

# TODD & WOODS GET SLAVE-OWNER JUSTICE

Hawkinsville, Ga.—A crowded courtroom in this Black Belt town heard a racist court convict Cheryl Todd and Dessie X Woods of lesser charges following their acquittal on murder charges on Feb. 1. Militant national and local support forced the compromise verdict, a partial victory for the defense.

The two young Black women, charged with murder after defending themselves against a rape attempt by a white businessman, had each faced life sentences in

prison. But after a three-week trial, Todd was convicted only of theft and Woods of manslaughter. Dessie X Woods was sentenced to 12 years in prison, and Cheryl Todd received a 1 to 5 year sentence from racist Judge B. O'Connor, a wealthy aristocrat and a descendant of slaveowners. Both Todd and Woods are the grandchildren of slaves.

This striking contrast—a descendant of slavemasters dispensing "justice" to rebellious modern-day

"slaves"—vividly exposed the character of the racist frame-up of Todd and Woods. The entire trial was a glaring demonstration of the system of national oppression and terror that has historically been directed at Black people and which continues today.

This was the essence of the defense case—that Black women have been brutalized and raped by white racists for centuries, that Cheryl Todd and Dessie X Woods were profoundly aware of that

fact, and that the women were justified in defending themselves against their attacker by any means at hand.

The prosecution, however, worked hard to smear the characters of the defendants, insinuating that they were immoral, "loose," and generally trying to whip up racial bias against them. They received a helping hand from Judge O'Connor, who relied on a recent Georgia court ruling that a prospective juror could not be dismiss-

ed as a racist for stating that he or she would automatically believe the word of a white over that of a Black. While all the young Black people in the jury pool were removed by the prosecution, the defense was not allowed to dismiss blatantly racist jurors from the panel.

The oppressive conditions in this former slave area of the South have led to a growing resistance

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PEOPLE OF  
THE WORLD  
UNITE TO  
DEFEAT  
IMPERIALISM

# THE CALL

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OCTOBER  
LEAGUE

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Women are on the march, actively participating in the fight-back movement as International Women's Day, March 8, approaches. (Call photo)

## ANGOLA'S LESSON

# FIGHT BOTH SUPERPOWERS

Over the past few months, world attention has been focused on Angola and the contention of the two superpowers there.

Like the period before World War II—when Italy invaded Ethiopia, Japan invaded China, and Hitler tested his air force in Spain—the Angolan situation of today is a case of the big powers testing their strength for ultimate confrontation with each other.

Because of superpower aggression, the just liberation struggle of the Angolan people has been sabotaged and turned into a state of civil war. The Soviet Union, like fascist Germany before it, is a "latecomer" to the imperialist feast, which the U.S. imperialists have been enjoying for some time. As such, it has shown a special aggressiveness in Angolan intervention.

As the complex events in Angola have developed, *The Call* has tried to write about them with the

overall understanding that 1) both superpowers and all foreign powers must get out of Angola and cease their schemes to wreck Angolan national unity; and 2) the Angolan people must be allowed to exercise their self-determination free from foreign intervention.

This position has been explained through the pages of *The Call*, at October League forums and other public events. In this article, we try to summarize the answers to the questions that have come up in the course of this debate and in the letters we have received:

You have stated that the three Angolan liberation organizations "have more in common than they have differences," and that the two superpowers are to be blamed for wrecking Angolan unity and causing civil war. How do you support this?

The long struggle against Portuguese colonialism in Angola produced three organizations taking up arms to fight the colonialists—MPLA, FNLA, and UNITA. These three groups did not agree on a wide range of issues, and in fact, had very sharp differences. But the main strategic question during

this period was waging the fight against colonialism, and all three groups played a role in this fight. All three liberated large areas of the countryside from Portuguese control. The map of Angola on the day the Portuguese left last November shows that UNITA controlled approximately 50% of the country, FNLA 30% and MPLA 20%. They gained control of these areas through armed struggle against the Portuguese and mobilization of the masses.

In the course of these battles, the three groups suffered some 20,000 losses with each group bearing a share of the martyrs. These facts show that all three groups represented a section of the Angolan people and fought in their interests for liberation.

Despite the political differences between the groups, they often met to negotiate principles of unity in the fight. Most importantly, they met in Alvor, Portugal, in 1975 to work out plans for a transitional government to run the country prior to the November independence. All three groups were represented in this government, and the government carried out united work for some months. All three were recognized by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). They all affirmed in writing that they should struggle for unity and against sectarian-

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## WE GO WEEKLY MAY 1ST!

The first issue of the new, weekly *Call/Clarín* will be dated May 1, 1976. It will be off the press in time for distribution on the First of May, International Workers' Day.

Both from the symbolic and the practical points of view, May Day is the most appropriate birthday for the first U.S. Marxist-Leninist newspaper in two decades to begin weekly publication. The change from the present monthly publication to the weekly will be a big step forward in the struggle to build a new communist party and to lead the working class and all oppressed people in the U.S. to emancipation.

The work of publishing the monthly *Call/Clarín* for the last three years has laid a solid foundation for the upcoming weekly. The number of readers, contributors and *Call* sustainers is rapidly increasing. *Call* Committees have

been expanding, while a recent development is the formation of *Comités Clarín* (Spanish language *Call* Committees). We have far more usable articles and letters than we can print each month. There has been solid progress in our financial drive, reflecting the seriousness of *Call* sustainers' commitment to the newspaper. We approach May First with full confidence in the support of the masses and with enthusiasm for the challenges ahead.

Making the shift from the monthly to the weekly will, obviously, bring a whole new tempo into the work of the paper and of all who are connected with it in any way. But the weekly will not be merely a monthly that's published four times more often. It will also be, to a great extent, a different kind of publication.

This difference is what Lenin was pointing to when he said that

to build a new communist party, what was needed was a "newspaper worthy of the name," meaning one that "is issued regularly, not once a month like a magazine, but four times a month."

Everyone who has followed *The Call/El Clarín* for some time knows that a monthly can't stay on top of the news as it happens. Headlines and stories all too often must deal with "hot" struggles that have grown "cold" by the time the paper hits the factories and communities. Too often a public issue is more or less decided and closed before we have had a chance even to speak, at least with the weight of our newspaper. The strength of the monthly has been in raising the theoretical level and clarifying the general issues by looking back on events and summing them up.

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CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPORT  
**ON TO THE PARTY ...P.11**  
SECCION EN ESPAÑOL

# EDITORIALS

## MARCH AT THE U.N. ON WOMEN'S DAY

International Women's Day activities will take place across the country the weekend of March 6-7. The focal point, this year like last year, will be New York City, where the October League has joined with other anti-imperialist forces to build a March 7 demonstration at the United Nations.

The main demands of the New York demonstration will be:

FULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN!  
DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!  
SUPPORT THE STRUGGLES OF THE THIRD WORLD PEOPLES!  
END SUPERPOWER WAR PREPARATIONS!

All who agree with these demands are welcome to participate in this event. As of this writing, more than a dozen organizations have joined in. A number of the speakers, including the representative of the October League, will expose the role of both superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR, as the main oppressors of women and other people all over the world.

This year's Women's Day events, as in the past, raise the crucial question: who are the friends and who are the enemies of women—particularly working class and oppressed national minority women—in the struggle for equality and freedom?

Last year the revisionists of the "Communist" Party, U.S.A., created a stir when they suddenly, for the first time in decades, called for a demonstration on Women's Day and posed as friends of the women's struggle.

The actual conduct of the revisionist party showed clearly that they are not interested in fighting for women's equality: Their only aim is getting a foothold in the women's movement and twisting it toward support for Soviet social-imperialist aggression around the world, and for dead-end reformism here at home.

Not by coincidence the revisionists last year counterposed their demonstration to the anti-imperialist Women's Day march initiated by the October League. The revisionists' action was nothing more than an attempt to divert the movement of women from the anti-imperialist path.

Last year a number of centrist forces such as the Guardian newspaper, joined by Workers' Viewpoint Organization, jumped in with the revisionist-led demonstration at Union Square and refused to take part in the anti-imperialist march at the UN. The main reason they gave at that time is that "the masses" would be at the revisionist-led demonstration.

This year events have taken an unexpected turn, exposing the centrists and revisionists even more clearly. In mid-February, after long internal squabbling and wrangling, the revisionist-led coalition suddenly broke up when the revisionist party withdrew. Instead of a march, the revisionists will retreat indoors to hold a film show.

With the revisionist party back to its normal neglect of International Women's Day, the road would seem

clear for the centrist forces to join the anti-imperialist demonstration at the UN. At least, last year's argument about going with "the masses" to the revisionist-led march won't do. There isn't a revisionist march. So why not unite in the anti-imperialist action?

It seems natural, but that isn't how the centrist leaders reason. Instead of joining with the anti-imperialists they are setting up a separate, splittist demonstration of their own, just as the revisionists did last year. They are following in the revisionists' footsteps exactly.

What's the reason? It isn't hard to see. It's the fact that at the anti-imperialist rally there will be speakers who will expose and denounce the role of Soviet social-imperialism as an enemy of the world's people—particularly the third world people—on a par with U.S. imperialism itself; who will argue forcefully and persuasively that to stand in solidarity with the people of the third world fighting for liberation and independence means to oppose both imperialist superpowers, not just the U.S. Speakers will show, moreover, that the oppression of women in the USSR gives that superpower no more right than U.S. imperialism to pose as a friend of the struggle for women's rights and all people's freedom.

The centrist leaders want to shield their followers from this consistent anti-imperialist message. But the only ones they are shielding are the Soviet social-imperialists and the revisionist party.

The struggle for the emancipation of women cannot be separated from the overall struggle against the principal enemies of the world's people, the two superpowers who head up the imperialist system. We call on all who are concerned with the liberation of women and of all other oppressed and exploited people, to join the anti-imperialist Women's Day demonstration at the United Nations March 7.

## NIXON TRIP A TIMELY REMINDER

Former President Richard Nixon's return visit to China is a timely reminder that progress toward normalization of U.S. relations with China has been lagging.

Four years ago, Nixon and the late Premier Chou En-lai signed the historic Shanghai Communique, putting U.S. policy toward China at long last on a more realistic footing. "The normalization of relations between the two countries," the Shanghai Communique correctly says, "is not only in the interest of the Chinese and American peoples, but also contributes to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the world."

Since that time U.S.-China relations have improved on the whole. But they are still far from normal, with the U.S. militarily occupying Taiwan, an island which all the world including the U.S. government recognizes is an integral part of China.

The Ford and Kissinger administration, however, is not showing much energy in making good the pledges contained in the Shanghai Communique. Ford was mealy-mouthed on the issues during his China trip last December, and the administration is clearly stalling on the Taiwan issue.

Who benefits from this footdragging? The handful of diehard backers of the old Chiang Kai-shek clique among the U.S. ruling circles, for one. But by far the biggest beneficiaries are the no less reactionary revisionist rulers in Moscow, who have a deep-seated interest in undermining the spirit of the Shanghai Communique and in sabotaging U.S.-China normalization. By trying to appease these forces, the Ford-Kissinger administration is acting directly against the best interests of the U.S. people.

Implementation of the Shanghai Communique is all the more urgent today because of the growing war clouds on the horizon, which no Big Lie about "detente" can conceal.

Nixon is returning to China as a private citizen without direct influence on U.S. policy. But his trip does raise the question of normalization again as a public issue. If Ford and Kissinger are irritated at this, as has been reported, they have no one but themselves to blame.

Normalization of U.S.-China relations is too important to be swept under the rug. The Nixon visit will give the question a fresh airing, and that is all to the good.

## STOP EXTRADITION OF DENNIS BANKS

Native American Indian leader Dennis Banks has been arrested in California and is facing possible extradition to Oregon where he was indicted Dec. 22 for firearms violations.

The FBI had been after Banks since August when he failed to appear for sentencing on a conviction by an all-white jury which found him guilty of "riot" and "assault" during a demonstration in Custer, South Dakota. That demonstration was in response to the wanton murder of an Indian, one in a long series of recent murders, beatings, jailings and other forms of harassment of those engaged in the Indian rights struggle in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Banks was arrested in the home of Lehman Brightman, a Sioux Indian educator. Brightman was also jailed by FBI agents and faces charges of "harboring a federal fugitive."

