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

THE CALL

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LEAGUE**

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PICKETING at Egg City in Calif., the UFW has won new victories in union elections following their national convention. See story on page 4. (Call Photo)

PEOPLE UNITE TO FIGHT BACK

While the workers' movement is on the rise, spreading from coast to coast and bringing millions of people into struggle against the capitalist offensive and the effects of the crisis, the task still remains to unite this broad struggle into one organized movement.

It is in this spirit that the October League has initiated a national conference, called for the weekend of Dec. 27-28, for the purpose of uniting the many local fight-back, workers' and unemployed committees and organizations across the U.S.

The call to unite in the fight-back struggle is aimed at building one mass organization of working people to oppose the imperialist system and its murderous offensive against the rights and living conditions of the people. The national Fight-Back Conference is expected to be co-sponsored by dozens of working class organizations and rank-and-file organizations and trade union caucuses with hopes of drawing several hundred people to Chicago.

While President Ford and other spokesmen for the giant monopolies have preached to the working class about "tightening their belts" in the face of the present economic crisis, the people have refused to accept the massive unemployment, spiraling inflation and the threat of war and fascism lying down. In

cities everywhere a resistance movement has developed in opposition to the efforts of big business to force the burden of the crisis onto the backs of working people. In West Virginia and other mining states, more than 60,000 wildcatting miners have set the tone of struggle for the entire working class.

In city after city, committees have formed made up of workers and unemployed, fighting together side by side to meet the crisis head-on. These committees have launched mass campaigns directed at the ruling circles, based upon united struggle on the part of the people. Marches and demonstrations have raised slogans such as: "Jobs Not War!" "Jobs or Income Now!" "End Discrimination!" and "Make the Bosses Pay!" (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 18)

CALL EDITORIAL

WHY THE PRESS PROMOTES PATTY & THE SLA

The capture of Patty Hearst last month has brought with it a new wave of sensational headlines in all of the capitalist press, including the vast journalism empire of her father. All the media has been trying to portray the little band of SLAers as the "real revolutionaries" in the U.S.

Why is the press so concerned with pushing the admittedly-miniscule SLA into such prominence? Why the preoccupation with the new personality-cult being built around Miss Hearst? Some might point to the obvious factor that newspaper owners are trying to increase daily circulation with emphasis on the personal affairs, sex and violence of the SLA while ignoring even the puny anti-imperialist content of the SLA. But there is also another reason for the fascination of the ruling circles with the SLA.

The millionaires who own the media have long been skilled at promoting hand-picked "revolutionary" heroes before the masses' field of vision. These are always the type who are most removed from the lives and experiences of the working people and—most importantly—they are always the type of "revolutionaries" who promote opportunistic and unworkable theories that only serve to negate the revolutionary science of Marxism-Leninism.

In these days of increasingly bad conditions and growing discontent and resistance, the establishment, police, FBI and

politicians love to have a few of these so-called "terrorists" (usually misled rich kids or college professors) running around in order to discredit the real working class revolutionary forces and fatten up their anti-communist police networks and budgets. This was the favorite tactic of the late J. Edgar Hoover.

The Patty Hearst publicity is also connected to all the play in the press that Angela Davis of the revisionist Communist Party received. While her trial was going on, the press was busy publicizing her along with her reformist electoral strategy in order to disarm the people from within while setting them up for fascism from without. There is a common thread running between Davis and Hearst; between the CP and the SLA. While one appears as reformist and one as terrorist, they both are in essence, anti-working class and anti-revolutionary. Both bow to the spontaneity of the masses. The CP tails behind the narrow economic demands of the trade union leadership, while the terrorists bow to the moral outrage of the petty-bourgeois intellectuals.

The job of real revolutionaries is to lead the political struggle of the people to revolution and socialism.

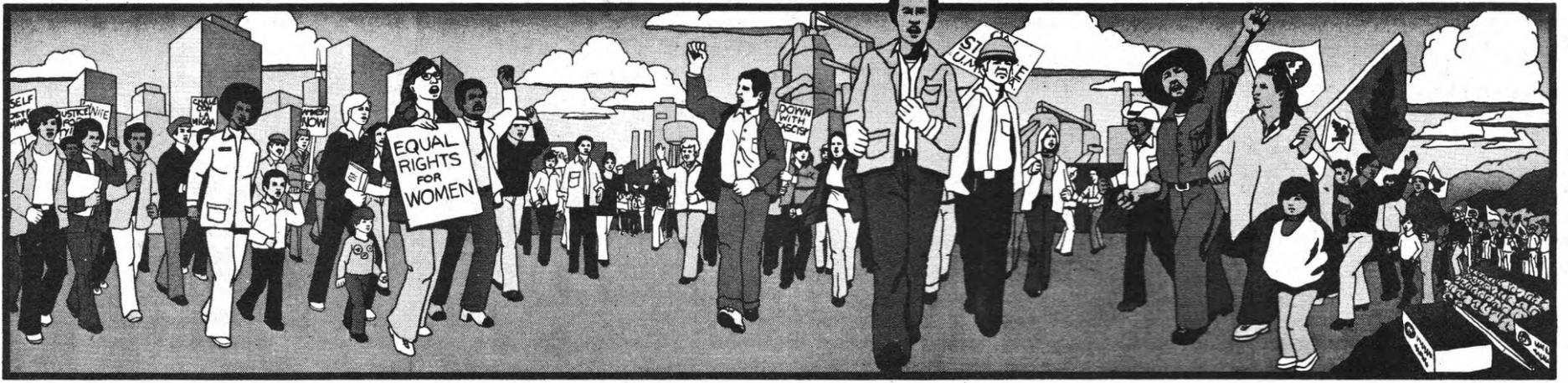
To do so, a genuine communist party must be built and is being built. It is under these conditions that the CP is trying to revive itself to head off the revolutionary movement of the people. And it is under these conditions too, that the

SLA is being blown up in the press, emphasizing their adventurism and isolation from the masses. These are the two models which the ruling class is handing us. It is hard sometimes to say which is the more ridiculous caricature of revolution—the newspaper heiress posing with a sub-machine gun before the symbol of the six-headed cobra or the so-called CP posturing before the red-white-and blue bunting of their so-called "People's Bicentennial." These are opposite faces of the same coin.

Inflating terrorist bands into "revolutionaries," or smearing real revolutionaries with the brand of "terrorists" are both old tricks played by decaying regimes. Such tricks are cheap cards, but with the stink of Watergate, the CIA revelations and other recent exposures, the ruling class cannot afford to be choosy.

However all of these promotion campaigns for the SLA "revolutionaries" will only backfire. Underlying the interest of the people in the Hearst affair is their desire for real revolutionary change. Now there is a genuine revolutionary movement growing up in the country with its own press and political program. As the discontent among the people with exploitation, racism and war turns them towards revolutionary thought, an alternative to terrorism and revisionism is being presented. All the SLA promotion campaigns in the world cannot divert us from our course.

THE PEOPLE IN STRUGGLE



Huge Benefit for 'Fight-Back 10'

Atlanta, Ga.—Defense work for the Fight-Back 10 rolled into high gear on Sept. 20 when 800 people attended a benefit fundraising party sponsored by the Atlanta Workers Committee to Fight Back.

The Fight-Back 10 were arrested and beaten by state patrol officers at a peaceful demonstration last spring outside the offices of the state Labor Dept. Charging the 10 with assault and criminal trespassing, the prosecutor informed the judge that he wanted to "put some trouble makers away for a few years."

But since the arrests, the Fight-Back committee has continued to grow, and has now opened an office across the street from the unemployment office as part of a program to help unemployed workers get their benefits and fight government harassment.

The party on Sept. 20 saw the participation of local DJ's from WAOK radio, as well as speakers from AFSCME, the Steelworkers Caucus, the October League, and a number of the Fight-Back 10 defendants themselves.

Sioux Demand U.S. Honor Treaty

Washington, D.C.—A delegation of Oglala Sioux arrived here August 30 demanding to see President Ford. Led by their traditional chief, Frank Fool's Crow, they are protesting the refusal of the U.S. government to honor the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. This, they insist, will be the last time they come peacefully.

On their arrival in Washington, the delegation held a welcoming ceremony. The chief offered a ceremonial prayer in the Sioux language, and several of the Native Americans talked about the conditions on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Since the Sioux uprising at Wounded Knee in 1873, a number of tribe members have been brutally shot down by Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) puppet police. But when two FBI agents were found dead, a massive military occupation, backed-up by tanks, was launched by federal police.

Several speakers at the ceremony outlined the repeated violations of the Fort Laramie Treaty, including the Indian Reorganization Act which stole the sovereignty of the Sioux people and placed it in the hands of a BIA puppet government.

Local Washington groups offered their solidarity and support, in addition to that given by the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the October League.

The Oglala Sioux are an inspiration to all the Indian people in their fight-back against oppression.

March Marks August Rebellions

Los Angeles, Calif.—200 people marched downtown here August 30 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Watts rebellion and the fifth anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium.

The march and rally, initiated by the Los Angeles Labor Unity Organization (LALUO), had as its main slogan: "We want jobs not war, deportations, or discrimination." Speakers from LALUO, the Fight Don't Starve Committee from the San Francisco Bay Area, La Raza Unida Party (Norwalk), Communist Youth Organization, Industrial Wire strike, Colorado Workers Unity Organization, and the October League addressed the crowd in La Placita.

The march followed by a day the arrest of 4 LALUO members at the Broadway office of the California Employment Development Department. LALUO members had gone to the office to present demands to the unemployment directors, but were attacked by State Police as the picket line was about to be set up in front of the building.

While many groups and individuals have recognized August as the anniversary of the Watts Rebellion and the Chicano Moratorium, the march was the only demonstration in Los Angeles to show that the spirit of these heroic rebellions still lives in the peoples' struggles.

Denver Raises Funds for Indochina

Denver, Col.—"After Sorrow Comes Joy" was the theme of a September 6 celebration here for the historic peoples' victories in Vietnam and Cambodia. This theme, a quote from one of Ho Chi Minh's poems, represents the confidence that the Indochinese people had in their final victory.

More than 200 people gathered in Denver's Chicano community for a program and dance to raise funds for the rebuilding of these countries following their wars of national liberation from U.S. aggression. The event was sponsored by the October League, the National Lawyers Guild, the Casa del Barrio, and other local organizations.

Members of Mi Casa, an organization fighting against deportations in Greeley, Colorado, gave a musical performance. In addition, art objects related to the Indochinese peoples' struggles, such as silk portraits of Ho Chi Minh, Vietnamese Liberation postage stamps, and rings made from downed American jet bombers netted more than \$500 for the reconstruction of Indochina.

Joann Little Exposes Sham C.P. Aid

Following her victory in the racist, frame-up murder case against her in North Carolina, JoAnn Little exposed the phony "support" given her by the revisionist Communist Party and its spokeswoman Angela Davis.

Speaking at an Oakland, Calif. press conference two weeks after her trial, Little was quoted in the Oakland Sun Reporter as accusing Angela Davis and the CPUSA of paying "lip service to Black people," and called on Black people to oppose the activities of the revisionists.

Little stated that the CPUSA attempted to sabotage her defense efforts after their unsuccessful efforts to control the defense committee. "We have a letter," said Little, "in which the Communist Party actually advised people to stay away from the trial. They were not interested in working with Larry Little (North Carolina Black Panther Party Leader-ed.) and the defense committee. They only wanted to control everything."

JoAnn Little was quoted as describing Davis as a tool of the CP. "They are just using her as a form to get over," she said. Little still faces charges in North Carolina of breaking and entering, for which she was imprisoned in Beaufort County Jail during the time when she killed jailer Clarence Allgood in self-defense.

Black-Belt Farmers Hold Meeting

Epes, Alabama—Several hundred people gathered in rural Sumter County recently for the 8th Annual Meeting of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC).

The FSC is an association of rural cooperatives with a membership of 30,000 poor farming families organized into 130 cooperatives from 14 southern states. FSC members own over one million acres of land, and plant such crops as soybeans, feed grains, cotton, and vegetables, as well as timber and pasture grass for livestock grazing.

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THE CALL HAS MOVED

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Celebrate Mexican Independence Day



September 16 marked the anniversary of "El Grito de la Independencia," which launched the start of the Mexican people's struggle for independence from Spain in 1810.

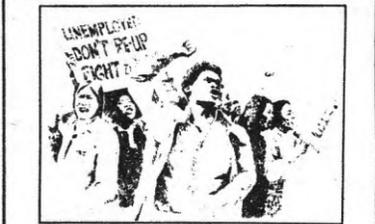
In East Chicago, Indiana, the anti-imperialist Zapata Contingent (above) marched alongside floats and marching bands from community groups and schools. The Contingent, sponsored by the Workers' Solidarity Committee, demanded "Raza Si, Migra No—Superpowers Out of Mexico!"

The Mexican revolution against Spanish rule was successful in throwing out the Spanish colonialists, but the Mexican bourgeoisie was unable to consolidate its rule enough to maintain its independence in the face of new foreign invaders—the U.S. imperialists.

Today, the Mexican people are still fighting for their sovereignty against the economic and political control of the U.S., as well as the increasingly dangerous threats posed by the other superpower—the Soviet Union.

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SOUTHERN FIGHT-BACK TAKES GIANT STEP

Eastabuchie, Miss.—Nearly 300 people from across the South took part in a fight-back conference which was held here September 6-7. The conference, which was sponsored by the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) and hosted by the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Association (GPA), called for unity among the fight-back organizations across the country and a South-wide demonstration to be held in Atlanta later in the year.

The delegates to the conference came from various areas of the South and represented dozens of working class, minority, student and revolutionary groups. The conference was marked by a large degree of participation from workers. Many members of the GPA from the surrounding area came to the conference. Woodcutters participated in and led many of the workshops and GPA President Fred Walters gave the keynote speech.

In his speech, Walters stressed the need for a united struggle in defense of the rights of all working people and explained that Black-white unity was the key to the strength of the GPA. The GPA is experiencing a new growth here in the heart of KKK country. Walters said in his speech, "We often discuss the Klan in our meetings and we have decided that if they ever pay anyone around here a visit, we will visit them right back."

OPPORTUNISTS EXPOSED

Walters went on to explain the difficult history of the GPA and exposed the role of certain opportunists like Charlie Gillespie and John Ratcliffe, who while posing as friends of the woodcutters tried to divide them along racial lines, putting forth the view that the white workers were to blame for racism. After that line was defeated within the GPA, Gillespie and a handful of his cohorts tried to destroy the union, spreading slanders and red-baiting Walters and the leadership. Walters spoke with great emotion as he explained why the GPA and the whole working class needed unity between Black and white workers. His speech was greeted with a standing ovation from the audience.

The conference also heard speeches from SCEF President Bob Zellner and Larry Little of the North Carolina Black Panther Party and a leader in the JoAnn Little Defense Committee. Workshops were held on a broad range of subjects which encompassed a wide area of southern organizing. Aside from tactical workshops such as "Organizing the Youth," "Organizing the Unemployed" and "Caucus Building," workshops were also held on broader political questions like the "International Situation" and the question "Reform or Revolution" which was led by GPA members.

The evenings were filled with cultural performances by members of the Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project, including singers Ann Romaine, Mabel Hillary, Johnny Shines and Charles Sayles. Local musicians from the Eastabuchie area also performed.

The conference heard from Cheryl Todd, a young

Black woman from Atlanta who is on trial along with Desi X Woods for murder in rural Georgia after defending herself against a rapist. In the workshop on racism and repression, Ernie McMillan from Dallas and a former leader of the Student Non-Violent Co-ordinating Committee (SNCC) spoke on the work of People United for Justice for Prisoners. Other political defense cases taken up by the conference included the case of the "Fight-Back 10" in Atlanta who were jailed during a sit-in in the State Labor Commissioner's office. Their trial is scheduled for October and the South-wide demonstration endorsed by the conference is scheduled to coincide with the trial.

A panel held on the strategy for the fight-back against the crisis heard Larry Little, Fran Browne from the Revolutionary Workers Congress (RWC) and Lyn Wells from the October League (OL) put forth their organizations' views on the present struggle and its final objectives. One of the most hotly debated questions discussed on this panel was around the building of Black-white unity and multinational organization among the working class and revolutionary fighters. Little, while pointing to the class nature of the present struggle, put forth the view that the "racism of the white workers" created the necessity for separate organizations for Black and white, such as the Black Panther Party.

Following Little's historical analysis of the development of the BPP, Fran Browne made her presentation on the cause of the crisis, pointing out its main feature as being "a crisis of overproduction." Browne said that the cause of the crisis lay in the unplanned nature of the capitalist economy where each capitalist "produces as if he were the only producer in the world." Browne called for the building of a new communist party as the path to victory over capitalism.

Lyn Wells, a member of the OL Central Committee, also called on people to help forge a new party. She pointed to the primitive and scattered character of the spontaneous struggle against the crisis to demonstrate that need. Wells showed how the party must be built in the course of mass work and that communists must always be linked to the masses, working with them and building up their fighting capacity.

Both Wells and Browne stressed the need for a communist party made up of people of all nationalities. This need



was put forth in response to a speaker from the African People's Socialist Party (APSP) who attacked all attempts at organizational unity between Black and white revolutionaries, saying that anything but national forms of organization are "the height of opportunism." The APSP representative found himself completely isolated. One speaker after another rose to denounce the opportunism of this group.

Prior to the conference, APSP leader Joseph Waller, speaking on a platform with Louisville mayor Harvey Sloane, called SCEF and the OL "enemies of the people" and called on people to carry out attacks on the SCEF office "at three in the morning." When the people at the conference heard about this police-type behavior, they unanimously denounced the actions and line of the APSP

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 18)

FORD GIVES OK TO RACIST ANTI-BUSING MOVEMENT

As school opened in September, cities like Boston and Louisville became focal points of struggle as a growing opposition to the racist anti-busing movement developed through demonstrations and other mass actions.

At the same time, the organized forces opposed to integration, led by fascist demagogues such as Louise Day Hicks (Boston City Councilwoman) and David Duke (Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan) attempted to expand their reactionary movement by whipping up a new wave of racist hysteria around the busing issue. Their activity has been sanctioned by the highest levels of the government, including President Ford who has said that "busing should not be used."

While Hicks and Duke were inciting gang violence against Afro-Americans, the people were answering back with a firm and militant response. Nearly 400 people demonstrated in Louisville the week school opened to support that city's busing program and oppose the influence of the KKK. This action came on the heels of an anti-Klan rally two weeks earlier in which 500 people participated.

In Boston, hundreds of demonstrators countered the anti-busing demonstrations of the ROAR organizations, as they chanted "Stop ROAR, stop the Klan, put the power in the workers' hands." Chants of "Jobs, not ROAR," also rang out.

The Boston demonstration on September 13 was called by Boston Workers United to Fight Back. It mobilized Black and white workers, as well as workers of other nationalities to take a stand in the struggle.

Jehu Eaves, speaking for the October League called on the crowd to win other workers to active participation in defense of the rights of minorities and in support of busing. He answered the Hicks-KKK attempts to lead the working class by saying, "There can be no struggle against the economic crisis unless we also take up the struggle for the democratic rights of oppressed nationalities. This is the only way to build real working class unity."

David Simpson, a spokesman for SCEF (Southern Conference Educational Fund) which has been a leading force in the Louisville battle, spoke in Boston to express solidarity with the struggle there. Simpson pointed out the basic unity of the fight for equality in both the North and the

South. He said:

"The whole system of national oppression of Black people started in the South where they were brought as slaves. Oppression still exists in the South but we are also feeling the effects of it today in Boston. The reason there are a good many Black people in Boston is because of the oppression of their historic homeland in the South. They were driven to the North trying to find jobs, freedom and equality. And they find that we need to fight for it in the North just as we do in the South."

A speaker from CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women), Cynthia Hammil, pointed out the true reactionary aims of ROAR and other anti-busing groups. She pointed out that far from "concentrating on quality education" ROAR is organized to oppose every progressive struggle taking place in Boston. For example, ROAR opposes democratic rights for women as well as Blacks, taking a stand of opposition to abortions as well as the Equal Rights Amendment.

