police and members of the Crusade for Justice. The results of the police attack were the mass arrest of 33 people, the destruction of 2 units of a Crusade-owned apartment building by police explosives, the shooting of 3 Chicanos (including a 16 year old girl), and the murder of Luis "Junior" Martinez. One Crusade member has been framed on 3 counts of first degree assault and has been given an indeterminate sentence of up to 15 years. The police have gotten off scot free.



DENVER CRUSADE RALLY— Hundreds listen to speakers at Capitol building condemn last year's police shooting of young Chicanos. (Call Photo)

Six different contingents marched through the Chicano and working class barrios and converged on the steps of the capitol building. Delegations also came from throughout the West and Southwest. Letters, messages and, in many cases, speakers came in support of the Day of Solidarity. Cesar Chavez, Los Tres del Barrio, Puerto Rican Socialist Party, C.A.S.A., National Lawyers Guild, Hortensia Allende, William Kunstler, Russell Means and dozens of other individuals and organizations, both national and international, gave support. Locally, the Crusade worked with numerous anti-imperialist groups.

In a taped message that was played to the audience, Sra. Allende said that "demonstrations of solidarity such as this one are a tremendous stimulus and inspiration to all of us in our struggle for liberation against fascism." Corky Gonzalez pointed out that political repression was the logical outcome of a decaying society. Other speakers stressed that when the government is faced with the organized outrage of the people against the corruption of the profit-hungry ruling class, repression is its only answer. This is especially true when the ruling class of the U.S. is no longer able to buy the silence of its own people with the profits it has stolen from the poorer countries. It is for this reason, said Ramon Arbona, of the PSP, that both here and abroad we can "direct our main struggle against a common enemy—capitalism and U.S. imperialism."

BLACK LIBERATION FORCES MEET IN NEW YORK

New York, N.Y.—Nearly 750 people attended a day-long conference here February 23, called by the Black Workers Congress (BWC) and the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization (PRRWO) to discuss differing views on the future direction and politics of the Black Liberation struggle.

Speeches given by BWC Chairman Mike Hamlin and RRRWO pointed to a marked change and nos la opa of both groups' positions on two fundamental questions: 1) the national character of the Afro-American people's struggle and 2) the central task of communists in the present period.

Regarding the first question, Hamlin, in the conference's keynote speech, pointed to the fact that the Afro-American struggle was inseparably bound up with the overall class struggle and the fight for socialism. At the same time, however, Hamlin pointed out the demand for the right of self-determination plays a key role in forging the unity of the working class. An important development in the line of BWC could be seen when Hamlin addressed himself to the question of the historic homeland of the Afro-American people. He said that if the Black struggle did lead to the exercise of the right of secession (or separation) it would be in the Black Belt South, which was the area of national development during the slavery and reconstruction periods.

Perez, speaking on the second question, asserted that the central task of communists in the U.S. was to build a new communist party. This represents a break with PRRWO's previous view which relegated the building of a new party to second place.

The conference was attended by a majority of Black and Puerto Rican students although a substantial number of workers were in attendance. Aside from the speeches, workshops were held on the workers movement, student and youth struggles and the national liberation movements.

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S.F. CITY WORKERS POINT WAY . . .

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



BLOCKING THE BUSES— Security cops can't move striking San Francisco City workers from stopping city buses. This strike ended in a tremendous victory as broad unity and militant struggle of the workers proved too much for the government. City workers relied on their own unity rather the promises of the city and the union leadership. Popular opinion was so strongly in favor of the strikers that Mayor Alioto was afraid to follow the court order which called for arrests of strikers. (Call Photo)

STELLA WRIGHT TENANTS ON FOUR - YEAR RENT STRIKE

Newark, New Jersey—For the past four years, the tenants at the Stella Wright Projects in this city have been on a rent strike. The strike is being directed against the Newark Housing Authority (NHA), headed by Robert Notte, who has refused to even negotiate with the tenants since the strike began.

Instead, the NHA has "punished the tenants" by letting the buildings deteriorate even more. The 700 striking families are all Black and mostly low-income workers, welfare mothers and children. They began the strike to fight the unsanitary, unsafe conditions.

But on February 5, the NHA announced that they were closing the project and cutting off all services this month due to "financial difficulties." The 300 families who have continued to pay rent will be relocated into other slum projects while the 700 striking families will be left to survive the best they can, written off because, as the tenants say, "we are poor and Black."

PROJECTS TAKE OVER

In response to the shutdown of the projects, the 700 families have organized themselves into the Stella Wright Tenants Organization and have taken over the operation of the projects themselves. As one tenant said, "There are no houses out there where we can go, because we're poor." "I got 5 children. . . how am I going to find a place?" "We're not going nowhere. Stella Wright is ours." Relocation is no solution anyway, because the other public projects in Newark are just as bad or worse. One tenant summed it up, "I think we can run it and it'll be in better condition than what it is today. It'll never be better even if we do start paying rent unless we control it ourselves."

What are the conditions that caused 700 families at Stella Wright to join the rent strike under threat of eviction and shutdown?

First of all, crime in the projects is very high, and instead of getting police protection, the people get only police harassment.

Although the buildings are high-rise, the elevators almost never work. "You have to walk up 12 floors with groceries . . . and the heart can't take it. And there's a lot of old people. . . And some of them don't even go out because they know they've got to walk back up with laundry or groceries. They're just shut right up in there, they can't go nowhere. Just like a prison. My mother died in these projects because she had to walk up them 12 floors and when she got up there, she died. She had a heart condition."

Inside the apartments there is often no heat or electricity. "They didn't fix anything when we were paying rent. The same pipes that were broken when I moved in are still broken. Water's leaking in the bathroom. I had water damage 2 or 3 times. They *did* fix my sink when it almost fell on one of my children. But in the bathroom, where the faucets are, all that's coming loose; they come and plastered it up twice, and it's still coming loose. And up over the toilet, sooner or later that's going to cave in on somebody's head. And the bathroom smells like a sewer. I got a radiator in the back room where my boys sleep that's been leaking over 3 years—they haven't fixed that yet."

One complaint, by even the children, is the garbage and dirt. There are huge rats running across the playground, and mice and roaches in the buildings. Janitors and repairmen are brought in from outside, although there are many

unemployed within the community who could do the jobs. The outsiders don't care about the project.

The teenage boys who live there say the janitors make them clean up the garbage. Since the rent strike, it's gotten even worse. One former janitor who *does* live in the building said that the central office told him, "To hell with the Tenants Association. They ain't paying no rent, so let them drop dead."

The teenagers who live there say that "kids don't have any place to go—no recreation centers or nothing. Just out there a basketball court, and what's a basketball court going to do you in the wintertime?" The project is surrounded by vacant lots and abandoned buildings—eleven high-rise buildings stuck in the middle of nowhere.

It's difficult and dangerous for friends and relatives to come visit because of the high crime rate and because the elevators never work. This isolates the people even more. One woman said "It's like being stuck off in a jungle like animals."

Out of these conditions, the tenants came together to confront the Newark Housing Administration. The leader of the rent strike, Toby Henry, tells how they organized themselves:

It's taken us 4 years to organize the way we are now. Black folks, poor folks have been taught to mistrust each other, not to get together. As a matter of fact, there's no place on the entire project large enough for all the tenants to meet in. It was planned that way for tenants not to get together. But we survived all that. We came together anyway.

In 1970, some tenants felt the necessity to have some kind of organization to confront the management with the problems. . . Out of the people's determination to do something, some of the folks like myself volunteered to do whatever was necessary to bring about an organization, so we came knocking on apartment doors and we began to have meetings in individual apartments. We had no fliers, we didn't have a phone either. All we did was schedule meetings every night for about 4 months in as many people's apartments as possible, and that's where it started from. And eventually we broke this door open and took it (the office) just like we took the project, and we held meetings every Wednesday night. . . In the beginning it was only a few people. . . I remember sitting in this here room with only 3 people coming in. It's only out of struggle and the crises that have arisen in the past year that we get the crowd we have today. We've been having these crowds for the past 6 months. Now it's becoming a problem of finding another place to meet."

About a year ago, tenants formed 9 committees to make life in the projects better, and also to attack the whole system of poverty—the school system, community health facilities, etc. They have a Senior Citizens Committee, a Youth Council for the 3,000 people from ages 1-20, a Health Committee, an Anti-Drug-Force Committee which has been quite successful in driving out the drug pushers, and a Community Affairs Committee to bring culture and recreation into the community.

Everyone is participating to make Stella Wright a good place to live. At a press conference, the people spontaneously broke out singing "We Shall Overcome". There was

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By Friday, the Municipal Railway, the city's sewage treatment plants, and both city hospitals were shut down. The hospitals maintained a skeleton staff, but all non-emergency services were halted.

The strike also forced the closing of the public library system, the golf courses, museums, and the zoo. Performances of the San Francisco Symphony and the American Ballet Theater were cancelled at the Opera House where musicians refused to cross the picket lines.

San Francisco's 130 public schools were also disrupted, as most of the city's 5,000 teachers joined the SEIU picket lines prior to the vote on Friday afternoon by the teachers to stage their own strike. Officials tried to keep classes going but ran into trouble when school bus drivers honored the teachers' picket lines. There was a pleasant surprise for all citizens when they found no parking tickets were being issued due to the fact that the city's meter maids joined the strike.

The strike reached San Francisco International Airport on Sunday, as drivers of taxis and airport buses refused to cross the lines to pick up passengers.

Then on Monday the strike hit the Bay Area Rapid Transit system (BART) and all city service was halted. In the next few days, all other forms of public transportation went out, and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union said that dockworkers would honor the strike. The chamber of Commerce estimated business losses at \$20 million a day.

MILLIONAIRES BADLY HURT

The millionaires of San Francisco, badly hurt in the pocket book by the strike, used every means possible to smash it. The press carried a massive propaganda display of anti-striker articles trying to make it appear as if the workers were heartless beasts for shutting down public services.

For the first time in anyone's memory, the millionaires suddenly became concerned about the city's hospital patients. Finally, in desperation, the Chamber of Commerce got an injunction from a superior court judge forbidding picketing at any city facility.

Mayor Alioto, who has tried to pass himself off as a "friend of labor" especially in this, an election year, was supposed to have strikers arrested when they ignored the injunction and laid down in front of buses crossing the Bay Bridge. But Alioto refused to order arrests, fearing the overwhelming sentiment in favor of the city workers.

Trying to rally public opinion against the strike and the shutdown of city services, Supervisor Dianne Feinstein made a brief appearance at the county hospital. Supervisor Feinstein, who gathered television crews to record her good deed, was shown making a bed on the evening news. Commenting on the supervisor's actions, one irate hospital worker declared, "She's a scab!"

Even with all the political influence that the mayor and other politicians have within the S.F. Labor Council, there were two factors which helped to insure that the strike would continue until victory. The first was the fact that a rank-and-file negotiating team was elected to represent all the workers and each of the locals involved. So instead of having to depend on the Labor Council leaders to uphold their interests, the striking workers were able to include rank-and-file people as insurance that their wishes would be carried out.

The second factor was an agreement reached between the Labor Council and the strikers that there would be no going back to work without an actual settlement. This was very important as workers in the past had gone back to work under the promise of a settlement only to receive nothing. The workers were making sure that there would be no sell-out this time.

The city workers' strike in San Francisco was a great example of militancy and unity in the face of the worsening economic crisis in this country. In spite of the fact that strikes by city employees are illegal in California, and disproving the notion that such strikes never win, the San Francisco city workers have shown the way for municipal employees throughout the country.



POLICE RIOT AT FOOD GIVEAWAY

Oakland, California—In the wake of the kidnapping of Patricia Hearst and the press campaign to stir up racial hysteria (see March *CALL*), the police have drastically increased their repression in the minority communities of the Bay Area.

In the Black community of East Oakland, this stepped-up repression took the form of a police riot in which scores of people were beaten and arrested. This attack occurred on the first day of the "People in Need" program, the food giveaway plan demanded by the Symbionese Liberation Army that was supposed to have fed 20,000 people on that day. Thousands of hungry people had been standing in line since before sunrise, waiting for food that never arrived in any quantity. When the people expressed their anger, hundreds of police moved in, clubbing to the ground and arresting anybody they could get their hands on.

POLICE BRUTALITY

One Black worker told *THE CALL* how he had been arrested while just standing on the street: "The police were marching down the street expecting people to run. But I wasn't going to run from the police!" While in jail, he saw many people who had been beaten but were denied medical treatment. One pregnant young woman was beaten and kicked so severely that she had a miscarriage right there in the jail. As usually happens in cases of police brutality, most of those arrested that day were charged with "assaulting a police officer."

Later that same week in San Francisco's Mission district a mostly Latino community, police invaded a local park—supposedly to break up a fight—and beat up several Latino youths. The police never explained why it was necessary for over 25 cops to attack a crowd of innocent people in order to stop a fight. Proof that this was an out-and-out racist attack came from several minority members of the Police Officers for Justice. These policemen told the press that they had witnessed their fellow policemen beating the youths arrested in the park incident while they were handcuffed! They called for an official investigation of the incident.

The counter-revolutionary tactics used by the SLA in the Hearst kidnapping have only served to win sympathy for the capitalists in the eyes of many, but it could not help but expose the fact that thousands of people in the

city are going without enough food to feed their families. Furthermore, it was shown that there were so many hungry citizens that Hearst's millions would only contribute \$70 in low-quality food to each one of them.

It is for this reason that the government has given the go-ahead for an all-out attack on the poor and especially the Black people of Oakland, who are now accused of not "really being in need" or of being "accomplices to the kidnapping" for taking the food.

This open contempt and disregard for the lives of poor and working people finds an open voice in Governor Ronald Reagan, who commented, "It's just too bad we can't have an epidemic of botulism," in reference to persons accepting food under the terms of Patricia Hearst's kidnappers' demands. With attitudes like this on the part of the

rich and powerful of the state, the police are being given the go-ahead for open fascist attacks.

Meanwhile, the Committee for Justice for Tyrone Guyton continues to mobilize community support behind Tyrone's family and push for the indictment of the policemen responsible for the murder of the 14-year-old youth.

More than 13,000 signatures have been collected in Alameda County calling for the District Attorney to bring murder charges against the three racist cops. Petitions are being circulated and a mass rally is planned for late May, because the community is determined to put a stop to these racist attacks. As a speaker at a recent rally put it, "Too many young Black boys have been killed, let's make sure this is the last time it happens."



RACIST KILLING—Speaker at Tyrone Guyton rally calls for police murderers to be brought to justice. Tyrone, a 14-year-old Black youth, was shot down in cold blood. A Committee for Justice has been formed. (Call Photo)

NO TEARS SHED FOR CAPITALISTS OVER HEARST KIDNAPPING

Bay Area—The kidnapping of Patricia Hearst by the Symbionese Liberation Army has elicited varying responses from the organized left in the Bay Area. A number of groups were named in an SLA communique to help oversee distribution of the free food which is supposed to represent the ransom for Patricia Hearst. All of these groups without exception have stated that they are not part of the SLA.

UNSOLICITED USE OF ORGANIZATIONS

Some of the organizations named, however, including National Welfare Rights Organization, American Indian Movement and the United Prisoners Union (UPU) felt obliged to help with the distribution. But Popeye Jackson of the UPU appeared on a channel 5 TV show to make it clear that he didn't appreciate being put in such a position. He stated that the UPU and the other groups named in the communique were being used by the Hearsts, as well as by the SLA. He pointed out that especially the UPU, because it is an organization of ex-prisoners, would be subject to increased police surveillance as a result of this unwanted notoriety.

In contrast to Jackson's stand, Huey Newton, of the Black Panther Party, wrote a letter to the Hearst family, offering to take full responsibility for the distribution of the food, "in exchange for one life, the life of Patricia Hearst." The letter stated, "Patricia Hearst is in danger. In the past, we, the Black Panther Party, have attempted to help the U.S. corporate interests avoid bearing such a yoke, by asking and imploring your help for the people's survival. Toward this end, we ourselves gave away in 1973 alone, over \$154,000 of free food to poor people, in order to forestall what has presently happened."

When the Panther's offer was ignored, and the disorganization of the first food give-away resulted in a police riot, Bobby Seale stated that the whole situation had been "set-up," because "the masses of people are ready to use the ballot as a means to organize against the corrupt power structure." According to Seale, the solution to the explosive situation in the Black community is "to surround the power structure with massive numbers of votes and transform those racist operations of the police department and city government out of existence."

Several progressive newspapers were also named to be part of the group which was to oversee the food give-away. These included: Ang Katipunan, the newspaper of the Union of Democratic Filipinos; and Getting Together, an

anti-imperialist newspaper published in the Chinese community. Both of these papers declined to participate in any of the SLA's demands, and published strong statements which put the main blame for violence and terrorism on the ruling class. These statements, however, as well as editorials in *New Dawn*, (a progressive newspaper in the Japanese community), the *Bay Area Worker*, and a statement by the October League, were totally ignored by the bourgeois press, because they clarified, instead of obscured, the contradictions which face the masses of

people. "The role of revolutionaries now is not to go underground," stated an editorial in *New Dawn*, "but to go deeply amongst the American people, building mass movements, organizing the people into a force capable of the immense tasks ahead."

While the press has continued to devote huge headlines to every rumor and scare story that is leaked by the FBI, the only anti-SLA statement from the "left" that has reached the readers of the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*, are those by the CPUSA representative, Angela Davis, and others who have jumped at the chance to condemn "terrorist tactics and violence" because they "alienate the masses." An editorial in the *People's World* (West Coast weekly of the CPUSA) entitled "Racism—A Specter Haunts the Bay," puts the main blame for the "dangerous and ominous" situation on "racism," letting the Hearsts and the ruling class totally off the hook!

RIGHT-WINGERS LAUNCH LYING ATTACK

Atlanta, Georgia—The kidnapping of Atlanta Constitution editor Reg Murphy opened up a Pandora's box of verbal attacks on the left and communist movement, even though the kidnapping was carried out by self-proclaimed "revolutionaries" of the right.

Despite the kidnappers' claim that they were members of the "American Revolutionary Army" who were carrying out the abduction of Murphy in order to silence the "liberal, leftist press and government," the most reactionary elements within the government tried to pin the action on the left.

Representative Richard Ichord, chairman of the House Internal Security Committee (formerly HUAC), appeared on national television after the kidnapping to single out the October League for attack. He went into details about the origins of the O.L. and its chairman Michael Klonsky. He also mentioned the Progressive Labor Party and "Black extremist groups" as being among the possible kidnappers.

Segregationist Lt. Gov. Lester Maddox even went so far as to charge that the kidnapping was the work of "left-wingers who were trying to discredit the right."

Sections of the press also took up the witch hunt. TV newsman Andy Hiller admitted that the kidnappers' statements made them sound like right-wingers. But, said Hiller, it was well-known that right-wing groups do not ordin-

arily resort to violence; therefore, Murphy's kidnappers must be left-wingers.

In view of the South's legacy of racist, right-wing violence in the form of Klan lynch mobs, White Knights, nightriders and vigilantes—statements such as Hiller's cannot be written off as mere ignorance. (Only about two weeks after Hiller's statement, the Georgia Ku Klux Klan, in white robes and hoods, marched around the state Capitol building to attack the unveiling of a portrait of the late Dr. Martin Luther King.)