If extradited to Oregon, it seems certain that Banks will be transported back to South Dakota immediately. "I will be killed there," Banks asserted. "South Dakota is the most racist, the most unjust state in the union. An Indian can't get a fair trial there," he added.

Although Banks was convicted in Custer, it was by an all-white jury and on the flimsiest of evidence. In fact the Custer trial showed that the demonstration in question was turned into a riot through the provocation of local and Bureau of Indian Affairs police. "The Custer case was a political case, and I consider myself a political prisoner," said Banks.

The trial and conviction of Dennis Banks as well as Russell Means and other Indian leaders on charges stemming from the Indian rights struggle are part of the legacy of oppression against all native peoples that came with the rise of capitalism. If extradited to Oregon and then to South Dakota, Banks faces more mistreatment, torture and possibly even death at the hands of the police.

We demand that Banks, Lehman Brightman, Russell Means and the countless other Indian freedom fighters be released from this country's prisons. Demonstrations have been called in some cities to protest Banks' extradition. These demonstrations should be supported. The Native American struggle for national rights is a just struggle and is bound to win victory.

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LOS ANGELES ACTIVISTS battle deportations similar to that of Mario Molina. (Call photo)

## Baltimore Workers Defend Militant Honduran Deportee

Baltimore, Md.—At 6:00 a.m., Friday, February 6, immigration agents came to the Owings Mill plant of the Maryland Cup Corporation and arrested Mario Molina. Mario had been working there as a forklift operator for over 18 months. The immigration agents knew exactly where Mario was working and they whisked him off without any of his fellow workers knowing a thing and locked him up. After three days in jail, he was deported to his home country, Honduras.

### A LEADING FIGHTER

Mario had been in the U.S. for five years. He had just bought a new car the day before and he and his fiancée were just starting payments on a house. At Maryland Cup Co., Mario was one of the leading fighters for the people, risking deportation to fight for a union in the plant. He was also active in the Baltimore Fightback Committee, and was working with them to organize against deportations.

Mario's deportation was not an isolated incident. In the last months a renewed deportation campaign has hit cities across the country in a big way.

In Brooklyn, New York, 40 restaurant workers were picked up in February in a raid called "one of the largest operations of its kind." The workers came from no less

than 10 different countries including Haiti, Panama, Jamaica, Ecuador, Chile and Nigeria. They were earning between \$1.50 and \$2.00 an hour.

At Chicago's O'Hare Airport the INS has set up dragnet operations to replace roadblock checks which were ruled illegal. Under the new system, agents check plane loads of passengers arriving from Los Angeles and other Southwestern cities for "illegals." This kind of operation netted 78 arrests out of 134 passengers on a recent flight from Los Angeles.

To muster support for the campaign, the Immigration Service has been joined by newspapers, government agencies and corrupt union leaders in spreading the lie that "illegals" are strike breakers and the cause of low wages and unemployment. Mario's militancy and courage in fighting for his fellow workers proves them wrong.

In Baltimore where Mario was arrested, regular news commentaries encourage deportations and stress the supposed loss of jobs to American workers. Spot TV ads have featured the president of National Can Co. calling for deportations. This propaganda has been combined with night raids on the communities of foreign born workers and a wave of deportations.

At Maryland Cup the workers have seen the deportations cam-

paign for what it is—a desperate attempt to find a scapegoat for continued high unemployment to shift the blame for the economic crisis off the capitalists themselves where it really belongs, and a vicious attack against working class fighters. When Mario's friends at Maryland Cup discovered what had happened, they immediately went down to the Federal Building with Mario's mother and his fiancée. Immigration officials told them that Mario was to be sent to Florida immediately and then on to Honduras.

The Maryland Cup workers then called on the Baltimore Fight-Back Committee for help. A picket line was set up to protest the deportation. The immigration officials finally agreed to let Mario stay in the U.S. until the following Monday so that his fiancée could get a passport and go with him to Honduras. But they agreed to do this only if the demonstration was called off; they didn't want any more people to know what they were doing to Mario.

### WORKERS' LEAFLET

When they returned to work that night, the Maryland Cup employees passed out a leaflet which said in part, "Why is Mario being deported? Did Maryland Cup Co. set up the deportation like they did at their Boston plant? Did it have anything to do with his union activities, or his work with the Baltimore Fightback Committee? We believe that the Maryland Cup Co. and the government are responsible for Mario's deportation. This outrage shows what the government campaign against foreign workers is all about. Mario and millions of other workers like him are forced to leave their homeland, because the U.S. corporations and government have robbed the underdeveloped countries of all their wealth and left the people in poverty. When they come to the U.S., they get the same here. Then the government and the companies try to use deportations to bust union drives, to terrorize foreign-born workers, and to make foreign-born workers the scapegoats for the economic crisis. This is the bosses' and politicians' 'answer' to the crisis. Our answer should be for all workers, American and foreign-born, to unite and fight back!"

Since Mario's return to Honduras, the Maryland Cup workers are continuing their campaign against Mario's and all deportations. They are demanding that he be allowed to return and that he get his job back with full seniority.

that he had "no permanent address."

After Bornson and his friend Davis entered the food stamp office, he read a statement attacking the welfare system and calling for more aid to those in need. He said, "I stole money to buy gas to get here this morning. I've been selling my blood twice a week, and we've been living on one meal a day for two months. I'm not a criminal but I'll do what I must to take care of my family."

The Bornson family is now receiving welfare and food stamps. But because of the courage of Bornson and Davis, the government is trying to put them in prison for over 20 years. Efforts to build a defense case are underway.

This incident is a burning indictment of the capitalist system that would starve a family to death—and an inspiration to us all in fighting back!

## FACE 21 YEARS FOR FOODSTAMP PROTEST

Portland, Ore.—On Feb. 6, two migrant workers—Thomas Bornson and Lonnie Davis—entered the foodstamp facility here in their last attempt to get assistance for Bornson's starving family.

They entered the office and held food stamp officials hostage until their demands were broadcast on television and met by the authorities. Their demands were for food stamps, welfare, and medical attention for Bornson's sick 10-month-old child. After a three-hour occupation, their demands were met. But Bornson and Davis now face a total of 21 years in prison for "kidnapping and menacing."

For several months, the Bornson family had lived in a trailer park, and though constantly looking for work, Bornson had been unable to get a job. Each time he applied for public assistance, he was told by officials that "he didn't fill out the forms properly" or

# UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY NOW!

As *The Call* goes to press, hundreds of demonstrations and public meetings are taking place across the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe as part of National Amnesty Week, Feb. 22-28.

Organized by the National Council for Universal and Unconditional Amnesty, a broad coalition of over 100 organizations, these actions are demanding complete amnesty for the nearly 2 million war resisters of the Vietnam era.

Part of this effort is the fight to upgrade the "less-than-honorable" discharges to honorable that 637,000 mainly working class and minority G.I.s received during the Vietnam war. These bad discharges have the effect of denying ex-soldiers the veterans' benefits which are their right, and are viewed by potential employers as a criminal record. The "less-than-honorable" discharges were given out by the top military brass wholesale in a futile attempt to stem the tide of resistance within the armed

## Says Nanny Washburn: 'CAPITALISM KILLED MY SON'

Atlanta, Ga.—"The capitalist system killed my son." These were the words of Nanny Washburn as her son William Young was buried on February 1. William, who was only 59, died of cancer on January 30.

William, a house painter, was well known by many workers and activists in Atlanta as a selfless man who never hesitated to help others in need. William was active in the fight-back in Atlanta, and though ill at the time, helped organize the Southwide Fightback Conference in Eastabuchie, Miss., last fall.

It was this illness which prompted William to go to the hospital for a medical checkup. Because he was without medical insurance, the hospital only agreed to perform a partial checkup. This partial examination detected signs of cancer in his lung but failed to detect any cancerous development in his brain (where it was starting to spread). Williams' lung was operated on and a lobe removed.

forces to U.S. aggression in Vietnam. National Amnesty Week is raising the demand for a single-type discharge for all veterans.

Pointing out the international scope of Amnesty Week, one organizer told *The Call* that there would be demonstrations outside the U.S. embassy in London all week, and that a series of public meetings would be held in France, Sweden, and Canada.

The large support for Amnesty Week demonstrates the complete unacceptability of President Ford's so-called "amnesty" program, which punished the courageous men and women who refused to participate in U.S. aggression in Vietnam as "criminals," attempting to make them "pay" with up to two years of forced labor.

These men and women are not criminals. They rebelled against an unjust imperialist war. It is in this context that people should support the demand for universal and unconditional amnesty as a just struggle.

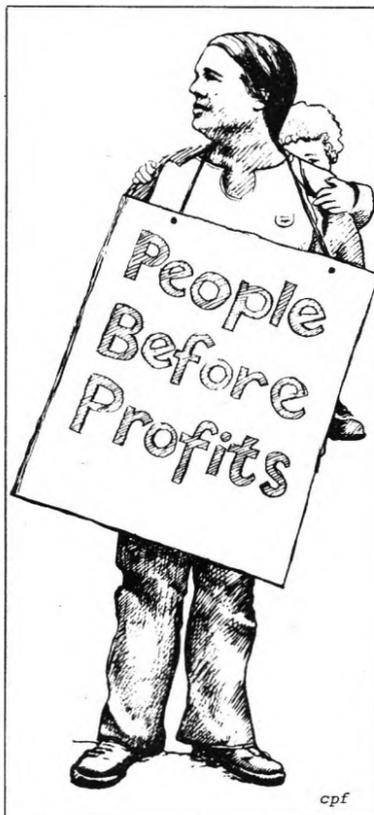
Following the operation (which cost \$1,800—all of William's life savings), the doctor informed him that all the cancer had been removed but that he would have to come back weekly for the very expensive cobalt treatments. The doctor told William that the treatments would have to be paid on a weekly basis. When William asked if a longer term payment plan could be worked out, the doctor told him he should try to go back to work "in a few weeks."

A month later William was dead.

Another physician informed Nanny that the removal of the lobe from William's lung was premature and aggravated the condition in his brain. If they had examined William thoroughly before operating, the cancer could have been contained for a longer period of time or possibly removed.

Nanny Washburn, a long-time communist fighter and herself a registered nurse said, "If medical services in this country were based on people's needs instead of profit, William would be alive today." She went on to compare the situation in hospitals to that in the textile mills which she started working in at the age of 8. "In the mills, we'd each get a piece of cloth to cut on; no matter how much we'd cut, it wasn't never fast enough for the boss. The more cloth we'd cut, the more profit the mill owners would make. Those hospitals are just like assembly lines, they're more interested in how much money they can make off you instead of trying to heal you."

Nanny, who visited a number of hospitals during a trip to the People's Republic of China, went on to say, "If we had socialism in this country like they do in China, this kind of murder wouldn't happen. In China, the workers control medical services and you get treated with respect. Look at Premier Chou En-lai, even though his cancer was malignant, he was able to keep working in the service of the people for years."



# PLANTATION SYSTEM STILL LIVES

The trial of Cheryl Todd and Dessie X Woods (see story on front page) throws a searchlight on the present-day conditions in the Black Belt South. The article below draws on a work report by a Todd-Woods defense-organizer who is a member of the Atlanta Workers Defense Committee and of the October League.

Hawkinsville, Ga.—Hawkinsville is located in Wheeler County in the central region of Georgia. Wheeler County, with a total population of approximately 7,000, is listed by the 1970 census as having a "30 to 49.9%" Black population. The organizer begins his report with a vivid description of the peoples' situation in the Hawkinsville area:

"The situation in Hawkinsville, Ga., can best be described as extensive national oppression. The unemployment rate among Blacks is very high and the living conditions are miserable. The population is about 3,000—half Black and half white. With the exception of one Black (a small businessman), no other Blacks own or control any of the land, natural resources or means of production."

The Black population, the organizer writes, "...is exempt from political power," and "...used solely for the purpose of rural agricultural (pulpwood, produce, cotton, pecans, etc.) wage slaves."

Throughout his report, the organizer contradicts the imperialist and revisionist lies about the so-called "New South" and the "great advances of industrialization."

"This section of south Georgia has many large landowners, but locally, John Wesley Dawson is one of the biggest and most notorious. His thousands of acres are dotted with the shacks of Afro-American sharecroppers. The shacks stand out in sharp contrast to nearly a million dollars worth of farm machinery clustered around Dawson's house. Histori-

cally, small farmers in the South get in debt to the banks and must surrender their land. Dawson is the founder of the Hawkinsville 'Planters' Bank.'