This whole question of "quality education" so often referred to by ROAR has proved to be nothing more than a mask to cover up the rottenness of the present educational system, and the total inequality that exists in schooling.

Ford, Kennedy and other spokesmen of big business, both "liberal" and "conservative" have declared their support for so-called "quality education." This is the old "separate but equal" principle which really means separate and unequal as the worst schools and most backward facilities are always reserved for the minority community schools.

ROAR's demagogic defense of "quality education" implies that white communities already have a "quality education" to protect. Of course Boston's big real estate and banking interests which back ROAR would like the white community to believe this, because it turns the focus of the fight for better schools off them, making Black people the enemy instead of the ruling powers that run the schools.

The use of the "quality education" fig-leaf to cover for a racist, anti-working class view of education is not limited to the ruling circles and their agents in ROAR. Some for-

ces on the "left," such as Workers Viewpoint and the Revolutionary Union have also preached the line of "quality education for all" as an excuse for standing outside the concrete struggle for equality, in fact chiming in with ROAR and the KKK in opposing busing.

In Louisville, a number of the top labor misleaders, including the executive board of the IUE threatened to organize a racist "general strike" if the busing program there proceeded. While they were successful in mobilizing some white workers to oppose busing, many workers saw through this misleadership just as Boston workers have seen through ROAR. A tobacco worker told *The Call*, "The union's never brought us out on a 'general strike' against the boss, but now they want us to strike against busing. That probably makes the boss pretty happy."

The abandonment of the Afro-American struggle for equality by the trade union misleaders, was echoed by many of their friends in "liberal" Democratic Party circles. Ted Kennedy, who last year paid mealy-mouth lip-service to support for the busing program, has ceased to comment on the Boston situation altogether and even refused to condemn the gangs who firebombed his family mansion. Gov. Carroll of Kentucky, who called out the national guard in Louisville when national attention was focused there, has quietly begun to withdraw the protection giving a freer hand to the rapidly growing racist gangs in that city. The withdrawal of the troops in Louisville and a similar withdrawal in Boston, shows that the people must rely on themselves for self-defense and to advance the struggle for equality.

Busing has become a question which embodies today's struggle of the Afro-American people for freedom and equality and against racial discrimination. At the same time, it has become the touchstone for whether or not the working class, both white and Black, will stand united. The reactionary misleaders are doing their best to drive a dividing wedge between Black and white workers, and this attempt must be defeated. The mobilizations and actions in support of busing and democratic rights for minorities must continue. Like the recent demonstrations in Louisville and Boston, they must be rallying cries not just for integration but for working class unity and Black liberation.

UFW SCORES ELECTION GAINS

Decisive Struggle Lies Ahead

Los Angeles, Calif.—The fields of California are the scene of continuing battles between the United Farm Workers (UFW) and the growers and their agents, the Teamster union.

In a desperate attempt to stop victories in union elections by the UFW, growers from Fresno to Salinas trampled the provision of the California farm labor bill. They bribed labor board representatives, called in Immigration Service agents to raid the fields, and hired armed vigilantes to stop UFW drives. These bribes, raids and terror tactics are the work of growers and government officials who were promising "peace in the fields" and "union democracy" only a month earlier.

For all the grower threats and intimidation, however, the UFW has far outpolled the Teamsters Union. On many farms the Teamsters didn't even bother to campaign such as at Chula Vista in San Diego County, where every election so far has been swept by the UFW.

DEFEND ORGANIZER

In Santa Maria further to the north, the UFW has also organized many ranches where contracts have never been in effect and have taken ranches away from Teamster control. These victories were won even after the main Santa Maria farmworker organizer was hospitalized following two beatings by Teamster goons. During a second attack, Paulino Pacheco was defended by farmworkers who chased the goons away with machetes.

Several crucial elections have been blatantly rigged in favor of the Teamsters and the growers however. At the Gallo winery at Modesto and at the Egg City Ranch in Moorpark, the Teamsters have come out ahead due to bribery of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board members. On both farms hundreds of strikers turned out to vote in favor of the UFW, but their votes were impounded after Walter Kempt, general counsel of the ALRB, made a deal with the growers. The UFW will easily win the elections if the impounded votes are counted, and

they have demanded that Kempt be fired for his open grower bias. The newly passed farm labor law clearly says that strikers are allowed to vote in all union elections, yet strikers' votes have been impounded across the state.

In Delano, reports from UFW organizers show that violence and intimidation have kept 20 to 30% of the field workers from voting in the elections. The intimidation has included Teamster beatings, threats of deportations, and firings. At Bud Antel's Farms and Giumarra Vineyards, two of the largest ranches in California, the elections went against the UFW because of unfair practices and intimidation.

'MIGRA' CALLED IN

The California labor law says that all unions are to have access to the fields during lunch and before and after work. Yet UFW organizers have continually been beaten, arrested or run off at gunpoint, while the Teamsters are allowed on the ranches all day. Across the state growers and Teamsters have called in the immigration border patrol to pick out farmworkers from the field for deportation. At one Delano farm, 70 workers were deported in a single day.

In Oxnard, the "Migra" picked up workers from one of the largest mushroom farms in the country, West Foods. Immigration agents were led through the farm by management and Teamster organizers a week after the UFW filed a petition with ALRB for union elections at West Foods.

At a press conference the next day Eliseo Medina, UFW organizer in Oxnard, said: "The border patrol is a hostile instrument in the service of the growers and Teamsters." In response to these attacks, hundreds of farmworkers have poured into Sacramento to protest with the state government.

The farmworkers are standing up for democratic rights, and the growers have used every weapon at their disposal to crush the UFW movement. But the UFW was built on the struggle of the farmworkers against exploitation and all



FARM WORKERS MOBILIZE for crucial elections in California fields. Vote was big win for union at most ranches but fraud prevented win in a few, as at Egg City, Gallo and some others. Workers' spirit is high. (Call Photo)

past victories including the passage of the California Farm Labor bill were won through the farmworkers' militancy. The struggle to gain union rights, fight off the Teamster thugs, and win decent contracts is part of a hundred-year struggle against agribusiness oppression which still continues, inspired by the victories already won.

While the first elections held under the new California law showed a clear-cut victory for the UFW over the Teamsters, the more important contests will come next spring when hundreds of elections are to be held. However the real struggle of the

state's 250,000 farmworkers goes beyond the question of the present elections. The election victories being won by the UFW reflect the years of difficult work and struggle on the part of the workers. Their militant strikes and political movements are still their main weapons against the grower-Teamster assault. The election victories will allow the UFW to bargain on behalf of the workers in their daily struggle against the employers. But the assault on the rights and living standards of the UFW members will continue as long as big business is the boss in the fields.

Shortest 'Recovery' on Record

A third of the country's plant capacity still stands idle. Unemployment remains over 8% officially. But one trend in the economy that shows definite signs of "recovery" is the rate of inflation.

Prices jumped 1.2% in July and 1.0% in August. That translates into an annual rate of 12 to 14% increases. In other words, last year's double-digit inflation is back.

High and rising inflation rates generally spell slump ahead. This is because the income of the masses of the people cannot keep pace with the price hikes. As a result commodities go unbought. Excess inventories pile up, and the workers who produced them are laid off.

Every capitalist "recovery" carries within it the seeds of a new, larger crisis. The current "recovery" is proving this

truth quicker than usual.

New York banks reported in mid-September that loans to business had fallen off during the month for the first time in at least 15 years. A bank spokesman said this was "quite unusual."

A drop in business loans, indicating that capitalists do not plan to increase their hiring of workers, is a strong signal of economic decline.

These warning lights are flashing at a time when only the hired economic soothsayers in Washington are claiming that the "recovery" is off the ground. In the words of Norman Robertson, chief economist at the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, "Either the inflation rate is going to subside or we'll have the shortest recovery on record."

FORD OFFERS 'PIE IN THE SKY'

LABOR HARD HIT ON LABOR DAY

Gerald Ford and George Meany, two of big business's biggest friends, took the occasion of Labor Day to pose as friends of the nation's working people. What message did the country's foremost political and labor "leaders" bring to working men and women who are suffering the effects of the worst economic crisis in 25 years? Their answer to the growing demand for jobs or income was nothing but hollow promises and racist attacks. Meany, as president of the AFL-CIO, spoke under the guise of a "working class leader," launching a blatantly racist attack on the struggles of the very workers he supposedly represents. In an interview with a group of "labor writers," he blamed the worsening unemployment situation on minority hiring programs, calling them "reverse discrimination." "To say that we've got to sacrifice our kids and our rights to take care of people who merely say that they've got to be employed because their skin is black, that is discrimination in reverse, and I don't buy it," he said.

Instead of uniting with the workers' demand for "Jobs or income for all," he made an open appeal to white racism stating, "I don't think I'm responsible for the fact that people in this country 125 years ago went to Africa and brought people

over here as slaves. I wasn't around... And to say that I've got some responsibility to make up for discrimination that took place 100 years ago is nuts."

No one was happier to hear Meany attack minority hiring programs than the corporation heads who for decades have fought tooth and nail against hiring minority workers. By bribing a small handful of "workers" like Meany (who earns upwards of \$150,000 a year) and other sell-out labor leaders, these monopolists are able to create a section of the working class who spread the ideas of the capitalist class—like the idea that "reverse discrimination is the cause of unemployment"—and who fight in the trade union movement for the interests of their bosses on Wall Street.

And no one will suffer more than the workers themselves from the disunity which results from blaming one section of the working class—minorities, women, young people, immigrant workers—for the scarcity of jobs. By fighting discrimination which has historically kept these sections of the working class "last hired and first fired," working people will be able to unite to win better conditions for all.

Ford himself was not so bold as to blame the "official" 8.4% national unemployment on the workers themselves. His

approach was to offer sympathy and hollow promises. Demagogically agreeing that "Labor Day is no holiday for those who are out of work," he neglected to make any concrete suggestions about how to get the unemployed back to work. At a rally sponsored by the Maine Federation of Labor, Ford declared that no level of unemployment was acceptable to his administration. He said that business and industry should work to expand production and create new jobs, even pulling the pleasant sounding figure of "11 million new jobs" out of the air to complete his fantasy.

But not even the president of the U.S. can end the current recession with promises of pie in the sky and appeals to "labor, management and government to work together." Ever since the ruling class created Labor Day to undermine the militant celebration of May Day as a workers' holiday, they have used the opportunity to throw out empty promises. In the past, workers have been "promised" that unemployment would never rise above 6%. Yet the current recession saw the figure climb to 9.2% in May of this year. U.S. workers have always been taught that their standard of living was the "highest in the world" and would stay that way. But, in fact, with galloping

inflation and minimal wage hikes over the past years, worker purchasing power has declined an estimated 10%.

But working people have a solution to the crisis that is not based on false promises or blaming other workers for the system's problems. This is to build a nationwide fightback that will "make the bosses pay." While Ford and Meany were hauling out their tired Labor Day messages, rank and file workers from the Los Angeles Labor Unity Organization, for example, led a march of over 200 people on August 30 to commemorate the anniversaries of the Watts rebellion and the Chicano Moratorium and to demand "Jobs not war!" (See story p.2)

It is precisely because workers are not "cooperating with government and management" in the attack on their standard of living that Meany and Ford pulled out their bag of tricks on Labor Day. Ford himself spoke nervously about the need to "maintain the social fabric of America," citing unemployment as a potential cause of "social unrest."

And "social unrest" is just what Ford can expect as the people's fightback grows into a movement that will defeat the attempts of the monopolists and their agents to smash the unity and organization of the working class.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALL

TOWARD A REVOLUTIONARY WEEKLY

This month marks the beginning of the fourth year of our publishing *The Call* as a Marxist-Leninist monthly and the political organ of the October League.

Since its first issue came out in October 1972, *The Call* has played a leading role in the development of the communist press and in the foundation work for the building of the new Marxist-Leninist party which is now in the process of formation. It has served as the framework around which the October League has been built as a nation-wide pre-party organization playing an active and leading role in the struggles of the working class and training scores of revolutionary cadre for the work of organizing the new party.

Now as it enters its fourth year of publication, *The Call* is preparing itself to come out weekly. This effort is planned to coincide with the actual organizational work to form the party officially. The weekly publication of *The Call* will mark a major leap forward for the U.S. communist movement and will reflect the qualitative development of our movement organizationally, ideologically and in its mass work.

Many people have asked us, "Why is it so important for *The Call* to come out weekly?" This question voices the genuine concern that the people have for the use of the resources of our movement and the danger of over-extending ourselves. To publish and distribute a communist paper weekly will require a much higher level of organization and a more advanced political level. When carried out, it will mean the working class will have its first real Marxist-Leninist newspaper to be published on a regular basis (more often than monthly) since the old Daily Worker was put out by the Communist Party in the period before it turned tail and abandoned the cause of proletarian revolution. The few other papers that come out more than monthly at the present time have failed to take up a Marxist-Leninist line or to build any organization among the masses of working people.

Without such a paper, the Marxist-Leninists are confined to a primitive style of work which separates the science of the socialist revolution from the mass struggles of the people. Even *The Call* at the present time is not able to fully integrate its revolutionary line with the spontaneous struggles and rebellions of the masses; to intervene in these spontaneous movements and bring to them the revolutionary theory which is essential for victory. As Lenin wrote: "Without such a paper we shall be absolutely unable to fulfill our task, namely, to concentrate all the elements of political unrest and discontent and with them enrich the revolutionary movement of the proletariat."

The monthly revolutionary press has been characteristic of the pre-party period which is rapidly drawing to a close. The monthly newspaper served as a means to clarify the Marxist-Leninist political line. It also functioned as a basis for 1) developing unity between the various local groups and collectives around the country; and 2) clarifying the principal differences between the various trends within the socialist movement, i.e. neo-Trotskyists, centrists and revisionists as distinct from the genuine Marxist-Leninists.

To a certain degree, *The Call* and other monthlies were also able to give some leadership to the working class struggle and to the general

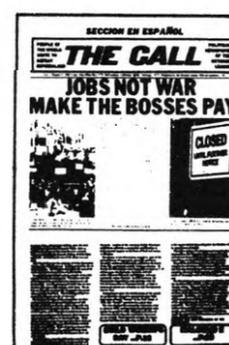
movement against imperialism. But the monthly format made it difficult if not impossible to give real concrete direction, especially in this period of intensified political and economic crisis where every new day brings dozens of open outbreaks of the class struggle, where the anti-imperialist united front is rapidly broadening and where thousands of advanced workers are turning towards Marxism. Of course this turn is still limited and is dependent upon the most complete criticism on the part of the Marxist-Leninist press of all forms of reformism, revisionism and opportunism. This turn towards communism on the part of the revolutionary-minded workers can only mature when this scientific analysis is brought out in the open through a regular communist press that is able to keep pace with the times, a press which must come out "weekly," as Lenin said, "if it is a newspaper worthy of the name."

Lenin wrote in "What is to be Done?" in 1902: "If we could manage to bring it about that all, or the great majority of the local committees, groups and circles shall take up the common task, we could in the very near future establish a weekly newspaper which would be regularly distributed in tens of thousands of copies, all over Russia. This newspaper would become a part of an enormous pair of bellows, blowing every spark of the class struggle and of popular discontent into a general conflagration. Around this, what is in itself a very innocent and inconsiderable but regular and common task in the fullest sense of the word, a permanent army of tried fighters would be systematically rallied and receive their training."

Here Lenin was speaking of period of history in Russia similar to today's times in this country, when the party was just entering the period of its formation and when the paper served as the "scaffolding" around which an organization of revolutionaries could be trained. His call for a weekly newspaper, like ours, was a rallying cry against the primitiveness of the revolutionary movement and its limitations of localism, i.e. confining themselves to local agitation and local papers in each city. The work of building such a weekly press is the key task in establishing the badly needed advance in revolutionary organization—the party.

The Call is preparing for its tasks by strengthening its *Call* Committees in each city. A national conference is being called of *Call* Committee representatives this month and a general campaign is being carried out to expand the size and abilities of committees. *Call* work is being strengthened in the area of writing broad and comprehensive exposures of the capitalist system. These articles must take each and every example of capitalist oppression and resistance and through them, show the real character of the system of capitalist dictatorship and how real change can come only through revolutionary struggle and the overthrow of that system and the establishment of the rule of the working class-socialism.

On the occasion of this, our third anniversary, we are calling on friends and comrades everywhere to support our efforts with their work and funds. A national fund-raising drive has been initiated with the goal of raising \$250,000 by April. The response to the drive has already exceeded our expectations. Letters of support have already begun to flow into the *Call* office. In order to share this response with our readers, we are printing below excerpts from some of these letters.



Letters to The Call

Readers Respond to Weekly Publication Campaign

Dear Comrades,

I have just read about the plans for *The Call* to publish weekly, and I think this is a very advanced step, as the workers' movement must have a weekly (and hopefully daily) newspaper to organize itself. The Guardian simply can't play this role, because it only analyzes and never organizes. I would like to write for *The Call* in the future.

Communist greetings,
C.E., San Francisco

Friends,

First general congratulations on the continuing excellence of the paper. I'm sure I'm not alone in looking forward with a great deal of eagerness to the time when *The Call* will be serving us, the people on a weekly basis.

Second, congratulations on instituting a regular feature devoted to the cultural front. The graphic is especially excellent. Hopefully this space will be used not only to review work, but also to publish original work.

In Solidarity,
P.H., Milwaukee

Dear Comrades,

Enclosed is a check for \$10.00 to renew my subscription to *The Call* when it runs out and the remainder is a donation. The political line set forth in *The Call* is one with which I am in full solidarity.

Also, I have been working this summer with the anti-segregationist coalition forming in Boston and the role of the October League in forging this united front has been exemplary.

I want to begin pledging \$10.00 monthly. Keep up the good work.

In Solidarity,
B.S., Charlottesville, Va.

To *The Call*,

I enclose \$10 for a renewal to *The Call*. Great to see you have decided to get *The Call* out every week in the not too distant future. Best wishes with the campaign. Here in Norway, as you probably know, the M-L movement has published a weekly "Klassekampen" (Class Struggle) since January, 1973. (Circulation: 16,000).

M-L greetings,
R.E., Norway

Contribute to the Call Campaign

In the first month of the *Call* fundraising drive, we received over \$30,000 towards our goal of a quarter-million for weekly publication. We thank all those who contributed, but we still have a long way to go! We are counting on all our readers and friends for their support.

---I enclose a contribution of \$.....toward the weekly publication of *The Call*

---I would like to contribute \$.....every month and become a *Call* sustainer. (*Call* sustainers receive complimentary copies of all new O.L. literature).

SPECIAL OFFER

Until November 1, you can subscribe to *The Call* for \$4.00, a one dollar savings off the regular price. Or, you can subscribe to both *The Call* and Class Struggle, the October League's new theoretical journal, for \$7.00, a two-dollar savings.

---I enclose \$4.00 for a one year sub to *The Call*

---I enclose \$7.00 for Class Struggle and *Call* subs

---I enclose a contribution towards weekly publication

Name: _____

Address, City, State, and Zip: _____

(Make checks payable to *The Call*, Box 5597, Chicago, Illinois, 60680)

REVOLUTIONARY YOUTH GET ORGANIZED

Everywhere in the world today, the youth are playing an active revolutionary role in the struggles of the people against imperialism. The young people are the most active and vital force in society, and at times even play a vanguard role in the fight for socialism and national liberation.

The birth of the Communist Youth Organization (CYO) in many cities across the U.S. this year signals the beginning of a new chapter in the U.S. revolutionary youth movement. In this country, nearly half the population is under the age of 25. Growing numbers of young men and women of all nationalities are joining the struggles of the working people to fight against all forms of oppression and exploitation. The development of the CYO marks a turn in the youth movement towards Marxism-Leninism and socialism, a turn towards the revolutionary ideology of the working class which has been so badly lacking in the recent history of the U.S. youth movement.

