

On Jan. 16, all charges were dropped against Robert F. Williams by the state of North Carolina. Williams, a leader in the civil rights struggle of the 1950s and 60s, was one of the early spokesmen advocating and organizing armed self-defense by Black people against Ku Klux Klan terror.

Because of his courageous role in the armed resistance of Monroe, North Carolina's Black community against Klan night riders in 1961, he was indicted on sham kidnapping charges. He fled the country shortly afterwards because the FBI intended to shoot him on sight, but returned in 1969 to fight the government's racist charges (see Jan. Call).

When Williams returned to North Carolina in December of last year after losing

## WILLIAMS & SOSTRE GAIN FREEDOM

his fight to block extradition to that state, a broad political movement had already developed to take up his case, with many individuals and organizations, including the October League, mobilizing mass support for his release. In the face of this pressure, and basing themselves on a flimsy case, the North Carolina ruling authorities hastily freed Williams, claiming that they could

not pursue the case because their "witness was sick."

In another significant event last month, Martin Sostre walked out of eight long years in prison a free man. Sostre, a well-known Black Puerto Rican activist, was railroaded to prison in 1967 on fake drug charges. Running a revolutionary bookstore in Buf-

falo, N.Y. and speaking out against the capitalist system were his real "crimes."

Sostre never once bowed down to the vicious prison system during his confinement, resisting numerous beatings and attempts on his life by racist guards.

An important factor in the Williams and Sostre victories was the strength of international support for political prisoners in the U.S. Just a few months ago, Daniel Moynihan, the U.S. representative to the United Nations made a sham show of "concern" for the rights of political prisoners. But he was quickly exposed by many countries who condemned the U.S. government's criminal persecution of countless political prisoners.

PEOPLE OF  
THE WORLD  
UNITE TO  
DEFEAT  
IMPERIALISM

# THE CALL

POLITICAL  
NEWSPAPER  
OF THE  
OCTOBER  
LEAGUE

Volume 4, Number 5 - THE CALL, Post Office Box 5597, Chicago, Ill. 60680 - February, 1976 - Published by the October League (Marxist-Leninist) - 25¢



## MILLIONS MOURN CHOU EN-LAI

Throughout China and the world millions of people—workers in the mills, peasants in the fields, soldiers in uniform—all mourned the death last month of a great revolutionary leader, Chou En-lai, at the age of 78.

Chou En-lai, whose revolutionary activity spanned more than half a century, who throughout his life never turned from the defense of Marxism-Leninism and the cause of socialism, was laid to rest in Peking after a three-year struggle with cancer. During the last months of his life, Chou continued his work from a hospital bed. He trained successors and, while his loss is irreplaceable, he prepared well for his own passing.

Press reports from Peking said that hundreds of thousands of grief-stricken people poured into the streets along the Avenue of Eternal Tranquility to watch the car carrying Chou's body in a mass display of mourning. One report said: "A traffic policeman wiped tears from his eyes as the cortege drove into the setting sun down the wide boulevard...A middle-aged official had tears rolling down his cheeks, and an elderly woman with tiny feet—a relic of the old China when women's feet were bound—

hobbled away shaking her head."

An official statement released Jan. 8 by Hsinhua News Agency from the Chinese Communist Party described Chou as: "Loyal to the party and the people," and noted that "Comrade Chou En-lai fought heroically and with utter devotion for the implementation of Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line and for the victory of the cause of the Chinese people's liberation and the cause of communism, to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



**1,300 Attend Fight-Back Conference! (See Page 4-5)**

### INSIDE:

**STATE OF THE  
UNION ...P.3**

**WOMEN'S  
DAY ...P.12**

**ANGOLA  
...P.17**

**SECCION  
EN ESPAÑOL**

OCTOBER LEAGUE

POY 10038

# CHOU EN-LAI

# A DEDICATED REVOLUTIONARY

(CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

which he selflessly directed all his energies throughout his life.

"The news of Comrade Chou En-lai's death will arouse deep grief in the hearts of our people." It added, "We must turn our grief into strength."

But the grief and sorrow over comrade Chou's death goes far beyond the borders of the People's Republic of China where Chou's ashes were scattered. President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said in his message of mourning: "Upholding the teachings of Comrade Mao Tsetung, Comrade Chou En-lai actively supported and encouraged us all the time, particularly at hard times, regarding the revolutionary struggle of our people as that of the Chinese people themselves...The immortal services rendered to Korea-China friendship by Comrade Chou En-lai as close comrade-in-arms of the Korean people will live forever in the hearts of the Korean people."

Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, said: "Comrade Chou En-lai is an outstanding leader. He will go down in the history of the Chinese people and the history of the world struggle for the contributions he has made to his nation and country and to the struggle for freedom in the world."

In the U.S., thousands gathered in New York and other cities to pay tribute to the man who was a leader of China's New Democratic Revolution and in the building of new socialist China. Chou was also a leader in the struggle to develop normal relations between the U.S. and China after decades of attempted isolation of that country by the U.S. government. Even President Ford had to admit that "Premier Chou En-lai will long be remembered as a remarkable leader who has left his imprint not only on the history of modern China but also on the world scene."

## DEDICATED COMMUNIST

But Chou En-lai was more than the accomplished diplomat to whom even capitalist leaders had to pay recognition. He was first and foremost a dedicated communist fighter and closest comrade-in-arms of Chairman Mao Tsetung. Beginning his revolutionary activities at an early age, Chou helped lead the Chinese people through such historic struggles as the New Democratic and socialist revolutions, the Long March, the anti-Japanese war, the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the present campaign to strengthen and fortify the dictatorship of the proletariat. He was unswerving in his hatred of revisionism and a staunch opponent of the two superpowers.

Chou's ideas and his diligent work contributed to the drafting of the report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the party's Tenth National Congress in 1973, which Chou delivered.



In that speech he observed that the present international situation is one characterized by "great disorder on the earth." "The wind sweeping through the tower heralds a rising storm in the mountains." Chou said, "This aptly depicts how the basic world contradictions as analysed by Lenin show themselves today. Relaxation is a temporary and superficial phenomenon, and great disorder will continue. Such great disorder is a good thing for the people, not a bad thing."

In this speech, Chou En-lai said: "Today it is mainly the two nuclear superpowers—the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.—that are contending for hegemony. While hawking disarmament, they are actually expanding their armaments every day. They contend as well as collude with each other."

## 'FLOWERS FALL OFF'

But Chou pointed out that the ambitions of the superpowers and the achievement of those ambitions are two different things. He quoted the old Chinese verse, "Flowers fall off, do what one may," saying "the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. find the going tougher and tougher."

Chou was born of well-to-do parents in Hwaiian (Kiangsu Province) in the last years of the Manchu Dynasty. In his youth he was a militant activist in the May 4th Movement which began in 1919 with the uprisings against the imperialist division of China following WWI. Along with his wife Teng Ying-chao, he formed the Awakening Society, a group within the May 4th Movement. The Awakening Society paralleled the New People's Study Society which Mao Tsetung had organized as one of the forerunners to the Communist Party which was born in 1921.

Chou's writing and publishing led to his jailing in 1920. Later, along with many other students who went abroad to get an education, Chou En-lai worked in France to organize pre-party formations and joined the party there in 1921. Upon his return to China in 1924, Chou was named to a

leadership post in the Sun Yat-sen nationalist government during the brief period of the united front between the Communists and the Sun-led Kuomintang.

Chou went to do organizing among the working class of Shanghai where he led a general strike in 1927. There he helped set up an underground city council of workers and led an assault on police headquarters by workers.

The betrayal of the united front by Chiang Kai-shek and the Kuomintang (KMT) in 1927 led to massacres of the communists. Chou fled to the Kiangsi area where he joined Mao Tsetung in 1931. When Chiang tried to exterminate this revolutionary base area in 1934, Chou along with Mao and tens of thousands of revolutionaries set out on the Long March. They endured unimaginable hardships in leading the people to Yen-an, the starting point from which victorious Chinese revolution could be launched.

In Yen-an, the new center of revolutionary and anti-Japanese struggle, Chou became the party's chief political representative. He negotiated the second united front with the KMT against the Japanese invaders and took part in the Sian incident where two of Chiang Kai-shek's militant officers kidnapped Chiang in order to force him to join with the communists to fight the foreign aggressors. Chou flew from the base area to Sian and forced an agreement from Chiang.

Throughout the years Chou became a master strategist and tactician and played a major and often decisive role in forging the united front against the main enemies of China while at the same time defending the independence and initiative of the party and the working class.

## BECAME PRIME MINISTER

Following the defeat of the Japanese and the U.S.-backed Chiang Kai-shek gang, Chou became prime minister of the newly-founded People's Republic of China. He was also a member of the Politburo of the Party's Central Committee and Party Vice-Chairman.

Always an internationalist, Chou devoted great efforts in work to aid and support the revolutionaries throughout the world in their struggles. Of especially great importance to Chou and the party were the struggles of the Third World countries and peoples against imperialism. These were struggles which Chou was to later describe in his Tenth Party Congress speech as "a major event in contemporary international relations."

Chou En-lai played an early role in the growth of this Third World movement which today has become the main force pushing the world-wide anti-imperialist struggle forward. He attended the Bandung Conference in 1955 which marked the early beginnings of this movement.

Chou was also a major force in the aid rendered by China to the Korean people's national liberation war in 1950 where thousands of Chinese volunteers laid down their lives against U.S. imperialism and also in aiding the struggles of the Vietnamese and

Cambodians which were to follow.

In a 1965 interview, Chou En-lai said of the Vietnamese struggle: "The question of south Vietnam can only be settled by the people of south Vietnam. The reunification of Vietnam is exclusively the affair of the Vietnamese people. The unity, independence and territorial integrity of Vietnam must be guaranteed. Whatever they do, the United States can never escape its inevitable defeat in south Vietnam." Along with these prophetic words, Chou also stated China's readiness to send Chinese volunteers to fight alongside the Vietnamese people.

## EARLY ANTI-REVISIONIST

Chou En-lai was a dedicated fighter against modern revisionism and was an early voice speaking out against the betrayal of Marxism-Leninism by the Khrushchov clique in the Soviet Union. Along with representatives of the Albanian Party of Labor, Chou led a walkout from the 22nd Congress of the Soviet revisionist party in 1961, after Khrushchov's slanderous denunciations of the Soviet revolutionary leader Joseph Stalin and of the Albanian comrades. They then went and placed a wreath on Stalin's tomb, seeing clearly that these attacks were only a forerunner to the complete restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union.

In China as well, Chou played an active role in the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, a revolution led and initiated by Mao Tsetung to keep China from taking the capitalist road. He struggled to defend the Party against the plots of Liu Shao-chi and Lin Biao and he was a dedicated opponent of reactionary Confucianism. Of these struggles Chou said: "For a long time to come, there will still be two-line struggles within the Party, reflecting these contradictions, and such struggles will occur ten, twenty, or thirty times. Lin Biao will appear again and so will persons like Wang Ming, Liu Shao-chi, Peng Teh-huai and Kao Kang (reactionaries and opportunists in the Party-ed.). Therefore all comrades in our Party must be fully prepared mentally for the struggles in the long years to come..." (Tenth Party Congress Report)

## FRIENDSHIP WILL PREVAIL

While fiercely opposing the hegemony of the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, Chou worked actively for the normalization of relations with this country based on the principles of non-aggression, non-intervention and building on common interest. In 1960 he told the American journalist Edgar Snow, "There is no conflict of basic interest between the peoples of China and the United States and friendship will eventually prevail." His efforts helped lead to the Shanghai Communiqué signed by then-President Nixon and Chou. One of the main barriers to this normalization of relations is still the refusal of the U.S. government to recognize that Taiwan is a legitimate part of China and to withdraw its occupation troops from Taiwan.

Premier Chou En-lai was a friend of the U.S. working class as well as a friend of the working and oppressed people throughout the world. He was a communist all of his life, a dedicated internationalist revolutionary and a working-class leader. His death brings grief to millions and millions.

Mao Tsetung wrote that "All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. The ancient Chinese writer Szuma Chien said, 'Though death befalls all men alike, it may be weightier than Mount Tai or lighter than a feather.' To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters and oppressors is lighter than a feather." ("Serve the People")

Certainly Chou En-lai's death is heavier than Mount Tai. But Chou left in his place millions of successors who will turn their grief into energy. Chou's death is a call to all of us to redouble our efforts and take up the struggle that he has left for us.

## Statement on Chou En-lai's Death

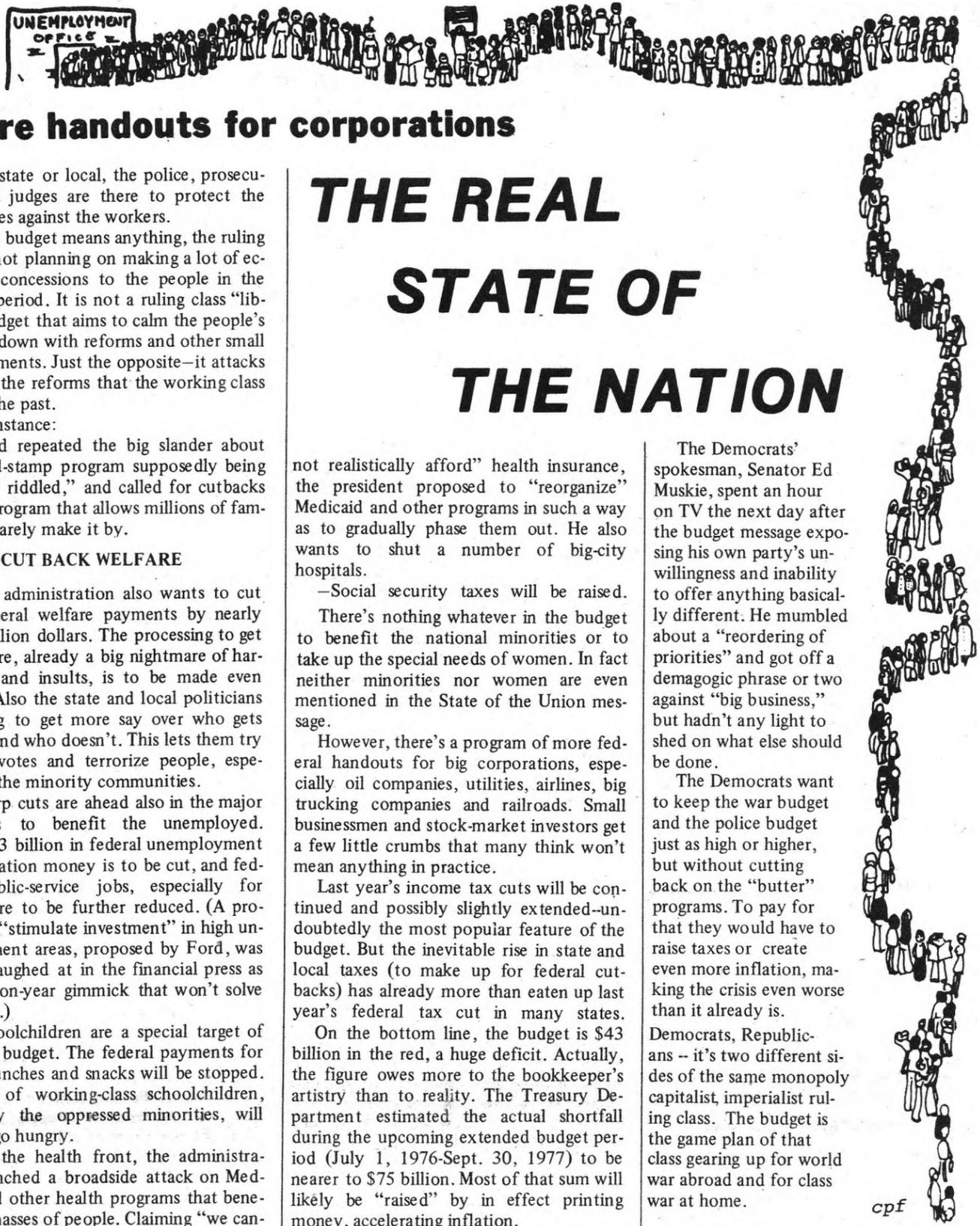
Chairman Mao Tsetung

With profound emotion we learned of the death of Comrade Chou En-lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China. We join with the Chinese people and with people all over the world in mourning the loss of this comrade who embodied communist spirit, and whose political foresight and communist determination were proven many times over at many points on the globe over the course of long years of revolutionary work.

From the early days of the Chinese Revolution, New Democratic Revolution, war of national liberation, and socialist construction, through the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the movement to criticize Confucius and Lin Biao, Comrade Chou En-lai made heroic contributions to the fight against capitalism and revisionism for which he will be forever remembered. Not only a leading fighter for national liberation and socialism in China, Chou En-lai was also in the forefront of the international struggle against revisionism and social-imperialism, as well as a consistent advocate of anti-imperialist solidarity of the peoples of the world.

Inspired by the dedication with which he carried out his duties even in days of illness at the end of his life, we are determined to turn sorrow into energy and redouble our efforts to attain the goals for which Chou En-lai lived. Our deepest condolences to the Communist Party of China, the government of the People's Republic of China, and to the entire Chinese people on this enormous loss. The revolutionary spirit of Comrade Chou En-lai will always endure in the struggles of the people of China and the world against imperialism, hegemonism and reaction.

Michael Klonsky, Chairman of the October League (Marxist-Leninist)



More guns, more cops and more handouts for the rich, more jails, more cutbacks and more hunger for the poor—that's President Ford's new budget in a nutshell.

The \$394.2 billion monstrosity steps up preparations for war overseas while it gears up the government for sharper clashes with the working class at home, especially the unemployed and other poor people.

It's a budget that meets the needs of the big monopoly corporations and banks in this time of world and domestic crisis—but practically nobody else's. It proposes to cut deep into basic social services and reforms won by the people's struggle in past years, without doing a thing to promote economic "recovery."

That's the concrete meaning behind the Bicentennial rhetoric and the "new realism" and "common sense" gimmickry the administration unveiled in the State of the Union message.

Over a fourth of the budget—\$100 billion plus—goes for war preparations. The increase in the military budget is the sharpest in five years. This shows that the U.S. government has not given up trying to play policeman to the world, despite the defeat in Indochina.

### 'DETENTE' TALK HOLLOW

The rising war budget also shows clearly how hollow is the talk of "detente" in the world. If "detente" is the order of the day, then why are both the U.S. and the USSR governments straining their resources to prepare for war? (See story on Soviet plans, page 17.)

The budget also calls for more repression against the people at home. Four additional federal prisons are going to be built to accommodate more prisoners. Ford also called for hiring more federal prosecutors, more federal judges and marshals and at least 500 more federal agents, plus an untold amount of additional secret agents of various kinds. Also the state and local police are going to get \$7 billion in federal aid over the next five years.

This shows that the government is aiming to meet the people's fight-back with sharper repression. It's no accident that this beefing up of the state apparatus comes when a year of big contract negotiations and probable strikes lies ahead, when unemployment and other problems are unsolved, and people are getting angrier and better organized to fight back. Whether

## More handouts for corporations

federal, state or local, the police, prosecutors and judges are there to protect the companies against the workers.

If the budget means anything, the ruling class is not planning on making a lot of economic concessions to the people in the coming period. It is not a ruling class "liberal" budget that aims to calm the people's struggle down with reforms and other small improvements. Just the opposite—it attacks most of the reforms that the working class won in the past.

For instance:

—Ford repeated the big slander about the food-stamp program supposedly being "scandal riddled," and called for cutbacks in this program that allows millions of families to barely make it by.

### CUT BACK WELFARE

—The administration also wants to cut back federal welfare payments by nearly half a billion dollars. The processing to get on welfare, already a big nightmare of harassment and insults, is to be made even harder. Also the state and local politicians are going to get more say over who gets welfare and who doesn't. This lets them try to buy votes and terrorize people, especially in the minority communities.

—Sharp cuts are ahead also in the major programs to benefit the unemployed. Nearly \$3 billion in federal unemployment compensation money is to be cut, and federal public-service jobs, especially for youth, are to be further reduced. (A program to "stimulate investment" in high unemployment areas, proposed by Ford, was widely laughed at in the financial press as an election-year gimmick that won't solve anything.)

—Schoolchildren are a special target of the new budget. The federal payments for school lunches and snacks will be stopped. Millions of working-class schoolchildren, especially the oppressed minorities, will have to go hungry.

—On the health front, the administration launched a broadside attack on Medicaid and other health programs that benefit the masses of people. Claiming "we can-

# THE REAL STATE OF THE NATION

not realistically afford" health insurance, the president proposed to "reorganize" Medicaid and other programs in such a way as to gradually phase them out. He also wants to shut a number of big-city hospitals.

—Social security taxes will be raised.

There's nothing whatever in the budget to benefit the national minorities or to take up the special needs of women. In fact neither minorities nor women are even mentioned in the State of the Union message.

However, there's a program of more federal handouts for big corporations, especially oil companies, utilities, airlines, big trucking companies and railroads. Small businessmen and stock-market investors get a few little crumbs that many think won't mean anything in practice.

Last year's income tax cuts will be continued and possibly slightly extended—undoubtedly the most popular feature of the budget. But the inevitable rise in state and local taxes (to make up for federal cutbacks) has already more than eaten up last year's federal tax cut in many states.

On the bottom line, the budget is \$43 billion in the red, a huge deficit. Actually, the figure owes more to the bookkeeper's artistry than to reality. The Treasury Department estimated the actual shortfall during the upcoming extended budget period (July 1, 1976-Sept. 30, 1977) to be nearer to \$75 billion. Most of that sum will likely be "raised" by in effect printing money, accelerating inflation.