"Living and working conditions of the sharecroppers speak best to the continued economic slavery. They're paid once a year, with credit given them at Dawson's store and rent subtracted from their earnings. One cropper told us that he didn't really know how much he made, that his boss did the figuring.

"Up until a few years ago, Dawson kept a private jail for 'his people.' When they would be arrested in town, he would come and get them to lock them up again in his jail. Although croppers hesitate to talk for fear of losing their livelihoods, we also learned that Dawson's son recently tied a cropper to a tree and savagely beat him.

"The plantation system is very much alive," he writes, "and I witnessed several plantations—where the Blacks work ten hours a day, a dollar an hour, 10 dollars a day. The white 'slavemaster' owns the land that the 'slaves' live on ... the children very seldom attend school, only to grow up illiterate as their parents before them. Alcoholism and drug addiction among Blacks is unbelievable."

The Black people of Wheeler County, Georgia are not passively accepting the oppressive conditions they live under. They have demonstrated their willingness to fight. Our correspondent



DEFENSE ORGANIZERS build support for Todd-Woods. (Call photo)

notes that "When we arrived and explained what we were doing, the response was, 'You all should have come long ago—this is just what Hawkinsville needs!'"

Many local people joined and supported the Hawkinsville Defense Committee and aided in the distribution of hundreds of flyers about the Todd-Woods case throughout Wheeler County. The organizer writes that the young people were particularly active:

"In spite of the repression from the racist principal, many Black students from the high schools began to tape the leaflets to their clothes and wear them in classes. The Student Government Association at Fort Valley State College (an all-Black school near Hawkinsville) organized car caravans to the trial and made arrangements for me to speak in several classrooms and to an assembly of about 400 students."

White workers are hurting, too. How many times has the old threat of "if you don't like the pay and working conditions, we

can always get a nigger to do the job" been heard when a white worker complained in Hawkinsville? But whites work next to Blacks in the unorganized plants, and are paid low wages and suffer the same bad working conditions.

Studying the report of the organizer in rural Georgia allows us to learn some valuable lessons about the character of the present-day struggle for Black liberation.

Wheeler County is part of a broad belt of about 90 counties in central Georgia which constitute part of the "Black Belt" region of the South. The term black comes from the color of the fertile soil there. It is in this area of the South that slavery and the plantation system developed its crops of cotton, rice, tobacco, peanuts and sugar. It is also in this area that, through centuries of oppression and resistance, the Afro-American people were welded together as an oppressed nation within the U.S.

Since the failure of Reconstruction, the national oppression of the Afro-American people has

continued unabated—changed only somewhat in form. In the last 30 to 40 years, there has been a tremendous out-migration of Black people from the Black Belt area—people in search of better jobs and to escape the intense national oppression. Wherever Blacks have settled in the urban areas outside the South, they continue to face discrimination and inequality in all spheres of life. This is because the national oppression has become an inherent feature of the U.S. imperialist system. Our organizer's report shows that the basic conditions which led to the development of Blacks as an oppressed nation in the South still exist.

The October League, at its Third Congress, passed a resolution on the Afro-American National Question which states in part:

"We must show how each instance of national oppression or 'violation' of basic democratic rights is linked to the historic oppression of Afro-American people as a nation" and further, that, "Understanding the historical roots and material basis for this oppression we raise the revolutionary solution to it—socialism and the right to self-determination."

The Todd-Woods defense is part of the growing multi-national Fight-Back movement sweeping the South and the rest of the country. Coupled with the rapid advances of the October League and other Marxist-Leninists towards the building of a new communist party, this new wave of struggle signals the development of the revolutionary forces that will bring the downfall of the imperialist system and its policy of national oppression.

## CONDITIONS 'GETTING WORSE' --URBAN LEAGUE REPORTS

Are the conditions getting better or worse for Black people in the U.S.? The report on the state of Black America released last month by the National Urban League substantiates that the conditions of Black people are getting worse and that the few gains won during the civil rights movement of the '60s have all but disappeared.

The report noted that the State of the Union message by President Ford omitted all mention of the plight of Black people while the report of his Democratic Party rival Edmund Muskie failed to make any real commitment to racial equality.

The report also points out that no recent year "has been more destructive to the progress of Blacks than 1975." Among the facts used to back up this charge are:

\*The median family income of a Black family has declined to only 58% of that of a white family income.

\*White women have a life expectancy 5.4 years longer than Black women while the gap between Black and white men is a full six years. The death rate related to childbirth and pregnancy is four times greater for Blacks than for whites.

\*When account was taken of discouraged workers and workers holding part-time jobs as well as people looking for jobs they could not find, more than one-quarter

of the Black work force was unemployed throughout 1975. By the same standard, the League found that "over half of all Black workers in many poverty areas were unemployed during the past year, while over two-thirds of the teen-agers could not find jobs."

\*The number of Black families with two breadwinners has declined significantly during the current depression. The "two breadwinner" theory has been used by many to prove the increasing affluence of the Black family.

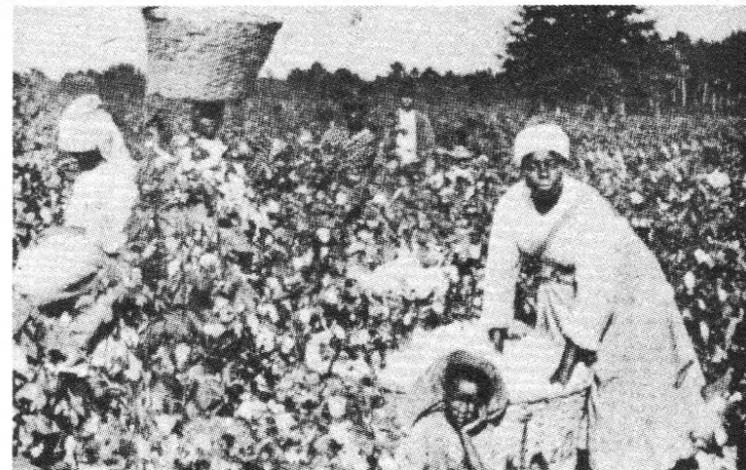
The list of statistics goes on and on but one thing rings out clearly. The national oppression faced by the masses of Black people in this country is intensifying in spite of the rose-colored talk of the politicians, liberal and conservative alike in this Bicentennial year.

The report could well have pointed out that these worsening conditions are rooted in the fabric of the capitalist system itself, a system which is based upon national and class oppression and one which has grown up and thrived on the suffering of Black people and other minorities.

The growth of industrialization has not meant more prosperity to the Black masses. This development has only presented itself as a heavier weight which Black people have had to bear.

The economic inequality is

based upon political subjugation. As long as Black people or all working people for that matter, are without political power, exploitation and oppression will remain a worsening reality. So long as Black people suffer as an oppressed nation under the heel of the domination of the white power structure of the monopoly capitalists, they will lack the political self-determination necessary to place them on an equal footing with whites.



PLANTATION SYSTEM is still widespread in the South.

## FREE TODD & WOODS! ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

among the Black and poor white townspeople to the iron rule of the plantation owners. The defense of Woods and Todd is part of the struggle of Afro-American people for self-determination and political power in the Black Belt.

A Hawkinsville Defense Committee, initiated by organizers from the October League, the Atlanta Workers Defense Committee and the Communist Youth Organization, did extensive mobilizing in support of Todd and Woods. The regular demonstrations outside the courthouse and heavy attendance at the trial itself by militant supporters undoubtedly were the major factor in winning acquittal on the murder charges.

While recognizing that militant support for Cheryl Todd and Des-

sie X Woods had resulted in a partial victory, the people were justifiably outraged when the guilty verdict on theft and manslaughter charges was announced. Mary Joyce Johnson, one of the attorneys for the defense and an Atlanta activist, told *The Call* what happened in the courtroom as the verdicts were announced:

"Dessie Woods stood up defiantly, telling the jury members that they 'had been tricked' and repeating that they were innocent of any wrongdoing." Johnson described how the judge kept absolutely still after Woods' outburst, not daring to accuse her of contempt of court. The courtroom was packed with angry Blacks, said Johnson, "and one false move by the judge and that town would have blown up."

The movement to free Cheryl Todd and Dessie X Woods is far from over. While winning a partial victory, the defense is appealing the case to the Georgia State Court of Appeals. But while Todd is free on appeal bond, Woods is currently being held in the Milledgeville prison for women in South Georgia. The key factor, though, in continued efforts to win the unconditional acquittal and release of Todd and Woods will be mass actions and mobilizations on the part of workers both Black and white. To help build this urgent support, several organizations including the October League, the Black Women's United Front, the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and the National Fight-Back Organization are continuing to take up the two women's defense.

# BOSTON STRUGGLE SHARPENS MINORITY YOUTH ORGANIZE

Boston, Mass.—The struggle against the segregationist movement in Boston continues to sharpen. Judge Garrity's do-nothing decision to place South Boston High under receivership while keeping it open and increasingly segregated, has made it clear that the main task of the anti-segregationist forces is to build a strong organization based in the factories and involving forces from all classes of the minority communities.

Around this need, two important struggles among minority students are developing. Black students have formed the core of a multi-national community-wide coalition of workers and students to oppose segregation, while Latino students have called a successful boycott with support of many parents and community groups.

Only one day after Judge Garrity handed down his decision last December, violence broke out with such intensity that a Black student was thrown through a glass window. Two weeks later another student was jumped by two racists inside the school and then arrested for defending himself.

It's clear that the courts have totally failed to prevent ROAR forces (the main segregationist organization in Boston) from spreading terrorism within the schools against minority students and any white students who dare to defy ROAR's racist maneuvers.

There is nothing to insure that Black students will be protected in the south Boston schools or that Latino students will receive a quality bilingual, bicultural program, or

that more minority teachers and aides will be hired. The safety, cultural and educational needs of Black, Latino, Asian and white students attending the school haven't been dealt with by the courts, by the School Committee, or by the city council. Only the masses, strengthened by their own organizations, have fought for these rights. Such mass organizations must go hand in hand with any busing efforts.

In response to the courts' blatant disregard for student safety and for ROAR's continued presence within the schools, Black and Latino students at South Boston High have taken the first important steps towards building strong student and worker, community-based organizations.

On Jan. 12, 25 of the 35 Latino students attending South Boston High called a boycott to protest the abusive conditions they've had to face and the lack of any bilingual, bicultural program in the school. Unlike the racist-led boycott, minority students support integration and busing but are demanding greater steps towards equality and safety in the school itself.

Exemplifying the inequality in the school, the School Committee required that all Spanish-speaking students participating

in the bilingual program be in one classroom with one teacher all day long regardless of their grade level. This requirement means that students are receiving instruction that does not necessarily correspond to their educational level. It means that none of them receive instruction in math or science and that they may not participate in sports or art activities that involve the rest of the students. Even within the school their education is segregated! In addition to these abuses they are not even allowed to speak Spanish among themselves in the halls.

The students, organized into the Movimiento Estudiantil Hispano de South Boston, have raised several demands not only to defend their right to a quality education but to "support all demands raised by Black, white, Asian and other communities for a better quality education as long as they do not serve to increase racism and further divide the poor." In their efforts, they have been consistently backed by an organized group of parents which has increased their strength in maintaining a boycott until conditions at the school are changed.

The Latino community is not alone in the struggle. One of the most important developments in the students' fight-back over the past month has been the formation of a coalition built around a core of Black students with the help of the Communist Youth Organization (CYO). The Coalition of Workers and Students against Segregation is composed of Black and Latino students and their parents as well as a number of other progressive groups and individuals. The coalition states that the segregationist movement headed by ROAR has served to degrade the education of white students as well as minorities, and that this racist movement serves to divide the unity of white and Black workers in the shops

preventing a common fight-back against the crisis. Segregation therefore holds back the rights of all workers. The coalition has established factory, student and parent committees and has called for the shutting down of South Boston High if minority students cannot be protected.

The coalition has been most effective in advancing the Black students' struggle within the school. It organized support for a Black student who was put on trial for trying to defend himself against an unprovoked attack by two white students (who were never arrested). The coalition has continued to provide the Black students with the help and support they need to rebuild the Black student caucus, which was destroyed last year by the relentless harassment and attacks by ROAR.