Initiated by the October League, the CYO is organizing to develop revolutionary leadership among the youth who can integrate the science of Marxism-Leninism with the mass struggles of the people. The CYO serves as a training ground for the emerging revolutionary successors to the great traditions of revolutionary working class struggle in the U.S. It is being organized at the same time as a new communist party is in the process of formation, and is forging strong fraternal ties to the Marxist-Leninist forces that are building the party.

The CYO, along with its study of Marxism, is a fighting organization taking up the special struggles of the youth, as well as those of the people as a whole. Young people are specially oppressed under imperialism, suffering especially in this period of deep economic crisis. Unemployment among youth is estimated by some experts to be around 60%, with much higher figures for minority youth. With this deepening depression has come cutbacks in even the minimal federal funding for job training programs and education grants. Young people are being thrown out into the streets with little hope in the future, and are left as targets for police harassment and abuse as well as targets for the profits of the drug pushers. The best minds and bodies in society are being either wasted or super-exploited by the bosses who pay wages often far below the so-called minimum wage laws.

At Campbells Soup Co. in Chicago, so-called tomato-

season employees are hired from mid-July to mid-October. Mainly minority youth, they are paid less than regular employees and are denied all union benefits and protection. Whole industries have thrived on this super-exploitation of youth, the most notorious of these being the "quick-food" corporations like McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and others. There are also stories like that of Obie Wynn, an unemployed Black youth in Detroit who was shot down by a white bar owner. This shooting and the resulting rebellion by hundreds of community people touched off increased repression and police attacks and arrests of unemployed Black youth.

There are thousands of such cases where the oppression of young people has led to troubles with the police or into the military to be used as cannon fodder for imperialist wars abroad. The CYO has initiated a campaign around "Jobs for Youth" which speaks directly to this burning need and to the conditions that have created the problem.

Another form of the special oppression of young people lies in the educational system which is maintained by the ruling class to indoctrinate the youth and give them knowledge and ability to produce in society. They have used the present economic crisis as a pretense to launch further attacks on the education of young people. Just as their parents are having to fight to keep their jobs, young people are fighting the cutbacks in their education. Last year students marched in protest against cutbacks in hard-won gains in minority enrollment and aid programs, as well as the general cuts in tuition and aid grants, work-study programs, and the elimination of many teachers' jobs.

Another wave of racist attacks is being aimed at the right of minority students to attend integrated schools, which is being urged on by President Ford in his latest denunciations of busing to achieve integration. In the midst of this struggle, the ruling class is trotting out its fascist gangs and groups such as ROAR and the Nazi Party to play on the militancy and anger of youth. Last month in Chicago, a group of Nazis led a "White Power" march of 200 youths by telling them that this would be their chance to get even with the police. Portraying themselves as National "Socialists," the Nazis talk about the economic crisis and the need for "radical solutions." But these so-

called "radical solutions" are only the warmed-over racist mongerings of the Wall Street bankers dressed up in a popular style.

The ruling class efforts to divert the youth from their revolutionary tasks also come in the form of pouring drugs into the schools and communities and putting out rock and roll music with reactionary lyrics such as "Sweet Home Alabama," which praises the racist traditions of the South and Governor Wallace.

The revisionists of the Communist Party are also trying to divert young people from their revolutionary course. Parading Angela Davis and any other young "leaders" they can find around, the CP has also used some socialist-sounding rhetoric to push reformism and electoral politics among the youth. For example, this summer, the CP through its front group, the Young Workers Liberation League (YWLL), tried to jump into the struggle for jobs for youth by pushing their so-called "Youth Lobby for Jobs." They called for a "special emergency session of Congress" and the passage of a Federal Youth Employment Bill. According to its spokesman, "If we go to Washington with 100,000 signatures they can't ignore us." Through this campaign, the revisionists spread illusions that this system really is a democracy for the poor and that the only reason there are no jobs is because the politicians don't know the people need jobs. The truth is that unemployment of youth is a component part of the system of capitalism where young people are seen as a force to heighten competition among the workers and drive down wages and break unions. Militant actions can win some reforms but we should have no illusions that some new law or petition will change the overall character of the system. This strategy is used by the CP to bring the young people into the system rather than into struggle against it.

These diversionary tactics of the ruling class and their front men make even clearer the need for a Communist Youth Organization to lead the struggles of young people in a revolutionary direction. The CYO, based among working-class youth from the factories, schools, and communities can provide a reliable and stable core to unite the broad sections of youth. While being broad in its outreach, the CYO must also be well organized in order to carry out the work of training thousands of young people in the science of Marxism-Leninism. The CYO is made up of young people of all nationalities and men and women together, advancing the cause of liberation and socialism for workers of both sexes and all nationalities and militantly opposing war and fascism.

The CYO will become a mighty force in the revolutionary struggle. It is preparing and educating a generation of young fighters in the cause of the working class.

TEACHERS STRIKE ACROSS U.S.

With a deafening roar, 20,000 teachers in New York's Madison Square Garden shouted out their demand for a strike against this city's school system.

Barely a week later, the militant teachers were forced back to work after being sold out by their union president, Albert Shanker. The teachers had demanded no increases in class size, no loss of earlier hard-won improvements in working conditions, and the rehiring of 4,500 teachers who were laid-off under "austerity measures" surrounding that city's budget crisis. In the end, most of their demands were not met. Even where there were some concessions from the school board, as in the case of the agreement to rehire 2,400 of the laid-off teachers, the strikers will end up paying for it themselves through lost pay and anti-strike law penalties.

The 65,000 striking teachers in New York, members of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), were only a part of the recent strike wave that has fought against school board attempts to deny much-needed wage increases, wipe out gains in working conditions and class size, and lay teachers off in order to "save money."

As of the middle of September, there were over 50 teacher strikes in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, California, Washington, and in Illinois, where in Chicago, the second largest of the strikes occurred.

Chicago's 11 day teacher strike ended Sept. 17 with the winning of all the major contract demands, including a 7.1% wage increase, a small reduction in class sizes, improved medical and dental benefits, and most importantly, the restoration of all 1,525 teaching jobs that the school board planned to eliminate. Key to this victory was the fighting spirit of the teachers themselves, who at one point demonstrated 10,000 strong at school board headquarters.

Both the Chicago and New York strikes showed the treacherous role of the union leaders in trying to limit the just demands of the teachers. In New York, for example, UFT head Albert Shanker urged acceptance of the negotiated settlement because of the supposed "lack of money" in the city budget. Many teachers, upon returning to work, found that they had to work two extra class periods a week just to keep class sizes from increasing. Cases such as this of overwork and wor-



New York teachers were sold out by UFT head Albert Shanker

sened conditions caused anger among many teachers, who had been led to believe by Shanker that all their demands around working conditions had been won.

This is not the first time that Shanker has betrayed the interests of UFT members. Time and again, he has sold-out their strikes, red-baited and purged militant teachers, and worked hand in hand with the bosses to smother teacher militancy. But he is most notorious for his role in opposing minority participation in the running of the schools. In 1968, he led a racist "strike" against an experiment in Black community control of the schools in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville area of Brooklyn. Like his fellow labor aristocrat George Meany, Shanker openly opposes affirmative action for minorities and women in hiring and promotions.

Besides the sell-out policies of bureaucrats like Shanker and the use of injunctions by the bosses, teachers have had to deal with a lot of propaganda about how their strikes are supposedly "opposed" to the interests of other working people. This bourgeois lie holds that since workers pay taxes, and taxes go for teachers' salaries, that therefore the teachers are ripping-off other workers. This fairy tale hides the fact that when teachers or any other workers strike, it's the capitalists who are up against the wall. All working people can and must unite against the

bosses' attempts to make them pay, whether it's through increased taxation, cutbacks in social services, or layoffs.

When teachers in Chicago went out on strike, they tried to show how their demands were in the interests of all working people. As many of the striking teachers pointed out, how can children learn in an overcrowded classroom with an overworked teacher? As for the claims that they didn't care about the children, striking Chicago teachers quickly put that myth to rest when they set up 16 alternative schools during the strike and staffed them with volunteer teachers and parents working together. In this case, the unity between parents and teachers was one of the factors that finally convinced the school board to settle favorably. But one of the weaknesses of other strikes was that the teachers failed to adequately build unity with the parents, especially in the minority communities.

This autumn's strike wave is evidence of teachers' refusal to knuckle under to the attacks of the bosses and betrayal from their own union leaders. While supposedly "protected" and "secure" from the ravages of the deepening economic crisis and the loss of revenues in city and state budgets, teachers are realizing that the only way to survive the bosses' offensive is to fight back.



Chicago teachers won all major demands in 11-day strike

Guards' Lies Exposed in San Quentin 6 Trial

Marin County Courthouse, Calif.—The trial of the San Quentin Six is continuing here, with five of the six Black and Latino prisoners being dragged into court chained like slaves.

The San Quentin Six—Johnny Spain, Fleeta Drumgo, David Johnson, Hugo Pinell, Luis Talamantez, and Willie Tate—face murder, conspiracy and assault charges stemming from incidents surrounding the assassination of prison revolutionary George Jackson by San Quentin guards on August 21, 1971. Tate has not been brought to court in chains, since he already served his 10 year sentence and is out on bail.

In trying to build their racist frame-up and hide the state's responsibility for Jackson's murder, the prosecution has run into numerous roadblocks. Chief among these is the fact that the testimony

of guards against the Six has been constantly shot full of holes and exposed as lies.

The state claims that a gun was smuggled into the prison and given to Jackson, who allegedly hid it in an Afro wig and used it to free other prisoners in an escape attempt. However, guards in the visiting area and at the metal-detection station were forced to concede that Jackson and his visitors were checked thoroughly and that no weapon of any kind was found.

The trial of the San Quentin Six is attracting national and international attention because of the brutal treatment of the defendants. At one demonstration, over 700 people demonstrated against the chaining, beating, and gassing of the Six, and demanded an end to this fascist repression.

Pitts & Lee Freed After 12 Years in Prison



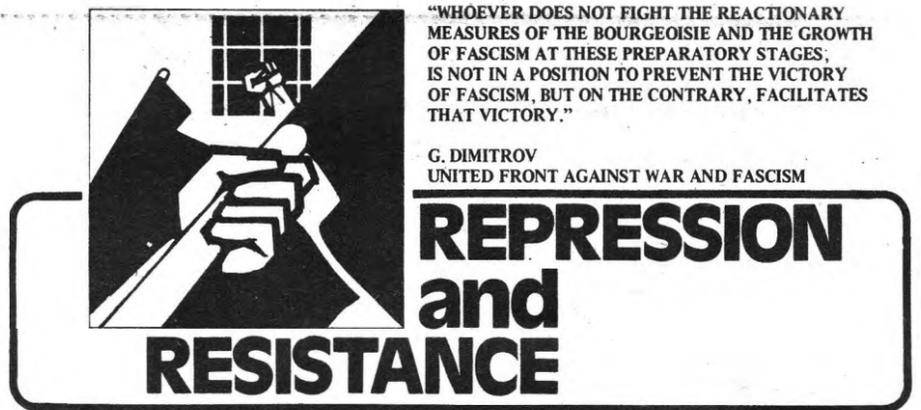
Opa-Locka, Fla.—On the night of July 31, 1963, two white attendants at a service station in Port Saint Joe, Fla. were kidnapped, robbed and murdered. Four weeks later Freddie Lee Pitts and Wilbert Lee were sentenced to death for the crime. This case is one in a long history of racist frame-up cases. After spending 12 long years in prison fighting for their lives, Pitts and Lee have finally been set free.

Their pardons were signed and they walked out of Florida State Prison on Sept. 19 after a massive campaign and the collection of 20,000 signatures forced Gov. Reubin Askew to act.

The case of Pitts and Lee is another example in the long history of Afro-American oppression in the South. While Pitts and Lee were giving up the best years of their lives behind bars, another man, Curtis Adams Jr., had already confessed to the murders 9 years ago.

Chris Burkett, son of the murder victim, wrote two letters to Gov. Askew stating that he knew that these men had not killed his father. In his second letter, Burkett wrote: "I am still of the firm conviction that there were two crimes committed in Port St. Joe that summer so long ago, one in which my father was killed, and the other committed by the state of Florida itself when it allowed a few over-zealous, ambitious small town big wheels to arrest, beat confessions from and wrongly convict two innocent Black men."

Pitts and Lee have finally been set free after a long struggle by the people. But how can you give back a dozen years to a man? And what about the thousands of people still sitting in prison or on death row, the victims of similar racist frame-ups? These questions go beyond just the Pitts and Lee case, but must be aimed at the system itself.



PUERTO RICAN PRINCIPALS FIRED

New York, N.Y.—About 150 residents from Lower East Side School District One vigorously protested the firing of two Puerto Rican school principals last month. The mainly Latino residents attended a school board meeting where the one item on the agenda was the firing of Mrs. Adorno and Mr. Gonzalez, two popular Puerto Rican principals chosen by a combination of parents and district school officials.

The removal of these two principals would enable the 6-3 board majority controlled by Albert Shanker (racist head of the United Federation of Teachers) to extend its control over the schools and to install some of the older white teachers who have lost their jobs in the current economic crisis.

The protestors however gave Shanker warning they would not accept his solutions to the crisis. They chanted, stamped and clapped in an effort to prevent the outrageous, racist firings. In addition, about eight mothers of children at PS 110 took the microphone and defended Mrs. Adorno.

After the meeting, the six Shanker board members had to hurry out a back exit to escape the outrage of the parents. Meanwhile the two principals, the latest of many victims of Shanker's policies, are getting their appeals underway.

FREE THE 'WELFARE 7!'

Chicago, Ill.—Strikers from the Capitol Packaging Co. joined with members of the Workers' Solidarity Committee here Sept. 10 to protest the arrest of seven demonstrators at a southside public aid office last May.

Chanting, "Welfare Seven Must Go Free, the System is the Enemy," the protestors marched to the State Building to demand that all charges against the Welfare Seven be dropped. Illinois Governor Walker, who is pushing cutbacks in welfare checks, medical cards, and education, refused to appear and face the demonstrators.

The Welfare Seven, who are charged with battery on a policeman, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest, will go on trial October 21.

NAZI MARCH MEETS RESISTANCE

Chicago, Ill.—In response to recent attacks by the police and Nazis, 80 people marched through a southside community chanting, "Down with the Nazis, Down with the Klan, Down with the Police, Down with the Man."

As the economic crisis has worsened, with Chicago reporting the highest unemployment rate in decades, attacks on minorities have stepped up. On the northwest side, a cross is burned on a Black family's lawn. On the southside, the police murder a young Black man inside a police car. And on the southwest side, the National "Socialist" White People's Party (NAZI) openly organizes for "race war."

But each case of repression has provoked resistance, from white as well as Black Chicagoans. After the cross burning, white neighbors came out openly in support of the Black family's right to live in the neighborhood, resisting local fascist attacks. The Chicago Workers' Solidarity Committee (CWSC) denounced the attack and pledged its assistance. After the recent police murder, community residents pushed aside police intimidation and exposed the lying police version of the incident.

The recent anti-Nazi march on the southside was organized one week after the fascists' attack. It was publicized in Black and white communities, including Marquette Park—the community the Nazis claim to be "protecting." But the Nazis were invisible that day, exposing their claims that Blacks are helpless against their cowardly attacks. Instead, the marchers were joined by dozens of community people, while many more cheered them on.

The march built unity between the local struggle for Black people's right to live where they choose, and the citywide and nationwide fight-back against the effects of the crisis.

The march was organized by the October League, the Southwest Side Community Residents, the CWSC, Harold Dancy Defense Committee and the James Jackson Defense Committee. Soon afterwards, local people formed the West Englewood Fightback Organization, affiliated with the CWSC.

SLAVERY STILL ALIVE IN AREAS OF THE SOUTH

Outright slave conditions exist in parts of the South today. Workers are tied to the land in a situation almost impossible to escape through forced labor, violence and deep debt.

This form of oppression has its roots in the plantation system, a system of exploitation which still pervades relations of production in the South. Thousands of Black workers still work the land. These small farmers, sharecroppers, migrant and forced laborers, work under conditions which have not changed qualitatively in over 100 years. Intense repression, super-exploitation and denial of democratic rights are all part of the daily reality of Black farmworkers.

One example of this exploitation came out in 1973 in Florida, where 28 workers were held as slaves in a South Dade labor camp. The slaves were forced to work a 2,000 acre tomato farm by contractor Joe Brown and his guard, Lafayette Matthews. If the workers attempted to leave the area, they were beaten and brought back. Some of the workers had been there as long as three years.

Brutality, threats and growing debt were the everyday conditions of life. One of the workers, Joe Williams, 55, remembers how one old man was repeatedly beaten and threatened with a gun after he had attempted to escape. Williams told how "Brown came in and slapped him upside the head. The poor bastard was holding his head, crying like a baby. I felt sorry for him but I couldn't do anything. He was holding a gun in one hand and slapping him upside the head with the other."

Another slave, Mrs. Eloise Bryant, and her husband, Charles, were only allowed to see their 13-year-old son once a week, on Sundays. The Bryants reported how Brown had recruited them from a migrant labor crew in North Carolina, promising them \$1.60 an hour and 25 cents a bucketful of tomatoes. This would have meant from \$25 to \$40 a day. But what faced the Bryants when they got to Florida was a fenced-in barbed wired housing area and \$5 to \$6 a week in wages. Their living quarters consisted of one 8 by 10 foot room.

Matthews drove the workers to town to buy groceries

with federal food stamps and then took the food. This same food was then cooked and sold back to the slaves for \$1.25 a meal. The only thing Brown and Matthews regularly supplied the workers was Bacco white port wine. The wine cost 80 cents a pint, but was sold at \$1.50 a bottle. As a result of these financial manipulations, the workers were always in debt, giving Brown the pretext not to let anyone go.

In March, 1973, police finally discovered the forced labor camp. Officers had come into the area looking for migrant farm hands from a nearby work area. Coming upon the slave labor camp, police were approached by workers who told them of the conditions. Officers loaded the workers into paddy wagons and took them into Homestead and proceeded to arrest Brown and Matthews. Brown had been living well off slave labor; he owned \$50,000 worth of property and drove a \$14,000 Cadillac.

Brown had 14 counts brought against him for involuntary service and peonage. The courts convicted him of only one charge, brought by one of the slaves, Owen Hart. This decision was overturned, however, by federal judge Clyde Atkins who claimed that the evidence did not prove adequately that Hart had no means of escape. Atkins insisted that the conditions Hart had to suffer did not meet the legal definition of "involuntary servitude."

This system of intense exploitation, an outgrowth of the plantation system persists throughout the South where the stench of the slave market still hangs over relations of labor and production.

ON THE LINE!

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



MINERS HIT BOSSES AND UMW LEADERSHIP

Harlan County, Ky.—Demanding the right to strike and an end to court injunctions and government cover-ups, more than 80,000 of the country's 125,000 soft coal miners, shook the coal fields in a militant wildcat strike last month.

While directing itself mainly at the coal company-government collaboration, the strike also hit at the vacillation and inaction of the Arnold Miller UMW leadership. Repeatedly refusing to enforce contract safety conditions, the coal operators have pursued a policy of deliberately not settling grievances at the mine level. Instead they have delayed as long as possible and then thrown cases to federal arbitrators. The government arbitrators then inevitably rule in favor of the companies. When the workers strike in protest, the companies have the courts standing by with injunctions, restraining orders, fines and jail sentences.

The UMW is now appealing a \$700,000 fine imposed by company-judge A.K. Hall, who has also jailed several workers until they promised not to participate in future strike activities. The union was ordered to pay the huge sum they were fined to the Kanawha Coal Operators Assoc., the owners group that originally won the back-to-work order from Judge Hall. The UMW is also being hit with a \$10 million suit filed by the U.S. Steel Corp. on grounds that the union took no "affirmative and effective action" to stop the walkout.