The Democrats' spokesman, Senator Ed Muskie, spent an hour on TV the next day after the budget message exposing his own party's unwillingness and inability to offer anything basically different. He mumbled about a "reordering of priorities" and got off a demagogic phrase or two against "big business," but hadn't any light to shed on what else should be done.

The Democrats want to keep the war budget and the police budget just as high or higher, but without cutting back on the "butter" programs. To pay for that they would have to raise taxes or create even more inflation, making the crisis even worse than it already is.

Democrats, Republicans — it's two different sides of the same monopoly capitalist, imperialist ruling class. The budget is the game plan of that class gearing up for world war abroad and for class war at home.

cpf

## SUSTAINERS, FUNDS NEEDED FOR WEEKLY CALL

"If it wasn't for *The Call*, the people of this country could never learn the truth about my son's case."—Mrs. Ethel Jackson, mother of political prisoner James Jackson.

"*The Call* should not only come out weekly. It should come out every day."—A shop steward and strike leader in Chicago.

"When a comrade went to sell at the union hall he was literally swamped with longshoremen trying to get the latest *Call*. People were actually lining up to get *The Call*."—Report from a southern *Call* Com-

mittee.

"A comrade went out to cover a strike, wrote an article about it, involved eight strikers in two events and sold 200 copies of *The Call* to the local union for the members. He also brought in a new *Call* Committee member and edited and translated articles into Spanish very well."—Report from a western *Call* Committee.

That's a small sampling of the enthusiastic response from around the country to *The Call/EI Clarin's* ongoing campaign to go weekly. For the past six months our circulation has gone up an average of 2,000

per month, making us the largest-circulation Marxist-Leninist periodical in the U.S. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in our basic political point of view.

But there's also a side of the response where some improvement could be made. That's the question of fundraising.

To acquire the equipment it takes to become a weekly paper, and to meet the constantly rising costs of mailing, shipping and printing, *The Call/EI Clarin* has to raise more money.

The last couple of months have brought a gratifying round of fund-raising events in many cities. Collections at factory gates, parties, dances, weddings, dinners, even rummage sales and raffles are some of the ways funds have been successfully raised from among the masses of people for the weekly *Call/Clarín*.

To broaden and deepen this work and build a larger stable base for the weekly, these special events have to be followed up with ongoing efforts to turn every reader into a subscriber, and as many subscribers

as possible into sustainers. That's the heart of the fundraising drive.

Subscribers not only save money for themselves, they provide the paper with a steady advance income that's vital to growth. *Sub rates will approximately double very soon*, as the weekly approaches. (Watch next month's issue for public announcement of *The Date*.) Become a subscriber now!

Becoming a sustainer means making a regular monthly contribution to *The Call/EI Clarin*. (Write us for details). In the past few months the number of sustainers has more than doubled, and is on the way to doubling again.

Many thanks to all those who have contributed politically and financially. We are confident that all our readers will redouble their efforts to contribute even more, so that *The Call/EI Clarin* becomes a powerful weapon in the hands of the working class and all oppressed people.

"Nothing is hard in this world if you dare to scale the heights!"

**Subscribe to The Call!**

*The Call* is the political newspaper of the October League (Marxist-Leninist), and is published monthly with a section in Spanish, *EI Clarin*. Subscriptions are: ( ) \$5 for one year; ( ) \$3 for six months; and ( ) \$1 for G.I.s or prisoners.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Write to *The Call*, Box 5597, Chicago, Illinois 60680.

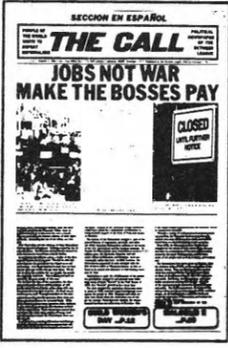
SUBSCRIBE

**Sustain The Call!**

*The Call* needs sustainers! A number of people have already become *Call* sustainers, by sending us monthly checks of \$5, \$10, or more. The financial assistance this has provided has been invaluable in our work. We hope that you too will want to become a sustainer, contributing whatever you can on a regular basis.

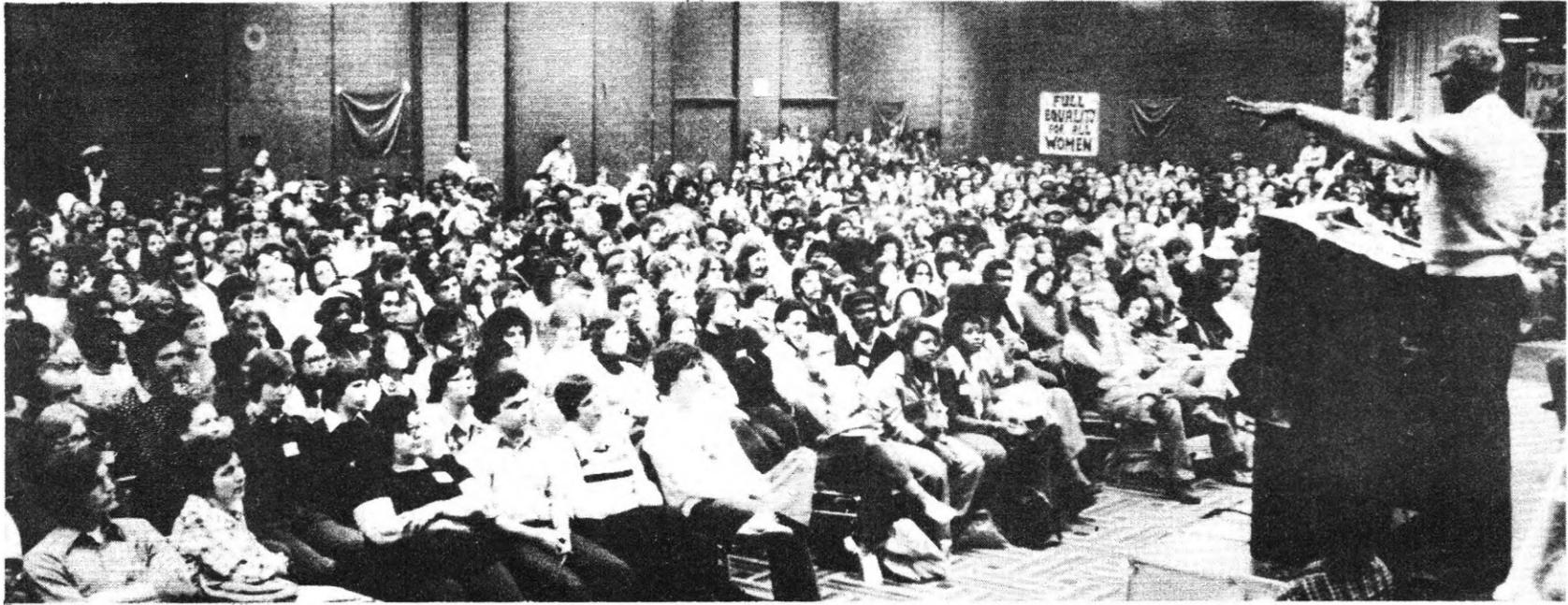
-----I enclose \$-----for the weekly publication of *The Call*.

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



'AN HISTORIC EVENT'

# 1,300 AT FIGHT-BACK CONFERENCE



ODIS HYDE speaks to attentive audience in keynote address. (Call Photo)

In a revival of some of the greatest traditions of revolutionary struggle in the U.S., the founding conference of the National Fight-Back Organization (NFBO) took place in Chicago Dec. 27-28 amidst the unity and enthusiasm of the 1,300 delegates.

Participants came from 30 cities in all parts of the U.S. to produce a turnout that outstripped the conference planners' expectations. The vast majority of the people crowded into the huge ballroom of Chicago's McCormick Inn were workers, and nearly half were minority nationalities.

Delegates came from more than 70 organizations, including local Fight-Back Committees, rank-and-file union caucuses, welfare and tenants' groups, anti-repression coalitions and many others.

The potential for militant struggle of this grouping was reflected in the opening remarks to the gathering made by the master of ceremonies, Mary Joyce Johnson. As a lawyer active in the defense of many workers and minorities struggles, including the Fight-Back 10 in Atlanta, she pointed out: "When I go into court, I'm real fortunate because lots of times the people go with me and I get to see the judges and police shake a little bit. I guarantee you if any of them could see this crowd, they'd all be shaking in their boots!"

The theme that ran throughout the two-day conference was the need to build a mass united front of fighting workers' organizations based on multi-national unity and opposition to capitalism and its crisis. The

keynote speakers at the conference were themselves workers, who spoke of the need for this kind of organization based on their own experiences and struggles.

The first speaker was Sloane striker, Mary Emerson, a white woman from southern California. She spoke of the militant unity of the Sloane strikers in the course of their 2½ year-long strike. Condemning the deportation of Mexican and Chicano workers in Los Angeles, she pointed out, "Anything that's an injustice is still an injustice no matter what religion you are or what nationality you're from."

Emerson attacked the sell-out reactionaries in the leadership of the United Rubber Workers International, who had sold out the Sloane strikers. "When we go on strike, the trade union leadership gives us a little money—but for years, half of our union dues have gone to the international. They can drive big cars—but it's not important to them that we don't have any bread. They just tell us to eat less!"

OL Central Committee member and veteran Black communist Odys Hyde spoke next. He traced the history of his own participation in the workers' and national liberation movements going back to the early 1900's. He spoke of the brutal oppression of Blacks in the Deep South, where he was born. "I used to hear my grandmother cry at night in our home in Louisiana and ask God, 'how long?' God didn't answer," said Hyde and then gestured to the hundreds of people in the audience, "But you must!"

Hyde explained how the then-revolutionary

nary Communist Party of the 1930's had led the way to unity of working people of all nationalities in a united movement against the effects of the Great Depression. He showed how communist leadership of the great strikes, anti-eviction and anti-lynching struggles had shown large numbers of white workers "you can't eat your race if you ain't got no money. If you can't buy your baby milk, you can't tell him, 'drink your white skin.'"

Hyde called on the Fight-Back movement to take up the struggle against the brutal capitalist system and reject the racism and anti-communism of the imperialist class: "Your task is to tear down that house of falsehood and lies upon which the American mind has been nourished."

The last speech of the morning was given by Starbisha Weusi, representing the Congress of Afrikan People (CAP), who continued the theme of unity by outlining the special demands and role of women, particularly minority and working-class women, in the struggle. Weusi exposed the brutal and inhuman conditions that the current imperialist crisis is forcing on millions of poor and working women, including the highest rate of unemployment, forced sterilizations and increased discrimination in every sphere.

#### SYSTEM IS CAUSE

Weusi emphasized that it is the imperialist system, not men, that is the cause of women's oppression. She criticized the view of the bourgeois feminists who attack men and make the main demands of the women's movement "more women bank presidents." Pointing to the women's struggle as a burning issue facing the Fight-Back movement, she stressed that the women's cause is the cause of the entire working class who must take the lead in fighting for women's emancipation.

A number of solidarity speakers took the microphone during the course of the conference. A special round of rousing welcome greeted veteran revolutionaries Harry Haywood and Nanny Washburn, who spoke about their experiences in the workers' movement of the 30s and 40s.

The high level of unity present at the Conference was reflected in the spirit of the people, as well as by the motion, overwhelmingly adopted, to form a National Fight-Back Organization, defined by the following Statement of Purpose:

"The National Fight-Back Organization, (NFBO) is dedicated to fighting the economic and political effects of the imperialist crisis. In particular, the NFBO is concerned with the effects of this crisis on the poor and working people. We seek to unite in an organized fight-back the employed and unemployed workers, men and women, poor and working people of all nationalities. We recognize the cause of the crisis as the capitalist system which is based on profits for a few, and exploitation and misery for the vast majority."

These basic foundations for the fight-

back movement reflected the widespread understanding among the conference participants that the enemy is more than just one factory owner, one cop or one city administration. It also reflected the advanced political stand that it is the working class which must take up the struggle not only for its economic interests, but against all forms of injustice aimed against any section of the people.

Based on this high degree of unity, struggle was waged at the conference over several important issues with the aim of consolidating and heightening the unity that existed there.

The busing issue was one such point of struggle. Is busing to achieve integration in the schools a legitimate demand? What is the relationship between fighting for school integration and fighting for quality education for all children? These questions were openly debated on the floor at the conference plenary.

#### AGAINST SEGREGATION

The view expressed by the majority of delegates at the conference was that support for the busing struggles in Boston, Louisville and other cities had to be a keystone of the fight-back's opposition to segregation and national oppression.

Taking the lead in the debate, conference participants from Boston and Louisville exposed the pro-imperialist, segregationist character of the anti-busing movement which is led by groups such as Boston's ROAR, the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis. The debate culminated in the adoption of a resolution in opposition to all forms of national oppression, including support for the struggles for busing to integrate the schools.

Another important point of struggle came up in the discussion of what the basis for unity of the Fight-Back Organization should be. While the conference planners had proposed that the NFBO be a broad anti-imperialist coalition of groups and individuals, there were some delegates who felt that agreement with the need for socialist revolution should be a prerequisite for membership.

Many people rose to speak against the addition of this point. One speaker pointed out that, "Thousands of people are daily being thrown out of work and attacked in other ways by this crisis. We need an organization that these workers can be part of."

A representative from the October League also spoke in favor of the NFBO being a broad united front coalition based on a minimum program of anti-capitalist struggle. He explained that the October League is one organization that supports the revolutionary overthrow of the imperialist system and the establishment of socialism. He also explained that the October League is working hard to build a new communist party that can lead the working and oppressed people in making this revolution. At the same time, he

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



VETERAN FIGHTERS Harry Haywood (left) and Nanny Washburn greet each other at the conference after 40 years of struggle since last meeting. (Call Photo)

## ... NEW ORGANIZATION FORMED

pointed out that this revolutionary party must be built alongside broad mass struggles and movements that encompass a much larger number of workers than those who presently understand and support the need for socialist revolution.

Ending with the adoption of the Conference Planning Committee's organizational proposal, this struggle enabled many people who had come to the conference to gain clarity on the broad character and goals of the fight-back movement. The conference proceeded to elect a National Organizing Committee composed of fight-back activists from around the country: Larry Miller (Baltimore), Dave Howell (Chicago), Arlene Schumache (L.A.), Frank Solomon (Chicago), Ron Carter (Atlanta), and Willa Mae Frye (Detroit). Over the next few months, a national steering committee will be elected.

The internationalist foundation of the National Fight-Back Organization was reflected in the speeches and solidarity messages made by international speakers at the conference. A keynote speaker was Norberto Cintron Fiallo, a leader of El Gremio, The Guild of Puerto Rican Workers and a spokesman for the United Workers Movement in Puerto Rico (MOU). Cintron expressed the solidarity of the Puerto Rican workers' movement and the movement for Puerto Rican independence.

He was received with a standing ovation from the crowd and a strong commitment to defend his brother, Federico Cintron Fiallo, executive secretary of the MOU, who is being framed on false charges of "bank

robbery" for his activities as a militant labor and independence leader in Puerto Rico.

This spirit of world-wide solidarity was expressed in a resolution submitted to the Conference and discussed in the international workshop: "The National Fight-Back Organization stands side by side with our brothers and sisters throughout the entire world who are struggling against all forms of oppression and exploitation. With the peoples of the world, we share a common enemy in the imperialist system, headed by the two superpowers, U.S. and the Soviet Union."

Some people initially questioned, "Why is it necessary for the NFBO to take a stand on the world situation?" Through the discussion, it was pointed out that the two superpowers, who are locked in rivalry with each other throughout the world, pose the main threat of a new world war. This represents a threat not only to the people in the U.S., but people of all countries, who must get prepared in the eventuality of such a war. At the same time, people of the world, particularly the Third World countries, are playing a main role in opposing the two superpowers and the same imperialist system that is the enemy of the workers in the U.S. as well.

It is this understanding which leads the Fight-Back Organization to raise the slogan "Jobs Not War," and reject the imperialist "solution" of war as an answer to the current crisis. It is also this understanding which enables the NFBO to understand who its real friends and real enemies are throughout the world, and to reject the im-



TRANSLATORS helped make the entire conference bilingual. (Call Photo)

perialists' attempt to place the blame for the crisis on the backs of the Third World countries who are struggling for independence and control of their own natural resources.

A workshop was held along this line on "Why there is no crisis in China" where the present economic crisis was laid at the feet of capitalism as opposed to socialist countries like China where unemployment and inflation are unknown.

Internationalism and working-class solidarity were also carried through into the evening where several cultural performances were given by entertainers including country singer Ann Romaine, the CAP Anti-Imperialist Singers and Betty Fykes, a blues singer from Selma, Alabama. At one point Betty Fykes introduced the song "Keep Your Eye on the Prize," and called people

up to the stage to sing verses. Dozens of people took the stage to sing hastily-composed lyrics about the Fight-Back, various repression cases, and heroic struggles of people all over the world.

The National Fight-Back Conference was an opportunity for learning through struggle and exchange of many peoples' collective experience. Over 30 workshops were held on both general questions and particular issues ranging from the S-1 Bill to a program for struggle in the auto industry. But it was also a working conference—which ended with the accomplishment of the formation of a national organization that can solidify the growing fight-back movement into an even stronger and more effective force. With no recovery for the imperialist crisis in sight, the coming months will see an even broader expansion of the fight-back, as well as a continuation of the political discussions and struggles initiated at the conference.

The conference also testified to the growing influence of Marxist-Leninists among the masses, and the developing revolutionary consciousness of workers across the country. The fact that a number of Marxist-Leninist groups were able to unite to build the conference was also a good indication of the growing unity in the direction of a single communist party with a single center, capable of leading the entire working class struggle.

Since the conference, meetings of the local fight-back organizations have generally swelled in size and they have heightened their activities. This meeting of hundreds of working class fighters serves notice to the ruling circles that a new day is dawning and that exploitation and oppression will not be tolerated for long.

from the Workers' Solidarity Committee (WSC) testified to the success of the conference:

"I met people from the Solidarity Committee when I was having a problem with my unemployment. Before I joined, I knew that people were oppressed, but I didn't know why. Going to the conference taught me a lot; especially about how it is a problem of the whole system. Now I am trying to bring all my friends to fight-back meetings because they are having the same problems, and with people from all over the country we can really build something powerful."

Another member of the Chicago WSC reported:

"Besides doubling the size of our meetings since the conference, there has been an increase in the level of political debate during meetings coming out of discussions of the conference documents. People's new enthusiasm has led to pledges to bring new members into the fight-back and to a number of concrete actions."

Overall, the huge success of the conference was an inspiring example of the strength of the people. One report summed up the lessons this way:

"We realized through this conference that the struggle of today began a long time ago. We were always taught to believe that Roosevelt gave the people what we wanted from his heart. But we were taught wrong. The people getting together was what gave them what they wanted."



WORKSHOPS provided broad participation and a lively exchange of experiences. (Call Photo)

## CONFERENCE CALLED:

# 'An Inspiring Example'

Since the National Fight-Back Conference *The Call* has received many letters, articles and reports from local Fight-Back Committees summing up the lessons and telling of the effect it has had on their work in the month since. We are reprinting excerpts from some of these reports.

A worker from Baltimore explained why he went to the conference:

"I wanted to see a National Fight-Back Organization. This will make our work stronger. I also went to get ideas on rank-and-file caucuses and to find out how other Fight-Back committees work.

He went on to describe what were for him the high points of the conference:

"It was good seeing so many different

nationalities all wanting to participate. A real high point was hearing the speeches, especially Odis Hyde, Nanny Washburn and Harry Haywood, and to learn about the long time they've spent struggling. Especially Nanny. Here she was from down South fighting as a white person for the Scottsboro Boys back there in the '30s. Sometimes you feel down and like you'll never get it going. But just hearing older people talk or someone like the guy from the Brotherhood Caucus at GM Fremont plant is enough to recharge your battery."

Other reports also mentioned the inspiring speeches of the veteran communist fighters:

"Mr. Hyde spoke on how he was brought up in near-slavery. His experiences gave us the feeling that we should build a National Fight-Back Organization to make the superpowers pay for this bondage and crisis which they caused but are blaming on us."

For another worker the high point was the struggle to make the NFBO an organization which will include the masses of workers of all nationalities. Summing this up for *The Call* he commented on a workshop discussion:

"In the veterans' workshop it was said that workers will and have joined the fight-back to take up the struggle against imperialism. The masses of people in this country do not want another world war. They want to be free from the exploitation and oppression that the system of imperialism is based on. This is why it is important to

do education within the fight-back committees to tell people what socialism is all about. But we cannot isolate ourselves from these people by saying that they have to be communists before they can join the Fight-Back Organization."

The unity and enthusiasm of the conference participants has been reflected in increased determination and the immediate growth of local work. One worker wrote:

"I am a delegate from 1199 of Baltimore. The conference made me realize that we are not the only ones going through these trials and tribulations that the crisis put upon us. Representing the workers at the hospital, I have seen a lot of favoritism given to the union leaders for selling the people out. My wife also works in a factory where the bosses do just what they want, and the top union leaders do nothing about it.

"So you can see that we all have to join up and fight back, not to sit back. We do not want to go back into slavery like our forefathers. By this I don't just mean Black workers; you don't have to be Black to be a slave of this capitalist system."

The Boston Workers United to Fight Back, which brought a large delegation to the conference, reported to the NFBO:

"Everyone thought the conference was great. Our work in Boston is already showing the good effect. Our first meeting after the conference was almost double the size of any previous meeting."

In Chicago, an unemployed worker

# ON THE LINE!

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



## ST. REGIS WILDCAT!

**Boston**—Over 70 workers on night shift at the St. Regis plant shut down their machines in protest of the firing of their elected union negotiator, Steve Carlson. This action occurred after several weeks of struggle over contract negotiations leading up to the vote on January 31st.