Already a core of Black students calling themselves Young Equal Rights Workers have undertaken the task of organizing students in the school. They have drawn up a list of demands and have called two boycotts. An action on Jan. 29 involved a walk-out by 30 students in support of demands presented to the principal by two students. According to a student who presented the demands, the principal "just looked at it and threw it down." He promptly suspended the two students.

Under attack from ROAR forces as well as the government, only 142 Black students remain at South Boston High out of 375 who entered at the beginning of the school year. The rest were literally driven out. But the student fight-back is growing stronger because for the first time minority students have begun meeting together, supporting each others' just demands and building the kinds of organization that are needed to wage the struggle.

## 'ONE-WAY BUSING' HURTS BLACK CINCINNATI SCHOOLS

Cincinnati, Ohio—The city of Cincinnati is trying to build its image as "Convention City U.S.A." One of the main aspects of this drive is to tear down and destroy the city's Black neighborhoods of Avondale and the West End. Currently this destruction is taking the form of an attempt by the Cincinnati School Board to shut down public schools in these Black communities.

This attack has not gone on without resistance. Parents, students, teachers, clergymen and teachers' aides have formed a group to demand that the School Board fix up the schools, not tear them down.

The group has made it clear that they are not opposed to busing and that they support the NAACP suit to desegregate the Cincinnati schools. But, as one spokesman for the group told *The Call*: "What we're opposed to is one-way busing. We demand that the School Board fix up our schools so that white middle-class kids will come here."

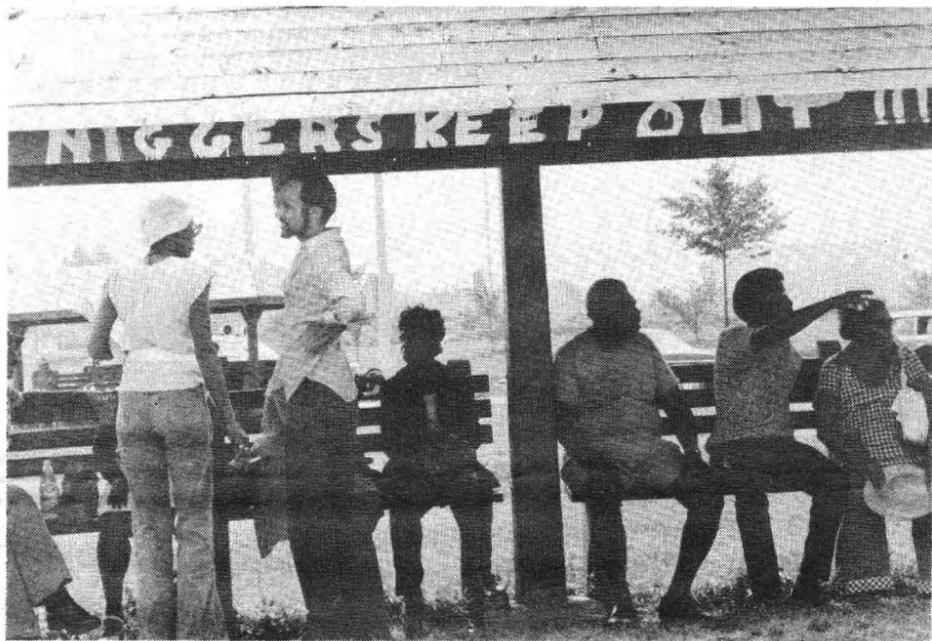
The School Board is trying to dissolve the organized resistance by sending in two so-called "liberal" School Board members to confuse the issue. At a recent meeting of angry parents and students, the School

Board tried to justify the school closings by saying that the school district was losing 3,000 students a year and that the schools were "underutilized."

"And why do you think you are losing students?" demanded an angry mother. She pointed out that students in the West End lack physical education facilities, until two years ago had no band or chorus because there was no music teacher, that the buildings are run down, and that many students don't even have school books!

Tom Murray of the School Board responded with the unbelievable statement that the loss of students had nothing to do with dropouts but was the result of a drastic drop in the Black birth rate in Cincinnati six years ago, when students who entered school last year were born. Outraged people cut him off, pointing out that six years ago the Black birth rate in Cincinnati rose 4½%.

The group is determined to continue organizing against the school closings and attempts to destroy their community and to join up with other groups to fight similar attacks on other Black neighborhoods.



BOSTON'S BLACK COMMUNITY has continued the struggle for integration in spite of sharp racist attacks. Pictured above is the fight to de-segregate Carson Beach last summer. (Call Photo)

## ROAR THUGS ATTACK FIGHT-BACK OFFICE

Boston, Mass.—Four ROAR thugs attacked the office of the Boston Workers United to Fight Back (BWUFB) early in the morning of January 18. They poured gasoline on the front door, and broke into the office itself. Interrupted by a passing car, they first tried to intimidate the passers-by by telling them to mind their own business. After a fight broke out, they tried to escape, but were apprehended by the police.

On February 12th, the four were arraigned in Dorchester on charges of arson. The courtroom was filled with green shamrock-wearing ROAR members. The witnesses, clearly afraid, were suddenly unable to identify the defendants as the men they had seen at the crime. In spite of this, the court found sufficient evidence to bring the men to trial in March.

The attempted torching came the evening after a meeting of 60 people at the Fight-Back office, on Martin Luther King's birthday, Jan. 17. The meeting commemorated Dr. King's death by bringing together workers, students and parents of many nationalities into a Coalition Against Segregation. According to a member of the Coalition: "Our aim is to drive the segregationist movement, led by ROAR, out of our shops, schools, and communities. This movement is led by the rich, and works to divide the working class just when it most needs unity."

The week before this meeting, 35 members of the BWUFB had organized a motorcade to South Boston, in order to appear in court to support a Black student who had been set up for attack and then arrested. ROAR had responded to this by hastily calling up 30 goons to the courtroom; but the supporters left with court-ordered police protection, after telling the judge that if ROAR wanted to fight, there would be 75 people fighting outside the court.

It is clear that the attempt to burn the Fight-Back office is the response of ROAR fascists, afraid of the growing opposition to them throughout Boston.

The Fight-Back has continued to take up the struggle. In early February, Fight-Back members went to the aid of a Black family under attack since they moved into Dorchester. When the family chose to move, 25 members of the Fight-Back brought the furniture to the Fight-Back office until a new apartment could be found.

On the day of the trial for arson, Fight-Back members made contact with another Black family under similar attack. This family has announced its plans to stay and fight back, and the BWUFB will organize support for them to do this. The Fight-Back plans to take this entire struggle to the people of Dorchester through leaflets and door-to-door work, exposing the role of ROAR and calling on the community to kick ROAR out.



## TESTIMONIAL DINNER FOR HARRY HAYWOOD

AUTHOR OF 'NEGRO LIBERATION'

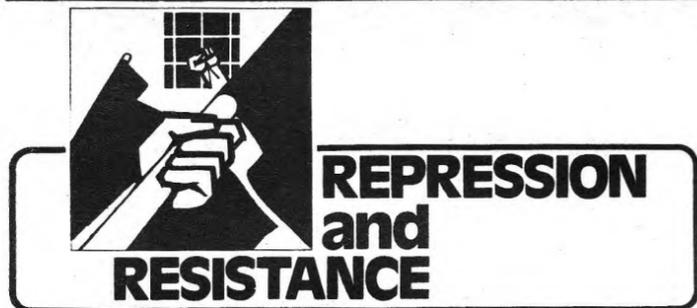
7:00 p.m. \$2.50 SATURDAY, MARCH 13

St. Margaret's Church  
2555 E. 73rd Street  
Chicago

This veteran fighter for Black liberation and socialism will be honored by his many friends and comrades for his contributions to the struggle.

Write Liberator Press  
Box 7128  
Chicago, Ill. 60680

Public Invited



## Lynching in Alabama

**Birmingham, Ala.**—An Afro-American worker was apparently lynched to death here last month, and authorities are trying to cover it up.

The body of James Wilkerson, a 47-year-old steadily employed maintenance man, was found Feb. 2 in a small wooded area behind Lloyd Nolan hospital in Fairfield, a working class suburb of Birmingham. Wilkerson was tied to a tree, suspended about a foot off the ground, and had been beaten and strangled.

The local police and coroner, following a long pattern of disregarding crimes against Black people, have so far refused to mount an investigation. They are making the ridiculous claim that Wilkerson's death was a case of "suicide." Birmingham's capitalist newspapers have spread this version and covered the case with silence.

The authorities and the capitalist newspapers have not asked the obvious question: how could Wilkerson tie himself to a tree and then strangle himself—or strangle himself and then tie himself to a tree? Wilkerson is plainly the victim of murder, and all the circumstances point to a Klan-style killing perpetrated with the aim of terrorizing the Afro-American people and their allies.

## Pinell Tells His Story

**Marin County Courthouse, Cal.**—Defendant Hugo Pinell of the San Quentin Six took the stand last month to tell his own story of the events leading up to the assassination of Black prison revolutionary George Jackson on August 21, 1971. The San Quentin Six—Johnny Spain, Luis Talamantez, David Johnson, Willie Tate, Fleeta Drumgo, and Pinell—face murder, conspiracy, and assault charges as a result of this incident which left three guards and two inmate trustees killed besides Jackson.

Pinell told the jury how guards pulled a gun on Jackson while he was returning from the visiting room. Since guards are not normally allowed guns inside the cell blocks, Jackson knew he was about to be killed. But he succeeded in getting the gun away from his attackers, and freeing the other prisoners on the tier.

A short time later, Pinell heard a shot outside the cell block and saw Jackson lying on his stomach attempting to crawl. Then, several more shots were fired by guards at close range in order to finish Jackson off. This, along with previous testimony by guards, further contradicts the prison officials' claim that Jackson was shot from the guard tower while "escaping."

Pinell's testimony is powerful support for defense efforts to show that the whole incident which led to the killings was the result of a murder conspiracy by guards, and prison and state officials directed at George Jackson, rather than an "escape attempt" by the San Quentin Six.

The assassination of Jackson was designed to deprive the surging prisoner movement of one of its most dedicated leaders. The frame-up of the San Quentin Six is a continuation of this effort. It is against this backdrop of political repression that people must demand freedom for the San Quentin Six.

## Free the Charlotte 3!

North Carolina authorities continue to hold the Charlotte 3 in prison, despite overwhelming evidence that Jim Grant, T.J. Reddy, and Charles Parker were deliberately framed for the "arson" of a horse stable. They were really sent to prison because of their militant Black activism, and are now serving 25, 20, and 10 years respectively.

It has been shown that the two chief prosecution "witnesses" in the case were bribed by federal and state agents to the tune of \$4,000 each to lie in front of the jury. When word of this leaked out and created a scandal, the Charlotte 3 filed an appeal for a new trial. But after 14 months of waiting, the court denied their appeal last September.

The Charlotte 3 have filed another appeal. Undeterred by the recent reverses in their struggle, they are continuing their fight for freedom.

## New Prisoner Organization

**Menard, Ill.**—A new organization of prisoners, operating both legally and underground, has been formed inside the state prison here recently. Its name, PRO-LAW, stands for Prisoners Rights Organization for the Liquidation/Arbitration of Wrongs.

Its goal is to unite the entire prison population in struggle against dehumanizing conditions, beatings, and other forms of oppression. Two of its major campaigns are to force the prison administration to recognize and establish a grievance procedure, collective bargaining rights, and the federal minimum wage for all inmate labor.

As one of its leaflets states, PRO-LAW calls for "the unity of all the various organizations and nationalities" in the fight against prison injustice. The formation and growth of PRO-LAW inside Menard Prison reflects the growing trend among prisoners across the country for multinational unity in their struggles against repression.

6—MARCH 1976—THE CALL

In practically every prison and detention camp in the U.S. today, one will find prisoners eagerly reading *The Call* and other revolutionary newspapers and poring over the classics of Marxism-Leninism. Sometimes secretly, other times openly, tattered newspapers and pamphlets are passed from one inmate to another so that many can gain inspiration from the growing peoples' struggles around the world.

Many inmates have written to *The Call* exposing the inhuman conditions in their prison and relating their experiences.