The union leadership, on the contrary, has done nothing to support the rank-and-file workers and has resorted to red-baiting of strike leaders. In a statement issued on July 14, UMW President Arnold Miller blamed the wildcats on "inexperienced foremen" and "union officials" who "do not understand fully the provisions of the contract." What is needed, claims Miller, is more federal training programs for both company and union officials in the workings of the new grievance machinery.

NICHI BEI TIMES STRIKE BROKEN

San Francisco—After 50 days on the picket line, the militant strike of the Nichi Bei Times workers was finally broken by scabs and police.

The strike has been part of a two-year-long organizing drive by the Nichi Bei Times Workers Assoc. (NBTWA) in efforts to end the fierce exploitation of the workers at this reactionary Japanese community newspaper. The strike received the active support from all of the mail-room employees and indirect support from many other Times workers after four of them were fired for demanding an end to the sweat-shop conditions and a change in the reactionary editorial policy of the paper.

According to the Asian-American newspaper New Dawn, the struggle at the Nichi Bei Times "marked a historic effort to continue the legacy of militant struggle forged in the famous Nichi Bei strikes of 1931 and 1938, when more than 70 workers shut down the Times operation."

Though the strike has temporarily been broken and the workers face a partial set-back, the workers at NBT have expressed their determination to carry on their struggle.

8—THE CALL—OCTOBER, 1975

But it is obvious to the rank-and-file miners that the problem isn't inexperience but, on the contrary, too much experience on the part of the coal operators in the business of exploitation and violation of the rights of the working people. According to UMW figures, last year the fatality rate in surface mines equalled that of underground mining. Last year there were a total of 64 coal miners killed in the mines as of July 8th. This year, a total of 81 men have been killed in the mines as of July 8th.

When the miners report a safety violation that could lead to more deaths, the company refuses to settle the grievance at the moment. Contract or not, no miner in his right mind is going to risk his life unnecessarily until the grievance goes to arbitration. Under these conditions, wildcat strike have a long and militant history in the coalfields.

Miller, while criticizing the unsafe conditions, was weak-kneed and spoke only of "our common goal of reducing wildcat strikes and building trust between miner and management."

To deal with the threat of future wildcats, the companies and the government have unleashed a massive union-busting campaign against the UMW and are using the union's present internal struggle as an excuse to bring back the old, corrupt Boyle regime. The government is also planning "training programs" to teach the mostly-militant young union representatives in the UMW the art of "company-union cooperation."

Though the miners have been forced back to work for the present, the wildcat strike was a clear victory for their movement. It has demonstrated their ability to shut down the coal industry whenever necessary. It has put the operators on notice along with the courts that the rank-and-file will resist all their attacks. As the new attacks on the miners increase so will their resistance grow to ever higher levels.

UMW WILL OPPOSE THE KLAN

The United Mine Workers Union will strongly oppose efforts by the Ku Klux Klan to organize in the coalfields because the Klan has a long record of anti-Black, anti-union activities, UMWA President Arnold Miller said.

The UMWA recently launched a campaign against the Klan, including support of rallies called by those opposed to the KKK in two coalfield areas, Charleston, W. Va. and Harlan, Ky. The UMWA Journal reports that in recent weeks, KKK members burned crosses in front of UMWA members' homes and threatened a number of persons in Harlan County, Ky. The Klan has also begun soliciting members through ads in eastern Ky. newspapers.

"The Klan has used violence to fight against labor unions all across the South," Miller said. "They have beaten union organizers, tarred and feathered strikers manning picket lines and even murdered in their campaign of terror against the labor movement and working people."

Miller said the Klan often has been the tool of the coal operators and the Chamber of Commerce and has attempted to turn white workers against Black workers in order to weaken the union movement.

DEATH OF UNION V.P. HEIGHTENS STRIKE

Melrose Park, Ill.—Following the murder of their local's vice-president by a scab, strikers of Local 7507 of the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers have "declared war" on Capitol Packaging Co. Now in the eighth week of their strike, workers have battled police, company goons and scabs on the picket lines.

Scab cars and trucks, under police protection, have brutally run down several strikers. Among the victims was the local's vice-president, Dave Watson. Run down by a scab trucker, Watson was taken to the hospital where he died the same week of massive internal injuries.

Police charged the scab truck driver who killed Watson not with murder or manslaughter, but with "failure to yield the right of way" — a \$25 ticket.

These attacks have not stopped the workers, but instead have doubled their determination to stay out until they win. On Monday, Sept. 22, strikers, along with the Chicago Workers Solidarity Committee and the October League, held the line against scabs and police to protest Watson's murder and to show the company they won't give in. Ten picketers were arrested and hauled away, but a strong picket line remained. As one striker put it, "they can kill one of us but another one will just take his place."

The workers have been preparing for this strike since they were sold out in 1972 by their union bureaucrats.

After 18 negotiation meetings the company is still only offering 19 cents an hour the first year. The rank-and-file negotiators have walked out of the meetings and insist they will stay out until the company meets their demands. "It isn't just the money we are fighting for. Nineteen cents is an insult and we won't take it," one of the shop stewards warned.

The attacks by Capitol Packaging are not just to save a few pennies per hour but are an attempt to bust the growing unity and strength of the rank-and-file workers.

The strikers know what is behind the company's murder of Dave Watson and the other attacks. But they are determined not to give in, and to step up their own fight-back against the company.

CULINARY WORKERS SAY DUMP CONTRACT

San Francisco, Ca.—More than seventy-five angry hotel and restaurant workers marched on the headquarters of their union August 28th demanding the dumping of their new four-year contract. The 7% average yearly pay "increase" they received, when measured against an average 15% yearly inflation, comes out to an 8% pay cut! This means that the large majority of culinary workers in S.F. will continue to receive wages below the federal poverty level.

The lowest paid job categories such as maids and dishwashers, will be hit the hardest. That means mainly minority workers, Blacks and immigrants from Latin America, the Philippines, and Hong Kong.

The demonstration was called by the Concerned Culinary Workers (CCW), a mass rank-and-file caucus within the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union. Since its formation a few months ago, the caucus has been active in the fight for a decent contract and a democratic union. In their leaflet for the demonstration, the CCW linked up the sell-out contract with the dictatorial measures of the local union bureaucrats. The contract was negotiated in secret behind closed doors and no membership ratification was allowed.

In addition the Local Joint Board is in the process of merging all of the separate craft locals (cooks, dishwashers, waiters, maids, etc.) into one union in the same undemocratic manner. This new merged union would have around 250,000 members, making it the biggest union in San Francisco. Although the merger could give the union more power against the hotel employers associations, the union leadership is mainly using it to eliminate union elections till 1978 and to straitjacket the membership with restrictive new by-laws and constitution. The caucus is also fighting this through union meetings, a newsletter to educate the membership, and a court suit demanding a democratic merger.

When the union bigshots came out of their comfortable offices to harass the demonstrators they were met with militant chanting and were refused the right to speak at the rally. Visibly shaken, the union bureaucrats returned to their offices.

TAMPA MAID WORKERS BATTLE SCABS



Tampa, Fla.—Striking shrimp workers are fighting a determined struggle for union recognition and pay increases. Attempts by the Tampa Maid Corporation to break their strike with scabs and police violence have failed. A militant spirit remains high on the picket line.

Tampa Maid workers face similar conditions to other sweatshop workers throughout the South. The oppression and exploitation of the Afro-American people has laid the basis for keeping all workers in the lowest conditions. In the face of this, the fighting unity of Black, white and Latino people at Tampa Maid—over 90% women—has been key to the strike's success.

On September 17, this unity was cemented in struggle. A mass picket was assembled to stop scabs being hired to break the strike. Having failed in hiring at their own plant Tampa Maid was using other shrimp industry plants to hire and send out scabs. Many scabs were coming armed. To sustain the strike they had to be stopped from entering.

With the active support of the October

League and Tampa Workers Committee, the picket line held its ground. The plant manager and a carload of scabs rammed through injuring several picketers and facing immediate retaliation. When police approached in force to let scabs in, the workers linked arms. On several occasions the police grabbed members of this human barricade only to have them rescued.

When these racist police launched their major assault they yelled, "get that big Black guy." They were talking about a member of the Tampa Workers' Committee who is well-known for his leadership in local struggles against police violence. Beating him, they brought him to the police van. Aware of the murderous policies of the Tampa police toward Black people, others came to his aid. In all, eleven were arrested. Such attacks have only stiffened the will to build the struggle.

The strike at Tampa Maid continues and is part of a drive of the Amalgamated Meatcutters Union to organize the more than 4,000 shrimp workers in the area.

THE 1931 STRIKE OF THE 'READERS'

"...we are a part of the working class united front against the entire system of capitalistic wage slavery and oppression."

The story persists in Tampa of a cigar maker in the late 1920s who climbed up on the water tower of his factory and planted a huge red flag. The workers in the shops, seeing the flag, immediately halted production and gathered in the aisles singing "Bandera Roja" (The Scarlet Banner). The workers then successfully demanded that their comrade not be fired.

The story is probably true. At any rate, it is consistent with the tradition of Tampa's militant cigar workers. This tradition of internationalism and class struggle led to a series of pitched battles with the manufacturers and the local authorities dating back to the founding of the industry in Tampa. The greatest of these was the Strike of the Readers (*la Huelga de los Lectores*) in 1931, in which the cigar workers, led by the then revolutionary Communist Party, took on the entire cigar industry, the local government, the Ku Klux Klan, and finally, the federal government.

The cigar industry first came to Tampa in 1886 when two manufacturers, Vincente Ybor and Ignacio Haya opened factories in what is now Ybor City. The industry grew up quickly, seeking refuge from union strongholds in Key West and Havana. At its peak, in the late 1920s, over 20,000 predominantly Cuban workers in 159 factories made up Tampa's cigar industry.

The history of the struggles of the cigar workers is a long one. The first strike, led by the Knights of Labor, occurred only months after the first factory opened its doors. The first general strike of Tampa's cigar makers was called in August, 1901, by La Resistencia Society, a militant Cuban organization. The strike, which centered on a wage demand, was broken after four months when sixteen La Resistencia leaders were kidnapped by a vigilante "Citizens' Committee," put aboard a steamer and dumped on a deserted beach in the Honduras.

Subsequent general strikes in 1910 and 1920 were led by the AFL's International Cigar Makers' Union. Both were basically defensive in nature and in both the workers had to fight the police as well as "Citizens' Committee" lynchers and terrorists.

The Strike of the Readers in 1931 was conditioned by several outstanding factors. It involved thousands of oppressed national minority workers in the midst of the great depression. The walkout was called by a militant industrial union and led by communist revolutionaries. And then, there were the readers themselves, whose expulsion from the factories by the capitalists brought on the strike.

The readers, or *los lectores*, were an institution peculiar to the cigar industry. Cigar makers sat at tables arranged in long rows in vast open rooms in the factories. Their work was quiet, requiring only small hand tools which they used to cut and trim the hand-rolled cigars.

Tradition has it that in 1882, a cigar maker in Havana began reading the daily newspaper out loud as he worked at his table. The practice quickly spread to nearby plants. Soon professional readers, paid by contributions from the workers, read the news, lectured on international affairs, and acted out scenes from popular novels. The readers were employed only by the workers—the companies never entered into the arrangement. The workers, most of them illiterate in the beginning, hired the *lectores*, decided on the content of their presentations, and criticized their work.

Tampa's readers had a long radical tradition. Many of the early readers were socialist or anarchist intellectuals. Their agitation for Cuban independence during the Spanish-American War brought the readers into conflict with the predominantly Spanish foremen, and the American owners who favored U.S. annexation of Cuba.

As the influence of the Communist Party grew in Ybor City and West Tampa, the readers became an avenue for bringing Marxist-Leninist ideas to the masses of cigar workers. By the decision of the workers, most of the readers began to read the Daily Worker and various Marxist classics. It was out of fear of the rising consciousness of the workers that the cigar barons decided to bar the readers from the factories, precipitating Tampa's fourth and most significant general strike.

The qualitative differences between the 1931 strike and all the previous conflicts stemmed from the leadership role played by the Communist Party, at that time the revolutionary vanguard of the U.S. working class. The CP united with the radical tradition of Tampa's cigar workers and gave it a new dimension—the scientific outlook of Marxism-Leninism. The result was a mass workers' movement whose aim was the destruction of the imperialist system itself. The charter of the workers' union proclaimed:

"The Tobacco Workers Industrial Union of Tampa endeavors to organize all tobacco workers with the shop as the basic unit and democratic centralism as the guiding rules. Our union realizes that successful struggle can be

conducted only when all workers in the industry are united nationally and internationally with workers in all other industries to combat capitalistic exploitation throughout the world. We are affiliated with the Trade Union Unity League, militant leader of the trade union movement in this country. The Trade Union Unity League in turn is affiliated with the Red International of Labor Unions. Throughout these affiliations we are a part of the working class united front against the entire system of capitalistic wage-slavery and oppression."

The stage for the strike was set when a mass meeting of workers preparing to march on City Hall commemorating the 14th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, was attacked by Tampa police and vigilantes. The workers, planning to go ahead with their march after their request for a permit had been turned down, fought back leaving one officer shot and several wounded by chairs and other



make-shift weapons. When reinforcements arrived, the police regrouped and invaded the Labor Temple, arresting seventeen leaders. Later the same evening, police raided the house of Fred Crawford, a local communist leader who had been kidnapped and flogged by the Klan the week before. They seized records, pamphlets and mimeograph machines and arrested six more people. The workers responded with a storm of mass meetings and work-stoppages. Then, on November 26, the leaders of the industry met and decided to bar the readers from the factories, hoping to stem the revolutionary tide. This was to be the last straw.

When the workers went to work the next morning and saw that the readers' stands had been torn down, they immediately walked out. Processions formed in the streets,

marching from factory to factory, calling out the remaining cigar makers. That morning, the union held a mass meeting and decided to stage a three-day strike protesting the jailing of the communists and the other union leaders, and the banning of the readers. In all, over 7,000 workers went on strike, closing down the industry.

The strike was bitterly fought. The workers quickly went about building the broadest possible unity in their struggle against the cigar manufacturers and their servants in the local government. The bakers and barbers went out in sympathy strike. By evening of the first day, only drug-stores and cafes, exempted by the workers, remained open.

On the third day of the strike, public school pupils in West Tampa, led by communist Young Pioneers, organized a march, over a hundred strong, to the Labor Temple in support of their parents, the striking workers. The pupils had mounted a girl's red sweater on a stick and were singing the "Internationale" when police dispersed the march.

The factory owners were aghast at the fighting spirit and openly pro-communist stance of the workers. Their attempt to break the strike with a lockout was a dismal failure. A statement by the industry that all of the strikers were no longer employed by their companies was answered by the union: no one returns to work until everyone returns to work.

As in the past, the bourgeoisie resorted to violent repression in their efforts to break the strike. They employed the entire state apparatus, the police and courts, as well as "unofficial" vigilante groups. In addition, the Ku Klux Klan, at this time largely interchangeable with the Tampa police, were used as shock troops to attack the strikers' picket lines and mass meetings.

Finally, the federal government stepped into the battle with a massive strike-breaking injunction. Naming 140 strikers and supporters, the injunction banned street demonstrations, mass picketing, publishing "seditious literature," and even conducting the affairs of the workers' own union.

Although the workers did not win their demands in the 1931 strike (the readers never returned and the union was broken), Tampa cigar makers provided invaluable lessons for the working class as a whole. *La Huelga de los Lectores* was a political strike, an offensive against the right of the ruling class to attack the workers' institutions and jail their leaders. Their union's program flies in the face of those who view the trade unions as "defensive, economic" organizations incapable of playing a role in the political struggle for revolution and socialism. The workers' view of uniting all those who could be united against the enemy, enriched their fighting strength and better enabled them to resist as long as they did.

Finally, and most importantly, the Readers' Strike underscores the indispensable role of a Marxist-Leninist party in the struggle of the working class. The cigar makers determined the course of the strike, but the communists brought to the struggle their organizing skills, the scientific method of Marxism-Leninism, and the proletarian world view that tied the concrete needs of the workers to the general struggle against imperialism.

The Communist Party, which for two generations led the struggles of workers and oppressed people in this country, no longer exists in Tampa. Revisionism, which led to the party's degeneration and sell-out of the revolutionary movement, also prompted their abandonment of the South, the historic homeland of the Afro-American people including Tampa, with its oppressed Cuban minority. However, in response to the CP's betrayal, new communist forces have arisen, determined to carry on the proud tradition of Tampa's working class and to participate in the building of a new communist party. *La lucha continua*. The struggle goes on.

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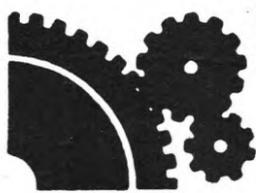
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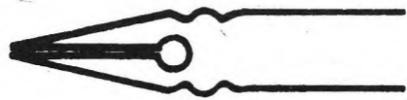
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Worker's Correspondence



With this article, written by a New York garment worker, *The Call* begins a regular column devoted to the correspondence we receive from the factories describing first-hand working and living conditions.

ROBERT HALL : FROM THE INSIDE

Almost everyone here in the U.S. has seen the clean, inviting, friendly Robert Hall stores. And at Christmas, they have heard their advertisements on the radio, joyously singing about clothing for the whole family. But I would like to tell what it is like for the garment workers who make those clothes. First I want to tell a little about my life because, with variations, it is typical of garment workers.

My name is Sylvia. I am Latin American. I am 48 years old. I began to sew to earn my living when I was 17 years old. I have been in the U.S. for 9 years.

I left my country leaving my three younger children—ages 10, 9 and 8. I worked seven days a week for 3 years straight in order to get enough money to bring my children here. I had to leave them in the care of some neighbors.

A few weeks after they arrived, the boss called me and said: "Sylvia, since your kids came, you don't come in on Sundays any more. What's wrong? Now is when you should work more because you need more money." My answer was: "You are right, but it is also true that my children need my love and compa-

ny—remember we were separated for three long years. I'm sorry, but I can't come on Sundays any more."

Since then they began to give me the cheapest and most inferior things to sew, where it was impossible to earn any money. One day I protested and the boss said that if I want more money, come in on Sunday. And that's what I did for another year in that coat factory. I decided to look for another job and so I arrived at Robert Hall. It is a factory in Brooklyn that is very large, about an entire block, with 10 floors and about 1,000 workers.

From the moment I arrived I realized that this was the most brutal exploitation I had ever seen in my life. The prices I got for every article sewed was a third of what was paid in any other factory. For example, if a pocket cost 7 cents in another place, I got 2½ cents at Robert Hall. Most of the workers are Latinos but there are also Haitians, Koreans, Filipinos, Europeans, etc.

My job was sewing pockets on men's suits. I got \$120 a week with the promise that (soon) in 3 or 4 weeks I would be working piece work and getting a lot of money. But the first week they said I had a \$12 dollar "make-up"—that is, while they gave me my \$120, my production was \$12 behind and I had better sew faster the next week.

However much I tried to pass the production quota, in order to gain a few more dollars, it was futile. Because every day they gave us more difficult and complicated work that was cheaper in price. Sometimes we protested about the low rate of pay, but they said the u-

nion, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, set the prices and if the company set them lower, it would go out of business.

The workers aren't permitted to heat their lunches on the irons they have there. So, indirectly, they are forced to buy in the restaurant that the company has on the fifth floor. Most of the workers are women and they have to pay for someone to look after their children out of their starvation wages.

One day, tired of so much abuse on the part of the company, the workers went on strike. Robert Hall had raised their salary one or two cents but when they began to work, the seamstresses realized that the prices earned for each item was less, for now two jobs were classified as one; in other words, what was before two separate operations was now one, for less money than was earned before when the work was classified as two operations.

The union never does anything for its members because, like all of them, it has sold out. In all the time I worked at Robert Hall, I never saw a representative from the union. The company makes the monthly union deductions and that's it.

Another thing I saw once was that the foreman in the pressing section grabbed a woman of about 50 or 60 years once and started hitting her, in the presence of everyone. The foreman didn't like this woman. This is the kind of abuse that goes on all the time at Robert Hall.