The Great Speckled Bird, a progressive Atlanta newspaper, reported receiving a number of inquiries about the kidnapping from national news media sources. "As the day wore on," the Bird wrote, "it became increasingly apparent that someone in Washington or New York was spreading rumors about the American Revolutionary Army. At least six reporters told us that afternoon, 'we are going on the assumption that this is a Black radical group.'" (The suburban couple arrested shortly after Murphy's release and charged with the kidnapping are both white.)

Because the October League has made its views on kidnapping and terrorism clear on several occasions, we cannot take these charges seriously on their face value enough to warrant a response. However, it should be clear to all that Ichord, Maddox and the rest of the reactionary forces within the government and media in this country are preparing the way for violent attacks directed against the working class, minority and other progressive organizations. The various kidnappings have provided them with a diversion with which to try and take the heat off themselves and redirect it towards the peoples' movements and organizations.

We will never be intimidated by such anti-communist blustering and in fact will take their charges as a compliment for some positive work which obviously has made them sit up and take notice.

HIGH SCHOOL WALK-OUT HITS RACISM IN EL PASO

El Paso, Texas—In the first month of the present (1973-74) school year, approximately 150 students walked out of Ysleta High School in protest of a number of long standing problems. This walkout followed two walkouts the preceding academic year which were essentially addressed to the same problems. This year's action was provoked by several instances of the continued insensitivity of the school faculty and administration to the special needs of Spanish-speaking students. Deficiencies in the delivery of educational services to the Spanish-speaking students of El Paso County are common knowledge and have been documented by Dr. Thomas Carter, of the University of Texas at El Paso, in his report entitled: "Mexican-American: An Educational Dilemma-1971."

All of the of the three walkouts have centered around the following six basic demands: 1) A Chicano Cultural heritage library, 2) Bilingual and Bicultural teachers, 3) An advisory student committee, 4) The discharge of several teachers who repeatedly continue to make racial slurs to Mexican-American students in their respective classes, 5) Approval of a cultural heritage Chicano on-campus club, and 6) An affirmative action plan toward a bi-cultural school system.

There was only a half-hearted effort on the part of the school administration to act upon the problems pointed

out by the demands of the previous walkouts. The only action taken toward meeting the demands has been: 1) Only 30 books were purchased for the Mexican-American Culture course of 130 students. 2) Chicano Club has still not been approved. A Mexican American Club exists, but the most active members of the club have been suspended from school. 3) The racist principal and teachers still have not been discharged. Following a fight between Chicanos and Anglos on September 11, 1973, parents of the Anglo students also requested the release of the principal and teachers due to their lack of leadership abilities. 4) The school feels they have implemented the library. The students, however, feel they have not. The books presently on the shelves suffer from poverty of matter, interest and relevancy. Someone has ironically included three books of the Texas Rangers and Rosa's Cook Book. 5) The three day sensitivity session was held for one day, but teachers continue to make racial remarks.

During last year's walkouts, both students and parents organized themselves and participated in negotiations in good faith with school administrators. It was their aim to try to implement a bicultural education system at Ysleta to reflect the needs of this bicultural community. Up to now, all their efforts have been in vain. Their ef-

RALLY PROTESTS JAPAN-TOWN EVICTIONS

San Francisco, California—About 200 residents of Nihonmachi (Japan town) here attended a rally March 10 to protest the demolition of housing in their community. The rally was held by CANE, a grass-roots organization formed over a year ago to fight redevelopment plans to turn their community into a "tourist showcase" for big business in San Francisco.

The city planners and the multi-national corporations would like to see San Francisco become the "Wall Street of the West" and a center for trade with Asia. With this in mind, they have planned to build hotels and fancy shops in Nihonmachi to attract tourism and the business conventions. Already the Kintetsu corporation of Japan controls nearly a quarter of the land in the community, including the huge Japan Trade Center.

CANE (the Committee Against Evictions in Nihonmachi) says that this redevelopment is an attack on the integrity of the Japanese community, by its destruction of low-cost housing and mass evictions. Many residents and small businesses have been forced to leave Nihonmachi because of the lack of housing and higher tax zoning.

Redevelopment began in Nihonmachi in 1958, when over 1000 residents were evicted for the construction of the Trade Center alone. Since then no new low-cost housing has been built. Residents grew especially angry when buildings often remained empty and lots vacant for years after people were evicted and buildings were torn down.

In early 1973 a new wave of redevelopment was begun,

with eviction notices to 33 families and 6 businesses. A meeting of Nihonmachi residents was held to discuss the evictions and redevelopment. Many of the older residents spoke of their experiences in the concentration camps in World War II, and how redevelopment was a further attack on Japanese-Americans in Nihonmachi. From this CANE was formed, to protect the interests of the community as well as the rights of residents and small businesses.

CANE informed residents of their rights relating to redevelopment, and challenged evictions in court. They began working with a committee of Japanese-American churches to try to get housing for elderly Nihonmachi citizens. CANE made a presentation to the federal Commission on Civil Rights on the negligences and abuses by the city's Redevelopment Agency.

In December CANE packed a Board of Permit Appeals meeting to oppose the construction of the Kintetsu Sunflower Hotel; presenting a petition with over 2,000 signatures supporting CANE and opposing the new building. CANE returned to the Board in February, but their appeal was turned down.

In spite of setbacks, support for CANE has grown among all sections of the community, as well as from other groups opposed to redevelopment plans in the Bay Area. The large turnout at the rally March 10 reflected the growth of CANE as an on-going organization fighting for the needs of the Japanese-American community in San Francisco.

TERROR CAN'T SILENCE CLARIDAD'S VOICE

Five people, including two members of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) and three innocent bystanders were injured March 16 when a car filled with right-wing terrorists passed by the offices of Claridad newspaper and the Impresora Nacional (where Claridad is printed) in a suburb of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and opened fire.

The incidents began at about 10 p.m. when the attackers tried to plant an explosive device at the Impresora Nacional. The attempt was frustrated by the presence of PSP members who were on guard surrounding the printing plant.

An hour later, the attackers returned and shot and wounded Manuel J. Gonzalez and Domingo Vega, who had gone to the printing plant after learning of the first incident. Gonzalez was hit in the shoulder and Vega suffered perforation of the urethra. Vega underwent emergency operation, and remained in critical condition.

In the attack on the newspaper offices, three men from the neighborhood where Claridad has its offices were hit in different parts of the body and taken to the Medical Center in serious condition. Witnesses said that four police patrol cars were stationed in a gasoline station across from the Impresora Nacional during the attack but did nothing. Cases of M-16 bullets were found outside both the Impresora Nacional and the Claridad offices. M-16 rifles are only carried by the National Guard and the Island Police.

An investigation by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party has revealed that one of the armed terrorists, wounded at the Impresora Nacional, and now hospitalized, is an employee of the San Juan City Administration.

The terrorist, Jose Felipe Diaz Ortiz, is a known agent of the CIA and, as a former member of the ROTC at the University of Puerto Rico, led various repressive actions against university students there.

According to Pigna Sanchez, PSP Press Secretary, "this is just one more in a whole series of violent incidents instigated by the Puerto Rican and U.S. Governments to destroy the PSP and the whole independence movement. There have been more than two hundred of these during recent years."

She pointed out that in New York City, both the police and the newspapers have recently attempted to defame the party.

Sánchez noted that a few weeks ago, the Spanish-language newspaper El Diario-La Prensa published a front page headline; attempting to link the PSP to the Hearst kidnapping. In addition, she said, the New York Police Department recently arrested the Puerto Rican Socialist Party militant, Ismael Barreto, and insinuated that he had been attempting to assassinate Hortensia Bussi de Allende. Barreto, said said, formed part of the welcoming committee for Mrs. Allende during her recent visit to the United Nations.

"During Barreto's arrest," said Sánchez, "it also came to light that CIC, the secret police of Puerto Rico, were part of the police force who arrested the PSP militant."

In New York, a demonstration was held on March 19 in front of the Sperry Rand building to protest the latest wave of repression unleashed against the growing independence movement on the island. Over 200 people carried signs and chanted militantly "U.S. Out of Puerto Rico Now"; "Stop Political Repression Now"; and "Muerte al Imperialismo". as they picketed the building. Andres Torres and Juan Ortero of the PSP spoke and pointed out

forts toward mutual understanding have been thwarted by a continuation of racist incidents in the classrooms and on school property. The following are several documented incidents that have occurred: a) A Chicano student was chased down a school hallway by two teachers who tried to beat him. b) A student's club jacket was stripped from him by the principal and torn. c) Chicanos have been suspended continuously for fighting with Anglos while Anglos are only issued a warning.

The action taken by Ysleta School administrators towards the boycotting of students included the following: a) Students were illegally suspended because of inadequacies in the due process. b) Several students were threatened by El Paso policemen patrolling the campus during the week of September 12-20, 1973. c) Pressure is being applied to so-called "trouble-makers" to completely withdraw from school without due process of a hearing. Four students have been targeted for this tactic by school administrators. d) Pressure is also being applied to certain students to enroll in vocational manpower-type programs not connected with the school district. and 4) Students have been pressured to sign statements denying any grievances against the school.

POOR STUDENTS EXPELLED

The students suspended and expelled as a result of the latest walkout were not permitted to transfer to another public school. 95 per cent of the students involved in this latest walkout are below the federal poverty guide-lines and cannot afford to attend a private school. The general feeling among the students is something of relief at not being allowed to return to school. They feel that there is very little for them to gain at Ysleta High School. Three students did ask for a readmission hearing. They were: Ernesto and Lorenzo Reyes and Wally Apodaca. These three students went through a long period of waiting before a hearing was granted to them. The suspensions were done in September and the hearing was granted in January. The hearings lasted a period of seven weeks. Teachers contradicted themselves time after time. Many of them had to finally admit that there was "something wrong" with the educational system. The results of these hearings were given on the 25th of February, they were that Lorenzo and Wally would be accepted back in school, but that they could not accept Ernesto because "he did not have the ability to learn." We very well know that they are not equipped to decide who has or does not have "the ability to learn." They are only school board members.

For the rest of the students at Ysleta High School, this struggle is providing them with a more relevant education then they are getting in the classroom. It is an education in how the Chicano people in the Southwest can finally win their emancipation.

Information submitted to THE CALL by:

M.E.C.H.A. Box 160, University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas.



(Call Photo)

GRAPES OF WRATH

... a monthly newspaper of news and analysis from the GI movement. Published by the "Defense Committee," an organization of enlisted men and women and their families. Send \$2 to:

THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE
Box 9870, Norfolk, Va. 23505

Free to GIs and other prisoners.

that the struggle of the Puerto Rican people will never cease no matter how severe the repression until Puerto Rico gains its independence.

In Chicago, another demonstration was staged March 20 outside the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico offices. Other demonstrations were planned for Boston, Camden, Hartford and Cleveland.

DEMAND FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK POLITICAL PRISONERS

Thomas Wansley, Martin Sostre, Jim Grant, T.J. Reddy, Charles Parker—all these are just a few of the growing number of Black political prisoners held in U.S. jails today. From San Quentin to Clinton, these prisoners—often backed by militant mass support in local Black communities—are fighting various framed-up charges. This is particularly true in the South where historically the false rape charge has been used to lynch or imprison thousands of Black men.

The case of Thomas Wansley, a 28 year-old Black man from Lynchburg, Virginia, has drawn nationwide attention and has become a symbol of the struggle to stop the use of the rape charge as a weapon of terror against Black people. Wansley was framed 11 years ago on the charge of raping a 59 year-old white woman. At the first trial, the woman admitted that she wasn't sure of identifying Wansley.

In 1963, after Wansley was sentenced to death, it hardly seemed possible that he could be saved from the electric chair. Yet, with the support of organizations such as the Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF) and the Black community of Lynchburg, Wansley was granted a new trial. Today after two more trials in which Wansley was finally sentenced to life, the Wansley campaign has become nationally known and in recent months has become the subject of a nationwide petition campaign involving thousands.

RELATED TO WANSLEY

Closely related to the Wansley struggle are the cases of James Carrington, a Black man from Southside, Virginia, now serving a 75 year sentence on a rape charge, and of the Tarboro Three, young Black men sentenced to die in North Carolina for supposedly raping a white woman.

Carrington was framed two years ago for raping a white girl he had dated for almost a year. According to testimony from a younger sister, the girl was beaten by her father and forced to testify against Carrington.

The Tarboro Three, Leroy Brown, Jesse Lee Walston and Bobby Hines, are now on death row awaiting the results of an appeal. The Black community of Tarboro has been outraged by their treatment and has mobilized in their support. On January 13, more than 700 people rallied in the state capitol of Raleigh to demand the release of the men.

SCEF and other supporters have linked the drive to free these men with a campaign to halt the revival of the rape charge and death penalty as a means of terrorizing the

Black community. Last year, North Carolina reinstated the death penalty with a vicious law that made death mandatory in a large number of cases including rape and felonious burglary.

Repression of the Black political movement has been especially severe in North Carolina where in one recent year a torrent of criminal indictments hit more than a dozen Black activists. Prominent among those now in jail are the Charlotte Three—Jim Grant, T.J. Reddy and Charles Parker.

In July, 1972, Grant, a chemist, writer and staff member of SCEF; Reddy, a poet, playwright and artist and Parker, a social service worker, were sentenced to 25, 20 and 10 years respectively on the false charge of burning down the Lazy B Riding Stables four years earlier. The three young Black activists were convicted almost entirely on the testimony of two men with long criminal records who were granted immunity from charges which might have given them up to 100 years in jail if convicted.

A number of legal appeals have been unsuccessful and now a nationwide campaign has been called to demand that North Carolina Governor James Holshouser set the three men free.

In Mississippi, harassment of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) has again intensified, with the arrest of Abdul Malik Mu-min Ghafoor, assistant to RNA President Imari Obadele. This follows the conviction of four RNA members last year. Three were sentenced to life and one to a lesser sentence on charges stemming from the August, 1971 FBI armed attack on RNA headquarters.

Swelling the numbers of Black political prisoners in recent years has been the large number of prisoner activists who have been framed on bogus charges because of their efforts to organize other prisoners. Among these are the Angola Four, Black prisoners at the Louisiana state penitentiary at Angola who were charged with the murder of a white guard. At the time the murder charges were filed, all four were active in campaigns to improve the conditions of work and living inside the Angola prison, one of the worst of the southern "plantation" prisons. Two of the prisoners, Albert Woodfox and Herman Wallace, have now been convicted of murder and sentenced to life, and a third, Gilbert Montegut, was acquitted. A fourth turned state's evidence and will be tried on lesser charges.

Outside the South, struggles are in motion in deference for

a number of prison movements including the Leavenworth Brothers and the well known Attica Brothers. The Leavenworth Brothers are 26 inmates who have been charged in connection with the July 31 rebellion at Leavenworth prison. Nineteen of the prisoners are Black, three are Chicano and three are white. All have been held in solitary since the July protest. The trial of seven of the Brothers began in February, so far resulting in the conviction of Alf Hill on "mutiny" and assault charges and Alfred Jasper on a lesser charge. They could receive 20 and 10 year sentences respectively. An active support has been organized by the Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee and has included a demonstration at Leavenworth gate in support of the Brothers and their July grievances.

While it would be impossible to deal adequately with the cases of all other Black political prisoners throughout the country, mention must be made here of Martin Sostre, whose courageous example has been an inspiration to prisoners everywhere. Sostre has been in jail since 1967 when he was sentenced to 30-41 years on a framed-up narcotics charge.

At the time of the arrest, he was active in the Buffalo Black community and operated a Black liberation book store. The chief witness, Arto Williams, last year admitted he set Sostre up for the police. Sostre has now been waiting eight months for a court decision on a motion for re-trial based on Williams' confession. For the past 14 months, Sostre has been in solitary confinement where he has frequently been beaten for refusing degrading rectal searches.

The fact that U.S. prisons are filled with Black political prisoners is no new situation. The vicious oppression bred by the imperialist system has always been fought with determined resistance by Black people. In earlier days, these efforts were often met by the cry of "rape" and the rule of lynch law. Today, the ruling authorities have become more "civilized"—they do their lynching legally through the use of frame-up charges like rape, narcotics and arson. However, today the movement to free political prisoners is much stronger and each false conviction only adds thousands more to the voices in support of Black liberation.

FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!

For information:

Thomas Wansley: Contributions to Mr. Nathaniel Lee Hawthorne, P.O. Box 79, Kendridge, Va. 23944

Charlotte Three: North Carolina Political Prisoners Committee, P.O. Box 2712, Charlotte, North Carolina 28201

Angola Four: Committee to Free the Angola Brothers, 1719 Polymnia Street, New Orleans, La. 70131

Leavenworth Brothers: Leavenworth Brothers Offense/Defense Committee, P.O. Box 5818, Kansas City, Mo. 64111

Martin Sostre: Martin Sostre Defense Committee, Box 327, Glen Gardner, N.J. 08826

PROTEST ARRIVAL OF SHIPS FROM RACIST RHODESIA

Boston—In solidarity with the freedom struggle of the African people of Rhodesia (African name: Zimbabwe), over 150 people were on hand early Wednesday morning, March 6, to protest the arrival of Rhodesian asbestos aboard the two ships, African Sun and African Mercury.

Following the longshoremen's boycotts of Rhodesian and South African goods in New Orleans, Baltimore, Philadelphia and San Francisco, the Boston picket line opens up yet one more front in the nationwide offensive against the racist white settler regime in Zimbabwe.

The picket line and rally were aimed at informing the longshoremen and the public about the Zimbabwe people's fight for self-determination, and U.S. violations of the U.N. sanctions against trade with Rhodesia.

The picket line which included Black and white picketers, was organized in one week's time by the Africa Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Struggle Collective, Southern Africa (previously Gulf Boycott Coalition), Revolutionary Union, Youth Against War and Fascism, and the October

League. Mel King, state representative and member of the Massachusetts Black Caucus, actively participated in meetings with the local International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) leadership.

Organizers of the picket line did not expect the longshoremen to refuse to unload the two ships, although their response was generally receptive. According to Pat Farren, of the AFSC, "This was our first contact with the rank and file, who are predominantly of Irish or Italian descent. They are really pressed for work. Ten years ago six or seven thousand worked the docks every day. Today they are lucky if it's six or seven hundred. The key, however, was that none of the goods were labelled as having come from Rhodesia.

By focusing attention on U.S. support for the forces of reaction and repression in Southern Africa, the protest served to buttress important legislative efforts in the U.S. Congress and the Massachusetts state legislature.

Dini Zulu Seit, of the ALSC, told the picketers assembled at the dock that the Senate recently approved repeal of the infamous "Byrd Amendment"—the law allowing U.S. corporations like Union Carbide, Foote Mineral, and Goodyear to trade with Rhodesia. The bill in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2005) faces an uphill battle.

Locally, the Massachusetts Black Caucus recently filed four bills calling for the state to end trade with South Africa and Rhodesia, and to outlaw the unloading of cargos from those countries.

Dini Zulu urged strong support for the various bills, and to counter the Rhodesian trickery of falsely labelling the cargo, called for an expansion of the boycott to include "all states that are just as racist."

Also speaking to the crowd was, Mudadirwa Eddison Zvobgo—representing the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU).

Reporting about the status of the struggle in Rhodesia, Eddison explained that the liberation forces are now engaged in full scale guerilla warfare in the Northern region. "This has put the regime on the run, and in great need for allies.

"If the regime lasts 3-4 more years, then it will not be without U.S. dollars. The people of Zimbabwe will be heartened to know that some people in Boston showed up to urge a boycott of Rhodesian goods in support of their struggle. The struggle against imperialism is one struggle, with barricades everywhere."