The workers had been highly critical of the leadership of their local Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Workers union, which had been consistently negotiating away many of the workers' major demands—including demands aimed against discrimination towards women and minorities.

Carlson, elected as a rank-and-file representative on the negotiating team, was "expelled" from the negotiations for "violating the spirit" of the discussions. During the night shift on January 22nd, Carlson called a mass meeting in the plant cafeteria to discuss his expulsion and the issues of the contract.

The company, with union leadership backing them, called in five police squad cars, fired Carlson and one other worker on the spot, and had the police "disperse" the workers' meeting. Both fired workers were arrested for "trespassing." The workers' response was to shut down immediately every machine in the plant in defiance of the firings and the police occupation.

Although production resumed the following day, the company has kept police on "to guard" the factory. The St. Regis workers have demanded that the rehiring of the two militant leaders be made a non-negotiable demand of the contract. They are refusing to be intimidated by the strong-arm tactics of the company and their police goons.

## Kepone Poisons for Profits

**Hopewell, Va.**—Another deadly product developed by capitalists for profit has brought tragedy to the workers. Former employees of Life Science Chemical Company—the sole producer of Kepone, a fire-ant and roach poison—today suffer such severe brain and liver damage, tremors, sterility, slurred speech, weight loss and memory lapses that their working days are over.

Allied Chemicals Corp., inventor of Kepone, contracted Life Science to produce it. The factory was a converted gas station. Allied knew 15 years ago that Kepone was highly toxic and dangerous to humans, yet no precautions were prescribed for Life Science to guard workers' health.

Tests have shown that families also have Kepone in the blood and will most likely suffer the same effects. Young children have been presented with the nightmarish prospects of sterility, tremors, and cancer. In addition, the water, soil and air as far away as 65 miles from the plant site have been contaminated. The Life Science plant is now being demolished and buried in a sealed pit. Twelve workers have filed a \$29 million suit against Allied for concealing the data on Kepone's deadly nature.

## Workers Back 'Illegals'

Major Safe Company, located in the heart of the Los Angeles Chicano barrio, has made millions off the sweat of its workers, many of whom are Mexican immigrants. The workers at Major Safe have a history of militancy in organizing a union, winning a contract and fighting company racism and discrimination.

Recently the company fired two workers, one with four years and the other with nine years of seniority, for "lying on their applications." Major Safe had promised these workers on employment help in obtaining legal residence, but now claims they made it "understood" they were legally in the country. By persecuting workers without documents, the bosses hope to squash the spirit of struggle and create divisions among the workers.

In a general meeting of Local 1981 of the United Steelworkers Union, workers forced their officials to take up the case and defend the two members.

## Store Fires Union Militants

**Washington, D.C.**—Neisner's Department Store retaliated against workers fighting to unionize the store by firing leading activists.

Bad work conditions—minimum wage, no job security—brought many workers into the union drive, and Neisner's took quick action. In addition to the firings, the Company has lied to Unemployment in an effort to deny workers their benefits. The union backing the drive, the Retail Clerks Union, backed down when Neisner's reacted and abandoned the workers.

One of the leading fighters, Glen Hilliard, a Black woman and mother, has kept up the struggle against Neisner's harassment at the Unemployment Office and at Neisner's. With support from local fight-back groups, picket lines have been set up demanding: "Restore Glen's Unemployment Benefits," "Stop Attacks on Minorities and Women."

After two months of pitched battle, Pittsburgh teachers won their strike. Since school opened last September, there has been a wave of teachers' strikes across the country.

On December 1, 3,800 teachers walked out, closing down 105 schools affecting 62,300 students. This strike—the third teachers' strike in Pittsburgh since 1968—was for wage increases and also reduced classroom size.

The battle became heated when teachers defied an injunction issued by Common Pleas Court Judge Donald E. Zeigler that required all teachers to return to work January 5 and prohibited picketing. At seven a.m. January 5



# PITT. TEACHERS WIN STRIKE

in icy nine degree weather, 1,800 teachers were on the picket lines. Three thousand rallied immediately afterwards in an overwhelming show of unity against the court injunction. Only 318 teachers reported to work.

The teachers are represented by the Pittsburgh Teachers' Federation (PFT), an affiliate of the AFT, AFL-CIO.

On Jan. 8, Judge Zeigler renewed the attack against the strike by holding local PFT president Albert Fondy and 17 other union leaders in contempt of court for breaking the injunction. When this added harassment produced no results, Zeigler imposed extortionist fines: \$25,000 on the PFT, \$10,000 a "striking" day for the Local, plus \$100 a day for every teacher on strike. The total levy comes to \$390,000 daily, \$2 million for a five-day week.

Zeigler not only demanded that the union present all its real estate deeds, mortgages and other records of holdings as security for fines but also specified that private bank accounts and personal property of union leaders and teachers would be seized if these outrageous fines were not paid.

Despite efforts to intimidate teachers back to work, picketing continued strong on Jan. 13 following announcement of the fines. At a meeting of 2000 strikers the same morning, local Pres. Fondy made it clear to strikers that the union would not permit any individual to bear the financial burden of the fines and that the strike would not be ended by intimidation tactics. "Our strike will only end," he underlined, "when new contracts have been negotiated by the PFT and ratified by our membership."

Strikers have won the backing of many parents and students as well as from workers around Pittsburgh. The Allegheny County Labor Council voted support, and a local TV survey indicated that many workers in the city were prepared to take over the picket lines if teachers were arrested.

Shortly after 3000 teachers rallied again on Jan. 20 to show their determination, the Pittsburgh Board of Education broke down and voted 8 to 3 to raise their wage increase offer to the teachers.

The PFT accepted the offer, and teachers went back on Jan. 27.

## Former Sheriff Admits UFW Burglaries

**San Francisco, Ca.**—A former Santa Clara county sheriff has confessed to carrying out political burglaries against the United Farm Workers (UFW) and other groups on behalf of the big growers and farm owners.

Jerry Ducote, 46, admitted to state investigators that he had committed 17 political burglaries in 1966 and 1967. On file in the San Jose Municipal Court is a 96 page admission made by Ducote in which he charges that various grape growers or grower representatives hired him to gather evidence connecting UFW leader Cesar Chavez with "communists."

"Unbelievable!" Chavez exclaimed when informed of Du-

cote's admissions. Chavez said that he always suspected that the break-ins of his headquarters in Delano were carried out by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Chavez said that the break-ins resulted in the loss of grape boycott plans, financial records, lists of financial contributors and the names and addresses of UFW members.

"It gave us an awful bad time for six months thereafter. We didn't know where we were. It stalled the boycott and strike. It took us six months to recover," Chavez said. The boycott got under way despite grower sabotage and resulted in the UFW ob-

taining its first contracts with grape growers in 1970.

In his statement, Ducote said that he and Kenneth Wilhelm and Stephen D'Arrigo met in the Del Webb Towne House with Jack Pandol, a Delano grape grower and member of the state Board of Agriculture. At the time Pandol was a leader of the anti-union California Right to Work Committee. Wilhelm was secretary of the Santa Clara County Farm Bureau while D'Arrigo was a Salinas area farmer. It was there that Ducote allegedly agreed to carry out the burglaries.

Ducote also admitted to burglaries at the San Jose Peace Center; the home of Grace McDonald, editor of a farm labor newspaper and Ramparts Magazine. Following the burglaries, Ducote allegedly offered to sell back the stolen lists to the victims for \$25,000.

## P.O. WORKERS HIT KOKOMO PLAN

**Rose City Park, Portland, Ore.**—Speed-ups are hitting workers in all kinds of jobs. Mailmen in Rose City Park, for example, are being forced to jog through their daily mail routes, tailed by so-called efficiency experts who measure the length of their stride, the pace they keep, and swiftness of their delivery.

Armed with stop watches, clip boards and tape recorders, these "industrial engineers" are part of a plan to save time and cost by standardizing all mail routes by computer. The plan has become known as the Kokomo Plan because it was first tested in Kokomo, Indiana.

One Rose City Park letter carrier told *The Call*: "We're being pushed too hard, followed by supervisors who tell us what to do." One carrier, for example, was ordered to cut across lawns. Last May when the plan was initiated, 200 carriers demonstrated in front

of the Rose City Park station demanding an immediate end to this de-humanized speed-up.

Bearing the name "Letter Carrier Route Evaluation System," the plan was instituted 10 months ago. Already jobs have been eliminated from this small station which employs only 50 letter carriers. Also, 13 quit in protest over the past few months.

The Kokomo Plan is a particularly harsh attack against the older workers, because it forces them to cover the same standardized route as younger workers. Also, the plan has meant forced overtime to cover these routes—200 hours weekly. Speed-up and overtime have forced some older workers to apply for early retirement or to quit which means enormous savings for the Postal Service in pension payments.

The International Union, the National Association of Letter

Carriers, denounced the Kokomo Plan as the "robotization of carriers." It has also decried the planned elimination of 15,000 workers. The union's recommendation for trimming expenses is to trim excess over-paid high officials.

Last November the union brought its case against Kokomo to arbitration in Washington, D.C., questioning the legality of altering work conditions without union consent. The president of the local at Rose City, however, has criticized the International for relying on arbitration. He claimed that the matter never should have reached arbitration but should have been opposed and defeated through mass mobilization and street demonstrations. Local leadership and rank-and-file in Rose City Park are united and are organizing to halt speed-up and harassment under any name.



TRUCKS OVERTURNED by angry job seekers in Houston.

# BILL VETO MARKS FORD ANTI-LABOR STRATEGY

Responding to increased anti-labor pressure, President Ford vetoed a bill December 22 that would have enabled the building trades unions to close down an entire construction site in a dispute with any single contractor.

Construction unions have been fighting for a "common site picketing" bill for 25 years, since a Supreme Court ruling in 1951 outlawed such picketing as a "secondary boycott," illegal under the reactionary Taft-Hartley Law.

Ford's veto was a slap in the face of the labor bureaucrats and the now former Secretary of Labor, John Dunlop, who wrote the bill. AFL-CIO president George Meany and his construction cohorts along with Dunlop were convinced Ford would keep an earlier promise to sign the bill, when it passed the Senate 52 to 45.

As with Nixon in '72, it was expected that Ford would go for the backing of the construction trades in the upcoming elections. His signature was a debt owed for services rendered by these sell-out union leaders who have been collaborating with the administration to make workers bear the brunt of the present crisis, especially in the severely-depressed construction sector.

But Ford, recognizing the swing of most AFL-CIO leaders into the Democratic Party column, and under pressure from Reagan and other forces in the Republican Party, chose to turn his back on the building-trades bureaucrats.

Shortly after Ford's veto, Dunlop resigned the post of Secretary of Labor. He claimed it was not a protest, but just a recognition that he had lost his credibility and effectiveness for the upcoming negotiations. He will be replaced by W.J. Usery, Jr., presently a "Federal Mediator" or trouble-shoot-

er in labor. Usery, like Dunlop and Brennan before him, will be entrusted with the job of clamping down on the rank and file and helping the capitalists through the upcoming round of major contract negotiations.

## FAVORED BUREAUCRATS

The final draft of this "common site" bill was a feather in the cap of the union bureaucrats. The most publicized section, permitting picketing of an entire construction site, had been so qualified by amendments that it removed the question of such picketing entirely from the hands of rank and file workers.

The bill's provisions, for example, would not be applicable to most home construction sites. AFL leaders, in addition, pledged voluntarily to postpone use of the picketing rights until July 1, months after the vast majority of contracts will have expired. (Most expire in April and May.) For a union local to put up pickets, it would need written consent from the International. Picketing against non-union contractors was limited to 14 days.

The second—Title II—was, according to Dunlop, the real heart of the bill. A Construction Industry Collective Bargaining Committee was to be set up with national union leadership and representatives of construction companies and employers' associations. The committee would be able to intervene in any local dispute, impose a 30 day "cooling off" period to block a strike, and then would be authorized to take over negotiations. As a result, this committee would gain jurisdiction over approval of the new contract.

This piece of "labor" legislation would have been a powerful weapon for the bureaucrats in the more than 250 major agreements in construction covering some

723,000 workers which come up this year. Why, then, did Ford veto it?

Opposition had been mounting for some time against this bill among far-right forces in the country. Over 60 construction companies banded together, counting on strong support from the right wing of the Republican Party to pressure Ford into line. In the final months of debate, a fascist organization called the "Right to Work" Committee jumped in with an \$800,000 campaign, 4 million letters and newspaper ads calling on people to "stop union goon squads." Their ad was featured as "an open letter ... on Beatings, Bombings, Shootings." Since its founding in 1955, this Committee's main purpose has been union-busting.

But it was not just a coalition of ultra-right and small interest groups which bore down on Ford. Among the capitalists there are many worried and wary forces because this is a major year of contract negotiations. Some 4.5 million workers are under contracts which expire this year, including auto, rubber, textile, Teamsters, electrical workers and

also construction. With the present economic crisis and the whittling away of superprofits abroad, the imperialists want assurance that the President will take a hard-line stand against all labor demands, including, when necessary, cutbacks in money and privileges for its agents in the labor movement.

Rebuffed by the veto, 9 labor bureaucrats resigned in protest from Ford's Collective Bargaining Committee in Construction. This only testifies to the growing splits and contradictions in the ruling circles which are intensifying in this election year.

## 'UNMITIGATED HELL'

Both Dunlop and Meany have predicted "unmitigated hell" in contract negotiations due to this veto. Mainly they fear an upsurge in struggle among rank and file construction workers because of the worsening conditions in the industry.

Not only is unemployment still climbing but nonunionized contractors are making large inroads into construction. One study done by the Wharton School of Business claimed that between 50 and 60 per cent of all construction is

now being handled by open shop builders.

The response of the construction trade union leadership to crisis conditions typifies the sell-out chauvinist and anti-working class stand that has weakened the bargaining position of construction workers to begin with. First, they have refused to organize among non-union construction workers who are mainly minorities and are heavily concentrated in the South. Historically the building trades have been a bastion of white supremacy, excluding Blacks and Latins from all apprentice programs.

These labor bureaucrats in their refusal to organize minority workers and to unionize particularly in the South are fanning the growth of nonunion contractors and are lending a helping hand to the fascist union-busting movement.

Secondly, they have voluntarily pushed down wage demands and have suspended protective work regulations in order to win contracts back from nonunion labor in St. Louis, Atlanta, and Columbus, for example. Instead of fighting to better working conditions for all workers, these traitors are competing with nonunionized labor by depressing wages and eliminating gains among their own unionized constituency.

A "common site picketing" bill and the defeat of the Taft-Hartley, outlawing of secondary boycotts, will be great tools in the working class struggle. But these gains will be won and secured only in a broader fight against the racist and chauvinist policies of the labor bureaucrats, typified in the construction trades.

# CAPITOL STRIKE ENDS WORKERS SUM UP LESSONS

The nearly 6-month long Capitol strike ended on January 11, with strikers voting 68-23 to return to work. The contract agreed on included a 22½ cent raise, 3 months retroactive pay, better hospital benefits, and an extra day's pay bonus. While all the strikers' demands were not won, the strike itself, with the strong unity and organization it built among the strikers, was a victory. Strikers have vowed to fight on inside the plant and the union, learn from past struggle and win more victories.

The following article was sent in by a number of Capitol workers summing up some key lessons of the strike.

Some of the Capitol strikers wanted to write this article for *The Call*. We want to try to help other people to organize themselves so when they go on strike or have other struggles they can prepare themselves.

The main reason people went out is that they saw you can't trust these companies. They ask you to do things, but try to give you nothing in return. We felt as workers we had the right to demand what we deserved. Everybody was united to go out.

We learned a lot of things during the strike. The main thing was how to build unity among the different nationalities. In the incident with Angelo Claudio, (a Mexican worker threatened with deportation-Ed.) the Latino workers saw that the Black and white workers would back Latinos' rights as much as their own. This helped us to unite everyone. The Latino wor-



CAPITOL STRIKERS and supporters march in Chicago. (Call Photo)

kers then put all their strength into the strike and then we could really organize. This was a real turning point for the strike!

We learned that the police and courts are really working for the company and not the working people. They're part of a whole system and under this system there's no justice for working people. All the laws are for the rich. The results of the inquest about Dave Watson's murder were a real shock to people. (Watson was a union leader run down and killed by a scab while picketing with workers-Ed.) We thought justice would have been brought to the scab who killed Dave, but he got off free.

We have to prepare ourselves not to depend on the union local or the International. You have to push your union bureaucrats all the time to work for you and not for the system. They didn't help organize the people or prepare us for the strike. They didn't help to publicize the strike, but tried to keep other people from participating in it.

We also learned that there are a

hell of a lot of struggles going on. It's made people stop and realize what's really going on under this system. People started reading and learning more about struggles even in other countries they never knew about. It's made us stop and see that the working people are struggling all over.

We've learned a lot of this by communists coming out to our strike and helping us. They helped us to see how this system is used against us. They helped us learn how to organize and how to unite the people.

We think it makes a lot of sense that we went back in at this time. We proved to the company that we can fight back and we've won a lot of victories. Now that we're back in, we're still fighting to keep ourselves united. We're beginning a newsletter and defense fund. We're relying on ourselves to build a caucus.

This strike was a big victory for us at Capitol and for all workers and we will continue to have more victories.



Chicago, Ill.—A sharp struggle is brewing in Local 1031, IBEW! Two union activists were fired for defending fellow workers, Chris Nelson from Cameron Miller Surgical Co. and Tom Farr from Stewart Warner. Because they belong to the same do-nothing Local, they've joined forces and belong to the same "Fight for Unity" caucus. Both have become fighting members of the Chicago Workers Solidarity Committee.

Jan. 15, Martin Luther King's birthday, chanting picketers marched in front of Cameron Miller demanding an end to discrimination and harassment. Above: Chris and Tom stand in front. (Call photo)

# Tampa Maid Strikers Fight for Union

Recent attempts to halt the five-month battle for union rights of the Tampa Maid strikers with a frame-up bombing charge and a Grand Jury investigation floundered, as government officials decided to postpone the Grand Jury indefinitely.

The Tampa Workers Committee organized a militant picket in front of the Federal Courthouse on Jan. 9, shortly before the postponement in order to protest the Grand Jury. Through the work of strikers and supporters together, city-wide and even state-wide, support has been built against the use of a Grand Jury to break the strike.

A Tampa Maid representative addressed the National Fight-Back Conference Dec. 28 calling on workers around the country to stand in solidarity with their strike.

Tampa Maid Corporation, a shrimp processing plant, has resorted to one tactic after another to break this strike that started September 10 when 100 workers, mainly women, Black, Cuban, and white, walked off the job to protest working conditions and win

union recognition. Despite an injunction limiting the number of picketers to two at each gate, continual police harassment and now this Grand Jury threat and frame-up, not one striker has gone back into the factory.

## THREATS AND INTIMIDATIONS

When a bomb exploded in the plant on November 30, the company seized on the incident to mount a vicious strike-breaking campaign. Immediately following the bombing, city police, the local Red Squad and the Firearms, Tobacco and Alcohol Agency appeared at the picket line and began interrogating and intimidating strikers. Some supporters of the strike have been visited by police at their workplace as well as in their homes.

On the pretext of solving the bombing, strikers have been hauled down to the police station, abused and threatened with long prison sentences. In addition to asking several strikers to take a lie detector test or truth serum, police have questioned them about the Tampa Workers Committee and the October League.

Police and government officials are using the bombing to try to break up the unity of the workers. "Investigators" have told strikers they can't understand why they are out on strike. Government officials have also joined in praising George Watkins, the plant manager who on more than one occasion tried to run down picketers with his car.

Union officials have gone right along with the harassment. Refusing to oppose the investigation as an attempt to break the strike, they have urged workers to cooperate fully with the police. Even when workers were being interrogated, union bureaucrats would not provide any legal assistance. Without the benefit of legal counsel, workers who were subpoenaed to testify before the Grand Jury ended up being questioned by the police.

From the very beginning of the strike, the labor union officials have been dragging their feet. They have provided no leadership to win the strike and, instead, have restricted the building of a strong and democratic rank-and-file movement. Union

officials have stifled attempts by the workers and their supporters to build strong city-wide support, and they have launched an attack against the Tampa Workers Committee and the October League as "outsiders."

Every time the company has gone on the offensive, the union's position has been to retreat. Union bureaucrats just stood by when the injunction came down against mass picketing, following a militant confrontation with police and scabs on September 17. The union bureaucrats later praised the judge who issued the injunction when he added a "counter-injunction" ordering scabs to drive into the plant at a "reasonable speed."

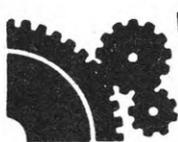
## STRIKE KEY TO SOUTH

Bosses and the government have gone all out to attack the Tampa Maid strike because they want to prove to potential investors that they can deal with the growing trade union movement in Tampa. Cheap, unorganized labor is essential in their eyes to keep the South attractive to the big northern banks and corpora-

tions. In Tampa there is much evidence that the rich have big plans to develop the area. Even during this period of economic crisis that has left 15 per cent of the people out of work, shopping malls are being built; there is a new N.F.L. football team and a modern new airport. Unionization of the shrimp industry in Tampa is the last thing big business wants.

There are 4,000 shrimp workers in the Tampa area. They are mostly minority women. Next to farm workers, it is the lowest paid industry. When the shrimp are in season, workers are forced to work overtime and then during slack periods, they are laid off. Working conditions are terrible. Women must stand all day in icy cold water and bosses harass them continually about making production. Anyone even suspected of union organizing is fired -- no questions asked.

That's why Tampa Maid strikers are fighting for a union. In the face of attacks from the whole state apparatus, the workers have stayed out for five months and their unity remains strong.