A few days ago they called all the people at Robert Hall and said: everyone who wants to work can do so, but getting half the salary you're now making because we are going to be making cheaper clothes and will be paying less for every item. Some accepted this outrage with much muttering and others didn't. Those who refused this offer will have to seek other jobs. They won't even be able to get unemployment compensation because the company will say there's work for them but they refused. If you refuse a job in N.Y. you can't

collect unemployment.

What does the union do for the working class? Nothing. This is another abuse against us garment workers. I insist that we must organize in order to be able to make a common front against the abuses of the bosses. United we will win! Let us struggle for the future of our children.

ON STRIKE AT TAMPA MAID

The strike has a lot of meaning to people who are fighting for their rights. Myself, I am one of these strikers and proud to be one of them because I am fighting not only for my rights but for theirs also. We need the support of all the people we can draw together for what is right.

We have been called everything that could be thought of, but we are still fighting right on.

We have been fought even by the law, beaten by them with their blackjacks and hauled off to jail, but we came back and are still fighting for our rights.

We caused no violence at all ourselves. The violence was caused by the police. But this is not going to stop us from fighting for our rights come hell or high water.

We have had people try to run over our pickets. One picket did get hit by a car. One of our women pickets was hit by the president of the company George Watkins. She had to go to the doctor on account of it, and George Watkins will have to pay for what he did.

We have had guns waved in our faces by the scabs that still work inside Tampa Maid. We need the support of all! I have faith in the people I am fighting with that we will win!

Thomas R. Fortner
Tampa Maid Striker

P.S. Letters of support and financial assistance can be sent to:

Meatcutters District Union 282
2206 Dekle Ave.

Tampa, Florida 33606

THE CALL INTERVIEWS MOTHER OF FRAME-UP VICTIM

'The people must rise up and stop this railroad!' -- Mrs. Dorothy Cutts

The following is an interview with Cheryl Todd and her mother, Mrs. Dorothy Cutts. Cheryl Todd is on trial in south Georgia for murder and armed robbery along with Desi X Woods.

The charges against the two Black women stem from an incident in which self-styled "international detective" Ronnie Howan was shot by Desi Woods as she tried to defend herself and Cheryl Todd against an attempted rape. The two women were on their way to visit Cheryl's brother at Reidsville prison when they were assaulted by this rapist. For defending themselves, they now face the prospect of a life sentence or the electric chair.

A broad movement to defend the women is developing across the South, especially on the heels of victory in the JoAnn Little struggle, another case where a Black woman was framed for murder after defending herself against rape and physical assault.

The Call: We understand that Cheryl was on her way to visit your son in the Reidsville prison at the time when the incident took place, and that she went to see him because he was getting very bad treatment in the prison, including withholding of medical supplies. Can you tell us why all this was happening to your son?

Mrs. Cutts: He is the type who speaks out against injustice. He had been in segregation for almost two years. He was locked up unjustly in the first place because he happened to be in Hancock County in July, 1972, when there were racial disturbances going on down there.

He sees the prison system pitting Blacks against whites and young against old. He has seen people carried out of there dead, supposedly suicides. But he knows this isn't the truth. He has protested this. They say he is a militant, a troublemaker, and they don't like him talking to other prisoners. We have received many letters from him stating that he fears for his life. When we started getting the medical reports, we feared the worst.

When the two women arrived at Reidsville last June, Cheryl was feeling quite sick and fainted on the prison grounds. A woman passer-by stopped to help them and left after police arrived on the scene.

Left alone, the police began kicking Cheryl who was still unconscious. She came to and saw them beating up Desi. Feeling that nothing else could be done at that point, Cheryl grabbed Desi and shoved her into the police car. They were held at Glenbrook City Jail on phony charges of drunkenness for three days. Though both women were bleeding from the beatings, they were not al-

lowed to see a doctor. Finally once they were released, they decided to get out of south Georgia as soon as possible.

But bus service is very bad between Atlanta and Reidsville. The women had hitchhiked down to Reidsville and decided to go back the same way. Eventually they were picked up by Howan, who told them that he and his boss were going to Atlanta. The two men kept talking on their CB radios in their cars. First, the women trusted Howan, but gradually became more and more frightened.

Cheryl: He was talking about going in the woods and getting us drunk. He said he hadn't eaten all day and wanted us to get drunk and have sex with him. I was really scared and started crying. He would kill or rape us if we turned a corner down a dark road.

Mrs. Cutts: The car came screeching to a halt and Cheryl, who by this time was almost in a state of shock, jumped out. She had been sitting by the door. She was walking quickly in the woods and got down on the ground when she heard two shots.

Eventually Desi came along and told her that Howan was dead and they had to get out of there. They spent the rest of the night trying to get away and eventually spent some time with a Black family. They were picked up the next day while they were riding along with a truck driver and his young son.

Cheryl: The police said that they had a warrant and took us to the Lawrenceville County Jail. We told them what had happened and they transferred us to Wheeler County. We were booked and fingerprinted.

Mrs. Cutts: The way they were questioned there was no chance of justice. They were physically, mentally, and emotionally unfit. They didn't understand what was going on. There were police and tape recorders present.

Cheryl: When we were stopped there were police from Lawrence and Wheeler counties, with guns everywhere. Howan was very good friends with the law officers in that area. He also had a reputation for chasing Black women. We took it for granted that he was a hit man, that the people in Reidsville had sent him to get us.

The Call: What was your response when you first heard about the arrest?

Mrs. Cutts: It was just like someone had hit me in the stomach. I had had a premonition about it though. I knew the urgency Cheryl was feeling when she went down there. Well, you know, it didn't just begin with her and Desi going down to Eddie's jail. The system oppresses and represses Blacks and minorities. Here are two children—my children—the symbol of all this.

I talked to a lawyer and the figure he quoted me . . . I was warned by the court-appointed lawyer, William Stragan, not to make this case public, that the safety of the two girls depended on it. I feared for their lives.

It seemed they were going to try and pin a lot of unresolved murders on the girls. Frightened to death, we felt completely alone. I'm sure that Stragan was working with the Sheriff and all the others. He didn't want Mary Joyce Johnson (who is one of Cheryl's lawyers) on the case and gave me all kinds of trouble.

The Call: What kind of treatment did you get in jail?

Cheryl: Terrible! The sheriffs talked trash to us. We had no hot water and couldn't bathe. The jailer told us we could go to the electric chair. Police from all over came in to look at us like we were on exhibit.

I had some rusty water trying to take it to court for an exhibit and the Sheriff strained my hand trying to get it away from me. He also brought a tape recorder in and tried to pick a fight between me and Desi.

The Call: What do you think about the JoAnn Little case?

Mrs. Cutts: It was the people who freed JoAnn and it will be the people who free the two girls. It won't be the judicial system. There is no such thing as justice under this capitalist system. The people must rise up and stop this railroad. Only the people can free them!

The Call: What have you learned from this experience?

Cheryl: I've learned that the system doesn't give any justice. You have to fight the system and help correct a lot of the foul things going on. I found that a lot of people are concerned about others—people of all colors are fighting for their rights together.

I saw them whip an old drunk white man. Everybody in the system is sticking together. The police need to be locked up. Nixon got away with it. It shows the system is really corrupt. Laws are only made to be paid by poor people.

Mrs. Cutts: This with Eddie, Cheryl, and Desi has brought the whole thing to my front door. I really feel that the whole capitalist system does not need revising but must be swept out. I feel more aware of the corruption than I've ever been before. I believe in prayer and used to play a non-resistant role. But it's crystal clear to me now that we all have to wake up. We need to do everything we can so that other peoples' consciousness is raised—so it won't have to happen to someone in your family to make you wake up. We need to become involved and demand our rights, and bring these questions to the masses.

The recent Third Congress of the October League unanimously passed a resolution entitled "The Afro-American National Question." An affirmation of the resolution adopted at the Second O.L. Congress, the new resolution is a reflection of further study and practice of the past two years. As part of a program to publish the major documents of the Congress, summations are appearing in *The Call*, while full texts of the resolutions will appear in the *Class Struggle* journal.

Some of the main areas of development in the new resolution are 1) the presentation of a full program, including the demand for regional autonomy, or a form of self-rule for the large Black urban concentrations outside of the South. 2) A concise Marxist-Leninist analysis of Afro-American history. 3) A more developed definition of the right of self-determination and its importance for our movement.

The new resolution traces the history of the Afro-American people and their development as an oppressed nation within the United States. It points out that the slave system was one of the most important foundations of U.S. imperialism "enabling the ruling class to accumulate enormous sums of capital, used to force their way into the mainstream of world capitalism."

It was in the area where slavery was concentrated, the deep South or Black Belt, that the Afro-American people developed all the characteristics of an emerging nation. It was here, the resolution points out, "that millions of people of African descent became an historically constituted, stable community of people formed on the basis of a common language, territory, economic life and psychological make-up manifested in a common culture."

RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION

Based on the recognition of the Afro-American people as an oppressed nation within the borders of the U.S., the resolution upholds the principle of "the right of self-determination up to and including the right to secede in the area known historically as the Black Belt South."

In demonstrating how upholding the right of self-determination is not the equivalent of advocating separation or secession the document says that "by making the struggle for democracy and self-determination of oppressed nations a component part of the working class program for struggle, each victory of the class as a whole becomes equally a victory of the oppressed nations." In presenting the importance of the right of self-determination in the struggle for democracy, it becomes clear how the working class struggle for self-determination eliminates the desire for separation in a practical sense.

The resolution also points out that significant changes have taken place in the past forty years among Afro-American people, "The very nature of imperialism regarding oppressed nations is to continually assault them; culturally, economically and politically." It points to the large concentrations of Afro-Americans who have migrated to the urban centers in the North and South, and the fact that over 90 percent of Black people are part of the working class. Outside of the Deep South, these people make up an oppressed national minority. The resolution raises the demand for full democratic rights: "We must show how each instance of national oppression or violation of basic democratic rights is linked to the historic oppression of Afro-American people as a nation."

The resolution further states, "In the Northern urban areas some form of regional autonomy or self-rule must be implemented." This program of autonomy, exercised in the context of the overall Socialist state, would apply special programs to eliminate poor housing, health conditions, "gerrymandered" voting districts, etc., to the areas of Black concentration. As the resolution points out, "The workers and oppressed peoples of minority nationality would thus be guaranteed full and adequate representation on legislative and governing bodies under socialism. Rather than encouraging separatism among nationalities, these measures would lay the basis for complete equality



O.L. CONGRESS DEEPENS STAND ON AFRO-AMERICAN QUESTION

and facilitate unity."

The national oppression of Black people is historically linked with the development of U.S. imperialism, and can only be ended with its overthrow. The resolution states: "The Afro-American people's struggle, together with that of the millions of other nationally oppressed people in the U.S., constitute a powerful anti-imperialist army of fighters who have nothing to lose but their chains. In close alliance with the U.S. working class, they form the core of the anti-imperialist united front in this country; meaning the most consistent and revolutionary forces among the American people."

The proletariat's strategy for Black liberation is the Black United Front, led by the working class, that can unite the masses of Black people who are opposed to imperialism and its policies of national oppression. Within the Black United Front, a sharp class struggle must be waged for proletarian leadership and a revolutionary outlook and against reformism and narrow nationalism. The resolution contains a class analysis of the different sectors of Black people.

Included in this analysis is a section on Black women which says in part: "... Communists must recognize that Black women are an important part of the communist and general workers movement and the Black United Front. Black women within the Black liberation struggle, just as women in the united front against imperialism, hold up half the sky. For this reason, communists must struggle against any manifestations of male chauvinism within the Black United Front."

CONDEMNS REVISIONISTS

Contained within the resolution is a sharp condemnation of the revisionist CPUSA for its abandonment of the struggle for Black liberation. It shows how the revisionists use misleaders like Henry Winston and Angela Davis to peddle the line of "peaceful transition to socialism" within the Black liberation struggle. The CP's program for Black liberation consists of a defensive struggle for democratic rights through "re-ordering of priorities" to get a bigger piece of the pie through more "government spending." The main thrust of the CP's program is to call for increased Black representation at all levels of government. The CP views the liberation of Black people as something that can be achieved under capitalism through peaceful appeal for "radical reform" of the system.

While the revisionist CPUSA is the principal ideological enemy within the Black liberation movement, the resolution points out that the CP's abandonment of a Marxist-Leninist position on the national question has "opened the door for all kinds of new theories which seek to justify the liquidation of the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist position of the right of oppressed nations to self-deter-

mination (the nation has disappeared, nation of a new type, white blindspot, etc.)." Refuting all these "new theories," the resolution concludes that "it would be a tragic mistake for a new communist party to follow the chauvinist line of the modern revisionists— to try and wiggle out of their responsibility by citing 'new conditions' and 'new historical periods.'"

OPPOSES WHITE CHAUVINISM

The resolution calls for firm opposition to white chauvinism and its main proponents within the working class movement — the labor aristocracy. It shows how this poisonous ideology has been used to divide the U.S. working class historically. The resolution states: "It is our task today, as representatives of the entire working class, to win the white workers away from the social-chauvinist policies of the trade union bureaucrats and revisionists and to stand side by side with the Black workers, not out of abstract justice or humanitarian sentiment, but, as Marx pointed out, 'as the first condition of their own emancipation.'" It also points out the need to oppose the secondary danger of narrow nationalism among the minority workers.

The resolution calls for the building of a multinational communist party in the U.S. It rejects the idea of a separate stage in which new communist organizations along national lines must be built and also rejects the "federationist" approach to party building, i.e., building the party as an association of autonomous, national groupings. It calls for the communist party to give special consideration to the national question in organization, through special organizational forms, such as nationality commissions, and special programs geared for training minority communists.

The national oppression of the Afro-American people is manifested in every sphere of American life. Everywhere in U.S. society, Black people occupy the lowest rungs of the ladder. The root of slavery is found in income distribution, police repression, housing, education, health care, employment and unionization, and in the special oppression of Afro-American women. The inequality of Afro-Americans with whites in all these areas exists with particular severity in the South, but it spreads from there, along with its ideological reflection of white chauvinism, to the whole country. In all these areas, the October League's resolution demands equality for the Afro-American people. We recognize that this inequality cannot be finally and fully eliminated until the national question is solved under the dictatorship of the proletariat in the U.S. Reforms in these areas will flow from the revolutionary struggle for these final aims. Build a new multinational communist party! Fight for socialism, right of self-determination and full democratic rights!

Members of the new District of Columbia district of the October League (ML) are proud to join with our comrades throughout the country, and to participate actively in building a new communist party, a party based on Marxism-Leninism and not revisionism.

For us, joining the October League is the culmination of years of study and practical work. Over the past months, we have examined the political lines of a number of groups in the anti-revisionist movement. We have struggled to criticize our present and past mass work and have used *The Call* and other anti-revisionist publications to examine the practice of the October League.

In this way we have reached unity with the political line of the October League. This represents an important step out of the "local outlook" that has been holding us back from full participation in building a Marxist-Leninist movement in this city.

In building a district in D.C. we have struggled with those who have an incor-

rect view of the manner in which ideological unity is forged. Some objectively play the role of "armchair revolutionaries." While correctly recognizing the need for revolutionary theory, they would have us engage in endless intellectual debates. In their search for the perfect organization, they confine their role in party-building to a seat on the sidelines, ever critical of those who are attempting to make a new vanguard party of the proletariat a reality. The political line of the new communist party will be clarified through revolutionary struggle. We must dare to enter that struggle.

Also seated on the sidelines are those who contend that it is not yet time to build a communist party, that revolutionary struggle should and will develop spontaneously. The workers are not yet ready for communist leadership, they argue. Marxism-Leninism for intellectuals, trade unionism for workers is their position.

Finally, there have been those who understand that revolutionary practice will not develop without revolutionary theory and organizational discipline, yet

would limit organizations to small isolated collectives. This position grows out of a lack of understanding of conditions outside the D.C. area, as well as a petty-bourgeois attitude which fears centralism and fights to maintain local "control."

We have struggled against these incorrect positions on party-building and have emerged from that struggle with energy and enthusiasm for the work which lies before us. We expect to gain strength and clarity as part of the October League, which has made outstanding contributions in this period of party-building. Of primary importance are clear, anti-revisionist theoretical positions, especially on the woman question and on the national question, of particular importance in D.C., where over three-quarters of the people are Afro-Americans.

The October League has also demonstrated a principled stand of proletarian internationalism, and recognized the threat of both Soviet social-imperialism and United States imperialism as well as the danger of imperialist war in this time of grave political and economic crises.

UNITY STATEMENT
WASH., D.C.
GROUP
MERGES
WITH O.L.

U.S.-CHINA FRIENDSHIP ASSOC. REACHES OUT TO WORKING PEOPLE

A popular saying in the People's Republic of China goes, "We have friends all over the world." The truth of this statement was reflected in the second annual convention of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association, held in Chicago on Labor Day weekend.

Over 600 delegates from 72 local associations representing thousands of members met to plan the program for the year ahead. The past year has been one of tremendous growth for the Friendship Association, having doubled the number of its local associations since the 1974 founding convention.

The convention heard educational talks on the new constitution of the People's Republic of China, and on the present campaign to criticize bourgeois ideas in China. John L. Service, a U.S. State Department official in China in the late 1940's, spoke on the need for the U.S. government to withdraw all support from the puppet dictatorship in China's Taiwan province. Hawaiian delegate Koji Ariyoshi spoke of his war-time visit to Yenan, the revolutionary headquarters in northern China.

How best to become a mass friendship movement dominated the debate and discussion at the convention.

Among the positive steps taken as a result of the



discussions were the creation of a new southern region of the Association; the adoption of a resolution to increase outreach activities toward minority and working-class people; and to conduct a national campaign on the Taiwan issue and normalization of relations between the U.S. and China.

A weakness in the past program of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association has been its failure to reach working class and minority communities. This was spoken to by Unita Blackwell Wright, an Afro-American civil rights leader from Mississippi who traveled to China on a women's delegation in 1973. She said, "I hope to see a change in the complexion of the organization next year," referring to the predominantly white, middle-class make-up of the present Association. Despite the attempts of some to preserve the Association as an exclusively white, middle-class organization, resolutions were passed stressing the need to develop new, multi-lingual resource materials of interest to a broader base of people. The resolution also called for a reduction in price of the Association publication, New China magazine, so that poor people could easier afford it. The majority of the convention delegates united with the spirit of Unita Blackwell

Wright's address, determined to expand friendship work to those people who make up the majority of the population in the U.S.

Despite signing the Sino-U.S. Joint Communiqué nearly 4 years ago, the U.S. government still maintains a military and political presence in China's Taiwan province, propping up the fascist dictatorship of the Chiang Kai-Shek clique. In fact, five additional Taiwan puppet consulates have been allowed to open in the U.S. since the signing of the communiqué, while the People's Republic still has no embassy in the U.S.

A paper by Association chairman William Hinton and Clark Kissinger of Chicago, which was supported by the representatives of the Revolutionary Union (RU), argued that it was not really important to fight for the normalization of U.S.-China relations. "One need only look at the relations between the Soviet Union and China to see that diplomatic recognition is not a panacea for building friendly and expanded relations," the paper said.

The fight for normalization, however, is one major way to concretely express the desires of the American people for friendship, and to clearly educate people about where the blame for the lack of relations falls—on the U.S. government. This is a concrete way to expose who is the aggressive force and who is trying to keep the truth from the American people. It is therefore a necessary and important part of the program of any friendship association. This is the view which the convention adopted.

An undercurrent at the convention was the concern of many delegates that any organization might try to wield the Friendship Association for its own narrow, organizational ends, rather than trying to build it as widely and broadly as possible. The paper by Association chairman Hinton and Clark Kissinger of Chicago, which was supported by the R.U. representatives, argued that there was "too much concern" with safeguarding democracy in the organization. Without any reference to getting the rank-and-file members of the Association more involved in formulating policies, the paper calls for a greater concentration of power in the hands of the executive committee.