"NO TRADE WITH RACIST RHODESIA!"—Pickets demand an end to trade with the white, racist settler regime which rules with terror over black majority. (Call Photo)

STELLA WRIGHT PROJECTS . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

food and music, and everyone, from the seven year-olds to the elderly, was discussing their common problems.

How will the tenants manage financially? Toby Henry explains, "We're still a low-income family project and we'll just have to do whatever's necessary. We'll just all have to pitch in. We'll get a financial committee who'll break down how much oil costs, etc., and they'll structure it according to everybody's income. It'll work out better than it has in the past."

As one woman said, "It's not the idea that people don't want to pay the rent. It's the conditions that you have to live in. They say we're animals anyhow, you know. But we aren't animals."

Another man said, "We're not asking for the world. All we want is a decent place to live to raise our kids."

Why are poor and minority people forced to live under such conditions? Some of the teenagers put it like this: "We're learning what Notte and these people are doing to us. . . They're putting us in these buildings which should have been torn down a long time ago. . . They shouldn't have even been built" . . . "They try and keep what

they been doing to us in the past. They want to keep us in the same position right up to the 21st century. But we got more knowledge now, and they can't do that, right in front of our face." . . . "I think that the rich people, they are keeping all the money that's supposed to be going to us, it's going back in their pockets. . . they are getting richer and we aren't benefitting at all from it. . . If everybody would unite, much more would be accomplished. People should struggle for what they really want."

MILITANT EXAMPLE

The struggle at Stella Wright is a militant example for people all over the country who are fighting for decent housing, for themselves and their families against those who are getting rich off of peoples' misery. Despite all that the Housing Authority, the government and the police can do to stop them, the tenants at Stella Wright are winning some significant victories.

If you know of building technicians who could help or if you can send money or support, contact: Toby Henry, Stella Wright Tenants Organization; 254 Prince St., Room 1R, Newark, N.J. 07108 or phone (201) 242-6672.

This interview is with Ron Kovic, the national coordinator of the American Veterans Movement (AVM), a new national veterans rights organization. In February, AVM organized a take-over of Senator Allen Cranston's office in Los Angeles to demand action on improving the rights and benefits of veterans. We talked to Kovic the night after the conclusion of a 19-day sit-in and hunger strike at the Los Angeles Federal Building.

What is your background in the service?

I joined the Marine Corps in 1964 and went to Vietnam twice. In January, 1968, while leading a patrol into a village, I was shot through the right foot, and I took a round through my right shoulder which passed through my lung and severed my spinal cord, leaving me paralyzed permanently. I can't move or feel anything from my chest down. 12.4 per cent of all the people wounded in Vietnam were wounded like myself and left totally disabled.

After spending two months there for hospitalization, I was shipped to the Bronx Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital where I spent 11 months. The treatment that veterans were getting in the VA hospitals as far back as 1968 when I got back from Vietnam, was appalling, scandalous and detrimental to the human spirit.

If there were any POW's of the war, they are the men who had been double dirty-tricked: first by going to Vietnam and second by coming back and being treated like prisoners in the VA's hospitals, which virtually became war camps to those who lived there. I think that many people in this country are becoming aware that the real POW's in this country are those who have been disabled, those put in wheelchairs, missing legs, arms, eyes, in a wrong war and who must live with these wounds, these disabilities for the rest of their lives.

Could you describe the conditions in VA hospitals?

When I was stuck in the Bronx, there were slum-like conditions: mice running across the chests of quadruplegics, overcrowded conditions, filth on the floor, urine bags overflowing. I had a body-cast and was completely immobile for about six months. I remember laying in my own excrement for hours, screaming for the nurse, and pushing call buttons that were never answered. When we first began to rebel, it wasn't on the level we are now. Then, if you got angry, you threw a water pitcher against the wall and screamed and shouted until you were hoarse. The nurse labelled me as a trouble-maker and shot me full of dope, massive doses of Demerol. They kept me drugged all the time and tried to keep me nodded out. At the same time as the administration pledged \$85 million for bombs, it pledged only \$2.7 million for bodies.

I found myself in the hospital again last year. The condition I found was again scandalous, slum-like. The whole nightmare was happening again. It was not 1970 in the Bronx, but instead I was in Long Beach in 1973. They had told me that there were no problems anymore, that they had all been taken care of. But the conditions had gotten worse.

How did the American Veterans Movement begin?

We began at that time to organize the Patient-Workers Rights Committee. We had a total of 50 members in a period of three months. We began our own investigation of conditions in the hospital. Any time a patient had a problem, we would take tape-recorders and tape the problem that the patient had. John Adams, for instance, would tell his problem, such as why he wasn't getting turned over in bed. Then we would go to the nurse and play back the tape and say "you've got to do something about it." At first, the staff didn't respond well. There was a lot of tension because of the overcrowded, understaffed conditions. There were a lot of angry people in the hospital.

So we had the Committee, but we ran into numerous problems. We had consistent harassment, by the FBI, by the administrators, taking pictures out of windows of us at our meetings on hospital grounds. Numerous threats



VICTORY— Ron Kovic (foreground) and other disabled vets emerge victorious from Senator Cranston's office, following their 17-day hunger strike.

"We are the real P.O.W.s!"

INTERVIEW WITH VET RON KOVIC

were made on our lives, for organizing in the Long Beach Hospital—threats to poison our water, threats to kill us in bed at night if we continued to organize.

The last days of the Committee, we ran television cameras through the wards and ran a major story in a Los Angeles newspaper, with the headline "Our VA Hospital POW Revolt." We reached people through the media, through lectures at colleges. Out of that exposure and rebellion at the VA hospital, we got a promise almost a year ago from Sen. Cranston that an investigation would be held as soon as possible as to the conditions in that hospital and in VA hospitals around the country. Months passed and finally the investigation was called for, in the middle of February of this year.

On January 3, 1974, the American Veterans Movement was founded. The idea of this organization has taken off all over the country. AVM has three principles: Number one is the impeachment of Nixon. We feel that the great majority of people in this country, the 30 million veterans in this country, feel that Nixon should be impeached. We want to stress, though, that we're working mainly around veteran rights. Our other demands are an immediate end to the national disgrace of all VA hospitals and immediate increases in benefits for veterans, and that the program of AVM be enacted nationally for veterans.

Why did you seize Sen. Cranston's office?

We took over Cranston's office the day before the investigation, on February 12, with our demands, also demanding to meet with Donald Johnson, the head of the whole Veterans Administration. We would not leave until those demands were met.

We had 16 members of AVM, 10 disabled and 6 in wheelchairs. We called Cranston that night in Sacramento and told him that we had taken over his office to make it into a hospital. We demanded beds, pillows, blankets, nurses, around-the-clock medical care, Red Cross Aid and food. "We are building a hospital encampment because they are treating veterans like animals in this country." Cranston said "As far as I'm concerned, you are my guests," and that he'd be down in the morning to talk to us and for the investigation. We began to receive the supplies, and we turned that whole place into a hospital zone. We had paraplegics, quadruplegics, tubes running all over the place, I.V. poles, the thing looked like a cross between M.A.S.H. and a war zone.

The next morning, Cranston came down with Dr. Musser, head of the VA hospitals. We presented our demands and demanded that Johnson come meet with us. They said that they had the investigation down on the floors below us and told us to come on down. Musser and Cranston left and we never saw Musser again.

The investigation was nothing but a whitewash—investigations like that have been going on for a long time. It was a failure—a colossal whitewash.

Did you get a good response from other veterans?

A lot of veterans who had heard about the take-over, and the hospital encampment had come to the investigation to air their grievances and were not given a chance to speak. It was a controlled investigation and these people walked away angry. After the investigation, they came up to join us on the 15th floor and they packed the whole room, 40 or 50 people.

On Thursday, we were still waiting for Johnson, so we escalated our tactics. We went on a hunger strike and said we wouldn't leave or eat until Donald Johnson came into the encampment. We committed ourselves solemnly at that time to hunger strike until death or until Donald Johnson came through the door.

The hunger strike went on for 17 days. Three people were evacuated to hospitals, one twice, for cardiac arrest, exhaustion, one for an epileptic seizure. These men refused any food, and returned to continue the full 17 days of the hunger strike. The men passed out, vomited. By the 14th or 15th day, if Johnson did not come, immediately, he would have had some dead veterans on his hands.

Johnson called a week before the end of the hunger

In the March issue of *THE CALL* on page 18, the headline reads "VVAW STATEMENT TO COMMUNIST PARTY, USA." It should have read "VVAW/WSO STATEMENT. . ." The Vietnam Veterans Against the War and the Winter Soldier Organization recently merged, combining their names. We apologize for this oversight.

strike. He said that he was aware of the strike, and of the demands, and that he was providing all the medical care possible with 24-hour day doctors and nurses. We were getting better care and treatment than we had ever gotten in VA hospitals. They wanted to make sure we didn't die in the office. We had to take over a Senator's office and nearly starve ourselves to death before anybody would begin to take care of our needs.

We told him that the lives of the veterans were his responsibility—he represents the veterans and they've had to suffer abuses because of his inability to cope with the problems of veterans. At that time, he stated that he "might be able to make it out from Washington, D.C. in thirty days," but that he "wasn't sure."

When Johnson finally came, the state of health of the veterans was very weak. We were told to "hurry up," because Johnson might not be there long. We said, "We've been on a hunger strike for 17 days, you tell him to wait." We called the press and said that the meeting would be held in the hospital encampment. Johnson refused to come up, and held his own press conference, blasting us for not coming down, and then returning to Washington, D.C. Johnson's decision not to come up when we were too weak to come down hung himself with the press. Thousands of telegrams poured in to here from all over the country.

The next morning, a representative of his came up and told us that Johnson would return from Washington, D.C. the next morning and "He's sorry. He might have made a mistake and he wants to hear your views." Johnson came and made some important concessions on ending the national disgrace of the VA hospitals and increasing rights for veterans. He promised to consider the program of AVM and that in the beginning of April he would have another meeting with AVM to make a decision on whether there would be an enactment of the program of the AVM.

What if Johnson goes back on his word?

If we do not get an enactment of the very reasonable program of the American veterans in this country, then the AVM has no choice but to escalate our tactics again into a hunger strike.

Why are you calling for getting rid of Nixon?

We know that this administration is not for its people, or by its people. Many of those who have fought the administration's wars have come back with severe disabilities, paralyzed from the neck down and these men are treated like scoundrels and animals. The administrators won't even admit that these problems even exist in these hospitals.

Who can join the American Veterans Movement?

AVM is built on angry veterans in the country: on the World War 2 veterans who have been destroyed by this system, built on families that have been destroyed by the bureaucracy of the VA; The AVM is an organization that is based on a tremendous amount of suffering, of anger. AVM is open to veterans, any American veteran.

We want AVM to become a great mass based movement along the lines of the veteran movements in the past. The history goes as far back as the Grand Army of the Republic, 35,000 veterans who banded together in Kansas City, Mo. after the civil war to fight for veterans rights. In 1932, there was a march demanding the bonuses when 26,000 veterans camped out in Washington, D.C.

Disabled veterans can learn to fight back. People who lost their dignity in the slop holes of the VA hospitals went on a hunger strike saying "Even if I hunger strike myself to death, it would be better to do so with the dignity that I possess, than to be treated like a swine in the VA hospital."

The AVM is a national veterans organization, open to all veterans who have fought in all wars. We're asking them to stand up and fight for their rights. The struggle is the same, no matter what war, what branch of the service. We are going to unite the great masses of veterans to fight around the three goals. We will fight and we will win!

For more information about AVM or to send contributions, contact:

American Veterans Movement
24 1/2 Hurricane Street
Marina Del Rey, California
(213) 392-2015

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CLUW FOUNDED AT CHICAGO MEETING

The historic founding of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in Chicago was attended by 3,600 trade union activists between March 22 and 24. Representatives of 58 unions, gathered together with the common goal of pushing forward women's rights and equality within the trade unions themselves. The CLUW conference marked the coming together of activists from both the women's liberation struggle and the general struggle of working women.

The growing upsurge within the labor movement was reflected by this record turn-out of women, a number of whom were rank and file union members. A democratic structure, based on local chapters, was adopted to guide CLUW's initial work.

The large attendance surprised many people, especially top labor bureaucrats like Meany and Fitzsimmons who were actually opposed to the conference. CLUW's planning committee itself, led by union officials—Addie Wyatt (Meatcutters) and Olga Madar (UAW), let little information about the conference trickle out, even though it was in the planning stages for 9 months. They intended to keep the attendance under 1,000, but the tremendous need felt by working women to unite and fight for common demands nearly quadrupled this. Communists and other progressive forces were instrumental in mobilizing participation by union locals and individual women in cities all over the country.

MASS SENTIMENT FOR UFWA

One of the main political questions facing CLUW from the beginning was whether or not it would support the United Farm Workers (UFWA) in their organizing drive. This question assumed great importance when the Teamsters' leadership threatened to walk out of the conference if a stand favorable to the UFWA was taken. The mass sentiment in support of the UFWA was overwhelmingly felt on the conference floor as farm worker speakers received standing ovations. In the end, CLUW did not take an open stand in support of the UFWA, but a major victory was won by the striking out of rule 14, which would have prohibited CLUW from taking any stand in the so-called "jurisdictional dispute" against the wishes of Teamster leaders. Many rank-and-file Teamsters spoke in solidarity with the farm workers.

The conference broke into work shops, including Affirmative Action, Political Action, Organizing the Unorganized, Participation within the unions. All the work shops stressed the need to broaden CLUW, to bring more minority women into it, and to work actively in the campaign to organize more women into unions. Many of the proposals and resolution amendments which came out of the work shops, however, did not get onto the floor, as the leadership moved to table these discussions to the National Committee.

The promise of CLUW to be a major force in fighting for the rights of working women lies mainly in its local action programs. The conference took the first steps necessary to set up chapters on the state and local levels, and CLUW organizers will be spending the next few months getting these organized.

Next month *THE CALL* will feature a more in-depth analysis of the conference and its significance.

CALIFORNIA: TEN HOUR DAY NO OVERTIME PAY

The California Industrial Welfare Commission has voted to change the cutoff point for overtime pay from eight to ten hours ... This measure will affect approximately five million California workers, and has far-reaching implications for every worker.

For unorganized workers without union contracts to protect them, this amounts to a wage cut since the ninth and tenth hour of any working day can now be paid at the regular wage, instead of time-and-a-half. Previously, the only thing standing in the companies' way of demanding a ten-hour day was that it was too expensive. The measure also further institutionalizes the ten-hour working day, as the companies try to squeeze more productivity and profits out of the workers. Many of the workers affected already work in the lowest paid industries, such as garment, textile and electronics. Also, many of the industries covered by the regulations have a large number of women and minority workers.

In the past few years the Nixon administration has taken measures aimed at robbing workers of fundamental rights like collective bargaining and the right to strike, not to mention freezing wages. This new overtime ruling is another such fascist attack, passed with typical sneakiness, behind closed doors and with no advance warning.

UNINFORMED

Much of the labor movement remains uninformed about the ruling and others may even like it until it becomes law and is thrown in our face by the company, used as an excuse to violate contracts. It is vital that all attacks on labor such as this one be met with the organized resistance of the entire labor movement.

ON THE LINE

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES AROUND THE COUNTRY

WORKERS MARCH AGAINST POLICE ATTACKS

Special to *The Call*:

Lansing, Michigan—Over 300 striking workers from Motorwheel, a division of Goodyear Tire, marched twice to Lansing City Hall and the State Capitol here demanding an end to police attacks on their picket line, and a just settlement to their strike. Delegations from several UAW plants in the area came in support, and workers from other Motorwheel plants as far as Ontario flew in to march alongside members of Local 182, Allied Industrial Union.

The walkout of over 2,750 workers came after contract talks broke down. But the main issue changed when a mass picket line trying to turn away scabs was attacked by 50 police in riot gear. Several dozen strikers were beaten,

four arrested, and two sent to the hospital.

This police attack was Goodyear's answer to the high morale of the strikers. During the first week of the shut-down, mass picketing was organized at every gate, bonfires were lit, union songs sung in chorus, and finally, 22 supervisors were trapped in the plant "just like we had them in jail;" as one striker put it. They weren't released until the end of the week.

Motorwheel's tactics became clear when workers were put on heavy overtime just before the contract expired, building up a large inventory. Then, when the contract ran out, Motorwheel refused to bargain in good faith around issues like the "30 and out" won in the auto industry, and an increased cost of living allowance. Also at issue was "25 and out" for foundry workers who usually suffer partial deafness after 10 years.

The company has used the inevitable strike as a de-facto layoff—with this difference—Motorwheel doesn't have to pay a penny for unemployment insurance, as it would in a regular layoff.

A court order has forbidden more than two pickets per gate, and without unemployment insurance, many of the strikers are hard pressed to pay their ever-rising bills. But, as one put it, "they've taken away all a man's dignity, we're not going to stand for it any longer."

SUGAR STRIKE IN HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii—On March 9, about 8,000 sugar workers went out on strike at 15 sugar plantations here.

Over a month has passed since the expiration of the last contract on January 31. The demands of no lay-offs and the fight against runaway shops kept the ILWU, representing the sugar workers and the big corporations from reaching an agreement.

The union is guided by the policy towards the sugar and pineapple workers that "we will settle and negotiate together." Much of the canned pineapple industry is running away to Thailand and the Philippines, and the same large corporations are buying out the smaller sugar plantations and consolidating.



A VICTORY IN RIGHT-TO-STRIKE FIGHT

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania—Steelworkers jammed into Federal District Court March 4-6 to win an injunction against the no-strike Experimental Negotiating Agreement. Defendants were I.W. Abel, top USWA leadership and the ten major steel corporations. Evidence at the trial showed that the ENA was part of a nation-wide policy to strip workers of their right to strike.

Lawyers for the rank-and-file steelworkers pointed out how the ENA violated the basic traditions of trade unionism and ran counter to numerous laws workers have won to protect their unions. "The right to strike," said David Scribner, lawyer for the steelworkers, "distinguishes between a union which represents the membership and a company-labor organization, a company union."

The company and the union leadership were out to destroy the hard-won democratic rights of workers, and they had government backing. John J. O'Connell, Vice President of Bethlehem Steel testified that he and R. Heath Larry, Chairman of the Board of U.S. Steel, had barnstormed the country on behalf of the ENA. They spoke to big business in the inner circles of the monopolies, like the Business Round Table. They promoted the ENA to arbitrators. They assured GM, Ford and Chrysler that the ENA would mean continuous production. They insisted it was for the good of the country.

GOOD OF THE COUNTRY

Nixon's Assistant Secretary of Labor, Usery, head of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service and chairman of the Council for Industrial Peace also hailed the sell-out agreement. On the witness stand, he testified that the threat of a strike is worse in many cases than the strike itself. He said that the ENA was negotiated in an "exceptional way for industrial peace and the good of the country."

According to the testimony of Abel, the steel companies approached the USWA with a fore-runner of the ENA in 1967. Word leaked out and the union leadership was forced to declare that any deal replacing the right to strike with binding arbitration would be made only with the approval of the International Executive Board, the Wage Policy Committee, the Basic Steel Industry conference, made up of local presidents, and a *polling of the membership*. But from 1967 on, Abel was negotiating the ENA in secret "informal" meetings.

Abel knew that steelworkers would never voluntarily

give up the right to strike. From the time the ENA was announced last March, steel workers have strongly opposed it with resolutions, demonstrations and denunciation of the Abel leadership.