One inmate actively leading the struggle for a prisoners' union in a state prison writes:

"As for literature, I'm starving. I haven't had anything new since you last sent the OL pamphlets. I would appreciate anything you think best for our study, but I would prefer the classics of Marxism."

We've also been corresponding regularly with several members of a collective inside a federal prison. One of our correspondents writes:

"We have been trying to work out a study program for the collective here; therefore, my hands have been full. We are having a pretty hard time with materials, and right now there's no end to

# PRISONERS STUDY MARXISM

what we need. There are 17 brothers in our study group, and we are at a point now where we see a need for strengthening our ideological and organizational line."

Seeing how the study of revolutionary literature has coincided with the formation of organizations among active inmates, prison authorities have stopped at nothing in their rush to keep Marxism out of the prisons. In fact, prisoners have been thrown into solitary, beaten, and tortured for reading *The Call*. This hasn't stopped prisoners from studying *The Call* and other literature, though, as one inmate writes:

"I am locked up in the hole. They try to do everything to me...take my books on Marxism-Leninism. I haven't seen *The Call* in two months. We are having so much trouble here with the Man and the paper. We may not get this month's *Call*, but I will let you know. We will win, we got to win!!"

There is also the beginning of a network of writers and correspondents for *The Call* who not only distribute the paper, but provide

us with first-hand accounts of the struggles going on behind the walls.

"Just got the latest *Call* and glad to get it, and will by all means share it. I know the swine (prison officials) have been tampering with my mail. On Nov. 20th, I sent *The Call* the facts on the recent murder (it was not a "hanging") of a comrade named Willie "Gypsy" Adams. I again send you the facts. So keep on struggling and putting out the peoples' *Call*, and I'll (we'll) keep on writing. As I said before comrades, you have the full authorization to publish anything I write to you. I've but one voice and life, and can't lose either but once, so it doesn't really matter. These beasts have got to know they can never still all of us."

These are just a few of the letters we receive every week. The courage and determination of prisoners in studying the science of revolution has given us inspiration in our work, proving very graphically that the masses of people are hungry for revolution wherever they are.

## KLAN ROUTED WHILE SWP HIDES



COMMUNITY MOBILIZES to drive Klan out. (Call photo).

**New Orleans, La.**—While the operators of a so-called "leftist" bookstore covered behind their doors, the New Orleans Fightback Organization led a hastily-organized group of over 70 neighborhood residents, mainly Black, in a rout of a Ku Klux Klan mob that was demonstrating outside the store Feb. 1.

The N. O. Fightback Organization received a call that day from a member of the Latin American Support Committee telling them of a Klan picketline outside the Trotskyist Socialist Workers Party (SWP) bookstore. The Klan was shouting such slogans as "Niggers back to Africa."

The Fightback Organization rightly saw this Klan rally as an attack on Black people rather than against the SWP opportunists. So banners in hand, they

rushed to the community to mobilize more than 70 residents in less than 30 minutes for a counterattack. While their group included mainly the Black community people, the Latin American Support Committee and other organizations helped mobilize their forces for the confrontation with the KKK.

The people then marched around the block, gathering more people on their way, and challenged the Klan face-to-face.

Soon the Klan thugs, fearing the people's anger, had to flee with a police escort.

The demonstration was summed up on the spot by Fightback Organization members, who explained that the only way to deal

with such fascist attacks is to fight back with unity and organization. In contrast to this policy of forcefully defeating the fascists at every step, a spokesman from the SWP criticized the people for their militancy. He said, "The thing to do is ignore them and they'll go away."

However, this "passive retreat" approach by the SWP was clearly seen for what it was: a program for defeat. Having seen the success of their militant rout of the Klan, the community people cheered the Fightback Organization speakers and several people gave their names and addresses in order to stay in touch with the different activities and actions of the New Orleans Fightback Organization.

## BLACKS BATTLE RACIST MOB AT PENSACOLA SCHOOL

**Pensacola, Fla.**—Once again, a school has become the focus of fascist attacks against the hard-won rights of Black people.

On Feb. 6, a racist-organized mob of white students attacked Black students as they got off school buses at Escambia High School here. In the four-hour fight that followed, at least 30 students were injured, four by gunfire. Over 20 people were arrested and about 40 students were suspended. For the next week, more than 250 police including state troopers militarily occupied the school.

Escambia High is located in an all-white suburb of Pensacola. In the late 1950's, when the school

was built, the student body was all white. The school's team name was the "Rebels" and its symbol was the Confederate flag.

In 1972, after the school had been integrated, fighting broke out as Black students rebelled against racist treatment. The police responded with violent repression against the Black students. In 1974, a Federal Judge issued an injunction against the use of the name "Rebels." The school's name was changed to the "Raiders."

On Feb. 5, the majority of students at Escambia High voted to change the name back to the "Rebels." However, they failed to achieve the 2/3 majority required by the court. Many whites

voted with the Black students against the change. As the busses rolled up the next morning, filled with Black students, they were greeted by racist insults and taunts from the mob of white students.

For the next few hours, the Black students barricaded themselves inside the school and defended themselves from attack. Black parents who arrived to take their children home had to drive through a jeering mob to pick up their children. One shooting occurred as a Black family leaving the school was surrounded by rioting students and fired in self-defense. Throughout it all, it was plain to everyone that the cops were working with the rioting mob.

# STOP DISCRIMINATION IN STEEL ! CONSENT DECREE A HOAX !

By March 1, some 46,000 minority and women steelworkers will receive checks for a few hundred dollars each. The issuing of these checks is supposed to compensate for past discrimination in the mills.

As they endorse the checks, workers will sign away their right to sue the company for past practices of discrimination. The average amount paid to minority men is \$700, while the average paid to women will be about \$783.

The check distribution is the implementation of the Consent Decree, a deal made by I.W. ("No Strike") Abel, president of the United Steel Workers Union (USWA), the federal government and nine major steel companies. Its purpose is to undermine the militant fight-back against discrimination in the mills. In addition, Abel's office has recently admitted that an "undisclosed amount" of this back pay is coming from union funds. The Abel leadership has handed over workers' dues to help pay for the companies' racism!

## THE REAL CRIME

Although the amount of money is incredibly low, the real crime of the Consent Decree is how it is being used by the union leadership, the companies and the government to smash the democratic struggle against discrimination in steel.

As part of the civil rights movement of the 1960s, minority workers in the mills waged a militant struggle against segregation in job placement and for mill-wide seniority. Steel companies have traditionally hired Black and Latino workers into dead-end jobs in the blast furnaces and coke ovens. Pollution, high risk of explosions and extreme temperatures make these jobs the most dangerous.

During World War II, women had worked at almost every kind of job in the mill. When the war ended they were pushed out of every department except for the front office as secretaries. In the 1960s, women also organized to demand jobs.

Besides court cases which the workers and other organizations filed, steelworkers staged sit-downs, slowdowns and walkouts, particularly in the mills at Fairfield works in Birmingham and from the coke ovens at Sparrows Point in Baltimore. They staged demonstrations at the Labor Department offices and at the USWA conventions.

These actions led to victories in the Sparrows Point and the Fairfield court decisions which were attempts to bring the steel industry into line with the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

It was fear of this rising militancy that prompted I.W. Abel and the steel bosses to get together and devise the Consent Decree. The federal government cooperated for the same reason.

On April 12, 1974, the Decree was signed by nine major steel companies (U.S. Steel, Republic, Bethlehem, Youngstown Sheet and Tube, Allegheny Ludlum, Armco, Jones and Laughlin, National and Wheeling Pittsburgh), the USWA, the Departments of Labor and Justice as well as the EEOC. Stating and restating that this was not an admission of discrimination, the Decree allowed for back pay to Blacks, Latinos and women who were "allegedly" affected by discrimination. Only workers employed prior to January 1, 1968 and still working on April 12, 1974, could collect. Of course most of the steel companies didn't begin hiring more minority and women workers until after 1968.

The Consent Decree was never voted on by the membership of the USWA. Not only did Abel block discussion but he carefully kept mention of the Decree out of the 1974 contract for fear it would be rejected, along with the ENA, no-strike provision.

The NAACP and NOW (National Organization of Women) filed intervention suits on behalf of thousands of steelworkers who wanted no part of Abel's sell-out. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans rejected their arguments that the Decree was unlawful and unjust. Instead, they issued a 55 page statement praising it as "one of the rare instances in which the government has . . . successfully negotiated a comprehensive voluntary accord."

## DISCRIMINATION OBVIOUS

Decree or no decree, discrimination in the mills is obvious to anyone with eyes. Blast furnaces and coke ovens are still worked by Blacks and Latinos. In the few areas where minorities were allowed jobs after the Decree, they are segregated into work units—a new form of discrimination. For example, in a Chicago mill, Latinos were hired into maintenance. But they were all assigned as oilers, a dead-end job with only one or two good paying positions in the whole unit. Wo-



*IN-PLANT DISCRIMINATION confines national minority workers to dirtiest, unsafest divisions of plant, such as coke oven pictured.*

men hired into the mill are harassed by foremen, fired for staying home to care for sick children and set up to fail at very difficult jobs. Nonetheless, Abel is trying to prove that the Consent Decree has brought "strengthened seniority, transfer rights and job selection" to minority and women workers. But the facts tell a very different story.

The Decree does establish plant-wide seniority (as opposed to departmental seniority) but with a time limit. For the first 45 days of 1975 a minority worker employed before 1968 could transfer into a better department (if there happened to be an opening) without losing any seniority. But this right to job transfer lasted only for those 45 days. Now if a worker transfers, he is at the bottom of the list in the new department, first in line for layoff. This is Abel's "strengthened seniority system."

According to the Decree, jobs are to be posted first in the department where the vacancy exists, then if not filled, posted mill-wide, then advertised on the street. But a worker in the blast furnace seldom hears about a job in electronics or in any craft, and tests are used to disqualify workers. These are Abel's strengthened "transfer rights."

Steel companies agreed to show "good faith" in hiring minorities and women, to set quotas in some cases. Republic Steel in Chicago knew how to fill quotas. They have hired 50 to 100 women in the past six months and then, just before their 90 day probation was up, these women were fired for having a "bad attitude" or for missing a day of work. The union has not defended these workers during the long probationary period, but it does collect initiation fees and dues. So much for Abel's "job selection."

## BOYLE MACHINE MAKES COMEBACK IN MINE UNION

A major split within the leadership of the United Mine Workers Union (UMW) has brought the backers of the reactionary former union leader Tony Boyle back into powerful positions within the union hierarchy.

In the course of this power struggle, liberal reform leader Arnold Miller has been weakened and his "democratic" approach to running union affairs badly crippled. The executive board is now split and the pro-Boyle forces headed by former Miller running-mate Mike Trbovich have more than a 2-to-1 majority on the union's executive board.

The board has tried to impeach Miller by calling a special convention (though the UMW's constitution has no such recall provisions) and the Trbovich forces have organized their own staff separate from the union's. In their effort to isolate Miller, they have exercised power over his staff appointments down to clerks and secretaries.

Miller's most outspoken opponents are Lee Roy Patterson, UMW District 23 representative in western Kentucky, and Andrew Morris of District 31 in northern West Virginia. Both were staffers for Tony Boyle, the gangster union leader who was jailed for plotting the murders of his union election opponents.

The split, which has brought

the union to a standstill, also exposes the liberal reformers like Miller and Secretary-Treasurer Harry Patrick. After riding to power on the wave of anti-Boyle sentiment and the rank-and-file organization Miners for Democracy in 1972, Miller and Patrick have simply become the carrots in the carrot-and-the-stick attack against the mine-workers.

After the Miners for Democracy movement brought in a number of reforms and some degree of democratization to the union, the miners won their best contract ever through the course of the 1974 strike. The Miller leadership immediately disassembled the rank-and-file organization. More afraid of the workers' potential for wildcat strikes than of the murderous assault on the wages and safety conditions by the mine bosses, Miller has thrown the entire resources of the union into an anti-wildcat strike campaign.

With the miners' rank-and-file organization weakened and Miller singing the same anti-strike tune as the company and the Boyle reactionaries, the stage was set for Miller's isolation and overthrow by his opposition. This overthrow is seen by most as a foregone conclusion.