Despite this negative tendency, the convention was a tremendous success. It pushed forward the important work of building friendship with China, work which is related to the prevention of war and U.S. aggression, and to the promotion of international solidarity in the struggle of the world's people against imperialism.

SALUTE OCT. 1ST / CHINA NATION

On October 1, 1949 the Chinese people's revolution won its victory and the People's Republic of China was established. Twenty-six years have now passed since this great victory for mankind was won under the leadership of Mao Tsetung and the Chinese Communist Party.

On October 1, 1975 thousands of people here in the U.S. will gather to celebrate this great occasion and the great advances being made daily in China and for the cause of socialism and world progress. Today China is consolidating its gains in all areas of national life and playing an increasingly important role in the world struggle against imperialism and all reaction.

China has been transformed from what was once a poor country, carved in to pieces by the various big powers, into socialist New China, prosperous and self-reliant. Such ills as unemployment, inflation and hunger which stalk the people in the United States and other capitalist countries today, are unknown to the millions of Chinese who have grown up in revolutionary China. These are facts that no one can dispute.

The daily lives of the people have undergone tremendous changes. The more than 50 national minorities, cruelly and murderously oppressed before liberation, are today guaranteed political, social and cultural equality under the dictatorship of the proletariat and through local self-government called regional autonomy. The liberation of women has also become a component part of the struggle to build a socialist society with millions of women taking an active role in the country's affairs.

Above all, the working class in alliance with the millions of laboring peasants, exercises its power in defense of the gains of the new society and in maintaining its vigilance over the old and new exploiters who would like to make a comeback and restore capitalism. As the recently adopted new Constitution of the Communist Party of China says: "Socialist society covers a considerably long historical period. Throughout this historical period, there are classes, class contradictions and class struggle, there is the struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road, there is the danger of capitalist restoration and there is the threat of subversion and aggression by imperialism and social-imperialism."

The Chinese have learned a great deal from the experiences of the Soviet Union, which was the first socialist country but where capitalism was restored following the death of Stalin. Today the Soviet Union has gone from being a beacon to the oppressed peoples of the world to being a dark dungeon for the working and oppressed Soviet people. It has turned into an aggressive imperialist power which along with the U.S. imperialists is preparing to unleash a new world war.

Ten years ago in China a historic battle was launched against attempts to restore capitalism in China. The Great 12—THE CALL—OCTOBER, 1975

Proletarian Cultural Revolution, led by Mao Tsetung was a "second revolution," mobilizing the entire population to take up the struggle against capitalist restoration. Lasting several years, it greatly strengthened the working class dictatorship. At that time, Mao Tsetung pointed out that revolutions like that one would have to be carried out many times in the future.

Since then the Chinese people have defeated new plots hatched to restore capitalism. They have united closely to defeat the Lin Piao gang who with the help of the foreign imperialists tried to overthrow the rule of the working people and who spread the backwards thought of Confucius, the old spokesman for the Chinese slave-owning class. Today, throughout China, the masses of the people themselves are studying carefully the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat, raising their own level of understanding so as to guarantee that China will always remain red.

The dictatorship of the proletariat, unlike all previous types of government is the rule of the great majority. Its power rests completely on the people themselves and works for the interests of the vast majority of people in China and the world. It is a government of working people, democratically chosen, which operates under the supervision of the common people. Increasingly in China, all the tasks of running the country and defending it are being taken up by the working people themselves. The present

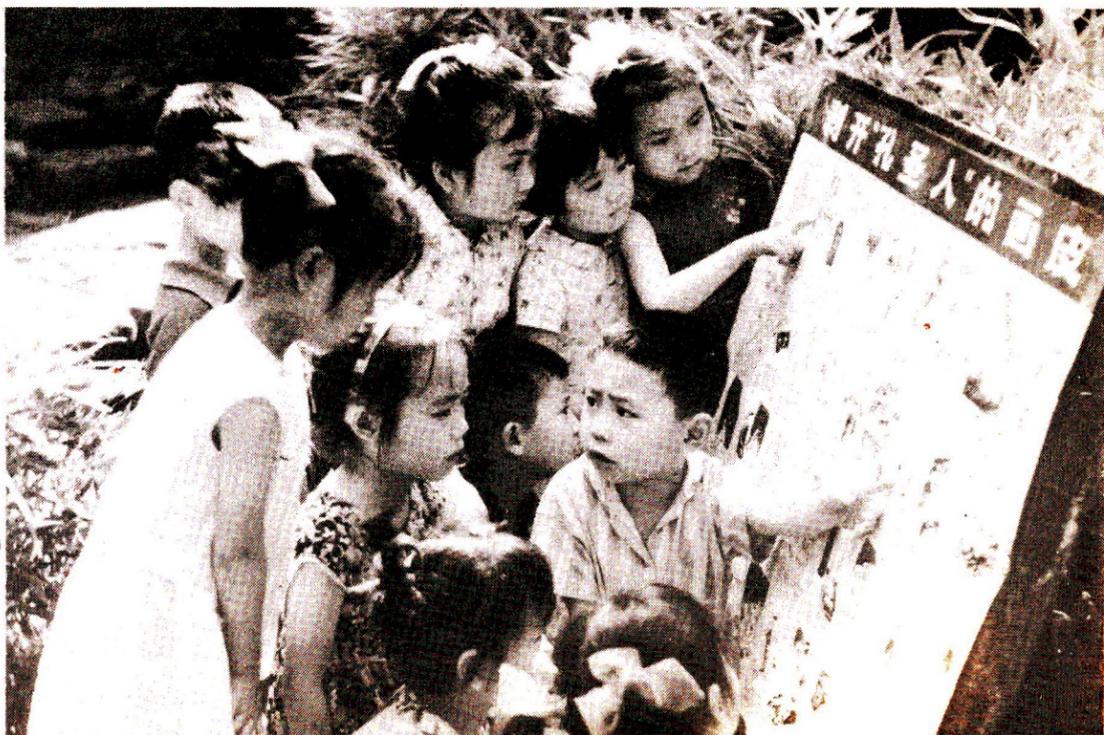
campaign sweeping China of studying the theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat is one that will ensure China's future by bringing millions of workers and peasants into the political life of socialist construction. In every factory, on every farm and office building you can see people studying as they work, reading the writings of the great teachers of scientific socialism, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung on this important question. The dictatorship of the working class cannot be guaranteed without full participation of the masses under the leadership of the Party.

"Countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution." This sums up the view which China takes toward world affairs. Although China is still a developing country, it has given much in the way of material support as well as political leadership to the struggles of the oppressed nations and peoples around the world.

China itself is part of the Third World and the first of the underdeveloped countries to defeat imperialism. The Chinese revolution signalled the beginnings of the great storm of national liberation and independence struggles which have, more than anything else, exposed and dealt heavy blows to the imperialist superpowers and their attempts to dominate the world.

Since liberation China has served as a great "rear area"

CONFUCIUS
was a reactionary, Chinese children learn. Study is part of campaign to prevent possible restoration of capitalism as happened in USSR.



ANYUAN MINERS LED WAY



"YOU TREATED US LIKE ANIMALS, Now We Will Be Men!" reads Anyuan Miners' banner in 1922.

This article was written by a member of the recent October League cadres delegation to the People's Republic of China.

In the history of China's socialist revolution, September 14, 1922 marks a high point. It was then, in the early days of the workers' movement and during the building of the new Communist Party of China, that thousands of coal miners and railroad workers rose up in the town of Anyuan.

Anyuan is located in Hunan Province. This south central region of China is a rich area. Besides the abundant rice and tea crops grown near the region, Anyuan itself is famous for its coal mining. It was here that the German and Japanese imperialists opened the first mine in 1898.

In those days, China was subject to imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism (Chinese officials exploiting the people). This means that large numbers of the workers and the poor and middle peasants were pushed into greater misery and poverty year by year. The poor peasants were especially hard-pressed. They were unable to pay their mounting debts to the landlords. As a result, families were broken up. Women and girls were either sold as wives or prostitutes to richer people or, in the case of infant girls, were sometimes killed. The men were forced to leave their families in search of work. Many younger, single men could not afford to feed and clothe a family, so they didn't marry. The first workers in the Anyuan mines came from these poor peasants.

From the time that the mines opened in 1898 until 1921 when Mao Tsetung first visited the mines to begin organizing work, there were 7 major spontaneous struggles of the workers. Anyuan workers participated in the Boxer rebellion, the May 4th movement and many other early revolutionary struggles.

Yet while small victories were gained, all these spontaneous struggles of the workers ended in failure. This was because the workers themselves had no organization. They had no Communist Party to lead them nor trade unions to unite them in struggle. In addition, the workers faced constant military suppression by the mine owners and guards who worked hand-in-hand with the feudal landlords and their agents. The conditions faced by the miners were intolerable. More than 10,000 miners died in these 23 years from numerous gas explosions, cave-ins and other accidents in the mines. Child laborers worked long hours hauling the coal to the surface in heavy carts. The monthly wage of a miner barely paid for a daily bowl of rice and

a mat to sleep on.

The Chinese Communist Party was secretly founded in Shanghai in July, 1921. Mao Tsetung, who was one of the 12 delegates to that first Congress, returned to Hunan Province and immediately began putting the Party's line into practice. At the First Congress, the delegates had adopted a resolution that the Party's main task was to build up the workers' movement, giving it leadership in establishing workers' clubs (trade unions), forming workers' night schools to spread education about the class struggle, and setting up workers' journals and newspapers. Mao Tsetung became the Party Committee Secretary of Hunan Province after the Congress. In the autumn of 1921 he went to visit the Anyuan mines for the first time.

On this visit, Mao Tsetung spent a lot of time going down into the mines to talk with the workers. Our delegation talked with one veteran worker who explained Chairman Mao's visit this way:

"Mister Mao (we called him that because he was dressed in a long student's gown) came into our boiler room where I was working. He saw that we were speaking the Hunanese dialect, so he came over and said, 'Oh, you must be from Hunan! So am I. We're fellow countrymen!' Mister Mao then sat down on a real dirty sleeper with us and we had a chat. He asked us how we lived, what it was like to work here and how the overseers treated us. We had to get up then to start working because each one of us had to put 7 tons of coal in the furnace for our 12 hour shift. I told Mister Mao how I was working very hard one day without rest. After shoveling a lot of coal, I stood up from the heat. I was very tired. Just then, the wretched foreign overseer came by and said to me, 'Oh, so you're dozing, huh?' I told him no, that I wasn't dozing but that I had been working very hard and only stood up to catch my breath. But he didn't believe me and beat me very hard, until I could barely move. Then they stopped all the workers, gathered everyone outside and brought me out. They said that I was fined 3 days without pay for dozing and talking back to the overseer. I broke into tears and other comrade workers said to Mister Mao, 'How do we get out of this miserable life?! There is no hope, we are just useless and can't read or write.' Chairman Mao told us that one worker has no strength alone, but 400 united can do anything! He said if we had courage and were not afraid, then there was a way out. We must get organized! We must get united! Later we saw that only the Communist Party could give us this leadership we needed."

Chairman Mao spent much time in Anyuan during late 1921 and early 1922 organizing workers' night schools, day schools for the children of the workers, a Workers' Club (which was really a trade union) and a Party Branch. The first Party members were all coal miners themselves. They had gained a high political consciousness by hearing about the great October Revolution in Russia and by learning to read revolutionary papers. Finally, the workers officially set up their Workers' Club on May Day, 1922. The Communist Party members, who were all secret members, gave the active leadership necessary in organizing and leading these workers' organizations. The Workers' Club organized a huge rally and demonstration of the miners and other workers on that May Day to celebrate the founding of the Club. It was indeed a joyful occasion, because it marked the first time the workers had been organized and united in a strong way.

AL DAY

for the revolutionaries struggling in each and every country for socialism and national independence. Along with their internationalist stand in support of revolutionary struggles of the working class and oppressed nations, China has also paid close attention to the problems faced by the countries of Europe and Japan, who are also confronted by the bullying of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. They have exposed the increasing rivalry of the two superpowers which today provides the background for the threat of war and fascism.

Along with China's stand of resolute internationalism and support for the revolutionary struggles of the people of the world, the Chinese government also carries out a policy of non-aggression and peaceful co-existence with countries like the U.S. which have differing social systems. The opening of relations between China and the U.S. in 1972 was a victory over more than 20 years of attempts by the imperialists to blockade and isolate China from the rest of the world. These attempts also received a mighty blow from the countries of the world in 1971 when China won its rightful seat in the United Nations. Since then, along with many other countries of the world, China has turned the UN into a forum for countries to speak out against imperialism and the superpowers.

Here in the U.S. a whole generation of people were lied to and deceived about the new society in China. Lies were spread about "slavery" in China and racist myths about Chinese people were circulated by the ruling circles in this country and more recently by the revisionist agents of the Soviet Union. But the wide recognition around the world of the great successes of New China, as well as the many first-hand experiences of American visitors, have vividly exposed to the American people the truth about the People's Republic of China. Among the thousands of overseas Chinese living in the U.S. and other countries, a feeling of great pride has been reborn with the advances of their motherland and China's increasing role in world affairs.

Of great significance in recent years has been the growth of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. The Association recently held its second national convention and has done much to build unity and friendship between the peoples of our two countries. For workers in this country, the friendship with the Chinese people reflects the common interests of workers and people around the world. It expresses their desire for freedom and a better life for themselves and their children, free from exploitation and oppression.

It is in the spirit of unity and friendship with China that we salute this great anniversary of October First and send our warmest greetings to the Chinese people, the Chinese Communist Party and its great leader Mao Tsetung. We call on all of our readers to celebrate with us this great occasion.

by the
Afro-
American
poet
Langston
Hughes

ROAR CHINA !

Roar, China!
Roar, old lion of the East!
Snort fire, yellow dragon of the Orient,
Tired at last of being bothered,
Since when did you ever steal anything
From anybody,
Sleepy wise old beast
Known as the porcelain-maker,
Known as the poem-maker,
Known as the maker of firecrackers?
A long time since you cared
About taking other people's lands
Away from them,
THEY must've known you didn't care
About your own land either—
So THEY came with gunboats,
Set up Concessions,
Zones of influence,
International Settlements,
Missionary houses,
Banks,
And Jim Crow Y.M.C.A.'s
THEY beat you with malacca canes
And dared you to raise your head—
Except to cut it off,
Even the yellow men came
To take what the white men
Hadn't already taken,
The yellow men dropped bombs on Chapei,
The yellow men called you the same names
The white men did:
Dog! Dog! Dog!
Collie dog!
Red! ...Lousy red!
Red coolie dog!
And in the end you had no place
To make your porcelain,
Write your poems,
Or shoot your firecrackers on holidays,
In the end you had no peace

Or calm left at all.
PRESIDENT, KING, MIKADO
Thought you really were a dog.
THEY kicked you daily
Via radiophone, via cablegram,
Via gunboats in the harbor,
Via malacca canes.
THEY thought you were a tame lion.
A sleepy, easy, tame old lion!
Ha! Ha!
Haaa-aa-a! ...Ha!
Laugh, little coolie boy on the docks of Shanghai, laugh!
You're no tame lion.
Laugh, red generals in the hills of Siang-kiang, laugh!
You're no tame lion.
Laugh, child slaves in the factories of the foreigners!
You're no tame lion.
Laugh—and roar, China! Time to spit fire!
Open your mouth, old dragon of the East,
To swallow up the gunboats in the Yangtse!
Swallow up the foreign planes in your sky!
Eat bullets, old maker of firecrackers—
And spit out freedom in the face of your enemies!
Break the chains of the East,
Little coolie boy!
Break the chains of the East,
Red generals!
Break the chains of the East,
Child slaves in the factories!
Smash the iron gates of the Concessions!
Smash the pious doors of the missionary houses!
Smash the revolving doors of the Jim Crow Y.M.C.A.'s
Crush the enemies of land and bread and freedom!
Roar
Stand up and roar, China!
You know what you want!
The only way to get it is
To take it!
Roar, China!

"Hicks and Kerrigan are not our enemy in the busing issue."—Workers Viewpoint, May 1975.

Standing firmly in the pathway of the movement for democratic rights of Black and other minority peoples, along with the racists of ROAR in Boston, is the organization called Workers Viewpoint (WV).

In the recent struggles in that city aimed at ending segregation and all other forms of national oppression, Workers Viewpoint, which claims to be a communist group, has come out with a line that is in essence the same as that of the segregationists. They have refused to join with the masses of the people in going against the racist tide. Instead, they have lent aid and comfort to the ROAR fascists with their anti-busing propaganda. Furthermore, while posing as Marxists, the Workers Viewpoint group has refused to come out in support of the Afro-American people's right of self-determination and have abandoned the Marxist-Leninist view of the national question.

To fully grasp the present busing question, a scientific appraisal must be made of the general struggle for Afro-American rights. The present fight against segregation is an outgrowth of the historic freedom struggle that Black people have been waging for hundreds of years in this country. That struggle, against centuries of slavery and national oppression, has in the most recent period, been focused on the task of gaining political, social, and economic equality or what has been termed the movement for "civil rights."

Despite the preachings of the reformist leaders who have stepped from the pulpit and the academic world to try to mislead this movement, it has increasingly been seen as a struggle against the entire system of capitalism itself, a struggle that is antagonistic to the very system that has bred this terrible legacy of oppression.

DISTORTS PEOPLES' HISTORY

Workers Viewpoint, in the May 1975 issue of their journal, consciously distorts the history of the Afro-American people's struggle in order to justify their racist anti-busing stand. In this journal, WV stands with well-known racists on the "left," the Revolutionary Union (RU) and other assorted opportunists, in calling for the smashing of the pro-integration busing movement and calls for a separate-but-equal society. Says WV, "It is true that RU correctly sees the busing plan as a ruling class scheme to divide and rule." (WV, May 1975, p. 46) According to these fools, there never was a struggle of Black people against segregation. Rather, the ruling class "conspired" to invent such a movement in order to "stir up trouble."

If this sounds a little like George Wallace and company demagogically stirring up populist sentiment in order to maintain white supremacy, it is no accident. The lines between these opportunists and the die-hard segregationists merge wherever the democratic rights of minority people are concerned.

According to WV, the struggle in Boston is not a struggle for democratic rights. "Is this forced busing plan, manipulated through legalistic procedures, really a democratic rights issue for the nationally oppressed and in the interests of the multinational working class?" asks WV. "No, we don't think so." (p. 47) Workers Viewpoint goes so far



A bused student in Louisville.

as to claim that Black people are not even interested in ending segregation. In one stroke of the pen they erase the glorious struggle that has taken place and the hundreds of martyrs that have laid down their lives in the cause of equality.

They blame the anti-segregationist movement itself for "whipping up race-hatred" rather than seeing that this race-hatred was born with the enslavement of the Afro-American people and out of the capitalist policies of white supremacy and hundreds of years of segregation.

ANTI-MARXIST LINE

'WORKERS VIEWPOINT' ATTACKS BUSING

In 1913, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois, the great Afro-American leader wrote a sharp criticism of the Socialist Party which refused to take up the freedom struggle of Black people while wildly waving the banner of socialism. DuBois wrote:

"No recent convention of Socialists has dared to face fairly the Negro problem and make a straightforward declaration that they regard Negroes as men in the same sense that other men are. . . The general attitude of the thinking members of the party has been this: We must not turn aside from the great objects of Socialism to take up the issue of the American Negroes, let the question wait; when the objects of Socialism are achieved, this problem will be solved along with other problems."

W.E.B. DuBois, The New Review, Feb. 1, 1913

Their view goes contrary to Marxism and the working class approach to the national question, which this group, through their pompous name, claims to represent.

Rather than viewing the national problem as a class question and seeing the unity of the working class in the struggle against capitalism as key, WV views the struggle as one of separate "communities" concerned only with maintaining their separate cultural identities and separate but "equal" schools. To them the turmoil in Boston and Louisville and other cities is a terrible thing and they long for the "good old days" when Black and white people supposedly got along in harmony.