Bernard Kleinman, attorney for the union, testified that the agreement which local presidents ratified was *not* the same as the ENA signed by the USWA leadership and the companies. The ENA signed by the companies and the union on April 23, 1973, contained a lock-out clause that the companies insisted on. This clause gave the companies the right to lock-out steel workers over local contract negotiations if the local didn't knuckle under. This clause was in the works as early as February, but was not presented to local presidents until March 29. It was then included again afterwards.

"EXCEPTIONAL" NEGOTIATIONS

Was all this what Usery meant when he said the ENA was negotiated in an exceptional way for industrial peace and the good of the country?

The union's basic defense was that the union had always been undemocratic. Never have rank-and-file steel workers ratified contracts or agreements. They asked rank-and-file witnesses why they were complaining now? The answer of the steel workers is that they are fed up with the goon tactics, the stolen elections and the meetings packed with pay-rollers. The ENA is the last straw.

Steel workers considered the trial a victory. They had forced the company and the leadership of the USWA to meet them head on in court. Testimony had exposed the corrupt relationship between the Abel leadership and the companies and the general policy of the government in sanctioning and defending the ENA was clear.

The last year saw great cooperation in developing rank-and-file struggle among caucuses, locals, and organizations like Ad Hoc Committee of Concerned Steel Workers, Rank-and-File Team, the District 31 Right to Strike Committee, National Steel Workers Rank-and-File Committee, and the west coast rank and file movement. Steel workers learned how to combine work in the courts with the nitty-gritty organizing in the mills. They based themselves on the sentiments and efforts of thousands of steel workers across the country.

Steel workers are hoping for a favorable verdict from the March trial, but regardless of the decision, they have pledged to carry on the fight for union democracy and for the fundamental rights of steel workers.

"We're Coming Back!"

CALL VISITS TRUCKERS STRIKE HEADQUARTERS

Forest Park, Ga.—The Twin 6-Truck Stop, just off Interstate Highway 75 in this Atlanta suburb, was a beehive of activity for several turbulent days in January when it became the local headquarters for striking independent truckers.

The truckers were produce haulers, furniture haulers, steel and chemical haulers from all parts of the U.S. In their ranks were a handful of Blacks and at least one woman driver.

They are independent owner-operators who buy their own fuel, tires, tags, permits, licenses, pay their own maintenance costs, tolls, road use taxes and other operating expenses. Many of them lease out to big trucking companies like Allied. They were up against the wall and they knew it. They knew who had put them there—Nixon and the oil companies. And they knew there was only one thing they could do—fight back.

"I don't want anybody to lose money," said Tommy Thompson, an independent owner-operator from Cairo, Ga., who became the local spokesman for the truckers. "Don't misunderstand me. But I don't want the oil companies to make billions of dollars off the truckers and the auto drivers."

A year ago, Thompson said, diesel fuel had cost 30-some cents. Now it's in the 50s—when it's available at all. Meanwhile, the oil companies are making record profits. "We're not being gouged by the service stations, but by the big oil companies," Thompson emphasized. "The burden has been thrown on us, the consumer."

OPERATED ON SMALL MARGINS

Many of the truckers already operated on very small margins of profit even before the so-called "energy crisis." Increased diesel prices, reduced supplies, closing of truck stops on Sunday and lowered speed limits have cut the income of some independents by as much as 40 percent.

"Last year," said Bob Webster, a "bedbug-hauler" (furniture) from Maine, "I could drive my route from Maine to Florida, start out with \$150, and have money left over. Now the same run, hauling the same type of furniture, will cost me \$350-\$400." Webster said he is generally away from home a month at a time. Webster went on to talk about the Nixon government.

"To me, Nixon is just like Hitler. He has all the power. He came out and said he would not be subpoenaed to go to court. If you or I or any other peon said that, we would be hung."

"If Nixon can defy the Supreme Court, he can sure tell a bunch of truckers to go to hell," another trucker added. Somebody pointed out that Phillips, Gulf and Exxon had been among the biggest contributors to "King Richard's" campaign. When a local newspaper came out with the headline, "Nixon Says Truckers Should Hit the Road," the truckers rewrote it: "Truckers Say Nixon Should Hit the Road!"

Their homemade signs told their story "Down With King Richard I, down with fuel prices, down with discrimination against truckers—up the establishment!" "I cannot afford to work under present conditions." "Shutdown or Shut Up!" Others appealed for support from the public.

Like truckers in other parts of the nation, these had one primary demand: that Nixon roll back and freeze diesel fuel prices at a "realistic" level. They were universally critical of the government's offer to allow them a 6 per cent rate increase on their cargos, which would simply be passed on to the consumer in higher prices. For instance, if Bill Knutson charged the local Winn-Dixie supermarket

chain 6 per cent more for the load of sugar he was hauling to them, Winn-Dixie would recover the higher costs by charging the consumer more for the sugar. A roll back, on the other hand, could easily be absorbed by the oil companies with their record profits.

"The 6 per cent increase is against the consumer," said Pete Gallagher. "We don't want to pass the increase on to the consumer. That's all Nixon ever says—pass it on to the public, but don't touch the oil companies."

"This is the protest in which the public is being considered."

Although sell-out Teamsters Union president, Frank Fitzsimmons, opposed the strike, the truckers said they had gotten a lot of support from individual teamster drivers and some locals.

Co-operation was also forthcoming from most truck stops in the area which, like Twin-6, closed their diesel pumps voluntarily. Toward the end of the strike, however, the oil companies were putting the pressure on the truck stops to reopen, and some, Twin-6 among them, were making plans to reopen even before a settlement had been reached.

Organization was minimal at Twin-6 throughout the shutdown. Thompson described the drivers as "just a bunch of disgruntled truckdrivers who got together." Thompson became the spokesman because of his ties with local truckers and truck stops. Pete and Joyce Gallagher, a driving team who lease to Allied Van Lines, moved their

personal trailer to the truck stop to serve as a makeshift headquarters, and visitors could always be sure of at least a cup of Joyce's coffee. Such spontaneous generosity seemed to be commonplace in the spirit of "all for one and one for all." By the second or third day, the truckers had chipped in enough to rent a large meeting room at a nearby restaurant.

The truckers were very critical of the media's coverage of the strike. "You'd have to be here to see how they changed everything around," Pete Gallagher said. "They have pulled every angle. Down here, they say the North went back to work. If I'm up North, they say the South went back. They tried to turn it into Yankees vs. Rebels. They even pulled racist things into this—made it look like Black against white. It's the same old game—divide and conquer."

"They get some housewife on TV who says, 'my children have to eat.' Well, our children have to eat too."

They were especially critical of one Atlanta TV station which tried to stage a scene of truckers driving out of the truck stop, so the channel could give the impression that the strike was over and all the truckers were going back to work.

The strike began to fall apart Sunday, Feb. 10, after Thompson and other driver representatives meeting with the government in Washington recommended acceptance of the government's offer of a 6 per cent rate increase and a freeze on diesel fuel prices at 48.3 cents per gallon. The truckers had earlier rejected this same offer, but Thompson and the other trucker-negotiators said it was the best they could get for now, and recommended a return to work.

"We lost Round One, but we're coming back," said Thompson. This was the sentiment of the remaining truckers at Twin-6 when *THE CALL* went back the night after the agreement was announced.

"SILENT TERROR" KILLS WORKERS FOR PROFITS

While the press and the politicians scream about "violence and terrorism" being used against the capitalists, a daily, "silent" type of violence and terror is being used to murder thousands of workers.

The latest victims of this "silent violence" are the hundreds of workers at the recently shut-down Pittsburgh Corning Corporation asbestos insulation plant in Tyler, Texas. Medical experts now are estimating that of the 869 people employed at the plant since 1954, as many as 300 will die from asbestos poisoning and diseases related to the inhaling of asbestos.

Their deaths should come as no surprise to either the government or the owners of Pittsburgh Corning. The capitalists have always known that asbestos dust was lethal and there has been ample documentation of high incidence of lung disease and cancers among people exposed to the mineral.

As early as 1961, Dr. Irving Selikoff, of New York's Mount Sinai Hospital and Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, of the American Cancer Society, confirmed the danger of asbestosis (a permanent and often progressive scarring of lung tissue from inhaled asbestos fibers) and other diseases caused by asbestos in studies of workers at a Patterson, N.J., plant. They documented their work in many scientific papers and meetings. They also showed that even small quantities of asbestos could be lethal. Selikoff studied a woman who died of lung cancer simply from washing the clothes of her husband who worked in an asbestos plant.

After these studies, a study was done of the Tyler, Texas plant in 1966, and asbestos levels were found to be high above the recommended limits. However, nothing was done for the protection of the workers. In 1967, a

U.S. Public Health Service's Division of Occupational Health confirmed that the levels were high, but did not warn the workers at the Pittsburgh Corning plant. After a Labor Department study showed the same conditions, respirators were issued to some workers. But at no time were the workers themselves told about the health hazard. One worker, J. C. Yandle, 48, said, "I even had one (PCC official) tell me that stuff, asbestos, is good for you. He said you could eat it."

In 1970 the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) was created, with the authority to enforce compliance with asbestos standards. After a NIOSH team visited the Tyler plant in 1971 and discovered dozens of examples of poor health and safety conditions (e.g. the company lunchroom was close to the production area and workers were getting asbestos in their food), they notified OSHA. OSHA finding that hundreds of workers were in danger of being murdered for the profit of Pittsburgh Corning, promptly fined the company \$210 and gave them a warning!

After four more months, a reinspection showed that the company had done nothing and that the workers were still not told of their "death sentence." OSHA then fined them an additional \$7,990 and gave them another warning. Pittsburgh Corning finally decided to shut down the plant rather than provide safety improvements for the workers.

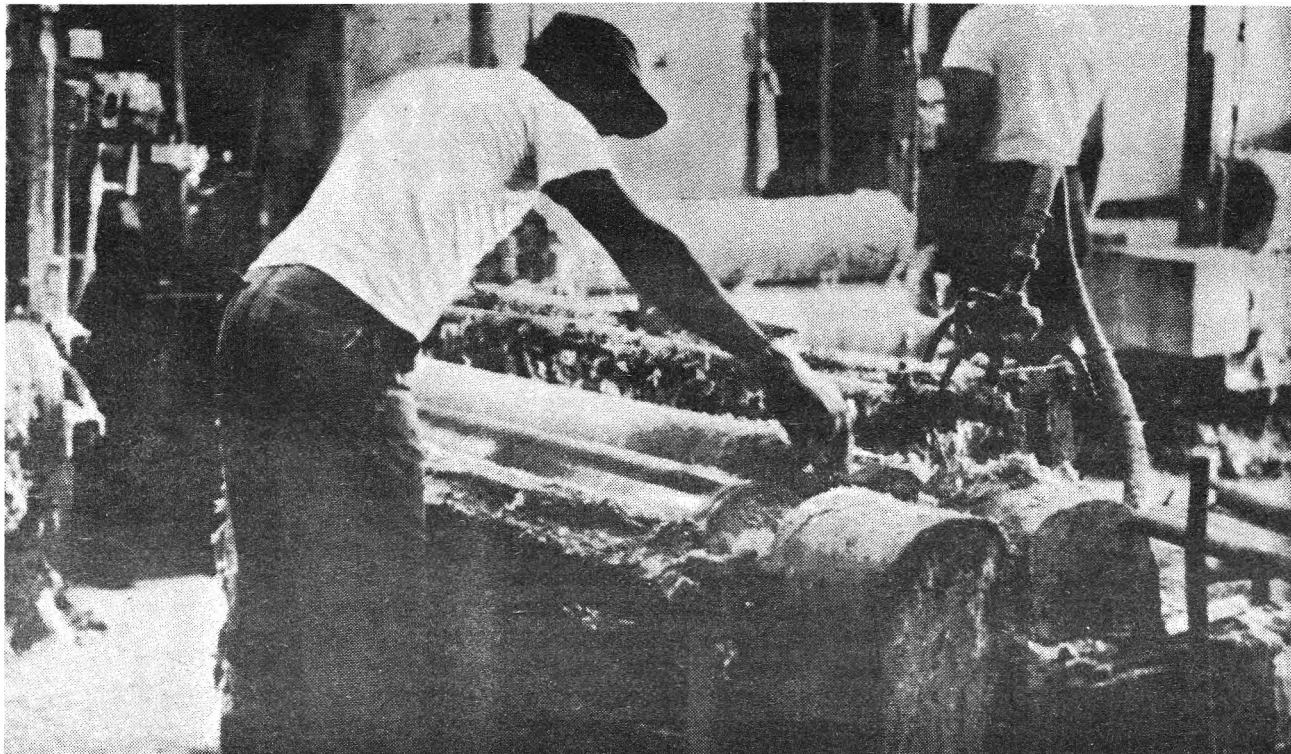
The closing of this one plant, will result in hundreds of workers with no jobs. But more importantly, it can do nothing for those who have already been murdered or who are slowly dying. Asbestos and related cancers may not develop until 30 years from the time of exposure, but once they do, they are generally fatal and always painful. Mrs. Robert Thomas, whose husband died six months ago, said, "He hurt with every breath he took, because his lungs were torn and scarred on the inside from breathing asbestos fibers."

Steve Wodka, of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, which represented the Tyler plant's workers, accused PCC with negligence and said it was a form of "silent violence." Some of the former employees are suing Pittsburgh for \$100 million and the government for another million for failing to protect them.

But all the money in the world cannot save the hundreds of workers who have already died or are about to die. The worth of a worker to his family and loved ones cannot be measured in dollars, whether it be the \$210 dollar fine imposed by the government or the millions in legal suits, which are unlikely to be won if history is any guide.

But this kind of terror cannot fail to breed resistance on the part of the workers and their families. The fight for decent health and safety conditions is now being taken up as a central part of the program of many unions including the presently striking OCAW, especially now when the economic crisis has meant sharper cutbacks in the amount the companies are willing to put out for the lives of their workers.

The murder of hundreds of Tyler, Texas asbestos workers is a sharp indictment of a system based upon profits for the few rather than the benefit of the many.



SILENT DEATH—Asbestos worker at Tyler, Texas plant cleans his machine. An estimated 300 workers will die from cancer and asbestos-caused diseases, out of the 869 workers who worked at this plant since 1954.

Governor Gives in

MINERS SAY, "NO GAS - NO COAL!"

Over 26,000 miners in southern West Virginia stayed off the job during February and March. Men stayed away from the mines expressing a determination not to work until there was a reasonable supply of gasoline, fairly allocated to assure them that they could get home after a shift. A generally unexpressed but obvious benefit of the strike is to cut into the massive stockpiles of coal the companies have been accumulating in preparation for the contract struggle this fall.

Coal mining is a difficult and dangerous job in the first place. Add to it that miners have to wait 2 and 3 hours in a gas line after a shift before being able to get home, the situation becomes intolerable.

Governor Arch Moore on March 13 announced that he would suspend the 1/4 tank limit on gas sales for 30 days and will make every effort to guarantee a supply of gas for the coal fields. If the guarantee proves out as being in good faith it will be another victory for the West Virginia miners over the political structure. It was these same miners who forced passage of a Mine Health and Safety Act in 1969 by going on strike 40,000 strong against the state and federal governments for over four weeks. The miners say that very few will return to work just on Moore's word, however. The victory will have to be permanent and concretely realized.

They often live 40 miles away from work and may often have to go 10-15 miles from home to get gas in the first place. The extreme housing shortage in the area makes living closer to work very difficult. On top of the general shortage, West Virginia Governor Arch Moore limited sales to those having 1/4 tank or less. Since most stations will only sell 2 or 3 dollars per customer, this often means that a man can only get enough gas to get to work and not enough to get home. If he has to try to get gas in the morning, he misses his shift. In the mines you can't come in late and punch your card. Everyone goes down at once and if you miss the main trip, you are out a day's pay.

The miners' demands are a guarantee of adequate gas supplies to get to work and a lifting of the ban on selling to anyone with over 1/4 tank of gas. The sentiment here is that the gas shortage is being used by the companies and the government in order to jack up prices at the people's expense. Many see it as an effort to further consolidate the power of the energy monopolies. District union officials feel also that the oil companies which own or control almost all of the major coal companies could supply the re- with gas if they desired.

However, one aim of the coal companies seems to be to weaken the miners in preparation for a possible general contract strike in the fall. They seem to hope that by keeping the miners with just enough gas to get to work, they can add to a campaign of demoralization and job intimidation begun months ago. They hope to accomplish this through the combined effects of financial hardship and a constant barrage of propaganda on the poor state of the coal industry. President Arnold Miller of the United Mine Workers Union said that the coal industry is the "longest running non-profit organization on record." A steady stream of threats of mass closings of mines because of the "unfair and unreasonable" character of health and safety laws and the union is now a standard part of all coal company communication.

Since the strike began, company tactics have also included threats of legal action and outright physical intimidation. There have been a few mines kept open with scabs. The scabs strangely have no trouble with gas or for that matter with guns either. There have been several fights during the strike provoked by the operators and their boys. On March 12, three pickets, one woman and two men, were shot and wounded while walking the line. The men were hospitalized in serious condition.

Much of this kind of terrorism and intimidation is back-firing. The heavily unionized miners of West Virginia are more angry than demoralized. They fought long and hard for their union and are determined not to knuckle under to such tactics. The spring and summer leading up to contract expiration in November will be one of continuing struggle in the central Appalachian coal fields.



HARLAN COUNTY STRIKE...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

heard as well. The water was turned back on after 3 days. Evidently it was supposed to be another demonstration of power.

Living conditions and sanitation facilities have changed little in the coal camps of east Kentucky since the 1920s and 30s. Even with the water on, conditions are barely tolerable. There are four outdoor spigots serving 30 homes. The water is so contaminated that the Health Department said it was unfit for animals, much less for children.

Harborough and the other bosses of Eastover live on a hill near the camp with their own private water supply. Their homes are large and modern as compared to the dilapidated houses and outhouses of the Brookside camp.

The actions of Eastover Mining go back to the days when miners and their families were set out to live in tents beside the railroad tracks. The memories of those days are just as fresh with the people of Harlan as they are with the operators. Many people still remember the Battle of Evarts in 1931 where union men defended themselves from armed attack by the sheriffs and were then framed up on murder charges. Evarts is only a few miles up the road from Brookside. Down from Harlan is Cawood where miners were burned and dynamited out of their homes in a later battle. Eastover's tactics are only a continuation of the hardship and oppression that has gone hand in hand with life in the Appalachian coal fields for years.

FIGHTING FOR THEIR CHILDREN

The Brookside miners are fighting for themselves and their children. If they lose they will be blacklisted throughout the coal fields. Non-union mines will continue to flourish in East Kentucky, and the words of one East Kentucky miner will ring even truer: "They are taking our coal out and converting it to power - power to money, and what do the people get? - nothing. You can't educate your children, you can't make a decent living, you can't live on your land when they are finished with it."

Organizing Brookside is crucial to organizing East Kentucky and breaking open a major stronghold of the oil-coal-energy trust to unionism. United Mine Workers Pre-

sident Arnold Miller, has said, "Ever since I can remember, huge outside companies like Duke Power have come into Appalachia looking for coal and fast profits. But all they've ever left behind are crippled miners dying of black lung, slag heaps and abandoned mines. The question raised by the Brookside strike is whether, once again, the nation's need for more coal will be supplied at the coal miner's expense."