## Workers' Correspondence

### REPORT ON CONDITIONS FACING OFFICE WORKERS

Many people have serious misconceptions of the conditions under which clerical and office workers are forced to work. They think of office workers and get a picture of a well-dressed secretary in a plush executive suite. This kind of image is deliberately pushed to distort the real exploitation of thousands of women who work in the offices of the large imperialist corporations. My experiences with a large Michigan bank are an example.

In our office, the operations center of the bank, there are around 100 women. We have no union, and therefore no protection from capitalist attacks. Attempts to unionize have been fought by the Bank with harassment, intimidation and anti-union propaganda (i.e., "Unions are for factory workers, you're professional people.").

Our take-home pay averages \$75-80 a week. Many of us have

families to support and husbands who are laid off and unemployed. There is no grievance committee, no employee say in discipline, policy, promotions, hirings. We get no cost-of-living increases.

Our work is menial, repetitious and tiring. For example, all day, five days a week, I file cancelled checks in long steel trays. Myself and the other 15 women in my department must file on a production schedule of 1200 checks per hour, or else we are fired. We are constantly being pushed to compete viciously with one another for a non-existent "advancement."

Some of us are risking our jobs to try and start a union drive. In spite of the obstacles, we hope to show other women the need to organize and fight capitalist attacks.

Yours in struggle,  
Nomsa Odeffimi,  
Detroit, Michigan

### KALVAR HIT BY LABOR SERVICE

We are writing to *The Call* to reach the rest of the workers at our plant, who are divided into three separate areas and four shifts. We also want to expose how temporary labor services rips us off. This letter has been read and supported by the majority of the workers on our shift and section.

Day labor and temporary employment agencies are an old tool used by companies to guarantee a cheap labor force and keep workers divided. Kalvar Corporation here in New Orleans is an excellent example of how companies work in collusion with these temporary agencies to make the workers pay for the economic crisis and company mismanagement.

Kalvar developed a new process of printing microfilm and has a plant of about 250 workers, doing its main business on government contracts. But only a few key positions in printing and quality control, where the company wants maximum control and needs experienced workers, are filled by Kalvar employees. The majority of jobs, in cutting, bagging and shipping the film, are filled by workers from Betty Breaux temporary services.

These are the hardest, most repetitive jobs, and these workers are paid only minimum wage -- while Kalvar employees start at \$3 per hour. About 80% of the Betty Breaux workers are Black, while about 70% of the Kalvar employees are white. Temporary workers receive no benefits or insurance and have more difficulty getting unemployment if laid off. Yet most of these "temporary" employees have worked as long and as steadily as the "regular" employees.

This isn't a "strictly business" relationship of supply and demand. Kalvar and Betty Breaux work together actively to rip off the workers for their mutual profit. Kalvar pays almost \$3 per hour to the agency but saves on benefits, insurance, while also keeping the workers divided and disorganized. Betty Breaux does

nothing but paperwork, but they rake in almost \$1 per hour per worker. Kalvar finds it easy this way to get rid of troublesome workers and keep us, both "regular" and "temporary" workers, from organizing. The relationship between the companies is so close that when one Kalvar personnel was laid off recently, she went straight to work at Betty Breaux. And several times people who applied to the Kalvar personnel office have discovered after they were hired that they were working for Betty Breaux.

The only solution is for all the workers, "temporary" and "regular", to demand an end to this split in the work force and arbitrary wage differences. We need to bring the entire plant into one union and make sure that everyone who actually works there is hired by Kalvar.

Two workers at Kalvar,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### EX-G.I. JOINS THE STRUGGLE

I have just left the service last month and I would like to share the lessons I've learned during my three years in the army.

First I'd like to explain how I ended up entering the service. Just after I dropped out of school, I passed by a recruiting office. The man behind the window smiled and waved for me to come in. I did. From the time I shook that man's hand I was hooked. It didn't really matter what the promises were going to be. This guy offered me coffee, free lunches, the world. He had me dreaming about what it was going to be like being a meteorologist in some exotic European city. A week later I took the tests to enlist and a week after that, my father signed the papers (I was only seventeen).

There were fifty different people with fifty different dreams, but we all had something in common: broken homes, school drop-outs, ghetto streets, hungry families, drifters. When we can't find a job, or we feel like we're a burden on our families, or when we're sick of trying to hustle on the streets, the service

looks very tempting. But what I can see now is how the service lures us in to be defenders of the system which had made our lives so miserable in the first place.

While in Germany, I questioned the purpose of having over 300,000 troops in Germany, I questioned why we had a priority of riot training. I also questioned the presence of Russian soldiers, over a half a million Russian troops lined the wall. I asked myself why the East Germans are in poverty being one of the largest industrial countries in Europe, while Russia skims off the raw materials into Russia and sells back finished products at outrageous prices.

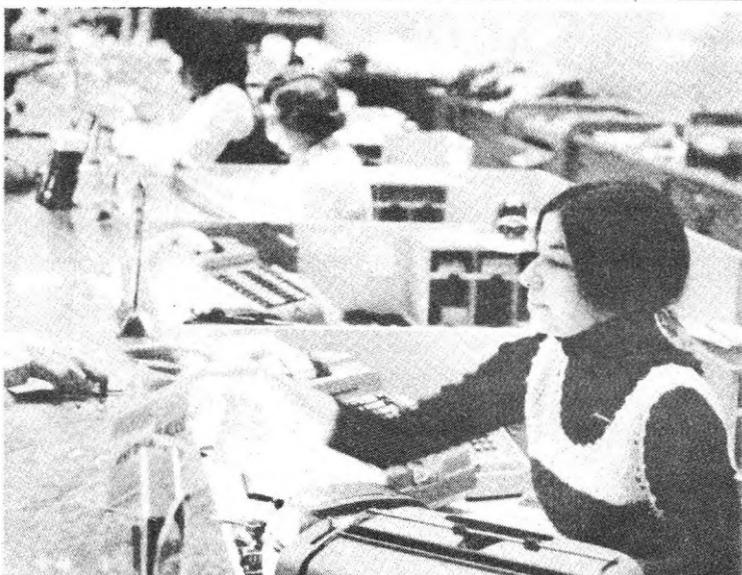
Now the answers are clearer to me. First the Soviet Union exploits the people in East Germany under the name of socialism when in truth they've introduced capitalism in their own country. They're making profits off the sweat of East German workers. I see the U.S. and USSR splitting the world between the two, for profit and power at the expense of us. I saw the growing threat of war between these monsters from the build-up on the borders, from the attempt to assume mastery over the whole world.

I was extremely lucky to be out in time to attend the National Fight-Back Conference in which I was introduced to a lot of good people involved in the fight against imperialism. These new found friends of mine took up the struggle against the rising threat of war, the growing menace of imperialism.

I became a member of the Communist Youth Organization to take up study and integrate it with daily practice and effectively fight and destroy this system I now live under. Also I teamed up with the United Workers Committee to share and learn of the struggles of my fellow workers, to build the fight back in the shops and factories.

After three years of struggling through the military, now I can learn from and work in these struggles to build the fight back which will lead us to socialist revolution.

B.N.  
Brooklyn, N.Y.



OFFICE WORKERS begin to organize in Detroit.

# A White Bicentennial!

In scores of news articles, advertisements and football halftime shows, the Bicentennial propaganda machine is trying to paint a lily-white picture of U.S. history. It is a view aimed at maintaining the institution of white supremacy, which was from the beginning days the bulwark of the rising capitalist system. Apart from an occasional mention of Booker T. Washington, the role of Black and other minorities in history has been completely covered up.

The reason for this is simple. If the ruling class were openly to admit the role of Black people in U.S. history, they would also have to admit their own long history of crimes against which Black people have spent their lives fighting.

Let's recall some facts of history: The capitalist system was originally built upon the slave trade of Africans. In the founding period of the 13 colonies which were to become the United States of America, the slave question was hotly debated among the drafters of the new Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. At that time Black people made up 2.4% of the New England colonies while millions of their brothers and sisters were in slave shackles in the plantation South.

## BLACK SOLDIERS' ROLE

On the side of the revolutionary anti-colonial forces, Black soldiers played a significant role. While many know that a Black, Crispus Attucks, was the first man to die in the American revolution, it may not be known that 140 Black soldiers were among those who covered Washington's retreat at the Battle of Long Island, an act which drew praise from French general Lafayette.

In the original draft of the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson, there was a sharp statement condemning slavery. However in a debate in the Continental Congress on July 30, 1776, this statement was dropped at the request of delegates from South Carolina and Georgia as well as from some New England slave-trading states.

In the debate Thomas Lynch of South Carolina said: "Our slaves being our property, why should they be taxed more than the land, sheep, cattle, horses, etc.? Freemen cannot go to work in our Colonies; it is not the ability or inclination of freemen to do the work that the Negroes do."

Benjamin Franklin, who feared a rebellion of Black slaves, answered Lynch:

"Slaves rather weaken than strengthen the State, and there is therefore some difference between them and sheep. Sheep will never make any insurrection."

Franklin was right. The founding of the republic with slavery intact in the South did weaken the new state. Independence from Britain left the country with two antagonistic social and economic systems, capitalism and slavery, existing side by side. The heroic armed slave rebellions which Franklin feared came in hundreds until, finally, the decisive battles of the Civil War put a virtual end to the system of chattel slavery in the U.S.

## OPRESSED AS A NATION

But while freed from slavery, Black people continued to suffer from oppression as a nation formed out of hundreds of years of bondage and common struggle. Deprived of the right of self-determination, the Black nation has remained under the yoke of oppression. The effects of this national oppression can be felt from South Carolina to the streets of Boston.

The capitalist system grew up on the slave trade and only with the end of the capitalist system can the oppression of Black people be ended. This is an important lesson to draw from the racist character of the Bicentennial propaganda.

## REMEMBER



## MALCOLM X

Assassinated Feb. 21, 1965

*"If George Washington didn't get independence for this country nonviolently, and if Patrick Henry didn't come up with a nonviolent statement, and you taught me to look upon them as patriots and heroes, then it's time for you to realize that I have studied your books well..."*

# THOUSANDS MARCH ON KING'S BIRTHDAY

Over 2,000 Black and white marchers commemorated Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in the largest memorial demonstration ever held in Louisville. Calling for the defeat of racism, and marching in support of busing, the demonstration was greeted along its route by hundreds of friendly workers, shoppers and students, many joining the march.

The march was sponsored by the Kentucky Christian Leadership Conference (KCLC), and supported by nearly 40 other groups including: CLUW, the October League, Progress in Education, SCEF, United Black Workers of Jefferson County, Black Protective Parents, and the River City Fight-Back Committee.

Featured speaker at the rally was Dick Gregory, and Rev. Kirkpatrick and Guy Carawan entertained the crowd with lively songs. Speaking as president of the Service Employees International Union of Louisville, Tom Brown blasted the labor bureaucrats for fighting busing when there are "more unemployed in Louisville than children being bused." The loudest response of the day was received by an aide to Mayor Harvey Sloane, who was greeted by a full chorus of boos.

In a reactionary response to Dr. King's birthday march, 21 anti-busing organizations met. These groups included ROAR from Boston, the KKK, the John Birch Society, Concerned Parents, and all local Louisville anti-busing organizations. After a

long and heated debate the groups decided it would be best to call no counter-demonstration to the King March because it... "could appear on network television newscasts and make busing foes look like racists." Nevertheless, many delegates wanted to stage a counter-march to expose "King's communist connections." The organizations finally settled on sending the Board of Aldermen a telegram opposing giving city workers a paid holiday for Dr. King's birthday.

The anti-busing summit meeting temporarily backfired when Louisville's largest local, the International Union of Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers local 761, withdrew from Union Labor Against Busing (ULAB). IUE withdrew in protest of ULAB meeting with the KKK and Birch Society. This local was one of the founders and big financial backers of ULAB, but all along has met with opposition to this policy from significant sections of the rank and file. A good number of Black and white workers at the G.E. plant also have refused to boycott work for the anti-busing movement. This resistance of most of the Black workers, and a number of whites as well, forced the racist bureaucrats of IUE to withdraw from ULAB, not their distaste for the Klan.

Elsewhere on King's birthday, 10,000 people marched in Atlanta, Ga., demanding jobs. While the march and rally which followed was primarily focused on electing

# FBI BEHIND BLACK MOVEMENT KILLINGS

A secret 1969 memo from a field office in San Diego to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover shows that the U.S. government was largely responsible for the battle between California Black liberation organizations which led to the killing of two and the wounding of four others.

The memo took credit for the "high degree of unrest" in the Black section of San Diego. It characterized the Black Panther Party and the US organization as "hate groups."

James B. Adams, deputy associate director of the FBI, who testified before congressional committees on the agency's counterintelligence work said the FBI's effort was not to promote violence.

"We were not trying to get people to kill each other," he said, "but to disrupt these groups to reduce their effectiveness."

The feud between US and the Black Panther Party however, resulted in the murder of Panther leaders Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter and John Huggins in Los Angeles in 1969 as well as many other violent attacks and a bombing. It is clear now that FBI infiltrators were largely responsible for these murders.

According to the secret report the FBI also resorted to the use of racist newspaper cartoons that implied the Panthers were ineffectual and corrupt. In order to sow dissension, these cartoons were put forward as representative of the views of the US organization. The cartoons were proposed by the San Diego office and had Hoover's approval. Hoover is quoted in one memo as saying the cartoons are "clever" and "should further differences between (Black Panther) leaders and members."

Adams told the congressional committee that the two groups were pitted against each other in an effort to prevent them from joining forces.

According to stories in the Los Angeles Times and the San Diego Union, the FBI splitting efforts also included an intensive interview program of Black Panthers, anonymous phone calls to a Catholic church office protesting a priest's participation in the Panthers' Breakfast for Children program and the distribution of cartoons which belittled both US and Panther leaders.

The first shooting incident in San Diego between the two groups occurred May 23, 1969.

Democratic Party candidates, hundreds marched under the banner of the Atlanta Workers Committee to Fight Back, demanding "Jobs Not War!" and "Make the Bosses Pay!"

In Chicago, where King's Birthday is a state holiday, mass meetings were held throughout the city. Meeting at a community church a crowd heard Sherman Miller of the October League; Ron Carter from the National Fight-Back Organization steering committee and workers from several local plants discuss the significance of King's life. All the speakers stressed King's role as a fighter for the rights of Black people and all workers. This was counter to the line of the liberals who are trying to hold King up primarily as an advocate of non-violence.

Other marches were set for Memphis, Tenn., where King was murdered while leading a sanitation workers strike, and Montgomery, Ala., where he led the bus boycott 20 years ago that opened the floodgates for the civil rights movement of the '60's.

*MARTIN LUTHER KING fought for the rights of all working people. He walked many a picket line, such as this one in Atlanta a year before he was assassinated.*



# new!

**CLASS STRUGGLE**  
Journal of Communist Thought

WINTER, 1976 #3 \$1.25

**BUILD THE PARTY AND THE WEEKLY PRESS**  
**CAPITALISM—A SYSTEM OF CRISIS AND WAR**

New Orleans History of the Docks  
Exposure of "Centrism"  
Rebsevizition of the Press 1925-26

OCTOBER LEAGUE, MARXIST-LENINIST

Single copy \$1.25. Mail orders, add 25 cents

Subscriptions \$4 for four issues. Save \$1 -- Subscribe Now!

Write: CLASS STRUGGLE  
Box 5539  
Chicago, Ill. 60680

(Bulk rates on request)

## Staten Island, N.Y.

# RACIST ATTACKS ARE NO 'MYSTERY'

In 1972, a Black family was firebombed out of their newly bought home in the New York City borough of Staten Island. Ever since then, one question remained in the minds of the many working people, Black and white, who live there.

Who instigates these racist attacks on the Afro-American people and who benefits from it?

The usual response of the ruling class, especially its liberal wing, is to claim that it is the white workers who are the cause of it all.

A recent development in the Staten Island case, however, tells a different story and puts the blame where it really belongs—on the capitalists and their hired thugs.

"Three law enforcement officers and a stockbroker were indicted by a federal grand jury yesterday for allegedly conspiring to vandalize a house in their white neighborhood to keep a Black family from moving in," reported the New York Times last month.

The story said that the four had first broken all the windows in the house with pellet guns and splashed paint on the door.

Five days later they came back and flooded the place, causing extensive water damage.

Still, Alberto Charles, a Black welfare worker, persisted in moving his family into the house.

### SET HOUSE ON FIRE

Ten days later the four returned again. This time they set the house on fire, and ruined it for good. So the Charles family had to move to a worse house in a poorer neighborhood.

The local police, a state grand jury, and the FBI maintained this was a great "mystery" for several years. No witnesses would talk, they said. It was supposedly "typical" of Staten Island whites.

Actually the Charles family's white neighbors, mostly working class and middle class Italians, rallied to their defense and tried to help them.

"Everyone spoke out against it," a young white woman activist from Staten Island told *The Call*, "and thought it was terrible that such a thing should happen." Hundreds of youth in the Catholic schools nearby also held a protest.

But now it is clear why witnesses were afraid to talk. "Named in the indictment," said the New York Times, "were Police Sgt. Anthony Vivelo, Nicolas Lombardi, a city corrections officer, Robert Barbieri, a Housing Authority police sergeant, and Albert Anzalone, vice president and treasurer of Swiss American Securities, a brokerage firm."

### SOLUTION TO 'MYSTERY'

So there's the solution to the "mystery"—a finance capitalist, a regular cop, a landlord's cop and a prison guard.

It must be said that the four didn't resort to violence right off the bat. First they tried to get together enough money for a down-payment and to find a white buyer to go along with their scheme. In other words, they tried one of the "normal" means by which Black families are cheated out of decent homes, everywhere, all the time.

Why do they bother? Because the Afro-American people are waging a struggle against the rotten conditions they are forced to live in. Everyone knows that rents are higher than usual for worse housing than usual in the ghettos, enabling the banks, landlords and brokers to rake in extra profits. They can rip off whites as well, although not to the same degree, by charging them more because "the area is white."

So the working people, white as well as Black, pay through the nose for these segregationist schemes, for the racism that fattens the profits of the capitalists and landlords. Worse yet, the white chauvinism whipped up by the fascist terror tactics hinders the ability of the working class and

the Afro-American people to unite their struggles to do away with the criminal rule of the monopoly capitalist class altogether.

How did the four finally get to be indicted? "A witness, largely out of conscience, revealed what he knew," said the prosecutor. Even here the truth is disguised. More powerful than one man's conscience was the mass protests of the people, which finally overcame the fear of police reprisals. The identity of the witness is still being kept secret from the "friends" of the defendants.

### EXTENSION OF SLAVERY

The Jim Crow segregation and Klan-like terror in New York City today is simply an extension of the old-style white supremacy in the former slave areas of the Deep South. It will persist as long as the capitalists can keep political power in their own hands. The Black struggle for self-determination and equality, however, challenges their ability to do so and thus comprises the most important fighting force allied with the overall struggle of the entire working class.

The four Staten Island racists face a maximum penalty of 21 years in jail and \$31,000 in fines. The ruling class courts, however, will surely try to get them off, as a judge did with the recent ROAR firebombers in Queens. But the people must demand that they serve every minute and pay every penny, and use the unity and strength they gain in the struggle to put the entire class of stockbrokers, slumlords and their hirelings away for good.

## I.D. Cards for Foreign-Born Workers

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has revealed its latest weapon in the war against foreign-born workers in the U.S.—a computerized identification card system reminiscent of the infamous South African "pass system."

Details of the ID card system were outlined by the head of the INS, General Leonard Chapman, at a press conference in San Francisco in mid-November. He explained that the red, white and blue cards will replace 16 different cards now used for registration of immigrants under different kinds of visas, including the infamous "green card" issued to control the flow of Mexican workers who cross the border to work in the U.S.

Chapman stated that all registered "aliens" will be required to carry the cards which will contain certain information as well as a photograph and fingerprints of the cardholder. The cards will be issued to new immigrants starting in 1976 and will



Todd-Woods defense organizers on the street in Hawkinsville, Georgia.

## TODD-WOODS TRIAL OPENS IN GEORGIA

Hawkinsville, Ga.—Cheryl Todd and Desi X. Woods, two Black women who defended themselves like Joan Little against a sexual attack, went on trial for their lives Jan. 26 in this Black Belt town of 3000 inhabitants.

A jury of 11 women and one man—six Blacks and six whites—was impaneled on opening day as about 75 supporters of Todd and Woods packed the rural southern Georgia courtroom. Another 200 supporters picketed outside, defying trial Judge James B. O'Connor's ban on demonstrations, which the more than 25 state troopers were unprepared to enforce. Pickets chanted "Free Todd and Woods! Jail the Judge!"

Judge O'Connor had earlier shifted the trial to Hawkinsville from nearby Alamo when Todd-Woods defense organizers mobilized demonstrations of 400-500 people

at the Alamo Courthouse. Hawkinsville is about 50% Black. The town is surrounded by plantations, and its single factory has only about 10% Blacks in its work force. According to O'Connor, Hawkinsville is a town "free of racial prejudice."

He is the same judge who, a year earlier in another southern Georgia county, acquitted two white policemen who had tortured and sexually mutilated a Black man whom they had illegally arrested. That kind of "justice" is all too typical of the white supremacist system in the area, pointed out Shed Harris, an organizer for the Atlanta Workers' Defense Committee, active in Hawkinsville.

A leaflet distributed by the committee said "When the courtroom is full of people, the judge is forced to put on an act of fairness. But when the court is empty, he acts like a member of the KKK, helping white jurors to stay on and dismissing Black jurors without any discussion."

On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25, a rally at the Springfield Baptist Church in Hawkinsville brought out about 75 people, about half local people and half from Atlanta and other towns. A benefit dance in Hawkinsville that same evening brought 150 people, the majority of them local people. About \$300 was raised during the two events.