ADVANCES REACTIONARY VIEW

Finally WV refuses to take the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary stand of upholding the right of nations to self-determination. Instead they put forth a reactionary view of society as a myriad of checker-board squares of different peoples, living separately in little cultural enclaves.

Self-determination means that an oppressed nation has the right to separate from the oppressor nation and establish its own independent state. This slogan of self-determination is not raised with the purpose of separating Black and white people, but on the contrary, in order to unite them on the basis of equality. Oppressed and oppressor nations can only be united within one state apparatus on a voluntary basis free from violent coercion.

Along with this principal slogan must come a consistent fight against all forms of national oppression and for democratic rights of the Afro-American and other minority peoples throughout the U.S. This includes the right to attend integrated schools because "separate-but-equal" has always meant less-than-equal for minority children.

By raising the slogans of self-determination and full democratic rights, and carrying out the struggle against all national oppression in practice, we lay the basis for a unified struggle against capitalism and for a socialist society based on equality of nations.

Workers Viewpoint opposes this type of working class approach to the national question and instead tails behind the most backward sentiments of the people which have been played on by racist segregationists such as Hicks and Kerrigan in Boston. "Black and white parents," claims WV, "were not asking for integration as a solution to the problems of their schools, let alone forced busing. Both communities were demanding quality education in general and the right to learn their own language and culture for the minority communities." (WV, p. 51)

But we would ask these defenders of "quality education" how can the learning of young students be of a high quality when they are segregated into Black, white, Latino and Asian schools?

While it is certainly necessary for us to demand bilingual education and to do everything possible under the present system to safeguard the national culture and identity of the oppressed nationalities, it has also been shown that this defense of democratic rights is not in contradiction to the struggle for school integration.

J.V. Stalin, one of the foremost theoreticians on the national question, long ago exposed this view of national separation, which was put forward by some pseudo-Marxists. Stalin called their attempt "to represent socialist society as a 'checkered picture of national unions of persons

and territorial corporations" a "timid attempt to substitute for Marx's conception of socialism a revised version of opportunism." (Stalin, *Marxism and the National Question*)

Showing that segregation grew out of the survivals of slavery in the South, Lenin described the plight of Black people in America as: "Segregated, hidebound, a stifling atmosphere, a sort of prison for the 'emancipated' Negroes . . ." (Lenin, *SW*, Vol. 12, p. 198) He added that: "The proletariat cannot support any consecration of nationalism; on the contrary, it supports everything that helps to obliterate national distinctions and remove national barriers; it supports everything that makes the ties between nationalities closer and closer, or tends to merge nations." (*Ibid.*)

Certainly the fight against segregated schools is a struggle against these national barriers despite the reaction by the most backward section of workers against it. These backward workers and middle-class elements have been used by Boston's bankers and real estate owners as a battering ram against integration in order to reap tremendous profits for themselves. This is the role that their front men like Hicks and Kerrigan play in Boston as well as the fascist groups like the KKK who are fully backed by the rich bankers and the police.

But WV, while directing their main blow at the NAACP and the "liberals" tell us not to worry about the fascist elements. "Hicks and Kerrigan," they say, "are not our enemy in the busing issue." (WV, p. 56) If Hicks and Kerrigan are not our enemy, then what are they?

WV admits that Hicks and Kerrigan are "the social props of the bourgeoisie and the misleaders of the people." (p. 56) They admit that Hicks is a "fascist representative" (p. 55), yet they then try to redirect the hatred of the working class away from these racists and say that the real enemy of the people are those who stand for integration.

It was Lenin, speaking about the problems of education who said, "It would certainly be harmful to advocate division of schools according to nationality, to advocate, for example, special schools for Jewish children in St. Petersburg . . ." (Lenin, *Critical Remarks on the National Question*) Lenin pointed out that education could not be viewed separately from the rest of the economic and political conditions in society. "To separate the sphere of education from this," Lenin wrote, "is firstly, absurdly utopian, because schools (like 'national culture' in general) cannot be separated from economics and politics; secondly, it is the economic and political life of a capitalist country that necessitates at every step the smashing of the absurd and outmoded national barriers and prejudices, whereas separation of the school system and the like, would only perpetuate, intensify and strengthen 'pure' clericalism and 'pure' bourgeois chauvinism." (Lenin, *CW*, Vol. 20, p. 36)

It is precisely this bourgeois chauvinism which WV and their counterparts in the RU are strengthening by their opposition to the integration movement and by their claim that the fascist leaders in ROAR are "not the enemies" of the working class.

Within the anti-segregation movement of course there is also a struggle to be waged against the liberal misleaders of the Democratic Party and the NAACP who preach that integration, "racial peace" and harmony are compatible with capitalism on the basis of meager reforms. These reformists also try to separate the schools question from the rest of society. There can be no integration of the schools in the real sense unless there is full equality in jobs, housing and all social and economic questions. This inequality is a bulwark of the capitalist profit system and goes hand-in-hand with capitalism.

But a prerequisite for waging this battle is that the revolutionary forces line up on the correct side of the present struggle against the segregationist anti-busing forces and not abandon the fight for Afro-American rights and self-determination to the leadership of these liberal reformers.

Groups like Workers Viewpoint and the Revolutionary Union have taken the wrong class stand from the very start of the struggle.



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OCTOBER MARKS BIRTH OF TWO GREAT REVOLUTIONS

People often ask how our organization, the October League, got its name. The reason is that October is the anniversary of the two greatest revolutions in our century—the Russian and the Chinese.

The Russian revolution took place in October 1917, amidst the First World War between the imperialist “great” powers. It was the first fully successful revolution of the kind that are characteristic of our historical epoch: revolutions in which the masses of people, led by the working class take state power into their own hands.

Today the Russian revolution has been reversed. Nearly 20 years ago a rotten, counter-revolutionary crew took over in the USSR and has turned the country back into a capitalist, imperialist power. This is a great tragedy. It is all the more reason, however, to learn from the first great October revolution and to honor the memory of the workers, soldiers, peasants and others who gave their lives defending it.

Can the working class take over the government and run the country in its own interests? Can they decide all political issues, big or small, and execute their own policies? Or must they rely forever on the “geniuses” of the bourgeoisie (the ruling class) to run the government? This was a fundamental ques-

tion of the Russian revolution from its beginnings, one which the events of October 1917 answered loud and clear in favor of the working class.

There were many in Russia who called themselves “revolutionaries” and paid lipservice to the working class, but who in practice put obstacles in the way of the working class becoming the ruling class. Among these were the “economists,” who thought that the workers should concentrate on nickel-and-dime questions only, and confine their participation in politics to applauding one or another so-called “workers’ friend” among the capitalist politicians.

The Russian revolutionaries led by V.I. Lenin fought “economism” and similar opportunist distortions of Marxist principles. These genuine revolutionaries, Bolsheviks, enthusiastically set themselves the task, from the beginning of their activity, of preparing the working class in every way to become the masters of all society.

There had been many violent workers’ and peasants’ uprisings and rebellions in Russia, as in other countries. The October revolution of 1917 differed from these in an important way.

The others were in the main spontaneous. This one was planned and organized ahead of time and led by the scientific theory of Marxism-Leninism, embodied in a communist party.

Thanks to the superior organization and discipline of the Communist Party of Russia (the Bolsheviks), which led the political struggles up to and including the actual armed insurrection, the working class was able to smash the reactionary police and army. The revolutionary workers put the old government under arrest, destroyed its state machinery and formed a new revolutionary government of their own.

These glorious events of October 1917 were the fruit of a long labor of party-building beforehand. This began in earnest with the first publication of the Marxist-Leninist paper, “Iskra” (Spark), in December of 1900. By the eve of the 1917 revolution, to give some idea of the party’s growth, its press published 41 newspapers and magazines, including 12 in languages of minority nationalities.

One of the most crucial struggles in preparing for the 1917 revolution was the struggle against the oppression of the

different nationalities in old imperialist Russia. The Bolshevik party took the lead in fighting against all forms of national oppression and chauvinism. The cornerstone of its policy was the recognition of the right of all oppressed nations within Russia to secede and form independent states; in other words, recognition of the right of nations to self-determination.

The party recognized this right, however, not in order to try to split the country up into a patchwork of small national-minority states. Just the opposite. Its aim was to unite the different nationalities, majority and minority, on a voluntary, democratic basis, on a basis of equality.

In keeping with this aim the party fought consistently against any attempt to split the workers of different nationalities. “The interests of the working class demand that the workers of all the nationalities should have common proletarian organizations,” said a Bolshevik party resolution. It said that there must be a single party of the working class of all nationalities. The Bolshevik party was such a party.

The first October revolution is all the richer in lessons for us today because it took place amidst the first imperialist World War. Today the two imperialist superpowers, the USSR and the U.S. are again preparing for another world war behind the smokescreen of “detente.”

The Bolshevik party led by Lenin set a great example of how to fight against imperialist world war. They led the struggle for peace, but not in the hypocritical way of “pacifists” who sigh for peace while upholding warmongering governments and the whole warmongering imperialist system. Rather, they waged an active, revolutionary struggle for peace by overthrowing the imperialist bourgeoisie.

Let the ruling classes of the two superpowers today tremble to recall the Russian revolution of October! It is a certainty, in the event of a new world war, that the one or the other, or both together, along with imperialists the world over will follow the old Tsars and the old Russian bourgeoisie down into the trashbin of history.



“THE CRISIS HAS MATURED” (left) wrote V.I. Lenin on the eve of the October Revolution in Russia.

CAMBODIA WELCOMES SIHANOUK HOME

Enthusiastic crowds lined the streets of Phnom Penh on September 9 to welcome Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian Head of State and Chairman of the National United Front of Cambodia. After five years in China from March 1970 where he had continued the fight for Cambodian independence, Sihanouk was returning to his liberated homeland.

Cambodia has changed since Sihanouk traveled secretly through the liberated areas in 1973. After a fierce struggle against U.S. imperialism and the reactionary Lon Nol clique, the Cambodian people won a tremendous victory and achieved national liberation on April 17, 1975.

The tasks of the next period of reconstruction, in Sihanouk’s words the second stage of their revolution, involve “the consolidation of the people’s power, realization of a truly people’s democracy turning our society into a society with only one class, the building up of a powerful and independent national economy by mainly relying on our own strength, resources, work and sacrifices. . .”

Despite obstacles thrown up by imperialism, the Cambodian people are united in their great effort to defend and build the new Cambodia. Before the U.S. invasion, Cambodia produced rice enough for export. During the war, how-

ever, cities like Phnom Penh became dependent on monthly food shipments from the U.S.; at the same time, carpet bombing devastated much of the best land. Following the defeat of the U.S., Cambodia was faced with a huge food problem.

A recent Cambodian radio commentary describes the present domestic situation as “excellent.” Rice is being harvested where previously none had grown. Also, “groups of solidarity for increasing production” are laboring hard throughout the country and have pushed farm and industry production above pre-Liberation levels. In Phnom Penh, the radio broadcast continued, “over 50 state-owned factories have gone into operation. Great successes have also been achieved in restoring the country’s railway, highway and water communications and transport.” “Although our people do not live in prosperity,” explained Ieng Sary, Cambodia’s delegate to the UN, “the whole Cambodian people have been able to find food and clothing. There is no hunger.”

This victory of a small country of 5 million against the United States is an important blow against imperialism and superpower hegemony. Chinese Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping spoke of the significance of the Cambodian triumph

at the farewell banquet for Sihanouk in Peking. “The Cambodian people’s great victory is a remarkable example showing that a small nation can defeat a big and a weak nation can defeat a strong; it is another one in the series of great historic events since World War II. It sets a brilliant example and provides new experience for the oppressed nations and oppressed peoples of the world in their struggles.”

While U.S. imperialism directed an arsenal of technologically advanced weaponry against Cambodia, the masses of Cambodian people were united “under the brilliant leadership of the Cambodian Revolutionary Organization. . . adhering to an independent and self-reliant line.” With revolutionary organization, a correct political line and self-reliance, stressed an official Cambodian editorial (The Voice of the National United Front of Cambodia), “a small nation can defeat the biggest imperialism.”

Next to self-reliance and independence, however, the revolutionary leaders of the new Cambodia point to the importance of international support and aid. “It is only in misfortune,” said Sihanouk, “that one can distinguish between true friends and false friends.” The barbarous aggression carried out against Cambodia, he added, “allowed us to see, in this world where materialism and opportunism play no negligible role, which countries are true champions of justice, authentically internationalist and anti-imperialist and which are not.” Sihanouk then continued: “The great victory finally won by the heroic people of Kampuchea (Cambodia, ed.) . . .

is inseparable from the full and ardent support, the multiform and unconditional aid and militant solidarity which the People’s Republic of China readily accorded us from the first minute of our struggle for national salvation. . . Kampuchea warmly congratulates and thanks the PRC which has all along unfailingly stood by small, weak and poor countries and oppressed, exploited or menaced people and will fight to the end with them for realizing together a future of peace and prosperity in freedom for all and equality among all.”

In contrast to the support given by China, the Soviet Union proved to be the worse kind of “false friend.” Interested only in building its own hegemony in Southeast Asia, the USSR threw its backing behind the reactionary Lon Nol clique and did not withdraw this support until this traitorous puppet government had been thoroughly smashed. What’s more, insisting on its phony and treacherous line of “detente,” the Soviet social-imperialists pushed time and again for peace conferences to “silence the gunfire” in Indochina. This was a direct effort to sabotage the truly revolutionary struggle of the people.

Internationally the new Cambodian government has many friends. As the Cambodian delegation took its rightful seat at the UN, it received a warm welcome from many countries, particularly of the Third World. The new Cambodia, an example and inspiration to the nations and peoples of the world, stands in firm unity with them in their struggles for independence and against superpower hegemony.

TAKING UP THE CALL



"COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE, NATIONS WANT LIBERATION, PEOPLE WANT REVOLUTION."

SUPPORT SPANISH REVOLUTIONARIES

Spanish military courts have issued a series of death-by-garrotting sentences to political prisoners in recent weeks for their activism in workers' struggles and the Basque separatist movement.

At least 11 people have been sentenced to death, including two pregnant women. A flood of domestic and international protest has hit the fascist Franco regime, but as we go to press it appears that at least some of the sentences will be carried out as part of the fascists' desperate campaign to silence revolutionary opposition.

According to the New York Times, several of those sentenced are members of the FRAP (Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Patriotic Front), a united front organization in which the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) participates. Humanite Rouge, a French Marxist-Leninist newspaper reports that in all 76 political prisoners have been arrested recently, including 11 members of the FRAP.

The revisionist Communist Party of Spain, which some sources say has been carrying out secret meetings with Franco's representatives in France, has declined to support the political prisoners, hastily pointing out that their party stands for "peaceful change."

But aside from these revisionist renegades, the prisoners have widespread support from workers and peasants all over Spain. The Franco fascists have been forced to temporarily delay the executions for fear of touching off mass rebellions.

FIGHT LAYOFFS IN ITALY

Is it possible to "make the bosses pay" for the effects of the current economic crisis? Workers across Italy are succeeding in doing that.

At Ranco Controls outside Milan, 800 workers occupied the factory in September when they returned from vacation to hear the news that the company was closing down. The U.S.-owned electronics firm was losing money as a result of the recession and decided to close operations, sell the plant and lay off the workers.

But now Ranco won't be able to remove its inventory, valued at several million dollars, nor will it be able to sell the facilities. The workers plan to occupy the buildings until either Ranco, a new buyer or the government agrees to guarantee their jobs.

Ranco Controls officials, who smugly told workers at the beginning of the month that there were "no alternatives to layoffs," are now searching frantically for alternatives.

Similar struggles are taking place across Italy. Rubber workers at Pirelli struck that company when the work-week was cut back. They felt that if they didn't demand a return to a full work-week, they would soon lose their jobs completely, at which point a strike would be useless. Alfa Romeo, British Leyland and General Instrument have all been forced to rehire workers they wanted to lay off as a result of strikes or factory occupations.

PROTEST CZECH INVASION

Massive protests against the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and continued Soviet occupation took place in a number of European countries in August.

In Norway, Sweden and Denmark, countries which today are threatened by Soviet aggression, Marxist-Leninists took the lead in exposing Soviet social-imperialism and rallying support for the Czech people.

On August 21, the Norwegian Worker's Party (M-L), Communist Student League, and Red Youth of Norway organized demonstrations in the capital city of Oslo as well as 12 other cities. In Oslo, more than 2,600 people marched to the Soviet Embassy, where they shouted, "Down with the New Tsars in the Kremlin" and "Soviet Troops Get Out of Czechoslovakia."

In Stockholm, Sweden, revolutionary groups including the Swedish Communist Party led a nighttime march in driving rain exposing the danger to the European peoples posed by both imperialist superpowers, especially the USSR.

Jan Myrdal, well known Swedish author, addressed a mass meeting following the demonstration. He warned the people not to be deceived by the so-called "European Security Conference," pointing out that the Soviet armed occupation of Czechoslovakia was only one step on a road to domination of Europe.

U.N. DEMANDS VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP

The United Nations General Assembly carried an overwhelming vote of 123-0 on Sept. 19 to return to the Security Council the question of immediate admission to the United Nations of both north and south Vietnam.

The Security Council had blocked the admission of north and south Vietnam due to a veto from the U.S. The U.S. abstained in the General Assembly vote, but indicated that in spite of this overwhelming mandate it would continue to block the admission of Vietnam.

During a part of the debate, south Vietnamese representative Dinh Ba Thi exposed the fact that the U.S. has carried out an aggressive and hostile policy towards Vietnam ever since the liberation of that country. He said that the U.S. has even gone so far as to prevent private organizations from sending humanitarian aid for the reconstruction of Vietnam.

TIBET CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

The people of Tibet recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the founding of their autonomous region within the People's Republic of China.

Over 50,000 people of several different Chinese nationalities filled the capital city of Lhasa for a rally and parade. People wore the native dress of their own nationalities, while large signs proclaimed the political themes of the day in both the Tibetan and Han Chinese languages.

Tien Pao, secretary of the Communist Party's Tibet Autonomous Region Committee, pointed out that in the last decade, "The dark, poor and backward old Tibet has been transformed into a prosperous socialist new Tibet."

Detailing the tasks for the future, Tien Pao spoke of the need to study Marxist-Leninist theory, combat and prevent revisionism, promote stability and unity, make a success of the national economy and build Tibet into an iron bastion on China's southwest frontier.

In China, every minority nationality has some form of regional autonomy within a certain area. The Tibet Autonomous Region is one of the largest such regions, and the Tibetan people have had to overcome a long and bitter history of feudal oppression.

REVISIONISTS SUFFER PORTUGAL SETBACKS

Portugal returned to coalition government last month after a sharp political crisis that ended in defeat for the revisionist Communist Party and its Soviet social-imperialist backers.

After holding a near-monopoly of power during the late summer weeks, the revisionist party now has only one of the 10 civilian seats in the new cabinet, Portugal's sixth since the April 1974 anti-fascist revolution. The majority of the posts are held by the Socialist and the Popular Democratic parties. The distribution of cabinet posts is thus now roughly proportional to the voting in the elections of last April. The new cabinet is to hold office until new elections early in 1976.

The revisionist party owes its setback largely to its own greed in the pursuit of power, which turned the majority of officers and soldiers in the Armed Forces Movement against the party. Despite its lack of any kind of popular mandate for taking sole power into its hands, the revisionist leadership shortly after last April's voting embarked on a series of provocative actions designed to drive the other parties out of the government, deprive them of their press organs and eventually suppress them. It succeeded in destroying the April coalition and becoming the only significant party in the government, as well as in having enormous powers placed in the hands of its close ally, Premier Vasco dos Santos Goncalves. But its transparent attempts to turn Portugal into a Soviet-dominated revisionist dictatorship on the model of Czechoslovakia—in the name of "democracy!"—alienated the broad majority of members of the Armed Forces Movement, who began a struggle against the revisionist party that culminated with the ouster of Goncalves from his government posts and from his place on the leading council of the Armed Forces Movement.