Duke Power is the sixth largest utility in the country. Through subsidiaries it owns eight large mines in central Appalachia, and six of these are in East Kentucky. These mines produce one third of the more than 15 million tons of coal Duke Power uses each year. None of these mines are union. Duke has determined that the United Mine Workers will not come back into East Kentucky. They know that if they sign at Brookside, they will have little excuse not to sign at their other mines. Attempts to destroy unionism and disunite the working class have never been stronger than here in the coal fields. Resistance has never been more courageous.

The members of the United Mine Workers of America were once the shock troops of American labor. They helped lay the foundations for the Auto Workers, the Steel Workers, and the CIO. Once again coal miners are stepping forward as leaders in battling the monopolies. Their attempts to achieve a strong union and a decent life is one of the major battles of American Labor today.

The courage and determination of the people of bloody Harlan County deserves and needs the support of all progressive forces. Publicity and public pressure brought to bear on Duke Power are the main things needed. Financial support, while not as crucial because of union strike aid, is also needed. The Brookside miners are issuing an appeal for aid. Anyone interested in forming a support group in their area, write to:

Brookside Women's Club
c/o Bessie Lou Cornette
Box 262
Evarts, Ky. 40828

BLACK POLITICAL CONVENTION

Little Rock, Ark.— More than 1,600 delegates and observers gathered here last month for the second National Black Political Convention. The convention passed a number of significant resolutions, including a hotly debated one condemning Israeli zionism and unlike the 1972 convention, placed a great deal of emphasis on the role of Black labor.

Speakers at the meeting included Owusu Sadaukai, executive committee member of the African Liberation Support Committee; Gary, Indiana Mayor Richard Hatcher; Congressman Ron Dellums; Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson and Imamu Baraka, secretary general of the Convention.

Notably absent were Congressman Charles Diggs of Michigan and Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit, who many speculated had stayed away because of the Convention's militant stance on Israel.

In his speech, Sadaukai strongly criticized those absent from the meeting, calling them, "slick-talking Black elected officials," who have "rode the crest of the Black movement."

Many attending the meeting felt that the workshops were the most significant part of the two-day meeting. Workshops included "Criminal Justice," where many activists spoke from a background of direct experience with the most brutal forms of repression; and "Labor," where Odus Hyde, a veteran communist, gave a presentation on the "History of the Struggles of Black Workers."

The labor workshop included discussions on the question of all-Black unions and multi-national unions, as well as theoretical discussions on socialism.

Marxist-Leninist and anti-imperialist forces played a much

greater role in this convention than in the 1972 meeting, at which the presidential elections dominated everything else.

A resolution was passed supporting African Liberation Day demonstrations on May 26 and one in support of the national liberation movements in Africa. But it was the Israel debate that caused the most controversy as the widespread anti-zionist forces overrode the objections of those politicians who tried to stay away from the question.

The meeting was held in the auditorium of Central High School, scene of the famous desegregation battle in 1957. Mrs. Daisy Bates, 59, who led the struggle to enroll the "Little Rock Nine" in that school was honored by the Convention.

Mrs. Bates wept as she accepted a plaque from Ernest Green, one of the nine students who braved the racist mobs 17 years ago, suffering bodily harm and daily abuse.

"It did not take 999 persons to change the destiny of this country," she told the crowd, who jammed the auditorium of the high school, which is now nearly 50 per cent Black. "It only took nine children who knew what they were doing and how important it was..."

A PAGE FROM HISTORY

BLACK-WHITE UNITY KEY AS SOUTHERN CROPPERS ORGANIZE

In December, 1932, Black farmers in Camp Hill, Alabama, fought a pitched battle with a terrorist white-planters gang, who were attempting to disrupt a Sharecroppers Union meeting. Four Black sharecroppers were killed and more than 20 wounded. For their resistance, five Black farmers received long prison sentences.

This terrorism, long a feature of the plantation system, did not stop the sharecroppers movement, which by 1936 numbered more than 12,000 members in its union.

This is just one chapter in the 300-year long struggle in the South against the oppressive plantation system—a struggle which stretches from slave revolts in the early 1800's to the Civil Rights movement of today. The fight of the southern farmers, tenants and sharecroppers since the Civil War is based on the denial of land to Black people during Reconstruction. It is a fight which, despite vicious white supremacist agitation by the plantation owners, often united Black and white farmers in a common fight against the Southern planters and their supporters, the Northern monopolists and industrialists.

Though the Civil War and the 13th Amendment ended slavery, it did not leave the Black people in the South free. Unable to buy land, they were left dependent on their old slavemasters for land and work. Despite the fact that there was widespread support among Black people and poor whites for breaking up the big plantations and redistributing the land, opposition from northern capitalists prevented the Reconstruction governments from doing this. After 1876, when the alliance between the Southern planters and northern industrialists was sealed, the dreams of the freed Black people and many poor whites for "forty acres and a mule" were crushed.

The planters were given the go ahead to continue their reign of KKK terror against Black people and their allies. In what amounted to a second civil war, the planters' night-riders and terrorist bands murdered thousands of Black people, and drove them off the land, particularly aiming at political activists and Black farm owners.

Cheated of land and deprived by force of political rights, the vast majority of the Black people were driven by the planters' terrorism back onto the plantations into a state of semi-slave servitude as tenants and sharecroppers. The

vast majority were forced into sharecropping, a particularly vicious system of exploitation that leaves the farmer at the mercy of the large plantation owner. Under the sharecropping system, the planter provided the "furnishings"—usually seeds, tools, land and a house—and the sharecropper gave the planter a "share" of his crop.

PLANTERS RAISE RENTS

The planters exploited this situation to the hilt, charging extremely high rent to the tenants, cheating sharecroppers out of their crops, and charging high prices for furnishings. Anytime a sharecropper got out of line, particularly a Black sharecropper, the planters called out the terrorist police force, the Ku Klux Klan. The sharecropper could be sent to prison camp where he would be leased out for 20 or 30 years as slave labor to a large plantation owner.

Despite this severe oppression, resistance to the revived plantation system grew. In the 1880's the presence of capitalism became more sharply felt to Black and white small farmers in the South, as the new railroads and trusts moved in and the big landowners got even more powerful. Excessive railroad rates, high prices for goods and low prices for crops and usurious interest rates on mortgages drove the small farmer into the hands of the plantation owner and tenancy.

In response to this, the small farmers set up the Southern Farmers Alliance, a political organization whose goal was to defend the small farmer. White chauvinism plagued the Southern Alliance from the beginning and it refused to admit Black farmers as members. However, the Alliance saw some necessity for Black and white cooperation and aided in setting up the Colored National Farmers Alliance (CNFA), which eventually had 1,250,000 members, including 300,000 women.

Though chauvinist in some of its action, the white Southern Alliance in its practice was often a positive force against lynching and in defense of Black people's political rights.

In the late 1890's, the Black-white cooperation movement broke down as leading white populist and Alliance figures succumbed to the planters white supremacist agitation, a factor which led to the vote being taken away from both Black and poor white people in many Southern states. From that time until the 1930s there was no real attempt

to organize Black tenants and sharecroppers in opposition to the planter-monopolist rule in the South. During the Depression, living conditions in the South became desperate—mass unemployment, starvation in the cities and on the plantations, and a resurgence of KKK and other lynch gangs. In January 1931, 500 Black and white sharecroppers marched to England, Arkansas, and forced local merchants and planters to give them food. The landlords were raising rents and seizing more and more of the tenants' crops. Under these conditions, the Communist Party undertook to organize Black and white sharecroppers, proposing an emergency program of 50 percent reductions in rents and taxes and other measures. The Sharecroppers Union, initiated by the Communist Party, was organized in two Alabama counties to fight for this demand.

The conditions of struggle for the survival of the Sharecroppers Union were savage. The union carried out numerous strikes of cotton pickers and exerted political influence in several states. In 1931, Ralph Gray, the Black Union leader in Alabama, was lynched by a mob shortly after the Union passed a resolution supporting the international fight to save the Scottsboro Boys, nine Black youths who were condemned to death on a framed-up rape charge. It was in the same county in 1932 that the Sharecroppers battled the planters' thugs at Camp Hill. The terrorism did not stop sharecroppers from organizing. Despite the killing of six Black sharecroppers, a militant strike was carried out in Lowndes County in 1935. By 1936, there were 12,000 members in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and North Carolina.

Shortly after the Sharecroppers Union was formed, a similar union, the Southern Tenant Farmers Union (STFU), started organizing in 1934 in the Mississippi Delta. At mass meetings sharecroppers would demand the seizure of plantations and the banishment of the owners. Black and white organizers, sharing the same platforms, told audiences of thousands of tenants to put aside their racial differences to unite against the plantation owners. Several times when planters tried to arrest Black organizers, crowds of white sharecroppers came to get them out of jail. In the summer of 1935, the STFU called a cotton-pickers strike to raise wages and win written contracts. Although the demands of the strikers were only partially met, the strike was a victory. The union membership doubled to 25,000 after that first strike.

In 1936, the STFU and the Sharecroppers Union joined up with the CIO. It was clear that an alliance between the Southern farmworkers and the labor movement would not only strengthen the fight against the plantation owners, but also strengthen the labor movement. However, the CIO had too narrow an idea of how to organize the farmworkers and sharecroppers. Gradually, the organization of sharecroppers and tenants broke down, victims first of the CIO bureaucracy and later of the Communist Party's abandonment of the South under Earl Browder's leadership.

The struggle of the Southern sharecroppers and farmers against the planters and monopolists has a special place in the history of people's struggles. In this period, when the vast majority of toiling people in the South were still on the land, Black and white farmers and sharecroppers demonstrated for the first time the gains that could be made by uniting.

Though, today, the majority of small farmers and sharecroppers have been forced off the land by mechanization and monopoly farming, the problem facing laboring people in the South is still very much affected by the remnants of the plantation system.

The big farmers and the industrialists continue to use the slave market traditions to divide and rule and to defeat union drives. And again today, the Black liberation struggle is providing a clarion call to all working and oppressed people and the common interest of Black and white working people is being proved under new conditions.

Farm Workers Strike in Coachella Valley



Special to THE CALL

Coachella, California—The battle between the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) and the Teamster-grower alliance flared up again March 11 when more than 150 farm workers took up strike activities in the Coachella Valley, some 130 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

Farm workers picketed several vineyards in the area as well as demonstrating in front of the homes of some of the wealthier growers. No violence has occurred but the situation remains tense in this desert town of some 1,500 people.

Both the Riverside County Sheriffs and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) have tried to intimidate farm workers on and off picket lines with phony court injunctions and by harassing them with continuous F.I.'s (field interrogations).

Sheriffs, for example, will try to bluff UFWA members by telling them they can't picket a certain vineyard because there is a court injunction against picketing. Local UFWA picket captains, however, have called their bluff by asking the sheriffs who issued the injunction, when and where it was issued, and what is the docket number of the injunction.

The CHP, in addition, is stopping anyone that looks like a "Chavista" (a follower of UFWA leader César Chávez) and asking for proof of citizenship in order to deport any UFWA member that cannot show sufficient identification to suit the whims of the CHP. The "Chavistas" have again stood their ground and have insisted that the CHP can only ask for a driver's license and does not have the authority to request proof of citizenship.

The effectiveness of the strike is still uncertain, but UFWA members say that not many migrant farm workers were coming to Coachella and that the few that were arriving were working instead in the asparagus fields or in the orange orchards.

The UFWA has been waging a radio campaign along the 2,000 mile border from Brownsville, Texas to San Diego, California urging migrant and immigrant workers not to work in the grape vineyards, but to seek work in other crops.

The UFWA radio campaign is an attempt to explain to Mexicano and Texan farm workers the nature of the struggle and to build solidarity with them so that they cannot be used as scabs.

The strike was begun a month earlier than last year because the grape season is now at a critical period. The harvest itself is two or three months away, but the vineyards must be "thinned" in order to effect a good crop.

("Thinning" is the process of picking berries off the grape bunches in order to permit the remaining grapes to grow fuller and to mature. Otherwise, the bunches become too cluttered and the smaller berries prevent the remaining grapes from getting enough nutrition and thus not ripening.)

The timing of the strike, coupled with the UFWA radio campaign, could result in the growers not having enough manpower to do the "thinning" which may lead to a bad crop. In addition, UFWA activists said that many farmworkers who were remaining in the fields were intentionally "not doing a good job of thinning" as a subtle gesture of solidarity with Chávez's union.

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WRITE FOR CATALOG

CONGRESS PARALYZED - - DUMP NIXON

The long stream of evidence against Richard Nixon continued to pour in through March, and even though some politicians were talking more loudly about ousting Nixon, the Congress itself appears paralyzed, unable to act decisively on the question of impeachment.

The paralysis of the Congress demonstrates more concretely than ever the need to build the mass people's movement to dump Nixon. As demonstrators gathered in New York, Chicago, Tampa, and other cities last month in opposition to Nixon's policies, the question that came to the fore was whether or not the Congress was going to act, or merely use the impeachment question for their own immediate political needs while the country suffers the effects of the corruption-ridden administration?

The past month has shown that the Congress is more concerned with political expediency and making the capitalist system look pretty in the eyes of the world than in purging the criminals in the Nixon regime. The Congress, at this point, simply is not ready to impeach Nixon, despite his present weakness, and despite his scores of Congressional enemies.

ERODING CREDIBILITY

While Senators like conservative James Buckley, the New York Republican, call for Nixon's resignation, charging him with "losing the people's faith and eroding the government's credibility"—those who actually wield the mechanical power to impeach Nixon remain inactive. Democrat Peter Rodino's Judiciary Committee haggled with Nixon over the possession of certain tapes and documents, but when Nixon refused to hand them over, the Committee backed off saying "We may have to pursue other channels to get the information we need." Yet this is the committee assigned by Congress to make the "impeachment inquiry" and to present, as soon as possible, an opinion on whether or not Nixon should be impeached!

The vague plans laid out this far by Rodino and the Judiciary Committee indicate that even if everything goes according to "timetable," an impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate could not possibly begin before September.

Using this stall, the Congress will wait to see what new scandals break, what mass, organized sentiment is forcing upon them, and so forth, before they make any decision. Senator Buckley, a long-time Nixon backer, in the speech urging Nixon to resign, said that "The country, the government, and the Presidency" were being weakened with each day Nixon remained in office. Buckley represents what is now a large minority position, that Nixon's resignation is the best vehicle to shoring up the system. But for the most part, the Congress is still hoping that impeachment or resignation can be averted by stalling, and "riding out the storm." Many Democrats are even hoping to strengthen themselves by keeping Nixon in office and running the November elections on an anti-Nixon platform, picturing themselves as the "preservers of democracy." This is the essence of the Judiciary Committee's inaction, and it dictates broader, more organized actions

than ever to keep the storm swelling and to really dump Nixon.

Nixon's weakness was accentuated by the indictment of seven of his top advisors in February, including former attorney general, John Mitchell. All seven were charged with covering up the facts of Watergate. More indictments were handed down to Nixon men in the Ellsberg break-in case. And, Wilbur Mills, who may hold the biggest club yet as Chairman of the Committee investigating Nixon's taxes said in March that "If Watergate brought pressure on Nixon to resign, our report will bring about a great deal more pressure. I don't think he will be able to withstand it."

Stumbling, faltering, and lying through his March news conferences, Nixon was forced to make admissions about his role in the whole matter that he had previously denied. He put his controversial talk with John Dean and H. P. Haldeman last year in a new light by admitting that he was told that "hush money" had been paid out, and that he considered further illegal payments as one of the "options" open to him in dealing with Watergate. Realizing how damaging this admission may have been, Nixon tried to cover himself by saying "I know what I meant," and "What I should have said was..." But he was too deeply in to back himself out.

There was no shortage of political figures seeking to make hay out of Nixon's further weakened position. While little concrete action was taking place on the impeachment question in Congress, anti-Nixon sentiment among the people was being channeled to promote the political futures of many democrats and republicans.

Gerald Ford's old district in Michigan, Republican for thirty years, fell to a Democrat in a special election. Watergate and impeachment were the main issues. Following this example, Tom Luken, an Ohio Congressional candidate, made Watergate an issue although he had previously steered clear of it. He won handily, prompting more Democratic office-seekers to follow in his path. As a direct consequence of these elections, some Republican stalwarts like Buckley left the fold trying to protect their offices from future election defeats. In a statement Governor Sargent, of Massachusetts, announced that in his opinion the Republican Party would be far better off with Gerald Ford in office.

While Nixon appeared to be growing weaker and further isolated, he capitalized on the Congressional paralysis to launch something of a counter-attack on the impeachment forces. Speaking to Chicago businessmen on March 15, Nixon stated, "I will not further weaken the office of the President." As elaborated later, this meant that Nixon will not give over any new evidence to the Judiciary Committee, because in his opinion he has already given so much that it would be "unreasonable" to ask for any more. He stated in no uncertain terms that he felt the Watergate investigation should be "wrapped up" and arrogantly announced his refusal to cooperate any further.

While Congress took no steps to deal with Nixon's offensive, the American people were more convinced than ever of Nixon's guilt. The latest polls showed a mere 23 percent of the people approved of Nixon's policies, and 60 percent favored impeachment. The politicians who have spoken out have only done so because of the tremendous mass sentiment to dump Nixon. This sentiment must be developed still further, and organized so that the pressure remains on the Congress to act.

The Dump Nixon coalitions which have grown up across the country are a healthy step in this direction. Successful demonstrations were held earlier this year, and several more are planned for April 27. In many cities May Day, historically a militant working class holiday will focus on the drive to dump Nixon and stop the attacks he has unleashed on the masses of people.

The Dump Nixon movement aims itself both at the immediate task of dumping Nixon, and the more general task of organizing the people to fight the rising fascist tide and the assault on people's living standards.

Several organizations which pretend to be "revolutionary" like the Communist Party (CPUSA) have tried to use Watergate as a way of prettifying the system, provided their desired modifications are made.

In a recent editorial in the Daily World, the Communist



NIXON GREETED IN MIAMI—Militant mass actions like this erely weaken the government's attack on working and oppress

LETTERS TO THE CALL

Dear Call,

Like Comrade H.I. ("Letters," Feb. 1974), I would find it helpful if you would clarify your line on the national question.

In the recent past, two other organizations claiming to be Marxist-Leninist have issued long pamphlets explaining their lines on this question with reference to Black people. While both pamphlets put forward a lot of valuable information on the subject, their conclusions to my mind distort Marxism-Leninism and the real situation in this country. What is more, the lines developed are wildly different from each other.

On the other hand, your articles have seemed correct as well as informative. If you were to make a more extensive and systematic presentation of the national question, with commentary on the other lines that have been developed so far, I think you would help to dispel some of the great confusion which surrounds this question.

E.S.
Oakland, Ca.

While minimal press coverage was given to the two accidents at the Gulf and Western Corporation's sugar plantation in south Florida earlier this year which resulted in the injuring of 121 Jamaican cancutters and the killing of another, no notice has been given to the government's minimal reaction to the violation of the minimal safety standards in force. These two accidents resulted from the transporting of farm workers in trucks like cattle. Jamaicans interviewed after the accidents stated that they were packed into the closed trucks so tightly that they could not place both feet on the floor at the same time. Last August, the Assistant Regional Director for Manpower ordered the sugar industry to provide fixed seats for all workers in transit during the current season and to provide buses beginning next fall. This requirement has gone unheeded by the

COMMUNIST UNITY

THREE GROUPS JOIN FORCES

A significant new step forward was taken last month in efforts to strengthen the unity of the communist movement when the Tampa Socialist Collective and the Cincinnati Workers Unity League announced their merger with the October League (M-L).