A Hawkinsville Defense Committee has been formed, with its own elected officers, and has been active in mobilizing the community on behalf of the two Black women.

The Atlanta Defense Committee is also mobilizing support from several surrounding colleges. A student assembly at Fort Valley State College, a Black school where students have been struggling for two years against cutbacks, heard Defense Committee organizer Shed Harris Jan. 12 explain the Todd-Woods case. Many students volunteered to come picket or attend the trial.

Cheryl Todd and Desi X Woods were arrested in June 1975 and indicted on charges of murder and armed robbery for allegedly slaying a white insurance salesman. The man tried to molest them sexually and was shot with his own gun. (See *The Call* Oct. 1975)

Contributions for the Todd-Woods defense should be sent to: Atlanta Workers Defense Committee, P.O. Box 11468, Atlanta, Ga. 30310.

### TESTIMONIAL DINNER HONORING HARRY HAYWOOD

You are invited to celebrate Harry Haywood's 79th birthday and his tireless efforts to advance the cause of the working class and all oppressed peoples. Saturday, February 28, 7:00 P.M. 5655 S. University Chicago, Illinois Tickets (including dinner, speakers and entertainment) are \$3.00.

For reservations and information: Haywood Testimonial Dinner Fund c/o The Call Box 5597 Chicago, Illinois 60680



## Sharp struggle ahead, but

# COMMUNIST UNITY A GROWING TREND

The November issue of *The Call* carried a proposal put forth by the October League, "Marxist-Leninists Unite to Build a New Communist Party." Since the publication of this call there has been a great deal of controversy and discussion among the various Marxist-Leninist organizations.

Many groups and individuals have been moving towards unity, pushing aside past attitudes of sectarianism and small-circle mentality. The struggle to unite is one that requires a scientific understanding of the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought as well as the concrete conditions in the world today. It was based on such an assessment of the state of our movement and the world situation that the call to unite was published.

Increasingly in the world, Marxist-Leninist unity is developing as a stronger and more decisive factor. With the factors for revolution as well as world war both growing rapidly, the need for a single, unified party to lead forward the working class and the people of the U.S. has never been greater. The superpower war preparations, the deepening crisis of capitalism and the developing menace of fascism all demand that communists take the task of unifying into a single party more seriously than ever before.

### SUBSTANTIAL BASIS

Furthermore, there is a substantial basis for that unity to develop. This has been shown on several fronts in recent months. For example, the recent National Fight-Back Conference was an outgrowth of united efforts on the part of several Marxist-Leninist groups as well as more than 70 other organizations. While these organizations expressed differences with one another, it was evident through the course of the whole conference that a great deal of unity existed on the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought.

The recently-formed Communist Youth Organization also brought together several groups and collectives of Marxist-Leninist cadres to further the efforts of this organizing attempt.

International Women's Day events and May Day demonstrations, both last year and this, have and will serve as a way for communists to deepen their unity and to create the best conditions for furthering

the ideological struggle among themselves. These conditions have been created in the course of a sharpening struggle against the modern revisionism of the Communist Party U.S.A. as well as against their defenders (the centrists).

The revisionist CP has begun to issue calls to its faithful to "step up the attacks on the Maoists." As the hegemonist war preparations grow with each passing day, the genuine Marxist-Leninists are the greatest thorns in the side of the superpowers. The growing reactionary attacks from the revisionists as well as from the war-conscious imperialists have pushed the communists closer together. Each new assault on the people by the superpowers draws the lines of demarcation in our movement sharper whether it be around the war in Angola, Puerto Rico or right here in the growing fight-back against the crisis.

Revisionist party chairman Gus Hall is forced to take note of the growth of the new communist movement in the Dec. 1975 issue of Political Affairs. He argues with his fellow revisionists that "it was a mistake to see the struggle against Maoism as 'just a discussion of some tactical differences.'" He adds, "it was a mistake because this was not how the Maoists saw it and that while we were dealing with it as a tactical difference they were organizing a world movement against the Communist (revisionist-Ed.) parties and the working class movement (labor aristocracy-Ed.) in great haste."

Here for once Hall speaks with an ele-

ment of truth, an element which our centrists on the Guardian and others refuse to admit. The fight between Marxism and revisionism is a strategic (not just a tactical) battle. A crucial part of that battle between two antagonistic ideologies is the building of a new party. This was a process that began nearly 20 years ago when the initial breaks from the revisionist party were made in this country. Since then Hall and the revisionists internationally have tried unsuccessfully to attack "the Maoists" as "allies of U.S. imperialism" because of the leading role we have played in exposing the imperialist stand of the other superpower, the U.S.S.R.

But the growing exposures of the role of revisionism and social-imperialism worldwide have drawn thousands of new revolutionaries to our ranks. Our soon-to-be weekly press reaches out to tens of thousands around the country. Also significant has been the growth of our movement among workers, national minorities and veterans of the old Communist Party.

### ANTI-PARTY OPPOSITION

As the lines of demarcation between the Marxist-Leninists and the revisionists have been drawn, a new feature of the struggle has emerged in the rise of an anti-party opposition based around groups like the Guardian, the U.S. branch of Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Workers' Viewpoint, Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization (PRRW), and several smaller groups and collectives. While having a host of differences among themselves, this collection of centrists and ultra-"left" phrase-mongers has united around one thing—opposition to any and all efforts to concretely organize a new party. At one time most of these groups paid some lip service to party-building. As the struggle sharpened both internationally and in this country, however, they have increasingly become anti-party, anti-Marxist-Leninist voices and conciliators with the revisionist calls of "united action." Sometimes dressed in ultra-"left" rhetoric, sometimes in open agreement with the CP and the Soviet Union, these groups have become the loudest voices of pessimism and anti-party-building.

One example could be seen in a recent issue of the centrist Guardian where editor Irwin Silber comes out loudly in opposi-

tion to party-building efforts. Repeating Gus Hall's revisionist slanders, Silber claims that "OL's proposed party will be fatally flawed." He continues: "For there is no way in which a new communist party will be able to lead the struggle against the U.S. bourgeoisie if it more and more consistently finds itself in objective alliance with that bourgeoisie in the critical struggles against imperialism around the world..."

### REHASH OF REVISIONISM

This lie of a supposed "alliance" between the Marxist-Leninist movement and U.S. imperialism is a rehash of Moscow's social-imperialist rubbish. It is nothing but a clever excuse for Silber's support for Soviet aggression in Angola. Opposition to both imperialist superpowers is the only basis upon which a new party can be built. We can no more support the Soviet Union's aggression around the world under the name of opposing U.S. imperialism than we could have backed Hitler's anti-U.S. drives.

So while the Guardian claims that party-building is off to a "false start" and is "fatally flawed" by the staunch and uncompromising opposition to Soviet social-imperialism, Silber is in effect standing in defense of the existing party of revisionism and social-imperialism, the CPUSA.

Another voice in opposition to the "Call to Unite" was recently heard from the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers' Organization. PRRWO not only aligns itself with the Guardian's anti-party stand but goes so far as to single the October League out as "the main revisionist danger" (Jan. 8-Feb. 8 issue of Palante).

Speaking from a pseudo-"left" pose, PRRWO claims that the communist movement in the U.S. is "pregnant with revisionism" which they consider to be the main and rising trend. Their pessimistic view sees revisionism rampant everywhere. Unable to distinguish the growing Marxist-Leninist forces from the revisionists, PRRWO actually capitulates to the revisionists. To them the struggle to build a new party is hopeless and they can offer no alternative to their defeatism except active opposition and sectarianism towards any and all party-building efforts.

PRRWO claims that the program for the party must be developed outside the party

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Faced with the rapid growth of the Marxist-Leninist movement and the party-building forces in the U.S., opportunists of all stripes have begun to spew forth slanderous anti-communist attacks designed to spread confusion and get people to abandon the struggle against imperialism and modern revisionism.

Nowhere is this desperation more evident than in the Jan. 11, 1976 issue of Claridad, the organ of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP). In an article entitled "Sectarianism as a Principle" the PSP-U.S. Branch leadership launches a disgusting attack on those groups who have taken up the principled struggle against revisionism and particularly on the October League.

Here are the main points of PSP's position:

\*The break with the modern revisionists of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. (CPUSA), and the Soviet social-imperialists is nothing more than "sectarianism."

\*The October League has contributed nothing to the revolutionary struggle in the U.S.

\*The OL and implicitly the new communist movement in the U.S. today is "counter-revolutionary" and should be attacked.

While spreading page after page of slanders and attacks on the OL, the PSP continues its disgraceful work of apologizing for the revisionist Communist Party U.S.A. whom it warmly welcomes in to its activities, and for the Guardian, whom it claims was "split" by the October League.

This attack is good in one sense because in its blatant defense of revisionism and the Communist Party, PSP exposes itself as the centrists that they are. Their role in this country is to try to pump life back into the decaying corpse of the revisionist party and they have devoted a considerable part of their journalistic work to attacking many

anti-revisionist organizations. Secondly, their attacks are good in the sense that they are so full of obvious lies that anyone who works with the OL or reads our newspaper, *The Call*, can see through them immediately.

We are quite willing and able to discuss with PSP and anyone else why we oppose the CP and the "Anti-Monopoly Coalitions" which it has built around International Women's Day and May Day. That we do so openly in the pages of *The Call* is what troubles the centrists like PSP and the Guardian. This is what they term "sectarianism as a principle." By turning facts on their head, they claim that the break with revisionism is "sectarianism" while their own rabid attacks on Marxist-Leninists are principled and just.

Secondly, let PSP back up their claim that OL has "contributed nothing" to the revolutionary struggle in the U.S. They write in their own patronizing style: "Had the OL's work been occasionally constructive our reaction to its divisiveness would be critical but not one of complete censure. But there remains one objective fact:

"What organization, front or coalition has October League ever built? Where are its mobilizations of people around popular mass issues, its united front work, its attainment of unity among forces with political differences? The answer is, simply, that the OL has done nothing, not one thing, toward the advancement of these goals. It has been the key to no front, coalition, nor mass organization."

Even with its hatred for the Marxist-Leninists in the U.S. why is PSP afraid to mention the OL's efforts in forging the National Fight-Back Organization which just

held its first National Conference attended by more than 1,300 people (mostly workers of various nationalities)? By the way, this conference was endorsed by more than 70 organizations most of which differ with the OL on one question or another. It was PSP which was too sectarian to endorse the National Fight-Back or even attend for that matter. But let the CPUSA wave its finger and PSP will faithfully come running to their meetings to provide them with a "left" cover.

Is it not true that the OL also played an initiating role in the founding of the Communist Youth Organization? Or that since OL and others exposed the CP's backward role in SCEF (Southern Conference Educational Fund) that this organization has become broader and more active than ever before?

PSP leaps instead to the defense of the CP and the opportunist Walter Collins who for all intents and purposes had reduced SCEF to a piece of paper under their leadership.

Has the PSP forgotten the efforts of the OL in building for Puerto Rican Solidarity Day in 1974? Hundreds of workers attended the Madison Square Garden rally and similar actions in other cities as a result of OL's work in the coalition that included PSP and other groups. In fact, while recently expelling OL members from the Boston branch of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, the PSP even admitted that these comrades had been among the hardest workers for the coalition and were being expelled simply for their role in opposing Soviet social-imperialism.

Does the PSP leadership think that by saying the OL has done "nothing" and is

weak and isolated, that these lies will become truths? Why does PSP devote so much of its precious newspaper space attacking such an isolated bunch of do-nothings, as they try to label the OL?

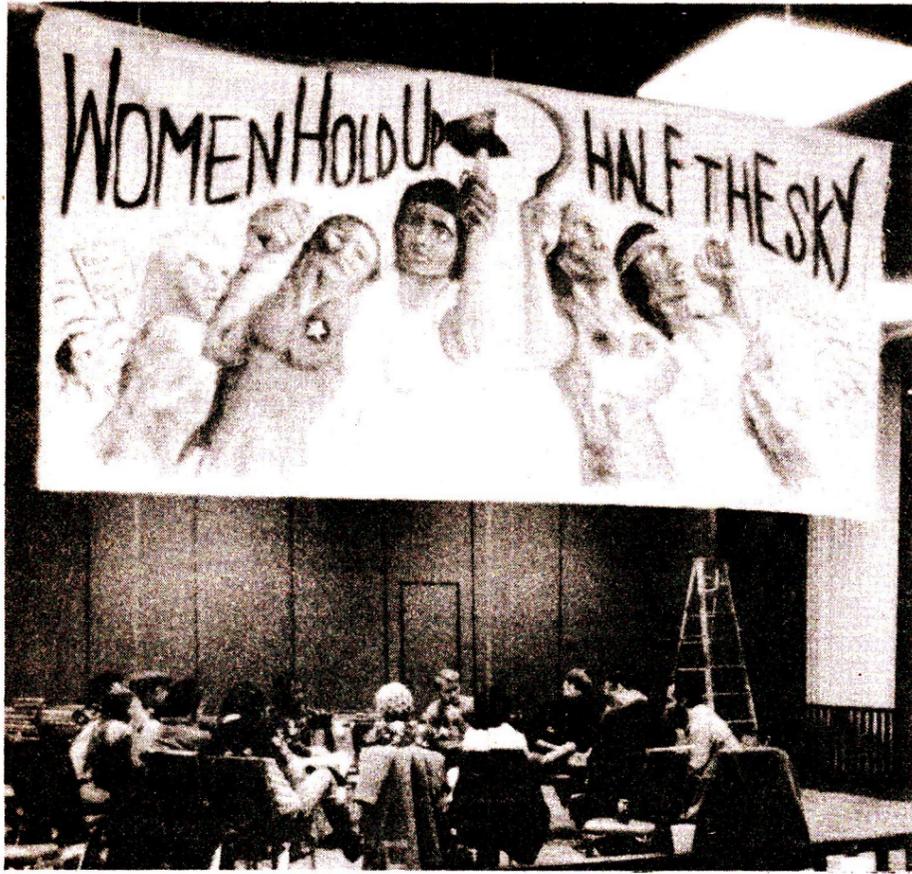
Finally why does PSP leave out the content of all the struggles it claims OL has forced upon everyone from the National Lawyers Guild to the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committees? Why doesn't it mention that PSP opposed our anti-Zionist stand within the Guild? PSP only claims that organizations of anti-imperialists like the NLG and SCEF have no need to oppose Zionism. "Taking these positions (on international affairs-ed.) can only turn potential members away and split the organization," says Claridad.

So it becomes clear what PSP means by "sectarianism." Internationalism will "split" the anti-imperialist movement while remaining silent in the face of Zionist aggression and the war threat posed by the two superpowers is "unifying." Along with the CPUSA the PSP leadership has now become the staunchest defenders of the Soviet Union's aggressive efforts everywhere from Angola to Latin America. Everywhere it puts forth economism and reformism while slandering and attacking the People's Republic of China and the Marxist-Leninists for "sectarianism" when they dare stand up for their principles.

This is the work of today's centrists who claim to be "independents" but in fact do the dirty work for the modern revisionists. But your slanderous attacks will only be a rock dropped on your own toes. They will serve to awaken the genuine revolutionaries in our movement and in your own ranks to the real role you are playing and the real masters you are serving.

## RESPONSE TO P.S.P. ATTACKS

# IMPERIALISM TO BE TARGET OF WOMEN'S DAY EVENTS



THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN was a theme which ran throughout the Fight-Back Conference. (Call Photo)

International Women's Day will be celebrated this year in cities throughout the country with rallies mobilizing both men and women to fight back against the oppression of women and the imperialist system.

The history of this working class holiday goes back to March 8, 1908, when thousands of women garment and textile workers marched in New York demanding an end to sweatshop conditions and child labor, and supporting the right to vote.

To commemorate this event, Clara Zetkin, a German communist leader, proposed in 1910 that every March 8 should be celebrated as International Women's Day. The purpose of this holiday was to bring the masses of women as well as men into militant actions against the system of capitalist wage-slavery which lies at the root of women's oppression.

Since those early days, great victories have been won in the fight for women's rights. In addition to waging the fight for equality, women have also come forward in the leadership of every major battle against oppression, whether it be the fight for union rights, for integration and civil rights, or against imperialist war.

## WOMEN STAND UP

Around the world, women in the hundreds of millions have stood up to fight against the imperialist oppression chaining not only women, but their nations as well. From the battlefields of Indochina, Africa and Palestine to the fields, factories and communities of the industrialized countries, the women's struggle has swept the entire world.

Perhaps the most dramatic changes in the status of women have taken place in socialist countries like China and Albania where centuries of feudalism as well as capitalist oppression have been overturned in a few short decades. In these countries, women who were once the object of bloody clan wars or whose feet were bound so that they could not stray far from home, are today active in all aspects of socialist construction.

While there have been many gains for women, the fact is that under capitalism, women still remain the victims of special oppression, both on their jobs and in the home, as imperialism systematically promotes the ideology of "male supremacy."

As the present economic crisis worsens, it is taking a specially sharp toll on women in the U.S. In the factories they are a-

mong the last hired and the first fired when the layoffs hit. A number of legal battles over the question of compensative seniority for women in various industries have drawn widespread support from workers over the last year.

A further indication of the growing attacks on women and the family are the continuing exposures of forced sterilizations of poor and minority women in counties coast to coast. These vicious sterilizations, designed to "curb overpopulation" are carried out either as blackmail for women to continue receiving welfare, or without the woman's knowledge or consent.

The right to have abortions, which was won through years of struggle, has also been under consistent attack, with the loudest anti-abortion spokesmen coming out of other fascist movements such as the segregationist movement in Boston. These same forces have also championed opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment for women, which recently suffered setbacks in several states. On the ruling class agenda for legislation, however, are state laws to legalize prostitution as an "alternative" to starvation for unemployed and welfare women.

Repression against women, and especially minority women fighters has also intensified in the last year, as exemplified by the attempt to railroad Joan Little to death row for defending herself against a sexual assault by a prison guard. A widespread movement of support for Joan Little spread from the South across the whole country, and was the decisive factor in the dropping of the charges. Joan Little's supporters pointed out that her only real crimes were being a Black woman worker, and daring to stand up to attacks and abuse. A similar movement of support must be built for Cheryl Todd and Desi X Woods who are on trial now in rural Georgia for defending themselves against a rapist.

## SPECIAL OPPRESSION

These examples of women's special oppression fly in the face of the ruling class lies that "women have already achieved equality." Gerald Ford smiles patronizingly as he appoints a new woman official; a "Women's Bank" opens in New York City; the revisionists of the Communist Party (CPUSA) and their Soviet backers point to the fascist dictator Indira Gandhi and say she is striking a blow for women's liberation. But in spite of all these lies and demagoguery, the real condition of the masses of

women in this country remains one of exploitation and oppression.

It is not only "women's issues" which are of concern to women, but all the fronts of struggle for the whole working class have a particular significance to women. The mounting dangers of fascism and war, for example, are attacks on the masses of people with devastating effects on women, as they viciously dismember the family and victimize women in new forms of enslavement and degradation.

International attention was focused on the woman question in 1975, as the United Nations declared it "International Women's Year." The high point of the year was the U.N.-sponsored meeting in Mexico City where the question of the road for women's liberation came up before the representatives of over 100 countries. This conference clearly exposed the main enemy of women and the people of the world as the imperialist system, headed by its superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR.

The U.S. representative to the conference claimed that women's issues are "non-political" and tried to justify the oppression of women in the U.S. by saying that "women are oppressed under any social system." The Soviet spokesmen harped on "detente" and "disarmament" as the main issue for women, trying to cover over the fact that it is the Soviet Union whose aggression and arms build-up internationally is threatening to throw the world into a new war. But all the "socialist" talk in the world can't hide the fact that today women are oppressed in the Soviet Union just as they are in the other imperialist countries. Moreover, it is the Soviet Union along with the U.S. which is responsible for the imperialist oppression of countries all over the globe, including the vast majority of women in those countries.

## IMPERIALISM THE SOURCE

It is for this reason that most of the Third World delegations to the Mexico City conference took up opposition to imperialism and colonialism as the primary task of women everywhere, while simultaneously fighting for their own equality in society.

Chinese delegate Li Su-wen emphasized this in her speech saying, "Under the colonialist and racist rule in southern Africa, where the masses of people do not even have the right to survive, how can women win emancipation without fighting colonialism and racism?"

The Third World countries have taken historic steps in linking the women's struggle to the fight against imperialism and the superpowers. This same link will be made loudly and clearly by the March 7 International Women's Day demonstration this year at the United Nations building in New York. The demonstration will take place under the slogans: "FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN! DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM! SUPPORT THE STRUGGLES OF THE THIRD WORLD PEOPLES! END SUPERPOWER WAR PREPARATIONS! The day before the demonstration, a mass meeting sponsored by the Black Women's United Front (BWUF) will discuss the oppression of all women and the road to liberation. The October League is supporting both these actions, along with demonstrations and activities around the country.

One demonstration that we cannot support is being called by the revisionist Communist Party in New York on the same weekend. To the revisionists, who have long ignored Women's Day, this holiday is not a time for struggle but rather a day of exchanging niceties and proposing new legislation to Congress. Under the slogans of "Detente," "Peace," "Equality" and "Development," the CP demonstration will not aid the struggle for women's equality because it is aimed not at the system of imperialism, but rather at drawing the masses of women further into the system. There can be no "peace," no "equality" and no "detente"

as long as imperialism runs wild in the world. No "development" can take place as long as the majority of the world's women and other people are suffering under the yoke of colonialism and foreign domination.

The anti-imperialist International Women's Day demonstration is meant to draw a clear line of demarcation between the genuine and sham fighters for women's equality. As the women's struggle has grown stronger, this holiday has increasingly become a focal point of political struggle as well.