The collapse of the Miller leadership has opened the door for every reactionary labor bureaucrat and fascist to come out of the

At a January 6th meeting held in Chicago for District 31 representatives and grievors, union staff from the International office tried to explain how the Consent Decree money would be distributed. The rank and file were not told of the meeting, and it was easy to see why.

"I don't want any questions of why this settlement was made or who is responsible," said bureaucrat Ben Fisher of the International office. They were scared about possible reaction to their deal and wanted to get the money out and the waivers signed before more rank-and-file resistance could be organized.

District 31 Director Ed Sadowski, who came to power through an anti-Abel reform movement, introduced the representatives from the International and then made himself scarce. His failure to take a strong stand against the Consent Decree may make him more popular with the company and the International leadership, but it is a slap in the face of the thousands of minority and women steelworkers in the union.

The Consent Decree cannot be looked upon as a partial victory or a semi-reform. Its intent is to squash the growing movement of minority and women workers, joined by a growing number of white steelworkers. This sell-out must be met with a militant and organized response which calls for smashing the Decree, for the implementation of real plant-wide seniority, and the payment by the steel companies of back pay which compensates minority and women workers for the thousands of dollars each has lost due to decades of discrimination.



*WOMEN WORKED almost every kind of job in mills during World War II, but most were then pushed out. Consent Decree legalizes job bias.*

# ON THE LINE!

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



## Victory at Kitayama

By Kitayama Worker Correspondents

Union City, Cal.—A big step forward in the workers' struggle was made here with the victory of the United Farm Workers Union (UFW) in the recent elections at the Kitayama Bros. Nursery, one of the largest in the country and a place with a long history of struggle.

After months of hard work and preparations, the results were 79 in favor of the UFW and 78 against a union, with 37 challenged votes still to be decided. The closeness of the vote was a result of the intimidation and fear Kitayama, the owner, used to try to stop the workers from organizing. For years Kitayama has tried to divide the workers, mainly Filipino and Mexican, by nationality and keep them unorganized. Meanwhile he has gotten rich. Kitayama is also mayor of Union City.

Now with the growers using their politicians to stop funds to the Agricultural Labor Board (ALRB), our election results and many others will not be decided for months. We feel that this is another attack on us and on our right to unionize. Our only strength is in being organized to fight any and all injustices, like 12 layoffs since the election. It's clear that the politicians, Republican or Democrats, will never give us what we need.

## Strike Hits CWA Hacks

Washington, D.C.—Communications Workers of America's top bureaucrats have once again shown themselves to be outright traitors to the working class. Office workers at the CWA's International office were forced to strike the CWA when union officials tried to cut a cost-of-living clause out of their contract. The office workers, members of the Office and Professional Employees Int'l Union (OPEIU) have maintained a 24-hour picket line since the strike began Jan. 14.

CWA bureaucrats have acted like any hardline company boss. When a Teamster driver honored the picket line and refused to deliver oil to CWA headquarters, CWA hired a scab oil truck to make the delivery. One striker remarked how CWA is acting just like the Bell System management, the company that CWA locals have had to fight in the past. Many workers on the line pointed out that CWA's attack on its own employees will undermine CWA's credibility and bargaining power as representative of their own rank-and-file members.

Striking workers at CWA in Washington are learning an important lesson about the need for working class unity and about the treacherous role the labor bureaucrats play.

## Caldwell Bill Attacks Benefits

Atlanta, Ga.—State Labor Commissioner Sam Caldwell is out to slash unemployment benefits for the vast majority of Georgia's workers. He's pushing a bill through the State Legislature that would disqualify any worker who quits, gets fired, or refuses a job, no matter what job or at what wages. He hopes to use this reactionary measure to instill fear in workers organizing for their rights and also to expand an already large force of cheap reserve labor for the capitalists.

The Atlanta Workers' Committee to Fight Back caught wind of Caldwell's attempts to cut unemployment benefits a year ago. In April, 1975, they marched 100 strong on Caldwell's office to demand an end to red tape and inadequate benefits. The Committee has been circulating petitions in factories and communities to build mass opposition to the bill.

## Defend St. Regis Communists

Boston, Mass.—The fight goes on at St. Regis paper company to get two militants, members of the October League—Paul Moskowitz and Steve Carlson—back on the job. They had been dragged from their machines by police who raided the plant at the company's request on the night of Jan. 22.

At first the company filed criminal trespassing charges against both workers but, under increasing rank-and-file pressure, it dropped all charges at a Feb. 13 hearing. Carlson and Moskowitz are challenging the firing, which will go to arbitration before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). St. Regis fired the two for "inciting to riot, trespassing, and insubordination."

The sharp battles leading up to the police raid and arrests centered around contract negotiations. Both the company and the union bureaucrats of Local 584A, Retail, Wholesale Department Store Workers (RWDSW), were frightened by worker insurgency and had tried to silence workers' demands against forced overtime and plant segregation, and for a cost-of-living provision and a sizeable wage increase. Carlson, elected by the workers, was forced off the negotiating committee by the union and St. Regis for "discussing contract matters" with other workers. In the midst of heated contract debate, the company called in the police. Workers wild-catted in protest that night and are now demanding that their fellow workers, Carlson and Moskowitz, be rehired.

Florence, Ky.—"We'll never be able to fire another worker," moaned a foreman at Duchess Dinettes on the day Laurie Farber came back to work. How Laurie Farber, a militant shop steward in Local 781 of the International Union of Electrical Workers (IUE), got her job back after a 13-month fight is a story with lessons for workers across the country.

"The company wanted me to count up individual production on my line so they could fire anyone who wasn't keeping up with the new (faster) production quotas," Farber told *The Call*. She refused and was fired. She went to the union leadership, but they made it clear they would not support her. As union shop steward, she had stood with the workers, not with the bureaucrats. Many workers in the factory did begin at once to mobilize support and demand Farber be rehired.

The Duchess plant employs

## BEHIND NEW GOV'T. JOB FIGURES

January's "dramatic drop" in the unemployment rate was mostly cooked up in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Week magazine admitted in its Feb. 23 issue.

The Bureau officially claimed a "big decline" of one half of a percentage point in the unemployment rate, from 8.3 to 7.8 percent, "seasonally adjusted." The whole magic lies in this "seasoning." In actual fact, as near as the Bureau could count, the number of unemployed went up by about 1 million workers in January as the holiday "boom" ended.

## Growers block ALRB funds

# VOTE AIMED AT UFW GAINS

Los Angeles, Cal.—Because the United Farm Workers' Union was piling up victory after victory in the elections in the fields, the growers in the California state legislature voted Feb. 6 to call the elections off.

The legislators were voting on a \$3.8 million emergency appropriations bill to fund the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB). The board had been organizing and supposedly ensuring the fairness of elections for union representation. In reality the board did little to stop—and often covered up—the thousands of instances of violence and intimidation used by the growers and Teamsters against the UFW organizers and members.

But despite the terrorism directed against them, the farmworkers won big victories in the elections. The UFW won over half of the 400 elections and won the right to represent more than 29,000 farmworkers, against less than 13,000 for the Teamsters. These victories put to rest once and for all the myth that the UFW was "finished."

Among the UFW victories was a pacesetter new contract with giant Interharvest, the most powerful member of the Western Growers' Association. The 1200 Interharvest UFW members will have a union-run hiring hall, a worker-elected grievance and negotiating committee, a company-paid medical plan and a \$1 raise up to \$3.15 per hour for general labor in the back-breaking lettuce fields.

The UFW also broke through the growers' resistance at five Bay Area nurseries, winning narrowly at the largest, Kitayama (see story this page), and by big margins at

# FIGHT-BACK VICTORY AT DUCHESS

mostly women. The pay is low—a welder's job pays \$2.66 an hour—and layoffs are common. "If you're lucky enough to work a full week your pay check will barely cover your rides and babysitters," said one of the workers. The union's international leaders don't think that women can fight. Women are afraid to walk picket lines and stand up to the company, an IUE international rep told the workers last fall. That's the excuse union leaders give for not fighting. Next Laurie Farber went to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and filed a complaint. She was "lucky." In 80 percent of

the cases, the NLRB acts in favor of the company. After months of hearings, appeals and more appeals, Farber "won" her case. The NLRB ordered Duchess to pay her \$5,500 back pay—but she didn't get her job back. "It was nothing but a big stall," Farber said.

Laurie Farber turned down the company's bribe and took her case to the people. Workers United for Jobs and Justice (WUJJ), a group that's part of the National Fight-Back Organization, took on her case. While the workers inside the Duchess plant wrote leaflets and petitions demanding Laurie get her job back, WUJJ announced plans for a demonstration outside the plant. WUJJ also contacted the Atlanta Workers Committee to Fight Back and asked them to picket the Duchess headquarters in that city.

At 10:30 the night before the demonstration, a messenger showed up at Farber's home with an official company offer to rehire her with full back pay. A few days later she was back on the job. Just the threat of popular action was enough in this case to get a little bit of justice.

The union bureaucrats didn't get Laurie Farber her job back. The government didn't get her job back. It was her fellow workers at the plant and in the fight-back organization, by uniting to fight back, that won this victory.



MASS STRUGGLE alone guarantees farmworkers' rights, not elections, three others.

The effect of the fund cutoff to the ALRB is to stop all elections immediately, and leave up in the air elections that have been challenged. The challenged elections affect some 12,000 workers, according to a UFW estimate.

The UFW has called for a boycott of Sunmaid raisins and Sun-sweet products, taking aim at some of the big Fresno area growers who own some of the politicians whose votes killed the ALRB. The issue can come up for a revote in June, and is likely to be an issue in the November general

state elections.

"Liberal" politicians like Gov. Brown, who have paid lip service to supporting the UFW in the past, will most likely try to draw the UFW into the election campaign to back their own set of candidates as a solution for re-funding the ALRB. But the "liberals" have a history of selling-out the UFW in practice. To rely on Democratic hopefuls or to concentrate forces around the November elections could open the door to a new Teamster-grower assault in the fields.

## WRITE FOR THE CALL

A revolutionary weekly needs worker correspondents across the country. *The Call/El Clarin* needs people who are alert to the struggles that break out daily and to all forms of oppression, exploitation and the growing fight-back of the workers. Take the opportunity to hit our enemies and strengthen our movement. When you write your story, be sure to check your information—names, dates, circumstances—and whenever possible, type it triple-spaced. Be brief: 1-2 pages for On the Line, 2-4 pages for a major story.

Denver, Colo.—United Rubber Workers' President Peter Bommarito has launched an all-out attack against rank-and-file workers at Samsonite Corporation in an effort to tighten his control over Local 724 and stamp out dissension of any kind. Bommarito has enlisted help from the company, the FBI and his own goons.

Last month two Samsonite workers were openly assaulted by URW henchmen. On Thursday evening, Feb. 12, rank-and-file leader Joe Russo was jumped from behind by two goons as he left his apartment to attend a URW District 5 Convention, to which he was an elected delegate. He was struck several times with a bat and then stabbed. Only an approaching car forced these two gangsters to flee before more serious injury could be done. Russo had been singled out in the past by union hacks because of his strong defense of fellow workers against discrimination and other oppressive company policies.

The following morning, Feb. 13, in the lobby of the hotel where the convention was going on, Bob Brown, another rank-and-file fighter, was tailed and then cor-

# SAMSONITE WORKERS RESIST UNION BOSS GOON TACTICS

nered into a fight by Bill Boyle, Divisional Chairman of the Skilled Trades at Samsonite and a well-known Bommarito reactionary.

These attacks follow months of struggle on the part of workers at Samsonite to democratize the union, to force the present leadership to take up grievances and fight for its members who are facing daily speed-ups, job elimination and discrimination.

Union leadership has refused time and again to file grievances for workers. Instead, they have ignored complaints and turned their guns against those workers who have stood up to challenge company policies. In particular, the URW has concentrated its fire against the Rank and File Caucus, a 6-month-old group within the plant that has actively sought to organize among the

1,600 workers. Attacks have been aimed also at the Colorado Workers Unity Organization (CWUO), a local fight-back organization, the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), and the October League. A number of Samsonite workers are active in CWUO, CLUW, and some in the OL, and have played a leading role in building this caucus.

From the start, the Rank and File Caucus has opposed layoffs, discriminatory job classifications for women, and unsafe working conditions throughout the factory. More recently, the Rank and File Caucus has played an important role in a growing battle to oust the so-called "efficiency experts" brought in by Samsonite's new owner, the giant Beatrice Foods conglomerate, to boost profits through job elimina-

tion and speed-up.