The Tampa Socialist Collective has had an active history in the past year in various union organizing drives in the Florida area and were active participants in the November, 1973 labor conference on "Communists in the Present Crisis" sponsored by the October League.

In their formal unity statement, the TSC said that their decision to unite with the O.L. "reflects the general trend towards consolidation within the ranks of the young communist forces in the U.S." The statement said that the sharpening economic and political crisis has underscored the need for communists to link up the various mass struggles of the people under the leadership of the working class and to take up the struggle against opportunism to build a new communist party.

"The October League," the statement reads, "has waged a relentless struggle against modern revisionism and its twin brother, 'left' opportunism. By joining with the O.L., we hope to be better able to contribute to the growing communist unity and the process of building a new party."

The Cincinnati Workers Unity League has an extensive history in the Ohio area of active participation in the workers' movement and in the fight against racial discrimination as well as for democratic rights for Afro-Americans. They were among the main organizers of the January 20 demonstration to "Dump Nixon" in Cincinnati.

At a public meeting on March 6, they formally announced their merger with the O.L., saying "We feel the establishment of the October League here in Cincinnati is a definite step forward in the efforts to build a new party as well as in forging a united front movement against imperialism and its policies of war and fascism and moving towards a proletarian revolution and a socialist society."

PARTY BUILDING AND THE MASS LINE

Reprinted from the Guardian

By Carl Davidson

An important achievement of the new communist movement in the past several years has been its transition from student-oriented propaganda circles to agitational work in the mass movements.

The transition has been uneven and is far from complete. Yet every step taken toward integrating Marxism-Leninism with the struggles of the working class and oppressed nationalities is both a blow against the bourgeoisie and a concrete contribution to the building of a new communist party.

This development is particularly important in view of the fact that many cadres of today's Marxist-Leninist organizations gained their initial political experience in the student movement of the 1960's. But what differentiated them from much of the new left was their ability to come to grips with a lesson best summed up by Mao Tsetung in his essay, "On the Orientation of the Youth Movement."

"In the final analysis, the dividing line between revolutionary intellectuals and non-revolutionary or counter-revolutionary intellectuals is whether or not they are willing to integrate themselves with the workers and peasants and actually do so."

The grasping of this political line is now beginning to bear fruit. It can be seen in the organization of communist and anti-imperialist groups in major industries and minority communities. It can be seen in the growing numbers of advanced workers being won to communism and recruited into Marxist-Leninist organizations. And it can be seen in the clarification of political line, in the lessons summed up from actually practicing Marxism and combating right and "left" opportunism within the arena of national and class struggle.

But these gains, these steps toward building a party, have not been won without a fight. The drag of the old student and intellectual milieu is a powerful force and its influence is far from being decisively defeated.

This force against party building has recently been expressed in two views that purport to be advocates of building an organization capable of leading the American people in the struggle for socialism. One trend wants to build a "mass party of democratic socialism" and openly attacks Leninism.

The second view comes in "left" form and is expressed most systematically in a recently published booklet, "The Struggle for the Party," by Charles Loren. Its starting point is a polemic against the views put forward by the Revolutionary Union, the October League and the Guardian at last year's Guardian Forum on "What Road to Building a New Communist Party?"

The three groups, in Loren's view, make up a "leading troika of anti-party opportunism." Their unity consists in the following:

"How to form a new and genuine communist party in the

(Executive Assistant to the Warden) declared that two prisoners had taken three guards as hostages, that tear gas was used to quell the disturbance, and that one person (a guard) was injured. This alleged officer suffered a minor scratch on the forehead during the melee after the gas was used.

We wish it to be known that at the time of the disturbance, the majority of prisoners here (who had no knowledge of the incident) were herded from their work assignments to their living quarters. Approximately one hundred and fifty prisoners living in cell house "A" suffered from indiscriminate gassing, and approximately twenty hospital patients suffered from the same gassing. Not one of these one hundred and seventy prisoners had participated either actively or passively in the disturbance. In the Segregation Unit all of the prisoners, regardless of whether or not they were locked in their cells were heavily gassed. This gassing took place at approximately 1:00 PM and they were given absolutely no medical attention for six hours.

An undetermined number of prisoners suffered random beatings, two were severely injured. One of these, Mark Poitra (a Sioux Indian) suffered a broken arm, three broken fingers, and massive contusions and lacerations which required stitching. In addition, several of Mark's teeth were broken. The beatings were inflicted with fists and axe handles. During the melee, Captain W.J. Kenney brandished a .38 caliber pistol, and fired at least one shot. The majority of beatings were inflicted after the prisoners had been thoroughly subdued with multiple rounds of riot gas.

No official statement has yet been given for the disturbance, and we are unable to contact our brother-prisoners in Segregation. But we speculate that this disturbance was in direct response to the C.A.R.E. program of behavior modification begun here as an alternative to a lengthy lockup at the discretion of the administration. This same program has resulted in similar disturbances, beatings, killings, suicides and molestations of human dignity throughout the federal prison system.

We beg your support for these human beings who are being methodically stripped of every vestige of their dignity by vicious animals in the guise of behavior modification and rehabilitation.

E.W.

El Reno, Oklahoma

United States? . . . The reply of the opportunist wing of the movement has become more apparent. In brief, it is 'Go to the masses.' A party, the opportunists tell us, cannot be formed until revolutionaries go out to the masses and join them in current struggles."

Loren states his case fairly enough. While Marxist-Leninists would also insist that their revolutionary theory and method must accompany them, all would agree that a party cannot be formed without "going to the masses." In fact, they would point out that there is a relationship between the two, a relationship Mao Tsetung calls "the mass line":

"In all the practical work of our party," writes Mao, "all correct leadership is necessarily 'from the masses, to the masses.' This means: take the idea of the masses (scattered and unsystematic ideas) and concentrate them (through study turn them into concentrated and systematic ideas), then go to the masses and propagate and explain these ideas until the masses embrace them as their own, hold fast to them and translate them into action, and test the correctness of these ideas in action. Then once again concentrate ideas from the masses and once again go to the masses so that the ideas are persevered in and carried through. And so on, over and over again in an endless spiral, with the ideas becoming more correct, more vital and richer each time. Such is the Marxist theory of knowledge."

While Loren pays lip service to the mass line, as he does with Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought in general, he actually opposes it as "premature."

"The problems faced by the communist movement," says Loren, "cannot be solved by going out to the labor movement. How to found a communist party, how to organize it, the meaning of democratic-centralism, the question of material prerequisites, all the issues of line and program—these things cannot be settled by supporting strikes, learning an easy manner with blue-collar workers and conducting polemics with George Meany (while dickering with local piecards).

"In fact, to send out a disorganized communist movement into current labor struggles is a good recipe for increasing the confusion and bewilderment of communists."

ARROGANT OUTLOOK

The "confusion and bewilderment" Loren fears over the prospect of class struggle reveals one aspect of the outlook of the intelligentsia. At the same time, he reveals its arrogance: the struggle against capital amounts to "supporting strikes," integrating with the masses amounts to "learning an easy manner." The struggle to destroy the hegemony of the labor aristocracy amounts to "polemics with Meany," and the effort to win over the middle forces and isolate the diehards in the united front amounts to "dickering with local piecards."

For Loren, political line develops in stages, in isolation from the masses who might contaminate it with backwardness. "For once a large mass movement arises, the task of making a fundamental shift in line and leadership, from opportunist to Marxist-Leninist, is incomparably more difficult than if we first sharpen our ideological and organizational sword and then place it in powerful hands."

What is this, once the "left" veneer is stripped away, if not still another version of hippy radicalism—"first we got to get our own heads together. . ."

What does Loren want the communist movement to do? The first priority is that they should study and debate the theory among themselves. Second, they should set up study circles around Leninist classics which advanced workers will "gravitate to" rather than be actively won to through the example set by communists in the mass movement. At the bottom of the list is the task of "leading" mass struggle mainly through the "most outstanding" method of education "by negative example." In other words, communists lead by standing on the sidelines denouncing everyone from labor bureaucrats to communists as "opportunists."

There is nothing new here. These are the same dogmatic and sectarian obstacles every revolutionary organization has had to overcome in order to move beyond its infancy. It is still alive today in obsolete form in the practice of the Socialist Labor Party.

What keeps dogmatism alive is revisionism, pragmatism, tailing after spontaneity and belittling theory—through bourgeois ideology and its forces in the labor movement or right errors on the part of genuine revolutionary organizations.

But empiricism cannot be fought with dogmatism. They are two sides of the same subjective coin. One tails behind the masses, the other gesticulates angrily and in isolation from the sidelines, Both are united in opposing the mass line, in failing to unite theory with practice.

"Only by mastering the weapon of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought," states the June 18, 1971 Peking Review, "unconditionally going deep among the worker and peasant masses for a long time, going deep into practical struggles and experiencing strenuous tempering can we achieve a relatively thorough transformation in our thinking and feelings and gradually move our stand to the side of the proletariat. When one is divorced from practical struggle and the worker and peasant masses, thinking about remoulding one's subjective world is out of the question."

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put forward its program as calling for the "ouster of entire White House gang, broad development of independent action outside monopoly's two-party system, and holding of new elections. This is the way to broader democracy and more responsive government."

This opportunist program poses the holding of an election and the development of more responsive politicians as a solution to the current political crisis. In essence, the program Nixon's Congressional opponents put forward. It is another way of saying, "Make the system work." But the system does not and cannot work. It will not impeach the most widely exposed criminal of our day, unless the people force it to. The CPUSA with its plans for "responsive government" and "broad democracy" fails to take into account the system of imperialist robbery which the U.S. ruling class bases its power on. This is why the anti-Nixon movement cannot be based solely on the charges of the Watergate affair, or on electing new politicians, but must have a firm base in opposition to Nixon's policies of aggression around the world, strike-breaking, economic-freezing, and attacks on democratic rights. It is these policies which can really be used to push the people's movement forward, and which, if well organized, can have far more success in actually dumping Nixon than any Congressional committee.



run Nixon out of the White House and several. Relying on Congress will lead nowhere.

operate growers and unenforced by the government. Farm workers have been killed and injured, and the Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration fined Gulf and Western only \$1,200 for such flagrant violation of both law and humanitarian values.

Evidently, the Department of Labor feels that these injuries and fatality to farm workers are only justification for a fine of \$9.83 for each maimed and killed farm worker. The maximum fine of \$1,000 is the equivalent of the profit on only 10 acres out of over 59,000 acres of Florida sugarcane owned by Gulf and Western, an international conglomerate with over 100 subsidiaries including Paramount Pictures Corporation. In 1972, the government paid Gulf and Western \$949,909.67 in cash subsidy just for its Florida sugarcane operations. Clearly, this balance sheet reflects the bias of the government against the poorest segment of our labor force, the farm worker. It is also clear that this and other large corporations in Florida are still transporting the Jamaican cane cutters like cattle in trucks. Of course, when the cost per head placed on maimed Jamaicans is only \$9.83, about one quarter the current value of a Florida hog at market, it's cheaper to run the risk of killing farm workers than to buy a bus.

It is our belief that this incident is only one of many which prove beyond doubt the need for a strong union for farm workers in this state and elsewhere. Without representation by the United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO), these and other farm workers will continue to be exploited, maimed and injured in the future as they have in the past.

Mary Martin
United Farm Workers of America (AFL-CIO)
Tampa Boycott Director

Ann Julia Kinnerey, Ph.D.
Sister of Notre Dame de Namur

D. Marshall Barry, Ph.D.
Ass't. Professor of Economics

The Editor;
On February 25, 1974, an "Insurrection" took place in the Segregation Unit of the Federal Reformatory at El Reno, Oklahoma.

statements released to the local press, Mark Thompson

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED ...ACROSS THE U.S.

International Women's Day, 1974, saw thousands of people taking part in demonstrations and mass rallies to celebrate the advances in the cause of women's emancipation. Of special significance was the fact that these actions were in general linked closely to the struggle of working people and especially working and minority women.

Demonstrations were held in most of the major cities, including Chicago, where a crowd of 4,000 held a militant march through the downtown area (see accompanying article). Marches, or celebrations, were also held in New York, Oakland, Los Angeles and Boston.

In Oakland, more than 600 people, mainly Black, Asian and Chicano, attended a celebration organized by the Third World Women's Committee to Celebrate International Women's Day. The program, which was dedicated to "all working women in general and Third World women in particular," focused on the contributions of Third World women in the people's struggles around the world. Speakers at the celebration included Johnnie Tillmon of the National Welfare Rights Organization; Virgie Delgado, a Farah striker; and Doan Thi Nam Huu from the Union of Vietnamese in the U.S.

In San Francisco, 500 people, mainly from the Asian communities, attended a dinner and program emphasizing the important contributions of Asian women in the history of this country. It spoke specifically of the recent victorious strike for unionization by the seamstresses at the San Francisco Gold Company.

In New York, a wide range of activities on International Women's Day were held over the March 8 weekend. A march of some 500 people went through Greenwich Village, stopping at the many sites which are historic landmarks in the history of the U.S. women's movement. These included the country's first birth-control clinic, established by Margaret Sanger in the Lower East Side; the site of the former Triangle Shirtwaist factory, where a fire killed many women workers, locked-in by the bosses; the former Women's House of Detention and others.

On March 10, a program was held sponsored by the Guardian newspaper; the Haitian Women's Union; Asia Study Group; the United Farm Workers; the Anti-Fascist Commentator Group and the October League.

A hundred people heard a speaker from the Haitian women's Union describe conditions in her homeland and how

noi to celebrate the success of the Fourth Vietnam Women's Congress, International Women's Day, and the founding of the south Vietnam Women's Liberation Union. Expressing the determination of 40,000 women of Hanoi to accomplish the tasks laid down at the Fourth Vietnam Women's Congress, women were called upon to plunge themselves into productive labor and emulation campaigns. Building a powerful socialist north would help the patriots in the south and the reunification of Vietnam.

The Peking Municipal Women's Federation gave a tea party in commemoration of International Women's Day. Attending were women guests from various countries, including Madame B. Kaunda, wife of the President of Zambia, and other women from various countries visiting Peking. Women experts, diplomatic officials, correspondents, women trainees, as well as wives of officials visiting China were among the 800 guests. Also 300 women representing women's groups in Peking attended.

Working women of all nationalities celebrated this holiday of unity and struggle by the working women of the

women there are forced by economic and social conditions into prostitution.

Other speakers included Marie Maddock of the UFWA and Renee Blakkan from the Guardian.

In Los Angeles, over 800 people turned out for a March 9 fund-raising dance in support of the Farah strikers, who have won their strike with women playing a leading role, and the striking Sloane rubber workers. The event was sponsored by the Los Angeles Women's Union and the Farah Strike Support Committee.

In Boston, a forum and a march of 200 was held. The march ended in a picket line at the Pewter Pot Coffee Shop where waitresses are on strike. An evening house party was sponsored by the October League, Struggle (a Black activist newspaper) and the Haitian Detachment of Women, which drew some 60 people.

More than 150 people turned out for an afternoon program March 9, in Atlanta's JFK Center. The broad range of sponsors included the National Organization of Women (NOW), Georgians for the Equal Rights Amendment, Atlanta Workshop in Non-Violence, Midtown Women's Center, Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance, U.S.-China People's Friendship Association, the United Farm Workers of America and the October League.

Other activities were held in Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other cities. We hope to carry reports on some of these in the next issue of *THE CALL*.

... AROUND THE WORLD

Around the world, millions of women demonstrated and met in celebration of International Women's Day (March 8) deepening the unity between the struggle for women's rights and the anti-imperialist, revolutionary movement.

In capitalist countries, women demanded their freedom, equal rights and an end to discrimination, noting the gains that had been made in the struggle for emancipation. In the Third World, women demonstrated their support for the efforts to liberate their countries from the yoke of foreign domination, while the women in the socialist countries celebrated their emancipation, further expressed their determination to build their countries and demonstrated their active support for their sisters still living under capitalism.

In Britain, women in Manchester, London and various other cities marched and demonstrated on March 9-10, demanding equal rights and an end to discrimination. Over 2,000 women in London marched with shouts of "Women Unite, One Struggle, One Fight!" and "Women Must Decide Their Fate!"

In Algeria, women rallied in Algiers and heard speaker Cherif Messadia say, "Women's struggle cannot be separated from men's struggle or the struggle of the people of their country for complete emancipation, just as their struggle cannot be separated from the struggle of the Third World people for genuine equality among peoples of various countries and against the attempt of the big powers to overlord other countries". A display of Arab and African women's paintings was also opened in celebration.

In the socialist countries, women gathered to celebrate their emancipation. In China, north Vietnam, liberated Laos, Cambodia and south Vietnam, great changes have occurred in women's lives since liberation. Women fully participate in the economic, social and cultural life and share with men in family responsibilities.

More than 30,000 women of all walks of life met in Ha-

world. The establishment of socialism in China removed the class base of women's oppression and exploitation, though there is still struggle, for ideas take a long time to be wiped out. The old doctrines of Confucius, of men's superiority, are being struggled against. Women must play their full role in the advancement of society.

Fu Yu-fang, chairman of the Peking Municipal Women's Federation, warmly greeted the guests on behalf of the Chinese women saying, "Friends, by working in China or by coming to visit, you have helped to increase the mutual understanding and friendship between the women of your countries and China.

"While building our own country, we Chinese women have closely followed and consistently supported the just struggles of the women of other countries. We are glad to see that the broad masses of women throughout the world are daily awakening. More and more women are joining the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism and for the rights and liberation of women."



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 1974—More than 4,000 men and women turned out in Chicago for this mass march on Women's Day. The march called for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and called for economic justice and equality for all women. (Call Photo)

FOUR THOUSAND MARCH IN CHICAGO

Over 4,000 men, women and children continued the glorious tradition of International Women's Day in one of the most militant marches Chicago has seen in the past few years. The demonstration marked the emergence of many new forces in the fight for women's equality, a growing militant spirit, and links to the struggles of workers and national minorities. For many women, this was their first demonstration, and some came from as far away as St. Paul, Minnesota.

Initiated by the Chicago Women's Liberation Union, the International Women's Day Coalition formed as a broad united front of over 45 organizations—including women's groups, student groups, labor unions and caucuses, community groups, national minority and communist organizations. Some of those participating were Stewardesses

for Women's Rights, VVAW/Winter Soldier, Circle Campus Women's Liberation, Mujeres Latinas en Accion, Chicago Welfare Rights Organization, United Farmworkers, AFSCME, Rising Up Angry, Hotpoint Coalition for a Democratic Union, Lawyers Guild, and October League.

The first and largest contingent of the march was "Pass the ERA." The Chicago march is the largest ever to endorse the Equal Rights Amendment, and proved the broad support and unity which exist to fight for women's rights. Not only middle class women, but workers and national minorities marched to support ratifying the ERA. Meanwhile, the Revolutionary Union (RU) and revisionist Communist Party, USA, condemned the ERA, and refused to participate in the International Women's Day Coalition.

Special demands were taken up by all the marchers in support of the struggles of national minorities. One contingent, mostly Afro-American women and men, marched in support of the struggles of women and liberation movements in Africa. Another contingent marched in support of the United Farmworkers, and called especially on people to observe the boycott of Gallo wine. Many demonstrators carried signs saying "Fight Welfare Cutbacks" and "End Forced Sterilizations." Earlier that week, the Coalition sponsored an action where over 150 Black and white wo-

men, including local welfare rights groups and NWRO, demonstrated at the Illinois Department of Public Aid. There, they demanded an end to the flat grant system which has taken welfare aid away from many families, especially Latino and Afro-American ones.