Last year the CP-led demonstration was bigger than the one led by the genuine anti-imperialists. Many people were confused by the CP's pose as "defender of womanhood." But through their own experiences they are coming to see that the only course towards equality is through class struggle. Last year's demonstration at the U.N. had a tremendous impact on the struggle to break with revisionism and to build a mass movement for women's liberation. This year the demonstration will be even larger, reflecting the growth of the revolutionary forces during the past period. Participation will be broad with all those being asked to unite who are genuinely committed to the struggle for women's rights.

While we oppose so-called "united action" with the revisionists, we stand for firm unity with all who can be united to fight against imperialism and its attacks on women. We are calling on every group and organization to turn out for this great event.

## REVIEW

# LIBERATION OF WOMEN IN ALBANIA

*PROBLEMS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE COMPLETE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN: A collection of 18 articles on the woman question compiled by the State University of Tirana in Albania.*

Less than 40 years ago the women of Albania suffered under and resisted the fiercest and most backward conditions of female oppression of any country in Europe.

Albanian women had no rights at all. Under the rule of foreign fascist invaders allied with local feudalists, priests and clan chieftans, they were treated like cattle and beasts of burden. Girl brides, even infant girls, were bought and sold. Women were segregated from men in all aspects of life. They were not allowed to work for wages, kept behind the four walls of their household and had to wear veils when they appeared in public. Young people often did not meet their marriage partners until their wedding day and a woman was not even allowed to call her husband by his name.

Yet today these chains of female bondage have been smashed and Albania, a small country of only 2 million people located just north of Greece, stands as one of the most advanced, militant outposts in the international struggle for women's emancipation.

Women in Albania today are integrated into the productive, social and political

# TO BE TARGET S DAY EVENTS

women in this country remains one of exploitation and oppression.

It is not only "women's issues" which are of concern to women, but all the fronts of struggle for the whole working class have a particular significance to women. The mounting dangers of fascism and war, for example, are attacks on the masses of people with devastating effects on women, as they viciously dismember the family and victimize women in new forms of enslavement and degradation.

International attention was focused on the woman question in 1975, as the United Nations declared it "International Women's Year." The high point of the year was the U.N.-sponsored meeting in Mexico City where the question of the road for women's liberation came up before the representatives of over 100 countries. This conference clearly exposed the main enemy of women and the people of the world as the imperialist system, headed by its superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR.

The U.S. representative to the conference claimed that women's issues are "non-political" and tried to justify the oppression of women in the U.S. by saying that "women are oppressed under any social system." The Soviet spokesmen harped on "detente" and "disarmament" as the main issue for women, trying to cover over the fact that it is the Soviet Union whose aggression and arms build-up internationally is threatening to throw the world into a new war. But all the "socialist" talk in the world can't hide the fact that today women are oppressed in the Soviet Union just as they are in the other imperialist countries. Moreover, it is the Soviet Union along with the U.S. which is responsible for the imperialist oppression of countries all over the globe, including the vast majority of women in those countries.

## IMPERIALISM THE SOURCE

It is for this reason that most of the Third World delegations to the Mexico City conference took up opposition to imperialism and colonialism as the primary task of women everywhere, while simultaneously fighting for their own equality in society.

Chinese delegate Li Su-wen emphasized this in her speech saying, "Under the colonialist and racist rule in southern Africa, where the masses of people do not even have the right to survive, how can women win emancipation without fighting colonialism and racism?"

The Third World countries have taken historic steps in linking the women's struggle to the fight against imperialism and the superpowers. This same link will be made loudly and clearly by the March 7 International Women's Day demonstration this year at the United Nations building in New York. The demonstration will take place under the slogans: "FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN! DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM! SUPPORT THE STRUGGLES OF THE THIRD WORLD PEOPLES! END SUPERPOWER WAR PREPARATIONS! The day before the demonstration, a mass meeting sponsored by the Black Women's United Front (BWUF) will discuss the oppression of all women and the road to liberation. The October League is supporting both these actions, along with demonstrations and activities around the country.

One demonstration that we cannot support is being called by the revisionist Communist Party in New York on the same weekend. To the revisionists, who have long ignored Women's Day, this holiday is not a time for struggle but rather a day of exchanging niceties and proposing new legislation to Congress. Under the slogans of "Detente," "Peace," "Equality" and "Development," the CP demonstration will not aid the struggle for women's equality because it is aimed not at the system of imperialism, but rather at drawing the masses of women further into the system. There can be no "peace," no "equality" and no "detente"

as long as imperialism runs wild in the world. No "development" can take place as long as the majority of the world's women and other people are suffering under the yoke of colonialism and foreign domination.

The anti-imperialist International Women's Day demonstration is meant to draw a clear line of demarcation between the genuine and sham fighters for women's equality. As the women's struggle has grown stronger, this holiday has increasingly become a focal point of political struggle as well.

Last year the CP-led demonstration was bigger than the one led by the genuine anti-imperialists. Many people were confused by the CP's pose as "defender of womanhood." But through their own experiences they are coming to see that the only course towards equality is through class struggle. Last year's demonstration at the U.N. had a tremendous impact on the struggle to break with revisionism and to build a mass movement for women's liberation. This year the demonstration will be even larger, reflecting the growth of the revolutionary forces during the past period. Participation will be broad with all those being asked to unite who are genuinely committed to the struggle for women's rights.

While we oppose so-called "united action" with the revisionists, we stand for firm unity with all who can be united to fight against imperialism and its attacks on women. We are calling on every group and organization to turn out for this great event.

## REVIEW

# LIBERATION OF WOMEN IN ALBANIA

*PROBLEMS OF THE STRUGGLE FOR THE COMPLETE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN: A collection of 18 articles on the woman question compiled by the State University of Tirana in Albania.*

Less than 40 years ago the women of Albania suffered under and resisted the fiercest and most backward conditions of female oppression of any country in Europe.

Albanian women had no rights at all. Under the rule of foreign fascist invaders allied with local feudalists, priests and clan chieftans, they were treated like cattle and beasts of burden. Girl brides, even infant girls, were bought and sold. Women were segregated from men in all aspects of life. They were not allowed to work for wages, kept behind the four walls of their household and had to wear veils when they appeared in public. Young people often did not meet their marriage partners until their wedding day and a woman was not even allowed to call her husband by his name.

Yet today these chains of female bondage have been smashed and Albania, a small country of only 2 million people located just north of Greece, stands as one of the most advanced, militant outposts in the international struggle for women's emancipation.

Women in Albania today are integrated into the productive, social and political

# Letters



Dear Comrades of *The Call*,

On Dec. 20 our beloved comrade, Walter (Hashim) Baynard, died of bone cancer complicated by pneumonia. Hashim was a dedicated revolutionary, and we were grief-stricken to see him stricken at such an early age (31 years). But even in the last weeks of his terminal illness, Hashim continued to struggle toward the building of a new communist party, and to give strength to those of us who must carry on that struggle. He would have liked nothing better than to have seen the Fight-Back Conference, but death intervened.

We submit this poem in his memory.

His friends and comrades,  
Indianapolis, Indiana

## For Our Fallen Comrade

*The brother made his stand  
Not in a pre-dawn blaze of shellfire  
Or on the gallows, shouting last words,  
Or in some frozen place of exile;  
But here in the belly of a monster  
In the jaws of a monster disease.*

*A quiet son of struggle; a quiet raging fire  
Hungering for liberation,  
thirsting for unity in struggle,  
Branding his comrades in the hour of death  
With the knowledge that victory,  
while yet unseen,  
Is certain.*

life of their country. They have won equal rights with men in all areas. The old feudal and patriarchal practices are outlawed and, while they still linger in backward customs, they are being suppressed by campaigns of mass action and education.

How did this great change come about? The story is told in *Problems of the Struggle for the Complete Emancipation of Women*, a 282-page collection of 18 articles compiled by the State University of Tirana and published in 1973 by the Political Book Publishing House of Tirana, Albania's capital city. It includes accounts of the centuries-long struggle of the Albanian women and the entire people against foreign invaders, of the big advances that were made when Marxist-Leninists led the anti-fascist struggle in World War II, where women were mobilized to fight in a mass way and on a more equal footing with men for the first time. It describes the continuing struggle of women under the conditions of the "People's Power," the dictatorship of the proletariat. Here it focuses on the need to bring into being a new type of family, a socialist family based on equality between husband and wife.

But most important are the ideological and political lessons it sums up, lessons that can help to guide the struggle of women in all countries.

"The complete emancipation of the woman," writes Vito Kapo, head of the Albanian Women's Union, in the lead article, "is neither a 'gift of charity' nor a 'favor' that the 'stronger' sex accords to the 'weaker' sex, but an imperative necessity for socialism and communism. That is why Comrade Enver Hoxha points out that this revolution will be the work of men and women, of the entire society that marches towards communism. He points out: "No one can claim to be free if he fails to fight for the liberation of others and, first and foremost, of the Albanian women."

Hoxha stresses "two basic conditions" for women's freedom. The first is the overthrow of the capitalist class. The second is the integration of women into social production.

"Comrade Enver Hoxha," says another article in the book, "has analyzed the problem of private property which he considers as the source of all evil, of all oppression

*Hashim, brother, standing tall  
While the pain in his bones pained us all,  
Fighting still with the heavy eyes of death  
To build the Party, to take up the call  
Trembling in his fingers,  
dancing yet in his heart,  
We will not forget that opposites unite,  
Life and death both build the struggle.*

*So we take Nat Turner's fire,  
brother Malcolm's fire  
sister Harriet's fire  
John Brown's fire  
Fred Hampton's fire  
And we will take Hashim's fire  
And burn the name of "Revolution—  
Victory to the Oppressed" across this land.*

Dear Comrades,

Speaking here, Guardian editor Irwin Silber showed what the much valued "independence" of that newspaper really means, independence from Marxism-Leninism.

In order to explain his view that "the principal contradiction today is between the people of the world and U.S. imperialism" (only), he was forced to come up with a whole new definition of "Soviet social imperialism."

To Silber, the Soviet Union has "just begun the process of capitalist restoration." Having said this the Guardian editor was caught in a contradiction. He could not call the Soviet Union imperialist because imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism. To claim that something was imperialist but not capitalist would be like saying a child could give birth to its mother. Ho-

and slavery that has been imposed upon the women throughout the centuries."

But getting rid of capitalist rule is not enough. "In truth," says a third article, "private property could be done away with, but if a woman continues to be confined within the four walls of her house, if she does not participate in production and is economically dependent, she will remain dependent on her husband, bearing with it all the negative consequences for her, for her children and for society."

This, the article continues, immediately raises the question of the woman's traditional "double shift" - working at a job all day while cleaning house and caring for children at night. "One of the most flagrant manifestations of inequality in the family is the division of housekeeping work or, to be more precise, its non-division, i.e., the passing of all the burden of household work onto the wife. Back from her work where she has toiled and sweated as much as her husband, the wife has to tidy the house, clean it, and cook for the family. By thus burdening his wife with household chores, tiresome and boring as they are, the husband establishes in fact an inequality in his family and converts his wife into his proletarian."

The Albanians put forward two solutions to this problem, which they insist must be combined. The first is to socialize housework by building public laundries, daycare centers and cafeterias. But since this takes a long time and is tied in with the overall development of the country, they also insist that meanwhile a struggle must be waged with "the mentality of the husband".

"Until our economy can create conditions for household work to become more simplified and easier, our party pursues other Marxist-Leninist, revolutionary ways. Such a Marxist-Leninist way is that of the equal distribution of household work between husband and wife."

The book contrasts this revolutionary stand with that of the Soviet social-imperialists. One article quotes a Soviet author, I.M. Kitchemova, in a 1968 article: "The present woman is not only a worker, or a social activist. She is a housekeeper, a mother and a woman as well. The husband, it should be said among others, does not

# Letters



Dear Comrades of *The Call*,

On Dec. 20 our beloved comrade, Walter (Hashim) Baynard, died of bone cancer complicated by pneumonia. Hashim was a dedicated revolutionary, and we were grief-stricken to see him stricken at such an early age (31 years). But even in the last weeks of his terminal illness, Hashim continued to struggle toward the building of a new communist party, and to give strength to those of us who must carry on that struggle. He would have liked nothing better than to have seen the Fight-Back Conference, but death intervened.

We submit this poem in his memory.

His friends and comrades,  
Indianapolis, Indiana

For Our Fallen Comrade

*The brother made his stand  
Not in a pre-dawn blaze of shellfire  
Or on the gallows, shouting last words,  
Or in some frozen place of exile;  
But here in the belly of a monster  
In the jaws of a monster disease.*

*A quiet son of struggle; a quiet raging fire  
Hungering for liberation,  
thirsting for unity in struggle,  
Branding his comrades in the hour of death  
With the knowledge that victory,  
while yet unseen,  
Is certain.*

*Hashim, brother, standing tall  
While the pain in his bones pained us all,  
Fighting still with the heavy eyes of death  
To build the Party, to take up the call  
Trembling in his fingers,  
dancing yet in his heart,  
We will not forget that opposites unite;  
Life and death both build the struggle.*

*So we take Nat Turner's fire,  
brother Malcolm's fire  
sister Harriet's fire  
John Brown's fire  
Fred Hampton's fire  
And we will take Hashim's fire  
And burn the name of "Revolution—  
Victory to the Oppressed" across this land.*

Dear Comrades,

Speaking here, Guardian editor Irwin Silber showed what the much valued "independence" of that newspaper really means, independence from Marxism-Leninism.

In order to explain his view that "the principal contradiction today is between the people of the world and U.S. imperialism" (only), he was forced to come up with a whole new definition of "Soviet social imperialism."

To Silber, the Soviet Union has "just begun the process of capitalist restoration." Having said this the Guardian editor was caught in a contradiction. He could not call the Soviet Union imperialist because imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism. To claim that something was imperialist but not capitalist would be like saying a child could give birth to its mother. How-

ever the Guardian was not about to give up the term "Soviet social imperialism" for fear of blowing their Marxist-Leninist cover. Silber's answer then, was to come up with a "more profound" definition of "social-imperialism." Social imperialism to Silber is a country that "acts like" an imperialist country. "Acts like" is a very revealing phrase. Why would a country "act like" an imperialist? The United States acts like an imperialist because it is imperialist.

But Irwin Silber has invented a situation where a nation can "act like" an imperialist without having the internal economic system that creates imperialism. What this implies is that the Soviet Union has a choice. It can act like an imperialist in India or Eastern Europe, but not in Angola or Puerto Rico. It is a policy that can be chosen or not chosen. The Guardian puts forward this view that contradicts and re-

vises one of the basic tenets of Marxism without one word of explanation. They continue to use the term "Soviet social-imperialism" while subverting its meaning. They have not printed one word to support their economic analysis of the Soviet Union.

E.A., Washington, D.C.

Comrades!

Hoping to see you come out weekly in '76. My brother-in-law asks me from time to time, "How's it going with *The Call*? When are they coming out weekly?" Then he picks up a copy while I hover around behind his shoulder pointing out various articles, and the only thing we can utter are various expletives of admiration. Your paper is good—both in form and content. Keep on struggling and it'll become a daily.

A friend in Seattle

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"Abolition of Every Form of Oppression" is the theme of the Multi-National Women's Conference called by the Black Women's United Front to be held Saturday, March 6 in New York City. Women of all nationalities and walks of life are invited to take part in the conference, and men will also be welcome.

Unlike the various feminist conferences which exclude men or blame men for women's oppression, the aim of this conference is to point to imperialism as the cause of women's oppression, and to strengthen the unity of the struggle for women's liberation with the world-wide anti-imperialist struggle.

Members of the Black Women's United Front, Congress of Afrikan People, the October League and activists from many organizations and cities across the country will lead workshops on the history of women's struggle against imperialism; the triple oppression of third world women; and women and the fight-back against the crisis.

Proposals for active national campaigns, such as support for Cheryl Todd and Desi X Woods who are on trial in southern Georgia for murdering a rapist in a case similar to that of Joan Little, will be discussed. The conference will also be a stepping stone to the anti-imperialist International Women's Day march scheduled March 7 at the United Nations. There will be an evening cultural event and dance after the conference.

For information write: Black Women's United Front, 133 Clinton Ave., Newark, New Jersey. 201-622-4135.

of their country. They have won equal rights with men in all areas. The old feudal and patriarchal practices are outlawed and, while they still linger in backward customs, they are being suppressed by campaigns of mass action and education.

How did this great change come about? The story is told in *Problems of the Struggle for the Complete Emancipation of Women*, a 282-page collection of 18 articles compiled by the State University of Tirana and published in 1973 by the Political Book Publishing House of Tirana, Albania's capital city. It includes accounts of the centuries-long struggle of the Albanian women and the entire people against foreign invaders, of the big advances that were made when Marxist-Leninists led the anti-fascist struggle in World War II, where women were mobilized to fight in a mass way and on a more equal footing with men for the first time. It describes the continuing struggle of women under the conditions of the "People's Power," the dictatorship of the proletariat. Here it focuses on the need to bring into being a new type of family, a socialist family based on equality between husband and wife.

But most important are the ideological and political lessons it sums up, lessons that can help to guide the struggle of women in all countries.

"The complete emancipation of the woman," writes Vito Kapo, head of the Albanian Women's Union, in the lead article, "is neither a 'gift of charity' nor 'favor' that the 'stronger' sex accords to the 'weaker' sex, but an imperative necessity for socialism and communism. That is why Comrade Enver Hoxha points out that this revolution will be the work of men and women, of the entire society at marches towards communism. He points out: "No one can claim to be free if he fails to fight for the liberation of others and, first and foremost, of the Albanian women."

Hoxha stresses "two basic conditions" for women's freedom. The first is the overthrow of the capitalist class. The second is the integration of women into social production.

"Comrade Enver Hoxha," says another article in the book, "has analyzed the problem of private property which he considers the source of all evil, of all oppression

and slavery that has been imposed upon the women throughout the centuries."

But getting rid of capitalist rule is not enough. "In truth," says a third article, "private property could be done away with, but if a woman continues to be confined within the four walls of her house, if she does not participate in production and is economically dependent, she will remain dependent on her husband, bearing with it all the negative consequences for her, for her children and for society."

This, the article continues, immediately raises the question of the woman's traditional "double shift" — working at a job all day while cleaning house and caring for children at night. "One of the most flagrant manifestations of inequality in the family is the division of housekeeping work or, to be more precise, its non-division, i.e., the passing of all the burden of household work onto the wife. Back from her work where she has toiled and sweated as much as her husband, the wife has to tidy the house, clean it, and cook for the family. By thus burdening his wife with household chores, tiresome and boring as they are, the husband establishes in fact an inequality in his family and converts his wife into his proletariat."

The Albanians put forward two solutions to this problem, which they insist must be combined. The first is to socialize housework by building public laundries, daycare centers and cafeterias. But since this takes a long time and is tied in with the overall development of the country, they also insist that meanwhile a struggle must be waged with "the mentality of the husband."

"Until our economy can create conditions for household work to become more simplified and easier, our party pursues other Marxist-Leninist, revolutionary ways. Such a Marxist-Leninist way is that of the equal distribution of household work between husband and wife."

The book contrasts this revolutionary stand with that of the Soviet social-imperialists. One article quotes a Soviet author, I.M. Kitchemova, in a 1968 article: "The present woman is not only a worker, or a social activist. She is a housekeeper, a mother and a woman as well. The husband, it should be said among others, does not



ALBANIAN WORKING WOMEN play a major role in socialist construction.

remain indifferent to the mood of his wife returning from work; does he find her delighting, fresh, nice, quiet — or ill-humored and tired? This is the origin of the opinion often expressed by men, that it is better for the family if women would work only a little or not at all."

The Soviet revisionists are not satisfied with restoring capitalism and the oppression of women in their own country. The book's concluding article is an account of the history of the Women's International Democratic Federation and the political struggle that was waged within WIDF over the years. From 1945 to 1953, the Albanians point out, the WIDF was a militant fighter for women's rights. It specifically named and targeted imperialism as the root cause of women's oppression and linked the women's struggle to the fight against fascism and war, and all forms of racial and national oppression. From 1953 to 1961, however, the line of the WIDF wavered. The revisionists maneuvered to drop its anti-imperialist focus and even suggested taking the word "Democratic" out of the group's name under the pre-

text that "it keeps women away." The 1961-1965 period was a time of open and sharp two-line struggle where the Soviet renegades went all out to turn the group into a bourgeois revisionist outfit that preached pacifism and feminism. The result was that it wrecked the organization and split it from its anti-imperialist principles, despite the militant struggle waged by Albania, China and others. Now the Soviets use WIDF to press their own imperialist ambitions in the international women's struggle.

The book's account of this fight is important in that it demonstrates that the principle of not collaborating with imperialism, of no united action with revisionism on the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, is not a principle that fell out of the sky. Rather it is the consequence of a protracted struggle waged over decades to expose the treachery of the revisionists and to build a new international struggle against both imperialist superpowers, a struggle closely bound up with the movement for the emancipation of women.

## BIG LIE USED AGAINST CHINA

On Dec. 13, the People's Republic of China purchased 50 jet airplane engines from Rolls-Royce Corp. of Britain at a cost of \$160 million.

To those who support socialism and socialist construction in China, this purchase is seen as an important step in improving China's air transportation and its military defense capabilities. China after all has always practiced self-reliance in its socialist construction and has never aggressed against any country.

But to the revisionists, who try and turn facts on their heads, the purchase implies a "military threat" to the social-imperialists of the Soviet Union.

In a Jan. 6 article in the revisionist mouth-piece Daily World, William Pomeroy claims that the purchase "represents the first significant step toward military alliance between Maoist leaders and the NATO powers." The article uses the big-lie technique to attack China's right to develop its air capabilities.