On one occasion, after union leaders had turned a deaf ear to countless complaints, 60 workers from two departments marched on the local office to demand fast action on grievances against the efficiency experts. As a result of mounting pressure and the 60-strong protest, the union was forced to take a stand—and the company backed down.

This kind of rank-and-file militancy brought Bommarito onto the scene. First he sent hatchetman Robert Strauber to Local 724 to red-bait the rank-and-file movement, painting these union fighters as "splitters" and anti-union forces. Where these slander tactics failed to isolate union militants, threats and physical intimidation have been used. One woman worker explained she would not attend a union meeting because she was afraid of being assaulted by URW thugs.

In mid-February Bommarito flew in to address the local personally. He spoke the same day Russo was jumped by two unidentified goons. Bommarito's speech was a sharp attack against all rank-and-file militants, against the CWUO and the October League. He swore to expel from the union any worker connected to the OL and announced that he had active support from the FBI and the company. Bommarito has tried to sway workers to his side in a propaganda campaign, depicting the caucus as a "phantom underground," its members as "midnight stalkers," anti-union infiltrators out to "discredit" the union and "rip it apart."

In a press conference held Tuesday, Feb. 17, in response to the two physical assaults and Bommarito's attacks, Russo and other rank-and-file workers denounced URW gangster tactics and explained what they and the Caucus stand for. They stressed the need for a strong union, one that would fight for the workers instead of spearheading attacks against them.

In the newsletter "Which Side Are You On?" the caucus has also shown that communists—the OL in this case—are some of the hardest and most consistent fighters among the workers and that "anti-communism" is a weapon used by the bosses to scare workers and divide their ranks. Past history has shown that to build a powerful fighting union that will stand up to the company, workers will have to throw out the real splitters and anti-working class forces—the present bureaucrats who run the URW.

Bommarito's hand-in-glove collaboration with the FBI and Samsonite in order to smash the rank-and-file workers' movement is a sure indication of which side he's on!

## FASCIST 'RIGHT-TO-WORK' GROUP WINS ANTI-UNION SUIT

Fascist anti-union forces in this country won a court victory last month that—if upheld—would seriously weaken trade union organizations and organizing drives.

A San Diego federal district court judge ruled in essence that union officials cannot use dues money for any purpose other than direct collective bargaining expenses. This ruling could be used to block funding for organizing drives, strike support, or union newsletters.

Filed by Western Airlines employees, members of the Brotherhood of Railway and Airline Clerks (BRAC), this suit is one of 80 under litigation, backed by the ultra-right-wing group called the National Right to Work Committee. Since its formation in 1955, the Right to Work Committee has been engaged in a continuous campaign to bust unions by outlawing the closed shop or union shop.

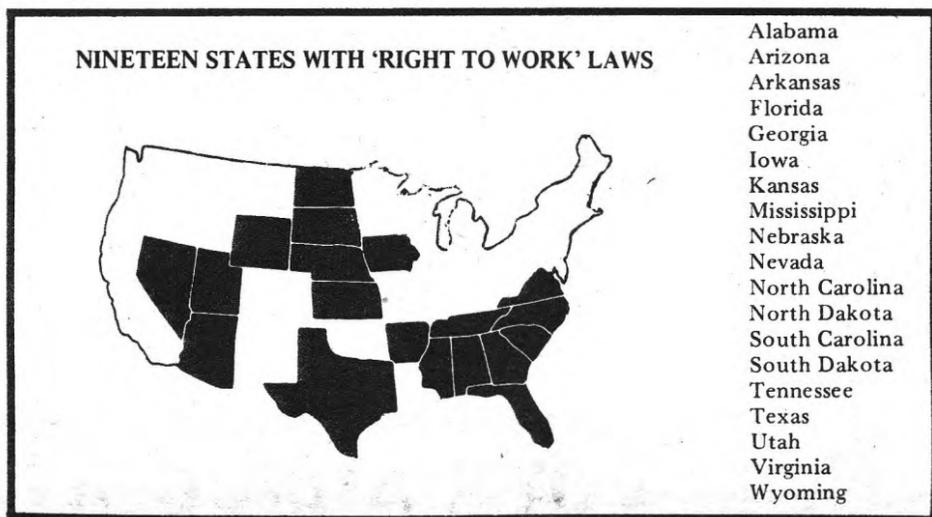
The so-called "right to work" actually means nothing more than the bosses' right to exploit. The reactionaries who champion this cause want workers to have a "right to work" in a shop without being "forced" to join the union. Their aim is to be able to pit one worker against the next, use scab labor at will, and keep the unions from having any organized strength.

The committee's own defense of "right to work" laws exposes their real purpose. "Right to work laws remove the explosive issue of compulsory unionism," goes one brochure. "They minimize industrial strife, and the resulting labor climate leads to greater productivity and also multiplies job opportunities by attracting new and expanding industries."

What this means, of course—looking at the right to work states concentrated in the depressed areas of the Black Belt South and the Southwest—is that these laws help either to prevent or to weaken unions. Where most workers are unorganized, wages are lower, speed-ups easier to enforce, and strikes fewer. The right to work states are havens for runaway shops, where bosses can super-exploit workers, especially large numbers of minorities and women.

By financing individual law suits against the unions, the right to work people hope to use legitimate outrage of workers against the present labor bureaucrats who spend our dues to further their own reactionary interests and those of the ruling class. But it is important to protect the right of unions to use dues for political purposes and crucial to fight to spend dues money to organize the millions of unemployed, to battle against discrimination, to fund strikes and other political activities in the genuine interest of working people.

The Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation gets money for its anti-union suits from the capitalist firms in which the unions are organized. As a result, a separate suit—filed by 10 major unions in 1973—



Section 14b of the reactionary Taft-Hartley Law, passed in 1948, permits states to pass right-to-work laws. The AFL-CIO has challenged 14b various times, but failed, due mainly to their refusal to organize all-out opposition to the Taft-Hartley.

may eliminate Right to Work funding and pull the rug out from under these suits. Within a week of the San Diego decision, a Washington D.C. court ruled that the tax-exempt Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation is, in fact, a front for employers who are its biggest donors.

If this second suit is upheld, the Foundation will be dissolved for violating a section of the Landrum-Griffin Act that prohibits "interested employers" from financing workers' suits against their union.

The Right to Work Committee hides its fascist face behind a lot of noisy anti-labor boss rhetoric. For example, in its \$800,000 campaign against the common site picketing bill (vetoed recently by Pres. Ford), the right to work forces aimed their main

attacks against the leaders of the building trades unions, describing them as "some of the most corrupt, ruthless and violent union bosses in our nation," and pointing to the unions as a "haven for bullyboys, mobsters." These descriptions of the present bankrupt union leaders and mafia control over many unions have a lot of truth, but for the right to work forces, this is just ammunition in their all-out war against working class organization.

Right to work laws, the Right to Work Committee and their law suits against the unions are reactionary weapons in the hands of the imperialists, aimed at busting our unions and undermining the strength of the entire working class movement. They must be opposed!

## URW Workers Gear for '76 Contract Fight

Rubber workers have a hard battle ahead if they're going to win their contract demands against the big four tire companies. Contracts expire April 20 with Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich and Uniroyal.

Negotiations open on March 8 and are being handled by some of the worst sell-out leadership in the trade union movement. United Rubber Workers (URW) President Peter Bommarito negotiated such rotten contracts in 1973—virtually the only ones in major industry without cost-of-living provisions—that discontent has been strong within the union and a rank-and-file upsurge threatens to disrupt the past period of "labor peace."

National attention is focused on the URW contract negotiations, covering 67,700 workers, because they are the first of a long list of potentially explosive major contract battles coming up this year. Other contracts expiring this year in major industry include auto, trucking, electronics, textiles, building trades and affect over 4.5

million workers.

Bommarito has been trying to strike a militant pose as the negotiations approach to quiet down his growing opposition within the union, but it's unlikely he'll be able to cover up for three years of betrayal. In addition to his sell-out on the 1973 contract, Bommarito has given full support to deportations of foreign-bom workers, sabotaged strikes like the 3-year-old Sloane strike, and turned a deaf ear on demands for health and safety regulations in the rubber industry.

Organized opposition to Bommarito has also emerged from the right. A reactionary group called the International Society of the Skilled Trades (ISST) has been trying to raid both the URW and the UAW by breaking out the skilled tradesmen. Their appeal is based on special privileges for skilled workers and white chauvinism. Historically, craft unions and skilled classifications have been closed to minority workers and also women.

In recent months the ISST has made significant inroads into the URW, claiming to have signed pledge cards from 50% of the skilled workers at Firestone, and 35% at Goodyear and Goodrich. Only 35% is required to demand new certification elections. ISST threatens to call a skilled tradesmen strike to disrupt negotiations if elections are not held.

URW leadership, with UAW backing, has launched a counter-offensive against the ISST, exposing it as a company union. Rank and file workers fought decades to build industry-wide unions and to abolish the separate craft unions. ISST victory would be a real step backwards.

While opposing the ISST firmly, however, workers will have to struggle at the same time against the Bommarito leadership whose strategy for defeating the ISST is to award greater privileges and power to the skilled tradesmen within the URW. By strengthening craft privileges, Bommarito would also strengthen his own reactionary base in the union.

# STRENGTHENING THE SENIORITY SYSTEM

Sharon Jones, who is the sole support of her three children, was hired at the GM Fremont plant in 1973. Yet she was never able to acquire more than 90 days seniority because of the layoffs that hit the plant in '74 and '75. Now she is not even considered eligible for recall because she has been laid off for too long. "It's not my fault that GM can't sell their cars," she says, "but now my unemployment has run out, and there aren't any jobs."

As a Black woman, her plight is the result of the auto companies' failure to hire Black workers for many years and their exclusion of women at many plants until very recently.

Some workers have been recalled at the Fremont plant, as well as plants in Van Nuys, Calif., and elsewhere. But these recalls, although welcomed by the men who were still working, were viewed with suspicion by those who had been through several such layoff-recall cycles before.

## A CONTRACT YEAR

"1976 is a presidential election and a contract year," said one older worker. "The companies want to stockpile cars and the union leaders want us to be so grateful that we're working that we won't fight for a good contract." The demands that are called for by the rank and file this year include a hefty raise as well as a short work week with no pay cut in order to bring back all those workers who had been laid off.

But the UAW leadership, although they have been giving some lip service to the demand for shortening the work week, have made it clear that this would be at the workers' expense, and that a decent wage hike is out of the question. Their main push in the pre-contract meetings has been for lobbying Congress for bills that would protect the Big Three and to join in the chauvinist "Buy American" campaigns. They have also opposed a key demand of the rank and file which is the right to strike over safety.

The fact that Woodcock and his gang are better protectors of the auto companies' profits than the Big Three executives themselves is clear to large numbers of rank-and-file autoworkers. But these bureaucrats are also the best defenders of the entire imperialist system and mouthpieces for national and white chauvinism in the labor movement. In a period when the imperialists are preparing a new war as a way out of the crisis, the labor "leaders" push the idea that defense contracts mean more jobs for U.S. autoworkers.

## PRO-IMPERIALIST STAND

They take the same pro-imperialist stand in abandoning all the laid-off autoworkers like Sharon Jones and many others under the pretense of "defending seniority." The capitalist system has unemployment as a built-in feature. In times of economic crisis, ever larger numbers of workers are thrown back out into the "reserves" to struggle for survival until they may be needed again in "boom" times. Minority and women workers make up the bulk of this reserve army. U.S. capitalism has always been based on the super-exploitation and oppression of minorities and women, and this history carries over until today.

For those reasons, one of the key demands of the autoworkers' fight-back must be the demand for compensative seniority—modifications in the seniority system which would strengthen the workers' movement by bringing minority and women workers more fully into its ranks. This is a demand which takes into account the history of oppression and the way the imperialists have weakened and divided the working class along national and sex lines.

The issue of strengthening the seniority system is a very controversial one, precisely because it threatens the deal that the labor leaders have made with the monopoly

corporations to gather profits from the oppression of minorities and women. The labor aristocrats live high with the bribes they get from these super-profits. In turn, they allow the corporations to use the seniority system as an excuse to continue their policies of discrimination.