Another demand taken up wholeheartedly by all the marchers was getting rid of Nixon. "No more gasoline, no more heating oil, Tricky Dicky makes me boil." "Impeach Nixon and Throw Out the Policies He Represents" was a demand of the demonstration. High food prices, or making the masses bail out the imperialists is part of the policy he represents. The Coalition addressed this particular policy in a spirited march during the week of the Federal Milk Market Administration.

Vicki Cooper, co-chair of the International Women's Day Coalition told the cheering marchers: "We have a lot to celebrate this year. Women won many victories—the abortion decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, our organizing of the meat boycott to rollback prices, court settlements at GE and Bell Telephone that gave women equality and millions of dollars in back pay. . . . Today is a celebration and yet just the beginning of the fight." The International Women's Day march made it clear that women were going to win that fight.

"Countries want independence, Nations want liberation, People want revolution"

TAKING UP THE CALL

ETHIOPIAN GENERAL STRIKE WINS MAJOR REFORMS

In a historic four-day general strike and military revolt, the Ethiopian people won major reforms during February and March. According to Fisseha Tsion Takie, Secretary-General of the 85,000 member labor union federation, all 17 major demands of the general strike have been accepted by the government of Haile Selassie.

Some of the demands won include a fifty per cent across the board pay raise for soldiers, lowering of gas prices, and a raise in the minimum daily wage. The unions also won the right to organize other sections of the economy, free education for poor children, and a freer press.

In early February, large sections of the Royal Army of Ethiopia revolted, seizing garrisons and demanding political reforms and pay raises. This revolt sparked a nation-wide wave of strikes, demonstrations, and mass political discussions of reform. Teachers from the urban high schools struck in late February, supported by their students who demonstrated for academic freedom and subsidies for the poor. The teachers' strike was joined by transport workers facing ruin due to the \$1.58 per gallon price of gasoline.

The General Council of Ethiopian Trade Unions called for a strike by all workers to join those already on strike, and by March 7, the scattered revolts were united into a massive four-day strike, complete with marches, speeches, and the barricading of factories in major cities.

BACKGROUND TO THE STRUGGLE

Ethiopia was the first small country in the world to take up arms and defeat a colonialist invader, when in 1856, Italian troops were driven from her shores. During World War 2, Ethiopia was instrumental in the defeat of Italian and German fascism in North Africa. More recently, the Ethiopian government terminated U.S. leases on military installations and broke off relations with Zionist Israel during the September, 1973 Mid-East war.

This militant tradition of the Ethiopian people has now resulted in widespread popular struggle for reforms in wages, living standards, and democratic rights.

The past year has brought drought, famine, and agricultural failure to northern Ethiopia. Thousands of landless peasants consequently moved into the urban centers such as Asmara and Addis Ababa. These cities, swollen with unemployed peasants seeking work and food, have become boiling pots of rebellion against hunger and unemployment. The presence of so many extra laborers in the cities has also been used by the employers to hold down the wages of all workers, further deepening their discontent.

The average annual income of the Ethiopian worker has been held down primarily by the economic domination of most industry by U.S. and British imperialism. A family of four in Addis Ababa must survive on an annual income of only \$14 (U.S.).

All over the world, in large and small countries, the effects of the imperialist economic crisis are being felt. They reverberate sharply in the countries which have been maintained in a backward or underdeveloped state by imperialist domination with epidemic, disease, and famine being the results of this tyrannical exploitation.

The struggle is far from over. It was reported since the conclusion of the general strike that thousands of women marched on the capital in late March demanding lower food prices. The Ethiopian Coptic priesthood also threatened to strike for political rights.



NORTHERN IRELAND: DRIVE THE BRITISH OUT

St. Patrick's Day climaxed a week of upsurge in the struggle against British occupation of Northern Ireland, when guerillas staged a raid on a U.S. navy base in Londonderry, attempting to seize arms for their struggle.

Fighting in Belfast and other cities in Northern Ireland has reached its highest point in several years. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated by Irish people around the world with protests against British policies in Northern Ireland, especially the fascist concentration camps, in which thousands of "suspected" guerillas are imprisoned indefinitely.

St. Patrick's Day demonstrations in London, New York, and Los Angeles, focused on Britain's role in promoting strife between Catholics and Protestants, in order to cover-over the miserable living conditions of the vast majority of people of both religions.

In Los Angeles, demonstrators marched to the British Consulate, where they announced the "oppressor of the year" award for the Consul-General. In a lively rally, they detailed Britain's use of poison gases, rubber bullets, and the denial of all civil rights, to keep the Irish people down. They urged that the British be driven from Ireland as St. Patrick drove out the snakes hundreds of years ago.

DISSENT ERUPTS IN PORTUGUESE ARMY

Portugal's colonial wars in Africa have caused widespread dissent within even the highest-ranking circles of the Portuguese army. The liberation forces have advanced in Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique, bringing Portugal to the brink of military defeat. The Portuguese people have been forced to bear the burden of these wars through taxes and miserable living conditions, which make Portugal the poorest country in Europe. And the longer the wars have gone on, the more aware the Portuguese people have become of the injustice and inhumanity of colonialism in Africa. For all of these reasons, the anti-colonial sentiment has grown tremendously.

In a controversial book published in February, General de Spínola, the most celebrated hero of the African wars, urged Portugal to give up its military campaigns and grant independence to the three countries. Following this, Spínola and other dissidents were removed from their positions and arrested. These acts of repression, however, touched off rebellions and demonstrations among regiments all over Portugal. Two hundred troops actually marched on Lisbon with machine guns to protest Spínola's dismissal.

While the Caetano government is now trying to arrest every dissident soldier, support for the just cause of African liberation is growing rapidly, not just within the army, but among all the Portuguese people.

MASSIVE DEFEATS FOR THIEU'S "LAND-GRABBING"

Land-grabbing operations by the south Vietnamese puppet army and the Thieu government have continued in blatant violation of the Paris Peace Accords. Unable to convince Thieu that these activities are totally illegal and against the interests of peace, the south Vietnamese people have begun to make their point by handing the puppet army one military defeat after another in the Liberated Zones.

Several thousand puppet troops have been wiped out by the liberation army in the first three months of this year, during attempted "land-grabbing" missions. The most dramatic battles have taken place in Nam Bo, where Thieu's army has been beaten back in 128 intrusions, and where several planes have been shot down.

Elsewhere in Indochina, the liberation forces have marched steadily forward as well. In Cambodia, the isolation of the Lon Nol regime was furthered as Sieuv Saphon, a former member of Lon Nol's "supreme court" denounced the puppet ruler and joined the national united front fighting for Cambodia's liberation. In a statement to his former colleagues, Sieuv Saphon urged them to follow his steps and defect from the corrupt and traitorous government of Lon Nol.

FOREIGN WORKERS FIGHT FOR RIGHTS IN CANADA

Immigrant workers at the Shellcast Foundries in Montreal, Quebec have been on strike since November, fighting for their jobs, better wages, and their rights as immigrants to organize and unionize.

Shellcast, which manufactures parts for General Electric and NASA, is a small shop which has in its entire history hired only one native Quebecois worker. The work force has always been made up of immigrant Latin Americans, Haitians, Spaniards, and Yugoslavs, taking advantage of the immigrants' status to continue the company's starvation wages and anti-unionism. Bedo Morgenstern, owner of the plant, contends, however, that it is, "just a coincidence," that all the workers are immigrants.

Five workers began organizing a union last April, and Morgenstern responded by laying them off immediately. He tried to split up the different national groups by attacking only the Haitians, and by threatening to bring in the immigration authorities.

When another leader of the union movement was laid off on November 26, all of the plant's forty workers walked out. The official Labor Tribunal intervened at this point, and ordered a union election. Although the union won, Morgenstern claimed the election was invalid, since all the workers were laid off.

The workers went both to the government and to their local of the United Oilworkers for support, but came away empty-handed from both. The union backed out of the struggle completely, claiming that the strike was "illegal," and told the labor department that it had "no control" over the workers.

The government agreed with Morgenstern that the workers were laid-off, and could not vote in an election, but it simultaneously denied unemployment benefits, stating that the workers were not "out of work" "on strike"!

Unable to collect unemployment, the government tightened the squeeze with midnight immigration visits to workers' homes. The company armed the scabs with lead pipes. And in the face of all these attacks, the solidarity of the immigrant workers remained high.

The Comité de Solidarité avec des travailleurs Oubiers, a student and community group has mobilized hundreds of supporters to join the picket lines, and has given new momentum to the struggle. The strike has proven that immigrant workers can wage successful battles, despite their vulnerability to repression, and has consistently raised the political question of the super-exploitation of immigrant labor.

INTERAMERICAN CONFERENCE REBUFS KISSINGER

At the conclusion of the Interamerican Conference of Foreign Ministers in Mexico City, Peruvian foreign minister, Miguel Angel de la Flor spoke of the need to build Latin American and Third World unity. He opposed the notion of a "Western Hemisphere Community" which Henry Kissinger had put forward at the Conference.

Said de la Flor, "Two very unequal societies exist in America. One, a super-industrialized society belongs to the superpower, which is the United States. The other is composed of the Latin American countries on the way to industrialization." The interests of these two societies, he said, are entirely different, and for this reason Latin nations must rely on themselves for development, and not on a "Western Hemisphere Community."

During the Conference week, the Mexican newspaper, Excelsior, carried an interview with General Omar Torrijos, Chief of the Panamanian government. In his remarks, aimed pointedly at Kissinger and the U.S. delegation, Torrijos announced Panama's determination to win total independence and decolonization. He stressed that Panama cannot become totally independent as long as the U.S. Canal Zone colony remains within its borders, and he said, "If the last hope to remove this colonial enclave called the Canal Zone fails, we shall ask the people and the National Guard to show us the way to defend the integrity and dignity of our fatherland." He cautioned other Latin nations further that the U.S. would continue to dominate them if they are disunited or weakened by internal conflict.

BELGIAN MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY UNITED

The Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium held its national conference in February, unanimously adopting the political report, and electing a new central committee. According to the party journal, "Clarte et L'exploite," the new central committee is the central committee of the reunified party. The conference represented the full carrying out of the June 9 resolution which said, "Today there is only one unified party, and therefore, there is one line, one leadership, and one central newspaper."



Protesters in Addis Ababa staged a number of militant actions to demand reforms in Ethiopian society.

While 1974 was being billed earlier in the year as "The Year of Europe" by Nixon and Kissinger, it may well go down in history as the year of "the Great Split" between the European countries and the U.S.

President Nixon has now cancelled his European tour that was expected to be the icing on the cake in his efforts to firm up a strong inter-imperialist European alliance. He had hoped that during the April tour, he and the leaders of the Western European countries would sign a declaration reaffirming the "vitality of the Atlantic alliance." But at his March meeting with the Executives Club in Chicago he stopped long enough to launch a sharp attack on the "allies" and said, "If the heads of government were to meet at this time, we would simply be papering over difficulties and not resolving them."

Statements such as this expose the fact that the contradictions among the world's largest capitalist powers are at their sharpest point since World War II. Both the U.S. and the Soviet Union have been frantically trying to extend their spheres of influence in Europe, building up their military forces and armaments to force the European nations under their domination.

But as hard as they try, the two superpowers have been unable to get the various European economic and political groups to reconcile their own interests with those of the superpowers.

A strong trend towards European self-sufficiency and non-dependency on the superpowers has been a positive influence in recent world affairs and a real blow to the imperialists and social imperialists. Both major military blocks (Nato and the Warsaw Pact) have suffered, and these divisions have been fully utilized to promote the revolutionary struggles of the European workers and the third world countries.

The most recent exposure of the inter-imperialist rift came as a result of the Arab oil embargo. The embargo was carried out in such a way that the industrial production of many of the European powers as well as Japan rested on their disassociation from the pro-Zionist policies of the U.S. With France taking the lead, one by one, the European governments declined to take a pro-Israel stand. In February, Nixon and Kissinger convened a world-wide meeting of oil-consuming nations, hoping for a unified attempt to pressure or blackmail the Arab countries into dropping their embargo. The Arab countries, placing the blame for rising oil prices

right where it belongs, on the inflationary policies of the big powers—and the blame for the embargo squarely on the shoulders of the pro-Zionists, refused to lower their prices or drop their embargo. They warned against any attempt at European unity with the U.S. against them, calling instead for a "just Middle East policy" as a solution to the energy supply problem.

The growing power of the third world countries could be seen here as the Arab countries took full advantage of the rift in the ranks of the imperialist countries and the conference failed to produce any appreciable unity.

At the Foreign Ministers meeting of the nine West European Common Market countries, held March 4 in Brussels, steps were taken to promote Common Market independence from the U.S. An independent plan for developing relations with the Arab countries was adopted, over the objections of Henry Kissinger. The EEC plan

U.S. VERSUS EUROPE

was put forth because oil supply to the West European countries was threatened, when the U.S. failed to reach agreement with the oil producing countries and France at the Washington meeting of oil consumers. The EEC meeting then adopted a joint declaration on relations between the U.S. and themselves, saying that the European countries were "taking into account France's objection to the establishment of close political links with the U.S.," and want to "maintain a foreign policy scope for the European community."

The next blow to the "Year of Europe" came in Chicago on March 15 when Nixon launched a vicious attack on the European governments. "The U.S.," he alleged, "is indispensable to the security of Europe. . . And the Europeans cannot have it both ways. They cannot have the United States participation and cooperation on the

security front and then proceed to have confrontation and even hostility on the economic and political fronts. We must sit down and determine that we are either going to go along together on (all these) fronts, or we will go separately."

Nixon openly threatened to reduce its troop strength in Western Europe at a time when the Soviet Union is bringing nearly two million troops into its European neo-colonies. This had been precisely Nixon's strategy in Europe, to build dependency on the U.S. as one superpower, for the purpose of fighting the other. In this way, it is a twin policy with that of the Soviet Union, for the sole purpose of expanding superpower influence in this, the chief commercial center of the world.

Kissinger joined the anti-European diatribe by declaring in an informal address to the wives of U.S. Congressmen, that "the biggest problem American foreign policy confronts right now is not how to regulate competition with its enemies. . . but to bring our friends to a realization that there are greater common interests than self-assertiveness." Then he threw in the observation that since World War I, "there have rarely been full legitimate governments in any European country."

COLLISION COURSE WITH EUROPE

Although he later made a weak apology for this remark, he could not escape the widespread anger from the European press and government officials. Europeans reacted with outrage. Rome's capitalist newspaper, *Il Messaggero* cried out that Nixon had "officially and deliberately placed American's foreign policy on a collision course with Europe."

The French paper, *Le Monde*, described Nixon as a man who is "more threatened than ever on the domestic front" and whose comments "makes one think he's not in control of himself either."

Overall, the actions during the past month have served to widen even more broadly, the giant rift developing between the U.S. and the European countries. The trend towards European independence from the two superpowers is a positive one and is making Europe more and more the focus of frantic superpower contention. The European governments are finding that they must stand on their own two feet or go down with the two giants.

ZAMBIA FIGHTS FOR ITS INDEPENDENCE

Africa, long portrayed in imperialist propaganda as "primitive and submissive" has become one of the major battlegrounds against colonialism and imperialism. The struggle of the Zambian people, in southern Africa, against political and economic domination exemplifies the invalidity of the ". . . submissive. . ." view.

Ruled for 70 years by the British Empire, the Zambian people, in 1964, gained independence from foreign political rule. This victory over British domination, led by the United National Independence Party and Kenneth Kaunda, has provided the possibility for the Zambian people to attain economic independence. This struggle will not be an easy one, but its success is inevitable.

Zambia is a land-locked country, bordered to the south by Rhodesia and South Africa, both ruled by white, racist regimes. To the north lie the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Tanzania. Together with Tanzania, Zambia, with the aid of the People's Republic of China, has been building the Tanzanian-Zambian railway.

The "Tan-Zam" railway, scheduled for completion this year, the 10th anniversary of Zambia's independence, will be an important link in furthering the economic independence of Zambia. The railway will provide a needed access to the sea.

The principle mineral resource of Zambia is copper, found mainly in the Katanga belt. This copper was a main attractor to European settlers. Portuguese explorers first attempted to colonize Zambia, but failed in their efforts. It was the British, represented by the British South Africa Company (BSAC), which finally succeeded in exploiting Zambia.

The BSAC administered Zambia from the 1890's to 1924, when Zambia became a "protectorate" of the British crown. Zambian mineral rights were retained by the BSAC, which continued to reap huge benefits and profits. By 1952, the European minority in Zambia reached over 43,000 people.

MINORITY RULE

The Zambian people were ruled for many years by the European minority. However, due to the intense pressure and struggle by the African majority, more and more Africans were elected to the legislature. Although the Europeans endeavored to find ways to maintain control, the Africans insisted upon the policy of "one man, one vote." Through the elections, combined with militant mass struggle, Zambia attained its political independence.

However, the Zambian people's struggle did not end with gaining political independence. The foreign imperialists, led by the United States, Portugal, South Africa and Rhodesia, have not ceased their efforts to undermine the liberation struggles in southern Africa.

With both white-supremacist Rhodesia and South Africa

bordering Zambia, the Zambian people have had to wage a great struggle for economic self-sufficiency.

Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia, has recently declared that: "Southern Africa is another hot-spot in the world. For many years, liberation movements have waged a long and bitter armed struggle against their oppressors. Their cause is just and their efforts are worth the support of the international community. What sustains the colonial and racist regimes in southern Africa is not the power of the white clique, but the direct economic, financial, military and diplomatic support from some major Western countries. . . Now tension within Rhodesia, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia and South Africa is growing more intense as the armed struggle gains momentum. The racist regimes and their supporters have become restive. Desperation and viciousness characterize the racist acts as a dark cloud of insecurity hangs ominously over the oppressors. Decolonization is bringing an end to the heyday of colonialism."

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

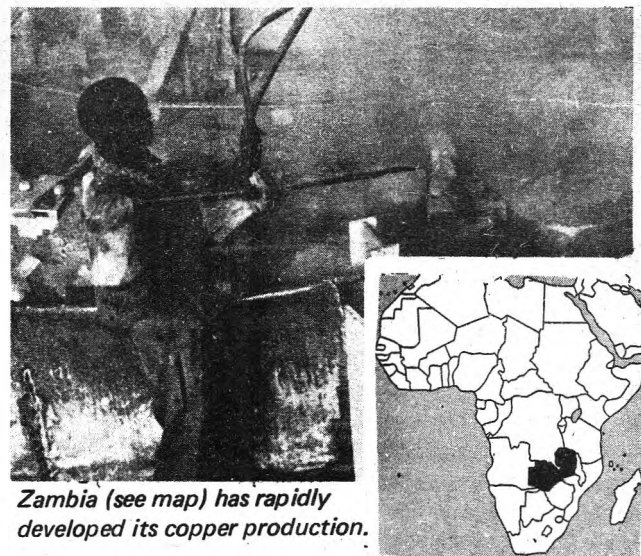
Whereas the British imperialists were content to just reap the profits from copper mining, the Zambian government has instituted a diversification program designed to expand the economy. Zambia has a wealth of other resources, which until the time of independence had been largely ignored.

In the field of agriculture, for example, maize, cotton, and tobacco production have greatly increased. If the Zambian government were to rely solely on copper as an export the country's profits would be subject to the preferences of the rich countries.