Pomeroy doesn't mention the fact that it is the Soviet Union with a million troops on China's borders which is aggressing on China's northern territories. Nor does he point out that China has never invaded any country or occupied any country as the Soviet Union does from Czechoslovakia to Angola.

What then is Pomeroy's evidence of an anti-Soviet threat? Our brilliant defender of social-imperialism points out that: "...a key provision in the Rolls-Royce-China agreement is that the Spey engine to be supplied must operate efficiently in conditions of 40 degrees of frost, which prevail only on China's borders with the Soviet Union and to the north beyond."

Very clever, Pomeroy. The facts are clear. If China purchases an airplane engine that can fly in frost, this obviously makes China an aggressor. This is the logic of social-imperialism's aggressive propagandists. By yelling "thief" the real thief tries to cover its own bloody tracks.



## Historic U.N. Debate on Palestine

United Nations, N.Y.—A historic debate on the Middle East took place in the Security Council here in January. A representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was invited to speak, symbolizing the international recognition of the justice in the Palestinian cause.

Farouk Khaddoumi, head of the PLO delegation, presented a four-point proposal for discussion at the meeting. These points included 1) that Palestine is the central issue in the Middle East; 2) that peace in the Middle East is contingent on realization of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinians; 3) that the 1967 war was a result of Zionist expansionism and 4) that the PLO is the representative of the Palestinian people.

The real significance of the debate that followed was the agreement of the majority of Security Council members in all the resolutions proposed, to speak of "inalienable national rights" of the Palestinians rather than "interests of the Palestinians" as previous U.N. debate on the Mideast had termed it. The difference is that the PLO is demanding the recognition of the Palestinian nation with a right to full self-determination, not just some reforms of the Zionist Israeli state to better meet their "interests."

All 20 members of the Arab League backed a draft proposal to the Security Council calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab lands, and also calling for the recognition of the "inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people."

This unity, and the terminology adopted, was a sharp blow to both the U.S. and the USSR, who

are deliberately trying to keep the question of Palestine from being solved, in order to keep the area tense and open to their schemes for domination. The U.S., for its part, was the only country to oppose seating the PLO. U.S. officials were also hoping that the Arab countries would split, with some taking a more "moderate" stand. Such splits enable the U.S. to play one Arab country off against another. But the Arab countries stood firm through the debate.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, was gambling that the question of "national rights" would be toned down. This superpower is anxious to get on with a Geneva Conference called for by U.N. resolution 242, which will allow it to have a big say in a Mideast settlement. Yet that resolution and subsequent U.N. documents are opposed by the PLO because of their reference to the Palestinian question as a "refugee question," and the fact that they ignore the national rights of Palestinians.

### ZIONIST AGGRESSION

While the debate continued in the Security Council, the Israeli Zionists, who boycotted the session, were carrying out aggression across the Mideast. Five new military settlements were erected by Israel in the last month alone on the Golan Heights, stolen from Syria in the 1967 war. Zionist forces were also actively aiding the Phalangists in Beirut with new assaults on Palestinian bases in the south of Lebanon.

The Palestinians, while taking their cause before the United Nations, are still firm in carrying out the armed struggle for the liberation of their homeland.



Paris anti-fascists march in solidarity with workers in Spain. Fascism continues in Spain—without Franco. Last month saw biggest strike wave in Spain since Civil War of '30s.

## SPANISH WORKERS BATTLE FASCIST REGIME

In a rare moment of candor, a spokesman for the fascist government in Spain summed up King Juan Carlos' plans for the political future of that country.

Justice Minister Antonio Carrigues said January 12 that the new government will "not dismantle the Franco regime but improve it and bring it up to date." In other words, the Spanish fascists are trying their best to make their reactionary rule more palatable to the Spanish people who are rising up in the greatest wave of mass struggle since Franco took power. But the people cannot be fooled by demagogic talk of "new freedoms" or "limited democratic rights."

It is estimated that close to half a million workers took part in the various illegal strike actions which swept the industrial centers of Spain in January.

### NEWSPAPER SUPPORT

Even Spanish newspapers, which have been strictly censored for forty years, began exposing police violence against the people and taking stands in support of the right to strike. When pressed by the news media to explain exactly how the country was being liberalized, Interior Minister Manuel Fraga said that now "adversaries" who disagree with the regime will be tolerated, but "enemies" who use violence will be suppressed.

But apparently, the whole Spanish people have become "enemies." Strikes, peaceful demonstrations, and popular meetings are being suppressed with bloody police hands rivaling the worst days of Franco's rise to power.

When confronted by a major strike of postal workers on January 14, the government drafted several thousand of them into the army at gunpoint, in the hopes of getting the mail moving again. A week later, 70,000 striking railroad workers and 4,000 striking subway workers were also drafted into the army. In the Spanish army, workers don't even have the minimal rights extended to them under fascism, and are forced to work under threat of death.

### ARREST LAWYERS

On January 18, 22 lawyers and 33 other professional people were arrested in a suburban villa outside Madrid and charged with conducting an "unauthorized and subversive meeting." They were also accused of aiding striking construction and metal workers. When 150 lawyers went to the central police headquarters to protest, they too were arrested and a number of them beaten by police.

While the government has opened up its guns and gas canisters day after day against the people, it has also been forced to make some concessions. "Illegal" unions, conducting "illegal" strikes, have met with company and government officials to negotiate in several strikes. Even the fascist state-run unions have become vehicles for opposition to the regime.

In the Basque provinces of northern Spain, anti-fascist meetings and demonstrations have been held in public with up to 25,000 supporters.

The Spanish ruling class is in deep trouble. Millions of workers and people of other strata are stor-

ming it from every side.

The situation in Spain is also a good example of how the factors for both war and revolution are developing in the world at the same time. Henry Kissinger visited Madrid at the end of January, urging Juan Carlos to speed up the "democratization" so that Spain can be integrated into NATO and by doing so, strengthen the U.S. position for rivalry with the Soviet Union in southern Europe. The other NATO countries have voiced opposition to Spain's membership until some reforms are carried out. In the meantime, Kissinger signed the highest-level military pact ever reached between the U.S. and Spain, and renewed U.S. use of 5 big military bases there.

But at the same time as superpower contention is threatening to break into war, the people of Spain as well as other countries, are rising in struggle as never before.

Through the course of the strike wave and other mass struggles, new revolutionary leadership is emerging headed by the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) and mass organizations such as the FRAP (Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Patriotic Front). These organizations have put forward a program for revolutionary struggle, while the old revisionist Communist Party has called for a strategy based on begging the fascists for a share of parliamentary power. Even Western press accounts have been forced to take notice of the leadership of the Marxist-Leninists in the subway strike, the postal strike and a number of the mass demonstrations.

## Demand 'Superpowers Out of Angola!'

New York, N.Y.—Over 300 people demonstrated Jan. 10 outside the State Office Building in Harlem in the first citywide protest against the two superpowers' involvement in Angola, the former Portuguese colony.

The demonstration demanded an immediate end to all foreign intervention in the civil war-wracked African country, guaranteeing self-determination for the Angolan people. Several speakers at the rally called for a national unity government of the three liberation organizations—FNLA, MPLA and UNITA—which fought against the Portuguese colonialists. They also said it was mainly the Soviet social-imperialists who instigated the current civil war, thereby making it possible for the South African

apartheid regime to intervene.

Initiated by the New York chapter of the African Liberation Support Committee, the protest drew support from several progressive and revolutionary organizations. The October League was among the speakers calling for the two superpowers to get out. The OL speaker said the Angolan people were bound to win, despite the efforts of the U.S. and Soviet social-imperialists who seek to replace the Portuguese colonialists.

The Harlem rally followed an ALSC forum on Angola the previous night where members of the revisionist Communist Party tried to split this united front against the two superpowers. They were soundly defeated.



## Two Poems by Mao Tsetung



We are publishing two poems by Mao Tsetung in this issue of *The Call* in order to popularize them among the people of this country and encourage widespread discussion of these important statements.

The poems, "Ching kangshan Revisited—to the tune of Shui Tiao Keh Tou" and "Two Birds: A Dialogue—to the tune of Nien Nu Chiao" were written by Chairman Mao in 1965 and were published in China on New Year's Day to help sum up the present situation throughout the world and in China.

"Ching kangshan Revisited" was written upon Mao's return to the Ching kang Mountains after a lapse of 38 years. This was the area in southern China where he established China's first rural revolutionary base area in October, 1927. The poem symbolizes China's great advances from a dismal, dark and backwards country into a strong and beautiful cradle of socialism and revolution. It expresses the great optimism Chairman Mao has viewing the present and future of the struggle.

The two birds in the second poem, the roc and the sparrow, put forth two world outlooks in appraising the world situation. Is this a period characterized by "world peace" and "detente" as the modern revisionists claim or one characterized by great storms of war and revolution?

Despite the signing of the "triple pact" (this refers to the partial nuclear test ban treaty the Soviet revisionists concluded with the U.S. and Britain in 1963) Chairman Mao shows how the sparrow's longing for a peaceful hiding place while imperialism still exists is "windy nonsense."

Both poems are a refutation of the revisionist theories ("goulash communism") as well as a song of victory and a clarion call to continue the revolution. We call on our readers to study these poems and send in your views of these two poems for publication.

*Ching kangshan Revisited*  
(to the tune of Shui Tiao Keh Tou)  
May, 1965

*I have long aspired to reach for the clouds,  
Again I come from afar  
To climb Ching kangshan, our old haunt.  
Past scenes are transformed,  
 Orioles sing, swallows swirl,  
Streams purl everywhere  
And the road mounts skyward.  
Once Huangyangchieh is passed  
No other perilous place calls for a glance.*

*Wind and thunder are stirring,  
Flags and banners are flying  
Wherever men live.  
Thirty-eight years are fled  
With a mere snap of the fingers.  
We can clasp the moon in the Ninth Heaven  
And seize turtles deep down in the Five Seas:  
We'll return amid triumphant song and laughter.*

*Nothing is hard in this world  
If you dare to scale the heights.*

*Two Birds: A Dialogue*  
(to the tune of Nien Nu Chiao)  
Autumn, 1965

*The roc wings fanwise,  
Soaring ninety thousand li  
And rousing a raging cyclone.  
The blue sky on his back, he looks down  
To survey man's world with its towns and cities.  
Gunfire licks the heavens,  
Shells pit the earth.  
A sparrow in his bush is scared stiff.  
"This is one hell of a mess!  
O I want to flit and fly away."*

*"Where, may I ask?"  
The sparrow replies,  
"To a jewelled palace in elfland's hills.  
Don't you know a triple pact was signed  
Under the bright autumn moon two years ago?  
There'll be plenty to eat,  
Potatoes piping hot  
With beef thrown in."\*  
"Stop your windy nonsense!  
Look you, the world is being turned upside down."*

\*This refers to "goulash."—Ed.

## FOREIGN INTERVENTION HEIGHTENS IN ANGOLA

The escalating foreign intervention of the two superpowers is lending new urgency to calls for Angolan and African unity.

The number of foreign troops whose intervention is sponsored by the USSR on the one side and by the U.S. on the other increased rapidly in the wake of last month's meeting of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The summit concluded Jan. 13 without reaching any decision on the Angolan civil war.

Already the foreign armies in Angola come close to the size of the Portuguese colonial army in Angola before independence. But the Portuguese in the last few years were too war-weary to really devastate Angola and the Angolans in a big way.

The several hundred Russian, an estimated 10,000 or more Cuban and several thousand South African and other intervention forces now in Angola don't have this "handicap."

This is why, amidst the fighting and its accompanying propaganda done by both superpowers, there are repeated and persistent reports of unity efforts underway. The lesson that third world disunity benefits only the foreign intervention forces is being written in the blood of tens of thousands of Angolans.

Not only the foreign troops but also the armaments introduced into Angola since independence are mostly more modern and lethal than what either the liberation movements or the Portuguese colonialists had. A report from one of the towns in the northern part of Angola, for instance, told how the place had first been shelled by Russian tanks, then strafed by helicopter gunships, then subjected to concentrated Russian rocket attacks, with heavy casualties among the population.

A congressional disclosure last month, unsurprisingly, put the figure of CIA funds

and weapons shipped to Angola since Jan., 1975 at "considerably more" than \$31 million. Estimates of the amount of Russian shipments vary, but there is wide evidence that this socialist-talking but imperialist-acting superpower has introduced in the same period an overwhelmingly greater amount—perhaps five to ten times as much.

The quick inrush of Russian "advisers" and Russian-sponsored troops led a Zambian official (quoted by *The New York Times* last month) to remark that Angola is "the Czechoslovakia of Africa." And indeed there is a direct line of continuity between the infamous 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, the 1971 Soviet-instigated aggression against Pakistan, and the present Soviet-instigated civil war and direct and indirect intervention in Angola.

There is much rhetoric about the war as a "war of the Angolan people," and the conflict is sometimes compared to Vietnam. But the reality is that the escalation of superpower involvement is transforming the Angolan conflict into a local war between the superpowers fought mostly by non-Angolans (and non-Africans) at the Angolans' and all Africans' expense.

### CONDEMNS USSR

The comparison of Angola with Vietnam sharply condemns Soviet social-imperialism. Much as U.S. imperialism used South Korean and Philippine troops to kill Vietnamese, Soviet social-imperialism is now using Cubans against Angolans. The practice of using Latin Americans to fight Africans—setting third world people against another—is no different in its imperialist essence than the old U.S. imperialist slogan of "let Asians fight Asians." It revives the old-style colonialist practice of using "native" troops from one colony to intervene in another.

The responsibility for this shameful mil-

itary intervention in Angola, which is directly contrary to the principles of proletarian internationalism, lies squarely on the shoulders of the Soviet revisionist authorities in Moscow.

The social-imperialist intervention has given the racist settler regime of South Africa, backed by U.S. imperialism, its long-awaited opportunity of invading Angolan territory. So long as the three different organizations to which the Angolan liberation struggle gave birth maintained their unity, the hateful apartheid regime had little chance to stretch its claws into Angola. Only the beginning of the Angolan civil war—instigated and deliberately fueled by Soviet social-imperialism (see *The Call*, Jan. 1976, Dec. and Nov. 1975)—has created the opening the South African racists needed.

### OAU SUMMIT

During the course of the OAU summit Jan. 10-13, the USSR refused to agree to withdraw its own forces and those of its "ally" Cuba if the South African troops withdrew also. (A Cuban spokesman even said before the OAU meeting that the Cubans would remain no matter what the African states decided.) The Russian authorities' arch-imperialist posture—covered over with "socialist" rhetoric—was the main reason the OAU was temporarily unable to unite. But despite this temporary setback the member countries came from the conference determined to strengthen the cause of African unity. Many stressed the need for the Angolan problem to be settled free from foreign interference.

At the conference Jean-Bedel Bokassa, president of the Central African Republic, condemned the Soviet Union as the "source of the war which it has created in Africa." Senegalese President L.S. Senghor pointed out at the opening session that the Angolan people must be left free to choose the kind of government they prefer. Mandungu Bula, commissioner of state for foreign affairs of Zaire told newsmen that the essence of the Angolan problem is Soviet intervention. He indignantly told a Soviet

reporter: "What the Russians want is to use the blood of the Angolan people to establish a base for your fleet in the Atlantic."

The social-imperialists, for their part, expressed "satisfaction" at the outcome of the OAU meeting. The apartheid regime in South Africa was also pleased. Its chief backer, U.S. imperialism, shed a few crocodile tears but admitted under its breath that it was "relieved."

The propaganda mills of the two superpowers have been cranking out accusations that the Angolan party or parties who receive funds and supplies from the rival superpower are that superpower's "puppets." The social-imperialists have been especially busy with this theme.

Basically the superpowers' spreading of charges of this type only serves to aggravate the contradictions among the Angolan people—contradictions which in the main are non-antagonistic in principle and can be solved through peaceful struggle. Wherever third world people fight each other, the superpowers are the ones to profit—especially the rising Soviet social-imperialist superpower striving to displace its rival.

What social-imperialism really likes in Angola is not the political party it supplies with funds and arms, much less the freedom of the Angolan people, but rather the enormous agricultural and mineral wealth of Angola and the country's strategic position flanking the Southern Atlantic sea lanes.

What social-imperialism is on the way to getting as a result of its southern Africa adventure, however, is the well-deserved reputation of an imperialist war-monger and neocolonialist superpower out to dominate Africa. The Soviet intervention in Angola will burn an indelible mark in the memory of the Angolan and African people.

The Angolan and all African people will undoubtedly unite to put an end to this treacherous effort to cheat them of the fruits of their long struggle for liberation. They will reject social-imperialism just as they reject other forms of neocolonialism, imperialism and racism.

# TAKING UP THE CALL

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

## SUPREMES DENOUNCE APARTHEID

The well-known singing group, the Supremes, were ordered to leave South Africa after they denounced the racist policy of apartheid there, according to a recent article in Soul magazine.

In order for the Supremes to even take the stage, they had to be declared "honorary whites." On hearing this, several of the Supremes attacked the apartheid system in statements to Durban Daily News reporters. After their comments appeared in print, they were given four hours to leave the country.

A number of Black entertainers had urged the Supremes to boycott South Africa in the first place. Cindy Birdsong, one member of the group, said that the only reason they went was because they were promised integrated audiences. But only two of 24 concerts were granted "racial permits" for Blacks to attend, and even then Blacks were discouraged from attending.

## BRAZILIAN MARXIST-LENINIST KILLED

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Brazil announced in December the death by torture of comrade Armando Teixeira Frutuoso, a leading revolutionary trade unionist and a founding member of the Marxist-Leninist party, the Communist Party of Brazil.

Teixeira was 51 years old, when, in August 1975, he was captured by the Brazilian police. He died in prison after four months of torture.

Teixeira joined the Communist Party of Brazil at the age of 21, in Rio de Janeiro, in 1945. Having led numerous strikes, he also struggled actively in the patriotic movement against German and Italian fascism during World War II and later fought against the sending of Brazilian troops to Korea, for the banning of all nuclear weapons, and against anti-communist repression in Brazil.

Between 1945 and 1964, comrade Teixeira was arrested 20 times and on several of these occasions was tortured by government troops.

In 1962, the Brazilian revisionist leader Prestes split the Communist Party. Teixeira was one of those who struggled for a Marxist-Leninist line, first within the Prestes party, and later participated in the 1962 reorganization of the revolutionary Communist Party of Brazil, one of the first Marxist-Leninist parties to be formed in Latin America after the organizational break with revisionism.

Since the military coup d'etat of 1964, fascist conditions prevailed in Brazil, making the work of the party more difficult. Faced with this situation, Armando Teixeira Frutuoso placed great emphasis on raising the ideological level of the communists. He said, "In the area of ideology, it is not enough to be good, we must be excellent." He was elected to the Central Committee in 1968 and to its Executive Commission in 1973.

## JAPAN REJECTS SOVIET HEGEMONY

Attempting to turn the screws on Japan, Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet foreign minister, flew to Tokyo in January. But Japan wouldn't bow down.

Gromyko was trying to conclude a Japanese-Soviet friendship treaty. Both sides had agreed on most points, except the territorial dispute over Japan's four northern islands which the Soviet Union currently occupies.

In private, Gromyko was quoted as saying, "Any territorial question brought up between Japan and the Soviet Union would automatically involve the question of the European territories." The Soviet revision-

ists fear that in returning the islands they would open the question of other countries and territories they now occupy. The Soviet Union is also anxious to cling to the islands as a strong base for countering the U.S. strategic position in the Pacific.

In the last few months, a tremendous outpouring of public sentiment in Japan has called for the return of the islands. Mass meetings and demonstrations have taken place in workers' communities, outside Soviet government offices, and even on fishing boats in the Sea of Japan.

While mass sentiment is growing for the return of the four northern islands, the Japanese people are also active in demanding the conclusion of Japan's friendship treaty with China. Progress was going very well towards this agreement last year, until the Soviet Union told Japan that it would not tolerate a clause which stated that both China and Japan oppose the seeking of hegemony by any other country. The Soviet Union resented this clause because it is the biggest, most aggressive seeker of hegemony.

In a new year's message, however, Japan's Prime Minister Takeo Miki, indicated that he is anxious to sign the treaty with China. Fresh from his country's own experiences with the Soviet hegemonists, Miki told reporters, "Hegemony gained by any country in any region will be an obstacle to the maintenance of peace."

## AUSTRALIA WORKERS BACK E. TIMOR PEOPLE

As a protest against the Indonesian fascist regime's aggression in East Timor, Australian harbor and maritime workers launched actions to boycott Indonesian ships anchoring in Australian harbors. At least two Indonesian freighters, "Gunung Tambora" and "Garza Dua," were targets of the boycott in Sydney.

The boycott is part of the long tradition of support for anti-colonial struggle by the Australian workers. In the early days of the 1945 August Revolution in Indonesia, Australian longshoremen launched similar actions against Dutch ships carrying soldiers and munitions to suppress the Indonesian people's struggle for their independence.

In other actions, Australian youths and students launched a demonstration against the Indonesian embassy in Canberra in support of the East Timor people's struggle for independence. It was reported that the demonstrators who had entered the premises of the embassy on Oct. 1 to register their protests of the invasion, were accused of "occupying" the veranda of the building for one hour.

## MAORIS FIGHT FOR LAND AND RIGHTS

Long before the conquest of New Zealand by the British in the 19th century, these mineral-rich volcanic islands west of Australia were populated by native people with an ancient culture and language. These people, called the Maoris, were victims of genocidal campaigns by the British colonialists for many decades.

Today, the Maori people are organized and fighting back. Their main objective is to win the right to own and possess land. For several weeks during the month of October, 5000 Maoris participated in the Land March over the length and breadth of New Zealand.