Despite this setback the revisionist party and its social-imperialist backers cannot be ruled out. It surprised many last spring by launching its bid for sole power just when its fortunes seemed at a low point after the elections. Currently, the Soviet Union is stepping up its intrigues against Portugal at a rapid pace, while the U.S. is trying to counter Soviet influence by manipulating pro-U.S. political parties.

Portugal is a choice morsel in the contention between the two superpowers. Both U.S. imperialism and its Soviet rival for world hegemony are meddling in Portuguese affairs up to their elbows, and are sure to try to outmaneuver each other as they step up their international war preparations.

CAMBODIAN LEADER SPEAKS IN U.S.

The recent liberation in Cambodia was a victory not only for the Cambodian but also the American people, particularly the youth, Cambodia's Vice-Prime Minister Ieng Sary told an enthusiastic audience of over 200 at a Sept. 6 reception-celebration in New York City. The reception was sponsored by the Group of Khmer Residents in America.

"We've met many different obstacles in the battleground," said Sary, who came to the U.S. to represent his country at the recent special session of the United Nations General Assembly. "But we've always remembered the American people, and this gave us confidence we would win. And finally we have won!" Sary paid special tribute to the students who died at Kent and Jackson State.

The Vice-Prime Minister then, in answer to a question from the floor, talked about the conditions in the countryside four months after liberation. "In the countryside workers' and peasants' organizations are working together to solve the food problem," he explained. "To resolve this problem we dispersed almost all the people to the countryside from Phnom Penh."

Sary spoke about the Mayaguez incident, which he handled personally. "This should not have brought a bloodbath. With revolutionary vigilance our fighters had to capture it (the Mayaguez ship—ed.). It came within six kilometers of (Cambodian) land. When the leader from the island came to Phnom Penh and told us what had happened, we sent him back to release the ship. Before we could release the ship, the U.S. severely bombed our country. One hundred people were injured in this attack. We regret this affair," said Sary, but he warned that undoubtedly "the CIA will continue to interfere."



ITALIAN WORKERS occupy U.S.-owned Ranco plant near Milan.

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et L'EXPLOITE

ORGANE DU COMITE CENTRAL DU PARTI COMMUNISTE MARXISTE-LENINISTE DE BELGIQUE

Recent articles in Clarté et L'exploite, newspaper of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium, have analyzed the present international situation, especially the tasks of communists in building up the united front against the two superpowers.

In an article entitled, "Proletarian Revolution and Practice of the United Front," Clarté et L'exploite says, "The intensified contention between the two imperialist rivals will inevitably lead to a third world war..."

"Even a declining imperialist power can do much evil, to say nothing of a rising imperialist power trying to gain hegemony and redivide the world in its own interests; that power speaks the language of force. This is the case of Russian social imperialism today.

"It is not that American imperialism has become more humane and reasonable. Far from it. It is simply that it has suffered unforgettable defeats and is wallowing in inextricable difficulties. It is an imperialism on the decline. Russian social-imperialism is a rising imperialism. It is frantically re-arming itself; it is spearheading an essential part of its armed forces against Western Europe... Russian social-imperialism is now the principal danger to the peoples of Europe.

The article goes on to state that the European peoples and countries must unite among themselves and with the struggles of the Third World to fight the superpowers. However, it also showed that in strengthening the European union, it is necessary to fight all tendencies in Western Europe towards colonialism, neo-colonialism and exploitation of the Third World, as well as the European monopolists taking advantage of the union to further exploit the working people of Europe.

Another article appearing in the same newspaper released the text of a joint statement by the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium and the Marxist-Leninist party of the Netherlands. The statement, drawn up after an exchange of views between the central committees of the two parties, points out that "the two parties consider that central to the revolutionary fight is the struggle against the two superpowers."

The statement indicates that both parties hold that "The Marxist-Leninist communists should daringly support and promote the broadest united front for national independence and against U.S. imperialism and Russian social-imperialism."

In yet another round of "shuttle diplomacy" Henry Kissinger drew up a "peace agreement" in the Sinai which in the words of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat can only "encourage the military junta in Israel to instigate war on the northern front."

The agreement marks another step in the daily increasing contention between the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, over the strategically vital Middle East. While the Soviet Union has generally played the most aggressive role in the region, in this round it appears that the U.S. gained some ground at the expense of the other superpower.

The peace agreement, written by the U.S. and signed by Egypt and Israel, sets the stage for even further U.S. penetration of the Mideast, while totally ignoring the Palestinian question. Now, according to the agreement, several hundred U.S. military personnel will be in the center line, stationed on Egyptian land stolen by Israel, supposedly "monitoring" the peace agreement. The U.S. will pour some \$2.3 billion into new guns and bombers for Israel in the next year alone. On top of this, the U.S. will take over oil supply to Israel, since one provision of the agreement is that Israel withdraw from Egyptian oilfields at Abu Rudeis.

IGNORES PALESTINIANS

In interviews with the Western press, PLO chairman Arafat said that by ignoring the restoration of Palestinian national rights, the peace agreement could not succeed. Immediately after signing the pact which calls for "non-recourse to force" in the Sinai, Israel began dispatching bombers and rockets to southern Lebanon, proving that the agreement was little more than hypocritical words to the Zionist military machine and its U.S. backers.

It is two years since the October Mideast war which won great victories for the Arab and Palestinian struggle. But over the last two years, the two imperialist superpowers only increased their contention for spheres of influence in this strategic region of the world. Their main tactic in this contention has been to weaken and divide Arab forces in order to practice policies of big-power domination more easily. The Mideast is the jugular vein of Europe where the focus of war preparations between the big powers is most intense.

The Soviet Union, using its cynical tool of arms supplies with "strings attached" has tried for many years to call the shots in the Mideast. But the Arab

countries will not stand for this any longer. This was shown with clarity when Sadat recently commemorated the October war by blasting the Soviet Union and its treacherous policies.

Said Sadat, "The days when the Soviet Union could tie our hands have ended. No power on earth can dictate to us. The Arab cause must triumph in spite of this treachery, in spite of this history of meddling, undermining and subverting."

The U.S., seizing on the opportunity to expand its influence at a time when the Soviet Union is being exposed as a false friend, has tried to split the Arab cause by playing one Arab country off against another. Through all of Kissinger's shuttles, he has consistently tried to bribe and bully Arab countries into concluding "separate peaces" with Israel, and to abandon support for the heroic Palestinians.

Commenting on the U.S. role in splitting Arab solidarity, Arafat said, "The PLO opposed and rejected this agreement from the time Kissinger began moving towards it. We saw it as a blow against the Arab and Palestinian people, for it was obvious that Kissinger's move meant to split Arab solidarity."

SECRET AGREEMENTS

There was widespread speculation that in addition to the arsenal of weapons the U.S. agreed to donate to Zionism, Kissinger made other "secret agreements" with the Israelis including an Israeli veto power of Palestinian participation in future peace talks. But claiming that Congress violated U.S. security by making "classified" information public recently, Kissinger refused to elaborate on the secret agreements.

Looking at the Mideast today, it is clear that the Sinai "peace" agreement is nothing of the kind, and can only set the stage for renewed war. It brings superpower troops from the U.S. directly

NEW AGREEMENT CAN'T BRING PEACE TO MIDDLE EAST

onto Arab land. It commits the U.S. to supplying the Zionists with a war machine even bigger than that given to the south Vietnamese puppet Thieu. It ignores the fundamental question of Palestine and Palestinian rights. While Kissinger and other U.S. officials trumpet their "victory for peace" they are concealing the real and rapid escalation of contention between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the Mideast and all over the world.

The Soviet Union has grown frantic at the sight of some of the advances made by U.S. imperialism in the region. In August, they began issuing desperate "invitations" to Egyptian foreign minister Fahmy and Palestinian leader Arafat to come to Moscow for discussions. As yet, their invitations have gone unanswered.

It is clear that both superpowers are interested only in strengthening their

footholds in the Mideast and care nothing for the genuine interests of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians, however, are continuing the armed struggle for liberation and responding to every Zionist aggression. For example, while Kissinger and Israeli prime minister Rabin clinked glasses with the words "peace" on their lips, Zionist phantoms in a ten-plane squadron were bombing Al-Qasmiya and Al-Burghliya, two Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. The Palestinians responded with anti-aircraft fire which repelled the entire squadron within 20 minutes, and brought one of the U.S.-supplied phantoms to the ground.

As the Palestinians continue their struggle, it is clear that the Sinai agreement is in fact not a "peace" agreement, but a reflection of the heightening rivalry between the two superpowers, leading steadily in the direction of world war.



PALESTINIAN CHILDREN train for armed struggle to liberate their homeland.

NEW WORLD ORDER DEMANDED AT U.N.

Prior to the convening of the United Nations General Assembly this month, the Seventh Special Session of the General Assembly heard debate and discussion on the question of a new world order.

As was the case with the Sixth Special Session in 1974, the discussion of the new world economic order provoked sharp debate between the countries of the developing world on the one hand and the imperialist countries on the other, especially the U.S. and the USSR.

At last year's special session, a very concrete and realistic proposal was adopted, recognizing that economics and development could no longer proceed in the way the colonialists and imperialists have grown used to over the last few centuries. A new world order, based on equality among nations, stability in the exchange of raw materials and industrial goods, as well as genuine aid and sharing of technology, characterized the 1974 charter, which was passed in spite of bitter opposition by the two superpowers. At one point during that debate, U.S. ambassador Scali had threatened that the U.S. would "leave the United Nations" if the Third World countries continued their efforts to base world trade on equality rather than exploitation. The Soviet Union for its part, issued slanders and threats against those Third World countries which stood up and opposed both big-powers of today's world. This year, Ambassador Moynihan along with his Soviet counterpart Malik both tried to pose as "friends of the Third World." Moynihan even read a melodra-

matic speech written by Henry Kissinger which told the developing countries, "We have heard your voices. We embrace your hopes. We will join your efforts." After this introduction he proceeded, however, to denounce every hope and effort of the Third World. He said the U.S. could not support last year's charter for a new economic order. The alternative he offered was that the U.S. imperialists set up a big fund for Third World countries to borrow from, where the U.S. could pull the strings and set the interest rates. While making a few concessions to Third World demands, Moynihan attacked the Arab countries as the source of world economic crisis, and even fell back on the old imperialist stand-by of explaining poverty in the developing countries as stemming from "laziness."

But the Third World was not easily taken in, either by Moynihan's promises of aid, or by the Soviet calls for a "world division of labor." Guyana Foreign Minister Frederick Wills answered both superpowers by saying, that any attempt to revitalize the old imperialist and colonialist institutions is unacceptable. In the face of these attempts, he said, "The solidarity of the developing countries is the best guarantee that the processes of change will lead to the establishment of the new international economic order."

The Kuwait foreign minister added that it is not the oil countries who are guilty of "injustices" against the world economy, but rather, the industrialized countries themselves. He said, "The oil-producing countries eliminated through

the measures they took an injustice that prevailed for nearly two decades." He went on to point out that without the elimination of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination, real development can never take place.

Reis Malile, Albanian representative to the session, pointed out that in spite of the fine words pronounced by the superpowers on the questions of "peace," "detente," "aid" and "development," the facts show that their international contention threatens a new war. At the present time, he said, they are trying to shift the burden for their economic crisis onto the backs of the Third World countries. He also answered Moynihan and Co. directly when he pointed out that real changes in the economic order will not be made voluntarily by the imperialists. "It is beyond doubt that such changes will never be made voluntarily and must be imposed on the imperialists through resolute struggle and concrete measures by the developing countries."

In the course of his speech, Malile also showed Albania's experience with the so-called "aid" of the Soviet revisionists. He said that social-imperialism tried to use the "card of aid and credits to impose their policy of dictatorship and submission on socialist Albania."

Li Chiang, delegate from the People's Republic of China, explained China's views on the problems of development. Li gave examples of the tremendous upsurge in revolutionary struggles now sweeping the world, and pointed out that this is "eloquent proof that the old international order built on colonialism,

imperialism and hegemonism is declining, rotting and doomed to extinction." But he also noted that the increasing isolation and desperation of the superpowers was bringing them closer to war with each other. Said Li, "The intensifying contention between the superpowers is bound to lead to war some day. This is independent of man's will."

Giving examples of this contention between the superpowers, Li warned of the special danger posed to developing countries by the Soviet Union trying to step in where the U.S. has become weak and isolated. "In quite a number of places, no sooner has one imperialism been compelled to withdraw than the other imperialism under the banner of 'socialism' seizes the opportunity to squeeze its way in."

The question of contention between the superpowers ran throughout Li Chiang's speech, as he showed the important role played by the Third World countries not only in carrying out development of their own national economies, but also in defending world peace. He showed how the "scramble for energy sources" has become part and parcel of superpower contention, but pointed out how the defense of the oil-producing countries' sovereignty has checked the superpowers in carrying out their wild ambitions.

Li Chiang went on to show concretely how it is that imperialism poses the main obstacle to development, and observed that developing countries must practice "independence and self-reliance" in order to fight the attempts at domination by imperialism.

The Seventh Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly concluded on a note of unity and strength in the struggle against the superpowers.



Capitalists Buy Workers' Song...

According to a Reuters news dispatch, the East German revisionists are now prepared to pay a West German music publishing monopoly for the rights to sing the communist anthem, "The Internationale." Hans Beirlein, a Munich publisher, has obtained the German-language rights to the song, and has been told by East German officials that they are willing to pay him.

"The Internationale," a song which emerged from the revolutionary struggle of the Paris Commune in 1871, has been sung by workers and communist parties in over a hundred countries and an equal number of languages for the last century.

But the East German revisionists have for some time been trying to forget and bury the meaning of the words to the song. Workers who sing "The Internationale" know that one of its lines is "Let us consult for all," yet the ruling clique in East Germany and their Soviet masters consult the East German workers for nothing. Certainly, the East German revisionists did not consult the workers on whether to pay thousands of dollars for the rights to the working class' own song. If they had, the answer would have been a thundering, "NO!"

...Steal Workers' Clothes

While the German revisionists and capitalists were stealing the workers' song (see above) the French and American clothing distributors were stealing the workers' clothes.

Reports from Paris indicate that the fashionable Champs-Elysees is now dotted with wealthy French women dressed in mechanic's aprons and carpenter's shirts—part of the current fashion rage known as "le prole" (short for proletariat). The style is rapidly spreading to New York and other U.S. cities where expensive chain stores like Saks and small boutiques with names like "The Chocolate Soup" are now selling work clothes to wealthy people faster than any other items. One Saks representative said that he thought the work clothes craze would be even "bigger than the blue jeans craze among the upper classes."

The fact that work clothes are being bought for high prices and in fact converted into high style reveals something about the decaying imperialist system. On the one hand, individuals outside the working class find their life so meaningless and torn with contradictions, that they seek to identify themselves with the hardworking and revolutionary characteristics of the working class.

On the other hand, the system is trying desperately to absorb every aspect of working class consciousness and rob it of its revolutionary significance, in the hopes of maintaining its rule a little longer.



SLAVERY was portrayed dramatically in theater scenes during the second annual Community Arts Festival in Milwaukee.

GIANT STEP IN SOUTH ... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

while greeting workers and revolutionaries who denounced the APSP line with a standing ovation. The APSP opportunist fled the conference with only a single Trotskyist from "Worker's" World Party rising to defend him.

In its final plenary session, the entire conference unanimously endorsed resolutions coming out of the workshops including:

*A resolution on the international situation which criticized the previous policy of SCEF of taking "no position" on international questions. The resolution called for the SCEF board to end this policy and take a "consistent anti-imperialist stand" on international questions, including opposition to the war schemes of the imperialist superpowers and consistent support for genuine struggles of national liberation as exemplified by the Palestinian struggle against Zionism.

*A call to build the fight-back among youth and the need for a national youth organization with a revolutionary ideology. The youth workshop pointed to the system's oppression of youth of different classes and stratas.

*A call was put forth for a South-wide demonstration against the crisis under the slogans of "Jobs Not War," "Defend Democratic Rights," "Make the Rich Pay," "Free Cheryl Todd and Desi X Woods," "Smash the Klan," and "Adequate Income Now."

*The conference called for complete support of Cheryl Todd and Desi Woods and the Fight-Back 10.

*SCEF was called on to help locate and coordinate all Southern struggles around prison reform support organizations.

Some of the groups attending the conference included: Alliance for Labor and Community Action (Wash., D.C.), Perry Homes Defense Committee (Atlanta), Houston Fight-Back Organization, Student Anti-Imperialist League (Tallahassee), Mountain Workers Unity Organization, Appalachian Women's Rights Organization, Motor City Fight Back, People United for Justice for Prisoners (Dallas), CLUW (Atlanta), U.S. China Peoples' Friendship Assoc. (Atlanta), Soul Patrol (Atlanta), Black Women's United Front (Atlanta & Houston), Workers Unity Caucus (Cinn. GM plant), Knoxville Friends of Palestine, Free Southern Theater (New Orleans), National Lawyers Guild, Caucus to Re-Unite the Union (Atlanta), Prairie Fire Books (Houston & Atlanta), African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC), People Helping People (Laurel, Miss.), Revolutionary Workers Congress, October League, International Longshoremen Association—Brotherhood Caucus (New Orleans) as well as a host of other fight-back organizations and caucuses from around the South.

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UNITE TO FIGHT BACK ... (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

In cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland and Boston, rallies have been held at unemployment and welfare offices demanding rights for the unemployed and increases in benefits. While the police have responded with arrests and brutality, the ranks of these committees and organizations have only grown larger and more militant. Workers and unemployed, Black, white, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Asian, men and women, young and old have strengthened their unity within these organizations.

Last month in Mississippi, nearly 300 people attended a South-wide Fight-Back Conference called by Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF). The SCEF conference, made up of representatives of unions, caucuses and fight-back organizations throughout the South unanimously voiced support for this national conference. (See page 3.)

Under the leadership of the Communist Youth Organization (CYO) a national movement demanding "Jobs for

Youth" has begun, hitting at the special oppression of the young workers who presently face unemployment rates above 50% and even higher in minority communities. As a professor of the University of Pennsylvania put it, "If the economy doesn't improve quickly an entire generation of young Blacks will enter adulthood in the 1980s without ever having held a job." The Fight-Back Conference will deal particularly with the problems of youth and minorities.

The growing fight-back campaign has also hit at the landlords and the spiraling rents and worsening living conditions that have come along with shrinking paychecks and growing unemployment lines. In Detroit, for example, the Motor City Fight-Back organization organized to help evicted workers back in their houses.

The crisis has also brought on a new wave of intensified oppression of minorities spearheaded by the so-called anti-bullying movement. These type of attacks

on the national and democratic rights of minorities have always served the ruling circles in times such as these to divert the working class and undermine its unity. In Boston, Louisville and other places this reactionary attack upon the rights of all working people has been met with resistance from minority and white workers at the initiative of the fight-back organizations. They have stood up in united opposition to segregation and in defense of the democratic rights of minorities.

Another focus of the fight-back has been against the threat of war and fascism. War has historically been the program of the monopolists for getting themselves out of their crisis, using the unemployed as cannon fodder in their attempts to redivide the world. At present the contention between the two superpowers has brought us to the brink of another world war. Workers and all oppressed people are loudly denouncing the aims of the big powers, saying that

war is no solution to the crisis.

Along with the growing war threat, the fight-back committees are opposing the growing fascist threat that goes along with war preparations. To crush the resistance of the working people, the government and the monopolies have unleashed a direct attack on basic rights including the right to organize and the right to strike. Police killings are on the rise and right-wing terror groups like the KKK and the Nazi Party are being rekindled.

So we can see what the ruling class has to offer the working people in the face of the present crisis—more unemployment, higher prices, racism, war and fascism. The National Fight-Back Conference will develop a program of struggle that is a real alternative to this.

We are calling on all who want to struggle and help build a united fight-back movement to help build for this conference. For further information write The Call.