Besides the successful efforts at diversification, Zambia has also begun to put the economy under its own control. By both buying out control of companies in Zambia and instituting strict production regulations, the Zambian people are coming closer to complete economic self-determination.

The unity of Zambia, Tanzania and other friendly countries and liberation movements has led to the successful challenge against the reactionary regimes in southern Africa. Although Rhodesia has closed its borders to Zambia, the Zambian people have received enough aid, along with their own resourcefulness and determination, to overcome the difficulties caused by the blockade.

Zambia holds the position, concerning the international situation, of non-alignment with either of the two superpowers and stands among the many who support self-determination for all oppressed nations. Zambia has consistently supported the struggles of oppressed peoples for independence and upholds the policy of non-intervention. With regard to Zambia's allies, President Kaunda has stated, "We have many friends in the world and the Chinese are among the best."



Zambia (see map) has rapidly developed its copper production.

During Kaunda's recent visit to China, Chou En-lai declared, "In international affairs, the Zambian government has consistently pursued a policy of peace, neutrality and non-alignment, and rendered active support to other Afro-Asian peoples in their just struggles to oppose imperialism, colonialism, and power politics and to win and defend national independence."

The Zambian people and government recognize that the imperialists will stop at nothing to defeat the liberation movements in Africa, and so have begun to prepare the country's defenses by training a national army service, and local militias.

Until 1964, the principle aim of the Zambian people was to gain national political independence. Presently, national unity is based upon these five points: to become economically independent, consolidate political independence against recolonization, create conditions favorable for achieving economic victories over foreign enterprises operating within the country, consolidate these and other victories, and to smash any intrigues of the enemies inside and outside of Zambia.

The struggle of the Zambian people has provided a positive example to the people of Africa. The unity of the liberated countries with the still oppressed people will inevitably lead to the success of the liberation movements and to greater self-determination in all of Africa.

"Victory in southern Africa will be decided not by South Africa's military might, but by the will, unity, heroic determination and courage of the 40 million people in southern Africa to wage their just struggle to a successful end.

Genuine peace in southern Africa will not be built by strengthening white military power but by freeing the majority from oppression, by freeing the frightened minority from their pathological fear of peace based on justice. No force, however great, can stop the people of Africa from achieving their freedom."—President Kaunda, during recent visit to China.

ANOTHER REVISIONIST CONFERENCE

Since 1956, when the Soviet Communist Party began to take the capitalist road, they have frantically tried to force the other communist parties in the world revolutionary movement to do the same.

They have called a whole series of revisionist conferences aimed at destroying all opposition to their rotten, counter-revolutionary schemes. Now another such conference is in planning stages. It is being called for the purposes of: 1) forcing every revisionist party to follow strictly the leadership of the Soviet revisionists; 2) drumming the revolutionary Communist Party of China and the Albanian Party of Labor "out of the communist movement"; and 3) to force acceptance of U.S.-Soviet world domination under the banner of "detente."

Under the leadership of Khrushchev, the Soviet revisionists began their assault on genuine Marxism-Leninism, following the death of Stalin. By imposing their counter-revolutionary viewpoint and theories and by expelling a large number of veteran revolutionary party members while filling the ranks with waverers, vascillators, careerists and bureaucrats, the Khrushchevites turned the Communist Party of the Soviet Union into an instrument of domination and subjugation of working people.

But this wasn't enough to satisfy them. They liquidated the power and rule of the working class (the dictatorship of the proletariat) and invented something called the "state of the whole people" which was nothing more than the cleverly disguised return of capitalist rule over the homeland of socialism.

"REFORMS" OF SOCIALISM

A whole series of "reforms" of socialism were then introduced in 1965, which opened up the Soviet system to production for the aim of profit as the motive force of the whole economy. Capital from the U.S. was brought into all sectors of the Soviet economy and the doors of Siberia and other regions thrown open to investment for U.S. imperialism. The Soviet Union began to practice imperialist policies of expansion, subjugation of smaller countries, including smaller socialist countries and super-power domination, just like the U.S.

Instead of trying to unite the people of the world to defeat imperialism, the Soviet leaders began to practice "cooperation" with imperialism while contending with the U.S. for the position of top super-power.

This turn of events was met with sharp resistance by the two great communist parties of Albania and China. Defending the principles of Marxism-Leninism, these two parties rejected the Soviet theory of "peaceful socialism" which took class struggle out of the program of the revisionist parties. They refused to revise the basic tenets of scientific socialism and implement the same "state of the whole people" in their countries. It was especially China, where the alternative of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution helped secure that country from the same kind of capitalist restoration threat, led by Liu Shao-chi and later Lin Piao, that provoked the ire of the Soviet revisionists.

In 1966, after China refused to follow their line, the Soviet bullies withdrew all aid, hoping that the economic

backwardness of China would force them to abandon socialism and capitulate or else fall victim to U.S. aggression. Khrushchev then told the Albanians that if they didn't follow his lead, he would "blow them off the face of the earth" with nuclear weapons.

When these threats and economic attacks failed, the Soviet strategy was to rally the other communist parties of the world against Albania and China. First was a meeting in Prague, called to discuss problems of the revisionist theoretical publication, "World Marxist Review" where behind the mask of an "editorial meeting" they prepared to attack the revolutionary line of the Chinese party.

Next came the meeting in Bucharest, Romania, in 1960 when the attack on China was opened up and where the Party of Labor of Albania courageously fought to defend the principles of Marxism-Leninism undermining Khrushchev's plans at "total unity." It was at this meeting that the full extent of Khrushchev's treachery was fully revealed and a clear line of demarcation was drawn between the genuine Marxist-Leninists and the Soviet revisionists.

In 1969, another meeting was called in Moscow to "strengthen the ideological unity in the ranks of the communists." What this meant in reality was the launching of another anti-Chinese attack and an attempt to defend the invasion of Czechoslovakia, which deeply troubled the other revisionist parties of Eastern Europe. It was this invasion, and the toppling of the Dubcek government by Soviet troops, that more than anything else showed the imperialist character of the Soviet Union and exposed its

"socialist community" and "division of labor" in Eastern Europe to be nothing more than neo-colonialism.

The strategy of the Moscow Conference, like the new conference, was directly linked with Moscow's foreign policy maneuvers. The Soviet social-imperialists need to mobilize their revisionist allies in support of their aggressive policies if they are to be disguised as "socialist." In this period, when they have intensified their collusion as well as their competition with the U.S., when they are carrying out their most rapid global military and economic expansion, especially in the Middle East and in Europe, that order and discipline are needed in the revisionist ranks with the Soviet party firmly entrenched in the leadership.

The Soviet Union wants to present its foreign policy called "detente" but in actuality, imperialist, as the "line coordinated and approved by all the sister parties and fraternal countries."

But this attempt to impose its will on the other revisionist parties has not been swallowed easily. The national interests of each of these parties have begun to come into contradiction with the Soviet plans of maintaining hegemony over this movement. The Soviet Union for example, is asking the parties to approve its new "detente" with the West German government. This rapprochement is at the direct expense of East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, all of whom have tried to deal with the aims of the new Hitlerites in their expansion plans for

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 18)



"NEW TSARS"

IN SOVIET UNION

Inside the Soviet Union today, a tremendous struggle is taking place against the present ruling class which has succeeded in restoring the capitalist system to the birthplace of socialism. This struggle is taking place despite the most vicious attempts by the "New Tsars" of Moscow to suppress it. While the Western press has made much of the attacks on certain reactionary intellectuals like Solzhenitsyn, the real repression in the USSR is against the great masses of people—the workers, peasants, and national minorities.

As the Soviet people have risen up against the Brezhnev ruling clique with strikes, demonstrations, rebellions and through underground organizations, the Soviet government has become more open in exercising its fascist dictatorship.

In the mid-sixties, economic "reforms" introduced to the USSR restored the capitalist system fully. Since that time, Brezhnev and the clique around him have clamored

incessantly that there must be "law and order" in the USSR. To back this up, they have passed fascist laws including the confiscation of fire arms and other weapons, the establishment of slave-labor camps and mental hospitals as prisons for dissenters, and the transformation of the army and militias into police-state terror squads.

Laws such as the "Regulation on Preliminary Commitment" state that any Soviet citizen is subject to arrest at any time, and further, that resistance indicates mental instability and the necessity for hospitalization. Over 1,000 labor camps for political offenders now exist in the USSR, and they house more than one million people. Some of the larger mental hospitals have thousands of "patients" in their political wards, who are constantly subjected to physical torture, drugs, and electro-shocks, to break their will to resist.

This fascist system with its reactionary laws arose out of the conditions of the class struggle under the nearly fifty years of socialism in the Soviet Union. The exploiters, once overthrown, were able, with the help of world imperialism, to gain back control of the party and finally the state apparatus. Once capitalism had been fully restored, the country was subject to the same economic and political crisis as the rest of the capitalist world. Open terror has been the only way to suppress the peoples' struggle.

Today, as the USSR faces tremendous opposition from the small and medium-sized countries of the world, it is also facing increased resistance to its policies at home. In the last several years, the Soviet revisionists have dispatched their police, army and paratroopers to cities and farms all over the country, in order to put down rebellions. Despite the news blackout and censorship wielded by Brezhnev, news of strikes and demonstrations have leaked out to the Soviet people and to the rest of the world.

The penalty for participating in workers' strikes is imprisonment or death, and yet, each year since the mid-sixties has seen outbreaks of major workers' struggles, including the general strike of thousands of workers in Dnieperpetrovsk during the fall of 1972.

Other militant struggles of Soviet workers included the general uprising in Chirkent city in 1967, which was followed by a strike at the huge Kharkov tractor plant, and the May, 1969 demonstrations at the Hydro-Power station in Kiev. As the workers' movement has spread, so has the publication of revolutionary newspapers, leaflets and other agitation. With all their secret police and repressive laws, the Soviet rulers are unable to stop revolutionary ideas from coming out, and taking hold among the people.

MINORITIES THE VICTIMS

The many national minorities of the Soviet Union, once united with equality under socialism, have become the victims of severe repression, discrimination, and chauvinism. Uprisings against these policies have occurred with greater and greater frequency.

In the Lithuanian city of Kaunas in 1972, the shouts of "Give Lithuania freedom!" rang out for months, culminating in armed combat with the police. Demonstrators attacked both the police station and the Communist Party headquarters.

Numerous Latvian Communist Party members have written formal letters of protest to Brezhnev, charging that he has abandoned Marxism-Leninism, especially in the policies of forced assimilation of minorities. In the Ukraine 10,000 demonstrators attacked the Party offices, tearing up portraits of Brezhnev and denouncing the subjugation of their people.

These incidents show that the storm is gathering in the Soviet Union, while its leaders try to characterize the situation as "stable" and "harmonious." The people are organizing themselves to defend socialism, and to overthrow the "New Tsars."

The Soviet people themselves are a part of the great revolutionary upsurge in the world today and join forces with the people struggling everywhere against both the imperialism of the U.S. and the imperialism of the USSR.

CULTURAL FASCISTS SLANDER CHINA, SOCIALISM

The present world crisis within capitalism has produced two important trends which deeply affect the kind of cultural works we are seeing these days. First, there is the trend of mass struggle on the part of the people, who are rapidly coming to the conclusion that the capitalist system holds no real solutions to their problems.

Secondly, there is the trend of rising fascism from a ruling class that is rapidly losing its ability to govern in the old ("democratic") way any more. However, before fascism can gain its victory, the ability of the people to struggle must be smashed.

Capitalist culture plays an important role in taking away the will of working and oppressed people to fight back. It does this by painting the capitalist system as the "best of possible worlds" and slandering and discrediting socialism in such a way as to leave people with no hope for the future.

In recent months, a whole slew of fascist cultural works have been produced by the monopoly capitalists and their agents, directed primarily at slandering the socialist system in general and particularly the People's Republic of China, which has been an inspiration to people around the world which is standing up to the imperialist system and fighting back.

Hardly a day goes by when one cannot turn on television and find a late night movie depicting the invasion of the U.S. by millions of Chinese, who with special machines have tunneled through the earth to get here.

Recently in France a film is being widely pushed, entitled "Les Chinois a Paris" (The Chinese in Paris) which is about the Chinese invasion and occupation of France. The film, which shows the Chinese "occupation troops" being overcome by the decadence of French society, tries to portray China in the same light as the German fascists who invaded and occupied France 30 years ago.

To confuse fascism with socialism is one of the ways to trick the people and destroy their ability to fight. This is why Hitler and Mussolini both called themselves "national socialists."

But the film, "Les Chinois a Paris," produced by Jean Yanne, who has already gained the reputation of being a spineless parasite in his own country, is not as potentially dangerous as a recent film produced by the famous Italian film maker, M. Antonioni called, "China."

This film was produced during a trip which Antonioni made to the People's Republic in the spring of 1972, and which has been shown quite often on U.S. television. The worst part about "China" is that Antonioni went to that country as a "friendly" guest of the Chinese, all the while lying to them about his motives and intentions.

Saying that he was interested in gaining a "better understanding of China" Antonioni ran wild about China, showing no respect for the Chinese people and all that they have accomplished since their revolution in 1949. The

film tries to portray the country as almost unchanged since the old feudal and colonial system of the past, when the people were enslaved and exploited for the profit of foreign businesses.

Showing footage of his visit to Shanghai, the world's largest city and the most industrialized in China, Antonioni closes his shutter to the modern factories and ship-building production which have so greatly impressed every honest visitor to that beautiful city, only to show old small junks and horse-drawn carts.

He asserts in his own words the lie that Shanghai's industry "was not born today" and "as a city, Shanghai was literally built by foreign capital in the last century." This is a downright lie. The foreign imperialists were interested only in using Shanghai as a commercial center and a "fun city" and did nothing to industrialize it. Since liberation, by relying on their own efforts, the Chinese have industrialized more rapidly than anyone could have predicted.

It was the great enthusiasm for socialism that helped the Chinese workers achieve what they did in such a short time. But everywhere Antonioni travels, he tries to portray the people as being dull and lifeless, never finding any enjoyment and never showing any interest or enthusiasm for life. In the narration, Antonioni says that the "inhabitants of Peking (the capital) look poor, but not miserable." With this statement, Antonioni appears to be showing the Chinese leniency but his real intentions are to mock at their "poverty."

SOUTHERN FESTIVAL MERGES BLUES AND COUNTRY MUSIC

The Southern Folk Festival enters its ninth year this April with its two-week tour across the South. The festival is the only tour in the country which brings together white country and Black blues musicians.

Bernice Regon, who sang with the Freedom Singers in the early days of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), was one of the people instrumental in organizing the tour. Speaking about why the Festival was first started, she said, "We decided to develop it around emphasizing the similar experiences of Black and white working people as reflected in their music. We started with the early songs like the unaccompanied ballads of the white settlers and the slave songs and so forth."

Anne Romaine, a singer on the tour and director of the Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project, pointed out some of the changes in the nature of the tour. Nine years ago, she recalled, people "felt that to have Black and white musicians on the stage in the South was a really radical thing . . . it was not simply that it was Black and white, but we had some very strong political singers." The Festival mostly toured college campuses, but also performed for civil rights organizations and other political groups.

But some of the air of controversy which originally surrounded the tour no longer exists. Anne Romaine told *THE CALL*, for example, that in 1970, "The University of North Carolina had us there for their big Spring weekend

On and on he goes, trying to portray socialist society as "dark" and "lifeless." He attacks the Cultural Revolution, which was perhaps the most significant event in this century in that it saved China from going backwards to capitalism like the Soviet Union had done earlier. To Antonioni, these events meant only "throwing production into confusion" and destroying the "ancient traditions" of the past.

Antonioni, who has often posed as a "radical" and a "leftist," is using this film, not only to make thousands of dollars for himself, but to try and restore the old order in China and prevent the people now living under capitalism from taking the road of socialist revolution.

In one section of "China" Antonioni went so far as to offer some workers money if they would stage a fight for him to film, in order to make it appear as if the working class was badly divided. He shoots yards of film footage of people blowing their noses and going to the toilet.

Antonioni used many of the same tricks in a film he made in the U.S. a few years ago called "Zabriski Point" which alleges to portray revolutionary-minded young people in this country. During its production, Antonioni offered some money to a group of Afro-American activists and to some members of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) to get them to "stage a riot" for him to film.

It is easy to see that M. Antonioni is neither "radical" nor "left" but is simply another cultural fascist doing the work of the capitalist system in preparing the people for a fascist assault. The Antonioni film and the dozens of other rabid anti-China films must be exposed so that all can see their real reactionary character.

At the same time, it is important that we develop cultural works that tell the truth about the socialist system and show people that through their struggle, something positive can be attained and that the fascist onslaught can be defeated.

out in the middle of the football field after the Grateful Dead."

While the tour is less "controversial" today, there is still struggle underlying it. "There's a lack of sense of solidarity now," says Romaine in comparing today's tour to the sixties. "The musicians are not always as political as those in our first years. . . The Festival gives traditional musicians a chance to be heard, and also a chance for political musicians. . . We seem to have a continuing tension between the traditional and the political. One view is that the balance has to be finer, that we need to have traditional musicians who have some politics and work with them to develop them."

With the Festival this year, as the tour makes its way from Virginia to Texas, will be John Shines, Black Alabama bluesman and bottleneck player; Dewey Balfa and Lee Manuel, white traditional Acadian musicians from the Louisiana swamp country; and the Rev. Pearly Brown, a blind street singer from Americus, Ga. Alice and Hazel, a bluegrass duo who performed often during the Miners for Democracy election campaign in Appalachia, will also be a featured group. Hazel Dickens, who wrote the song *Mannington Mine Disaster* about the 78 miners who died there several years ago, noted that the strength of the Festival is that "Country music is people's music. . . people's lives put into song."

nections with the Soviet meeting would be highly embarrassing.

Very simply, the new revisionist conference is having trouble getting off the ground, and even if it does, it can only help to isolate further the Soviet revisionists. The people of the world are more and more expressing their revulsion towards super-power domination, whether it takes place under the banner of "detente" and "socialism", or open imperialist aggression. They are developing stronger ties to the genuine socialist countries like China and Albania and are coming to see the need for genuine Marxist-Leninist parties within their own countries to lead their revolutionary struggles.

Any conference which goes against this trend, which tries to impose Soviet domination and revisionism on the people, will definitely not succeed. This is a lesson taught by history.

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EUROPE . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

those countries. It was only in 1968 when the Soviet revisionists were using the German threat as an excuse for their invasion into Czechoslovakia. Now, to maintain their detente, the Soviet bosses claim that German militarism no longer exists and that Hitler's successors pose no threat of aggression.

The new conference is being used to lower the resistance of the peoples of Europe towards the threats of NATO and the Warsaw Pact and to turn Europe into part of the Soviet-U.S. empires with the support of the European parties. But these plans to walk over the sovereignty of the European countries is meeting resistance from many of these parties.

Likewise are their renewed plans to attack China and Albania, because this plan is meeting resistance from the rank-and-file members of those parties, many of whom have seen for themselves the great progress these two countries are making.

The Soviet revisionists are turning the countries of Eastern Europe into backward colonies, while robbing Cuba of its independence. Under these conditions, these various parties are not especially anxious about the planned meeting.

Many of the revisionist parties in the capitalist countries in Europe and the U.S. are closely collaborating with their respective bourgeois governments and are fighting only to get one more seat in parliament and congress. At a time when they are trying to prove more than anything else, their "loyalty" to their own governments, any con-