On October 15, over 10,000 Maoris and their supporters rallied at New Zealand's House of Parliament. They arrived at the capital despite a massive government effort to bar the roads and bridges. According to the New Zealand People's Voice, a Marxist-Leninist paper, "They could have taken over Parliament Building had they wanted to. This was a key lesson from the historic march—that the people, with a just cause and determination can brush aside all barriers and obstacles placed in their path."

## STERILIZATIONS WON'T SOLVE INDIA'S CRISIS

Unable to meet India's mounting economic crisis even with fascist terror, the government of Indira Gandhi is now claiming that "the only way out" lies in sterilizing millions of people in order to curb the birth rate.

Gandhi announced in early January that her regime was planning to take "strong steps which may not be liked by all," to keep couples from having more than two children. Currently, the state of Punjab is drafting a law providing for compulsory sterilization of women with more than two or three children. In the state of Harvana, government employees who do not undergo sterilization will be refused bank credit and bulk food supplies. The Gandhi regime is considering adopting this type of measures on a nation-wide basis.

It is true that India's population is extremely large and starvation is a mass phenomenon. But it is not the people who are to blame for this. Across India's mountains lies China, where an even bigger population is sustained without a single person starving. Under the socialist system, the masses are mobilized to solve the problems of food and hunger, while resources are cultivated to the benefit of the people and not the rich capitalists and foreign overlords.

If Gandhi is so concerned about the hunger of her people, she should look into the huge Soviet freighters which steam out of India's ports loaded down with rice and groundnuts. But it was Gandhi herself who gave away these badly needed foodstuffs in return for Soviet arms used in India's expansion across the subcontinent.

## CIA, KGB STEP UP ACTIONS IN EUROPE

Although CIA agents are infamous for their attempts to overthrow governments in third world countries, recent exposures have revealed that both the CIA and their KGB counterparts are stepping up their activities in Europe.

Making headlines briefly in January was the story of \$6 million in CIA funds funneled into Italy to oppose the revisionist Communist Party there. The Washington sources that "leaked" the story indicated that the operation had the personal approval of President Ford.

While administration officials are probably right in their assertion that "\$6 million is peanuts," it is also true that this story is only the tip of the iceberg of CIA activities in the political life of the European countries. In Italy particularly, the

CIA has a long history of involvement. One of the CIA's first assignments after it was founded was to keep the Italian elections of the 1950s from "going to the communists." Today, as the Soviet Union is rapidly penetrating southern Europe and Italy is in a state of political turmoil, it is a beehive for activity of agents from both superpowers.

Recent books written about the CIA indicate that there are more CIA operatives in Europe than anywhere else. Their job is to carry out some of the work of contending for power with the Soviet Union which is hidden from public view. In Britain, France, and Greece, recently published information shows that numerous top-level embassy officials are actually CIA operatives.

At the same time that these disclosures on CIA activities have been made, the Soviet KGB has been increasingly exposed in Europe. In January, four Soviet officials were expelled from Denmark for carrying out espionage work, while London papers reported that the Soviet embassy there once again housed over 100 KGB agents. Several years ago, more than 100 Soviet embassy employees were ordered out of England owing to their activities in the KGB.

## NEW CONSTITUTION IN CAMBODIA

With the coming of the new year, "The Voice of the National United Front of Cambodia" broadcast the text of that country's new constitution.

The constitution based itself on last April's Third National Congress, held just after the liberation of the country. At that time, the aspirations of Cambodian workers and peasants were expressed in this way:

"Establishment of an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Cambodia with sovereignty and territorial integrity; living in a society with genuine happiness, equality, justice and democracy, where there is no rich and poor, no exploiting and exploited classes, where the entire people live in harmonious national unity, work together to develop production, build and defend the country."

A draft of the constitution was submitted to widespread discussion among the Cambodian people and criticisms and suggestions were taken into account before its final publication.

Commenting on the document, Samdech Sihanouk, the Cambodian Head of State said, "It is simple, easy to understand, short and clear and in complete agreement with the line of the people's democratic revolution. . . I support it completely."

The constitution, among other provisions, calls for the main means of production to be owned by the whole people and by collectives; for the flourishing of progressive national culture, and legislation by the congress of workers, peasants and other working people.

The new constitution heavily underscores Cambodia's commitment to non-alignment and support for the just struggles of other third world countries. Specifically it forbids any foreign military bases on Cambodian soil, and states that Cambodia will never interfere in the affairs of another country.

## FROM THE WORLD PRESS

### Press Statement of Kommúnistasamtökin m-l Communist League of Iceland M-L

Iceland has extended its fishery limits to 200 nautical miles. This just act has met with disapproval of both the hegemonic powers—USA and the Soviet Union—as well as of Great Britain and West Germany.

The Soviet ambassador to Iceland protested against the extension on the grounds that by extending the fishery limits to 200 nautical miles, Iceland was "hazarding the interest of the Soviet Union" in Icelandic waters. What interests can the Soviet Union have in the waters off Iceland? On what grounds do the social-imperialists have the rights to protest against the sovereignty of the Icelandic people over their natural and economic resources?

The NATO bloc has also shown its aggressivity and desire to master the natural resources of Iceland, by the pressure it has put on the Icelandic government in order to make it give in and impose on it unjust agreements, by sending war-ships into Icelandic waters, thus bullying a small nation that does not have any army, fleet or air forces. The British war-ships have made attempts to run down the Icelandic gun-boats, while they were inspecting and trying to drive away the British trawlers fishing within the limits.

The Icelandic people need their natural resources and we regard it as an internationalist duty of the working class and people in other countries to support the just extension of the fishery limits to 200 nautical miles and the navigation limits to the same extent. British and West German workers should support this demand and regard it as their internationalist duty to support the rights of every nation to determine solely its fishery and navigation limits. This is a very important question, especially as it is bound up with the third world countries' struggle for independence and solemn right to decide over their natural and economic resources, and the struggle of colonies and dependent countries against the hegemony of the two superpowers.

Could Puerto Rico survive economically if it became a politically independent country?

This is a question that troubles many people. Seeing the unemployment and poverty, some people worry that things would only get worse with independence. Others also think that Puerto Rico is too small and poor a country to sustain itself and would inevitably exchange dependence on the U.S. for dependence on the other superpower, the USSR.

History shows, however, that there is no solid ground for such pessimism. Political independence can be the beginning of a new road that leads through self-reliance and unity with other third-world countries to the goal of economic development and a genuinely independent life.

There is no doubt that today Puerto Rico is in very bad economic shape. Unemployment has never been worse and is rising still. Inflation also. Nearly 95% of the food products eaten in Puerto Rico are imported. More than two million of Puerto Rico's sons and daughters have been forced to emigrate to the U.S. in search of survival or betterment.

But it was not always so. Four decades ago Puerto Rico was practically self-sufficient in agriculture. Its rich soil grew all its people needed. What happened? The answer is that the U.S. imperialists, who have controlled Puerto Rico since 1898, wrecked Puerto Rico's agriculture, ruined the small and medium farmers, switched land out of food production into export crops, condemned fertile land to lie fallow or seized it for petrochemical complexes, and took more than 13% of the land for military bases.

History shows, in other words, that the economic foundation for the survival of

# PUERTO RICO WILL PROSPER WITH INDEPENDENCE

Puerto Rico exists. It is the systematic interference of imperialism which today prevents that foundation from serving the needs of the Puerto Rican people. Imperialism is the cause of Puerto Rico's economic dependency and underdevelopment. Break the grip of imperialism, and you take hold of ample means of survival and development.

As with the soil, so with the minerals beneath it. Puerto Rico is rich in copper, among other valuable substances. The benefits of that wealth are now stolen by

foreign corporations. Similarly with the sea: the U.S. has barred the development of Puerto Rico's fishing industry. Political independence will allow Puerto Rico to gain national rights over its 200-mile limit—despite opposition by both superpowers—and develop a thriving marine industry.

Puerto Rico's most precious resource is its people, especially its working class. In hundreds of factories the Puerto Rican working class produces billions in wealth with its labor. Who enjoys the fruit of this labor? The imperialists. That is why Puerto

Rico is "poor."

The truth is that the survival of Puerto Rico is impossible *unless* political independence is won! Already the imperialists have forcibly sterilized more than a third of Puerto Rico's women of childbearing age. This intolerable outrage can only be stopped by taking the political destiny of the country out of the imperialists' hands.

As a politically independent country, Puerto Rico would be in a position to develop itself without becoming reliant on foreign "aid," particularly from the superpowers. The example of tiny Albania, a nation hardly larger than Puerto Rico and with no more generous natural endowment, is an inspiring example to all small countries. Through popular armed struggle, Albania freed itself in 1945 from the Hitler fascists and the Western colonialists and imperialists. When the USSR degenerated into a capitalist, imperialist superpower and began to pressure Albania, the Albanians in 1960 resolutely kicked the Moscow revisionists out. Through hard work and self-reliance, Albania today has become a fiercely independent, prosperous socialist country.

Who are Puerto Rico's natural allies in the political and economic struggle? Obviously not the U.S. imperialists. But not the "socialist"-talking but imperialist-acting USSR, either. The latter poses as a "friend" of the small third-world countries, just as U.S. imperialism posed as a "friend" of Puerto Rico in 1898 against Spanish colonialism. The USSR has the same ulterior motives for its "friendship" as U.S. imperialism did then. The USSR has already taken steps to impose its line on the Puerto Rican liberation struggle and to try to bring it under Soviet domination. This was clear from the recent Havana Conference on Puerto Rico. In struggling to kick the U.S. imperialist tiger out the front gate, vigilance is necessary against letting the Soviet social-imperialist wolf sneak in the back door. This is the meaning of the slogan: "Independence for Puerto Rico! Down with the Two Superpowers."

Puerto Rico's natural allies, rather, are the scores of other third world countries whose situation and interests are very similar to Puerto Rico's. The third world countries have formed a growing number of economic associations like OPEC, the copper association OCEC and others to wage united struggle against the superpowers. This and other forms of mutual aid among third world countries constitute the strongest, and only reliable main source of support in the struggle for a new world economic order, as demanded by the entire third world.

Facts show that Puerto Rico can very well be independent economically, once political power is grasped from the hands of imperialists and put in the hands of the people of the Puerto Rican nation. Once political independence is achieved the Puerto Rican people can reshape their political and economic life in such a way as to promote their own best interests and guarantee their independence and self-determination.



People of Puerto Rico, a colony of the U.S., rally for independence.

needs expansion abroad to survive. It is an imperialist system basically the same as that in the U.S. and other Western capitalist countries.

Despite all the Soviet leaders' talk of "detente," the USSR has been militarizing rapidly in recent years. The Russian authorities now command an army of 4.2 million men in uniform, bigger than any other standing army in the world.

In military hardware the USSR is superior to the U.S., or catching up fast, in most of the important kinds of armaments, both nuclear and conventional. In the area of the world where the greatest military forces are concentrated on both sides, namely Europe, the USSR now has a very large and growing superiority.

Particularly noteworthy in the past five years has been the USSR's development of offensive conventional arms capability. Moscow has begun to build and deploy attack fighter-bombers suitable for European conditions, helicopter and aircraft carriers designed for quick-strike missions anywhere in the world, and other offensive weaponry. Its military posture in the European theatre particularly has gone way beyond what would be necessary to deter a potential attacker. It is the USSR which today stands in the potential attacker's role.

All this military muscle has provided the background for a new tone of aggressiveness in the Soviet leaders' speeches. They continue to repeat the "detente" theme, which serves so well to distract attention from the forced march of militarization that is actually going on. The current party congress is unlikely to alter this melody.

But the emphasis at the same time is now more and more on the theme of "historic offensive" on the "entire front of global confrontation," in Brezhnev's words. Soviet military doctrine stresses the value of surprise attacks and specifically calls on the armed forces to fulfill not only defensive but also offensive tasks.

A similar tone is being heard in Soviet writings regarding the role of the "Communist" (revisionist, actually) parties abroad, especially in the Western European countries. While continuing to stress the theme of "peaceful transition," according to which the revisionist parties will supposedly come to power by ballot, Soviet ideologists now also point to the necessity of using arms in some situation. This has misled some naive persons into thinking the Soviet revisionists

have returned to Marxist-Leninist principles on the question of armed struggle.

In actuality this new theme is an encouragement to some revisionist parties abroad to try to get into power by staging a military coup or putsch, seizing state power despite the wishes of the masses of the working people. Such was the coup attempt of last Nov. 25 in Portugal, which the revisionist Portuguese "Communist" Party instigated and shielded, pulling out only at the last moment when defeat was obvious. It was not the first of its kind. This is a social-fascist line of behavior.

For all its "peaceful" talk, the ruling party in the USSR today maintains itself by force and violence against the working class and the mass of the farmers. The USSR under Khrushchov and Brezhnev has become a thoroughly capitalist state, but not a "democratic" capitalist state. With its "Big Lie" demagoguery, its widespread use of police terror against the people, its chauvinism and racism and denial of all democratic rights, the present-day USSR resembles Hitler Germany.

So blatant is the use of police terror against the people in the USSR that the recent showing, in France, of a documentary film (secretly made and smuggled abroad) on slave labor work by Soviet political prisoners forced even the French revisionist party to make a formal protest.

Widespread violent political repression is especially necessary to the rule of the revisionist party officials in the USSR today in order to keep the economic system on its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

## Soviet Congress:

GUNS  
INSTEAD OF  
'GOULASH'

As the ruling party of the Soviet Union assembles for its 25th Congress, the USSR has more guns and relatively less bread than in any peacetime year since the days of tsarism.

It has been 20 years since the anti-Marxist (revisionist) forces led by Khrushchov rose to power in the party. Today the promises made by Khrushchov and his fellow-revisionists at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in 1956 have a bitter, hollow ring.

Khrushchov promised "peace" all around, on the international scene and at home. Instead the USSR today bristles with armaments, a considerable portion of which are trained on the Soviet working class and peasantry.

Khrushchov and his followers promised higher living standards. It was Khrushchov who coined the term "welfare communism" and "goulash communism." But Soviet citizens today are deluged with propaganda to eat less of everything, especially bread. In fact, the state-run baking industry has been commanded to "bake smaller buns." The past harvest yielded less grain per person than in any year since 1913, a mediocre year under tsarism.

The sharp tension between the swelling Russian military establishment and the austerity in mass living standards arises directly out of the political-economic changes introduced by the revisionist leadership. They destroyed the former socialist economic foundation and established state monopoly capitalism in its place. Unlike the earlier, socialist system, the present setup



# PAUL ROBESON DEAD AT 75



Paul Robeson, a heroic figure in the fight against racism and oppression around the world died January 23 in Philadelphia at the age of 75.

Robeson was a fighter all his life for the rights of Afro-Americans, and through his many accomplishments, inspired the whole generation which saw him perform in the 30's and 40's. The third Black student to ever attend Rutgers University, Robeson was an all-American defensive end as well as a star in other sports and the most distinguished student in his class. Leaving athletics behind, he later won acclaim as one of the greatest of all stage performers both as a singer and an actor.

But Robeson was an eloquent political spokesman as well as a performer. He often explained his "deep conviction that for all mankind a socialist society represented an advance to a higher stage of life."

This political stand, along with consistent support for the then-socialist Soviet Union, made Robeson the object of constant political attack by the ruling class here in the U.S. A systematic campaign to silence him saw physical attacks by Klan thugs, while concert halls refused to let him perform and the U.S. government revoked his passport.

But Robeson could not be silenced. He refused to deny membership in the Communist Party and boldly defended socialism and the Soviet leader, Stalin. Robeson went among the workers in union halls and into ghetto theaters to perform.

Always an internationalist, Robeson went to Spain to help build the morale of the Republican troops who were battling the fascists in the 1930's. Throughout the Second World War, he was an active participant in the international fight against fascism. In Britain, France, and other European countries he was held in high esteem for both his brilliant acting and his anti-fascist stand. In 1952, he was awarded the Stalin Peace Prize in the Soviet Union.

# 'GOULASH'...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

"austerity" track—austerity for the working class. Like the other imperialist countries, the USSR is caught up in a profound economic crisis. Production of consumer goods in the ninth five-year plan (1970-75) fell more than 25 percent short of its original targets, according to the official Soviet statements.

The tenth five-year plan (1976-80) has a smaller proportion of its resources devoted to consumer goods than in any five-year plan since World War II. The overwhelming proportion of resources is to go for the capital goods industry, particularly the sectors that are important in war production.

Especially serious is the food situation. The 1975 grain harvest was a sheer disaster, 80 million tons below the plan target. It was the seventh bad harvest in 11 years, and the worst in two decades. To cover the shortfall, the USSR has bought more than 25 million tons of grain on the world market, a record amount. The USSR authorities to date have not informed the Soviet people of these purchases, hoping to keep them in the dark about the real disaster in the countryside.

To pay for its grain purchases and other buying in the West, the USSR has gone deeply into debt to Western banks. Together with the Eastern European countries it dominates, the USSR has run up a foreign debt of \$32 billion in the West, according to a recent Chase Manhattan Bank estimate. Several U.S. bankers quoted by The New York Times (Dec. 15) said the USSR had just about reached its borrowing limit.

The economic future for the USSR is not bright. On the heels of failure to meet the major overall targets of the 9th five-year plan, the tenth plan calls for the lowest economic growth rates since 1929. There is widespread doubt that it can meet even these targets.

The actual state of affairs in the USSR stands in glaring contradiction to the Soviet revisionist authorities' "socialist" claims and pretenses. Underneath the "socialist" rhetoric the USSR has become an aggressive, expansive imperialist superpower gearing up full steam for world war at the people's expense.

# COMMUNIST UNITY ON THE RISE ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

formation first and only then can the party be built. This is a false issue, through which PRRWO tries to hide its basic opposition to a Marxist-Leninist party being built at all.

Of course the party must be built around a program. And it is also true that a party cannot be formed simply around "minimum principles of unity" such as those laid out in the "Call to Unite." But this was not the purpose of the "Call to Unite" as PRRWO pretends. Rather the minimum principles of unity lay the groundwork for those truly desiring unity to come together. They serve as a basis for struggle for a complete program which must come through discussion among the Marxist-Leninists leading up to the founding congress of the party.

We have always published our programmatic views on the national question, bus-ing, the woman question, and all the major issues facing Marxist-Leninists. In recent months, the OL has published a number of resolutions from our Third Congress, which go deeply into all of the questions that lie behind the minimum principles of unity. We will certainly struggle for these views to be reflected in the party program.

PRRWO's mystification of the party and its program—their claim that "all sorts of opportunists" will be united into the

party if a program isn't written first—is a reflection of their basic anti-party line and their blocking with opportunists to hamper the construction of the party. PRRWO's whole history has been one of unprincipled blocks with one opportunist formation after another—first with the Revolutionary Union and then with the pro-social-imperialist Communist Labor Party. Now they are uniting with the centrists only for the purpose of anti-party opposition.

In response to the charge that the principles are too vague, i.e., that "anyone could accept them," practice has shown that these principles have separated the opportunists from the genuine Marxist-Leninists. The line of demarcation drawn through these basic principles, has in fact, made it impossible for groups like Workers Viewpoint and PRRWO to join, but has left the door open to the many other Marxist-Leninist cadres and organizations who, while having differences among themselves, are still able to unite on a principled basis.

It is such things as PRRWO's active, chauvinist opposition to school integration and their sectarian world outlook which lie at the root of their split from Marxism-Leninism and not their phony criticisms of "no program." It seems that all the ultra-"left" posturing of PRRWO is simply a cover for

their rightist opposition to the party.

But within the ranks of all the groups calling themselves communist and party-builders, the sentiment for unity on the part of the rank and file is growing. They have entered these organizations, not for the purpose of building a small circle around this or that leader nor have they joined for the purpose of upholding the shameful sectarian and wrecking ambitions of a small handful of opportunists. Rather they are pushing for Marxist-Leninist unity on the basis of sound principles and program.

Every group and individual communist will be judged in the coming period in large measure on their stand and contributions to communist unity. Those who stand in word as well as deed for the building of a new party and who do so with ideas and concrete plans will win the support of the masses who demand such communist unity daily. Those who prove to be anti-party splitters and wreckers and who continue to conciliate with the revisionist party will become isolated and soon discarded by the masses.

## Unite The Many To Defeat The Few!!



**READ**

## UNITY and STRUGGLE

Voice of the Congress of Afrikan People with vital information on the struggles of oppressed people against racism, capitalism and imperialism!

box 1181  
NewArk, N.J. 07102

**Subscribe Now!**  
12 issues \$2.40

**Published Twice A Month**  
24 issues \$4.80

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

NEW FROM ...



**NEGRO LIBERATION**  
by Harry Haywood

**\$3.00**

Originally published in 1948, this important work by a leading Afro-American communist examines the conditions of exploitation and oppression of Black people and traces the root cause to their existence as an oppressed nation. Haywood's call for self-determination for the Afro-American people is seen as part of the overall destruction of the imperialist system. Long suppressed by the revisionist CPUSA, Negro Liberation is now reprinted by Liberator Press with the author's permission.

**RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM IN THE USSR**  
by Martin Nicolaus

**\$1.50**

This is the first publication in book form of the author's recently completed study of the restoration of capitalism in the once-socialist Soviet Union. Making a scientific analysis of the political and economic changes in the Soviet Union since the death of Stalin, Nicolaus proves that the Soviet working class is exploited by a new monopoly capitalist class that exercises a brutal fascist dictatorship over the masses of people.

**LETTER TO AMERICAN WORKERS**  
by V.I. Lenin

**\$.35**

Never before widely distributed in this country, Letter to American Workers was written by Lenin in 1918 to express the solidarity of the Russian revolution with the struggle of the American working class. This pamphlet exposes the myth of "democracy" in the U.S., and shows the brutal character of bourgeois dictatorship.

**P.O.Box 7128, Chicago, Ill. 60680**