The demand for compensative seniority was raised in the form of a lawsuit by 8 women at the Fremont plant in '74 and linked with the demand for a short work week with no cut in pay. *The Call* spoke with some of these women who are active in the Stand Up caucus to find out what level their struggle was at. "Only about 1600 of the 2100 who were laid off are coming back," they told us. "The percentage of women in the plant will be a lot smaller, and probably all the women will be on night shift. Because of special childcare and family responsibilities, we feel that women ought to be able to work on the day shift if they need to, even if this is not strictly by seniority."

"There are many problems which stem from women being fairly new in the plant, such as job assignments, medical care, etc. Many pregnant women have to take a leave of absence very early in their pregnancy because there are no provisions for maternity leave in the contract."

"When we went to court a year ago to try to stop the layoff, we saw the UAW bigshots get up and defend GM's right to lay us off. And of course the judge ruled in GM's favor. This did a lot to expose the International as well as the court system and who they both serve to the men and women in our local."



DEMAND FOR JOBS is still the main demand of autoworkers. (Call photo)

"At first our suit got a bad response from the men in the plant because they believed what the union officials and some phony revolutionaries were saying—that we would cause them to lose their jobs. But a lot has changed over the past year, because they see who's really responsible."

The women showed a copy of the local union newspaper, with quotes from the Question Man column about the issue of women in the plant: One brother said, "Yes, I believe they should be hired on a percentage basis that would retain a certain amount in the plant." Most of the answers supported the right of women to be in the plants, and called on GM and the federal government to bear the costs of this.

Although the demand for compensative seniority in this case was raised in the form of a suit, it cannot be won without the mass united action of working men and women. One of the eight women who filed the suit, stressed this point. "We know we won't

win anything through just 8 women going to court," she explained, "so we use our suit to organize inside the shop as well as outside. Working with the suit at our plant has helped us organize a rank-and-file caucus—Stand Up. Our suit puts forward the special demands of women. But we never separate our struggle as women from the struggle of Black and all national minority people for their freedom from discrimination and oppression. We say a gain for one is a gain for all. We know that the working class struggle will never succeed if women are not a part. Our suit is a way of bringing forward women into the fight."

Women still face oppression under capitalism whether they are working in the home or in production. But their entrance and full participation along with minority brothers into production and the front ranks of the workers' movement greatly strengthens the fight-back against the imperialist system.

## Rank & File Ignored at UAW Meet

Detroit, Mich.—Several hundred UAW local and international officials met at Co-bo Hall Jan. 21-23 in what was billed as a Production Workers Conference. The three day conference was called by the union supposedly to hear from auto production workers on their demands for the upcoming '76 contract negotiations. (Negotiations are slated to begin sometime in mid-July.)

But rank-and-file autoworkers were absent from this gathering. The vast major-

ity of the delegates were shop committeemen, local presidents, and regional officials. Scattered complaints were voiced from the floor and in leaflets on the delegate selection process. Most delegates were hand-picked by top local officers.

There was a lot of talk at the conference but not about the real demands of autoworkers. The rank-and-file demands include bolstering exhausted SUB funds and increased protection against further

massive lay-offs, battling discrimination against minorities and women with special compensative seniority rights, and making the bosses pay for crisis unemployment with a shorter work-week at the same pay.

Several crucial questions did get out on the floor like health and safety, runaway shops and unemployment. But the handling of these issues by the bureaucrats is a real indictment of their suggested "bargaining package." For example, the right to strike over health and safety—which is a life and death question for autoworkers—was absent from the discussion. Instead, UAW bureaucrats suggested support for congressional legislation to strengthen the virtually ineffective OSHA as a solution to everyday injuries, maimings and death in the shops and foundries.

Their solution to runaway shops was also a congressional bill that would "compel" the company to offer workers jobs at the new location. No provisions are included to cover relocation costs nor compensation for probable pay cuts. Furthermore, the UAW skirted the question of organizing these runaway shops, which are usually in the South or Southwest where the trade union movement is weakest.

What was clear throughout the 3-day conference was that UAW president Woodcock and his crew are dead set against a strike and are anxious to avoid a confrontation with the companies. They are, moreover, committed to throwing UAW support behind a Democratic Party candidate and program, hoping to replace independent working class struggle with a sell-out congressional strategy.

Within the UAW, however, rank-and-file struggle has been sharpening—walk-outs, slow-downs, and spontaneous protests throughout the industry. How well the newly emerging rank-and-file organizations can provide leadership for this growing insurgent movement will be a decisive question in the contract battle against the big auto companies and the union bureaucrats.

## 'MEN AND WOMEN UNITE!' — Writes Correspondent

From a San Francisco Worker Correspondent:

It sure was good to read in the February *Call* about office workers organizing in Detroit. I work for a "non-profit" association set up by a bunch of banks to process credit card drafts. It is just one big paper-shuffling factory. Just like an assembly line, we pass paper from one department to the next and each job is tedious and boring. My department does "encoding." We sit at machines and punch numbers onto cards 7 hours a day. They keep track of our production and accuracy and we are constantly under pressure to speed up to keep our jobs.

Seeing as this month is International Women's Day, it is especially appropriate to tell you about a typical attack on women by this company. Recently a Filipina woman with 7 years seniority, which is a long time, took a maternity leave. (A woman gets no pay on maternity and none of her hospitalization, etc. is covered by insurance.) After one month she received a letter requesting her to return to work, and to the company's surprise, she said yes. They then informed her that they had al-

ready replaced her—with a young man whom she had trained.

They offered her a job at starting salary—giving the racist excuse that a "language barrier" caused problems in her work! This is not the first time this type of thing has happened, but this time we were ready. She told our organizing committee her story and we printed up a leaflet and distributed it to all the shifts. Then we passed around a petition demanding she be rehired at her old pay and grade, and an end to these discriminatory layoffs and demotions. Despite the intimidation of the company, we got the signatures of over one-third of the workers, and are still building support.

This case brought home the lesson of why men and women must unite. Although this trick by the company is used against women on maternity leave most often, it has also been used against men on sick leave. Many people also realized why the fight for a union is so important. The petition is a vote of confidence that, despite the threat of unemployment that we all face, and despite the intimidation and harassment by the company, the workers see that the only way we can go is to unite, get organized and fight back!

## Central Committee Report

# O.L. CALLS FOR PARTY CONGRESS

## WARNS OF GROWING WAR DANGER

The recent full regular meeting of the Central Committee of the October League (Marxist-Leninist) proposed that all U.S. Marxist-Leninists should convene the founding congress of a new communist party later this year. The task of building a new party, the Central Committee concluded, is especially urgent at this time because of the growing danger of world war.

Last November the October League issued an appeal to "Marxist-Leninists Unite to Build a New Communist Party." (Reprints of this article from the November *Call* are available in Spanish and English—Ed.) A report to the Central Committee on the progress of unity among Marxist-Leninists showed that unity is the strongest tendency today. It said that conditions for forming the party are now very favorable. Conditions will not remain favorable for long, however, mainly due to the growing threat of war and fascism, for which Marxist-Leninists must get prepared. The key step in getting prepared now is the formation of the new communist party.

The Central Committee discussed the question of the danger of world war, and noted the following:

Both the United States and the USSR today are capitalist, imperialist superpowers. These two robbers, armed to the teeth, can in no way live peacefully alongside each other or harmoniously share their loot. Sooner or later they must come to blows, aiming at a new division of the world. There can be no such thing as "detente" in the world in these conditions.

The danger of a world war between the two superpowers is now growing day by day. This war may not break out immediately or all at once, but so long as there are superpowers contending, war is inevitable. The present economic crisis gripping the capitalist world including the USSR deepens the general historical crisis of capitalism and sharpens the war danger.

### U.S. ON DECLINE

While both superpowers are the same in essence, their strength and position are not the same. U.S. imperialism is on the decline, and it is generally on the retreat or the defensive. The Soviet social-imperialist superpower is growing stronger, has surpassed the U.S. in most areas of military strength, and is aggressively on the attack everywhere. Under the false mask of a "socialist" country and a "liberator," it is stepping up its imperialist and neocolonialist drive to take over from U.S. imperialism the role of hegemonic world power. The case of Soviet intervention and aggression in Angola is a telling illustration of this trend.

As regards a world war, Soviet social-imperialism is the most ambitious and the most aggressive. It is the main source of the danger of world war. Just as Hitler in the past made the biggest noise about wanting "peace" in order to conceal the German fascists' aggression so does the USSR make the biggest noise about "detente" today.

The Central Committee resolved to step up exposure of the capitalist, imperialist character of the USSR, and of the aggressive, belligerent role this superpower is playing today. It resolved to redouble work to defend and to popularize the example of the genuine socialist countries, particularly China. It noted that the U.S. government has also increased its military spending, thereby placing an ever greater burden on working people. It condemned the U.S. monopoly ruling class, which has stepped

up its attacks on the democratic rights and the living standards of the people of the U.S. As part of war preparations, the U.S. ruling class is organizing a huge propaganda drive around the Bicentennial theme, trying to whip up a frenzy of phony patriotism and counterrevolution with the aim of getting working people to suffer without resisting. The Central Committee pointed to the formation of the National Fight-Back Organization at the end of 1975 as a historic concrete step in the direction of the strategic objective of overthrowing the rule of the U.S. monopoly capitalists.

### A NEGATIVE EXAMPLE

Both world wars during this century, the Central Committee noted, produced great struggles and great advances within the world working class and communist movements. They also harbored dangers. In this connection the Central Committee noted the negative example of Browderism during World War II. A leader of the Communist Party of the U.S., Earl Browder distorted the party's correct policy of building the united front against fascist aggression. He liquidated the class struggle, sacrificing the struggles of the workers and of the oppressed nationalities to the interests of a section of the imperialist bourgeoisie. Under the banner of "Everything for the War Effort," the Browderite revisionists went so far as to liquidate the Communist Party itself, thus depriving the working class for a time of its indispensable general staff. The Central Committee noted that the present rapidly-changing world situation is likely to develop by way of further twists and still unpredictable turns, and underscored the importance for Marxist-Leninists of maintaining the revolutionary initiative and independence from the bourgeoisie.

The question of war, the Central Committee noted, is linked with the question of building a new communist party in the U.S. In this regard the Central Committee observed:

The existing so-called Communist Party has completely degenerated into an out-and-out revisionist party. This party faithfully follows the dictates of its Soviet social-imperialist master, and serves as a "fifth column" for the aggressive, expansionist aims of that superpower. To that end, the CPUSA tails behind and actively promotes a section of the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie that tends to follow a policy of appeasement and conciliation toward Soviet social-imperialism. To curry favor with this section of the bourgeoisie, the revisionists—following the example of Browder—promote dead-end reformism, disarm the working class and otherwise sabotage the people's struggle. By the class interests it serves, this party is a party of imperialism, of monopoly capital, of war, aggression

and fascism. The workers and other progressive-minded people should not have illusions on this score. The treachery of this party to the working class is the fundamental reason why a new communist party must be built.

Close kin to the revisionists are the centrists. Centrists and other right-opportunist forces are increasingly harmful today because while calling themselves anti-revisionist, they conciliate with Soviet social-imperialism and revisionism and provide them with a cover. The centrist leaders have all but swallowed the Big Lie of "detente" and in practice are bitterly opposed to forming a Marxist-Leninist party. By trying (vainly) to prevent the Marxist-Leninist party from being born, the centrist leaders are in objective effect liquidating the revolutionary struggle against U.S. imperialism. How can U.S. imperialism be defeated without a Marxist-Leninist party? Those who try to liquidate the formation of such a party are walking in the footsteps of Browder and his fellow revisionists. This holds also for certain other groups who claim to be far more "revolutionary" than the obvious centrists, but whose anti-party opposition lands them in practice in the same bankrupt camp.

The strongest tendency today, however, is the drive toward Marxist-Leninist unity in the formation of a new communist party. This is a worldwide trend. The internal conditions in each country are the basis of the growing unity of Marxist-Leninists, but the mounting threat of world war adds an extra measure of urgency to the task.

### GROWING UNITY TREND

The Central Committee found a growing desire for principled unity among Marxist-Leninists in many groups in different parts of the country. It observed that the desire to unite is especially strong among the rank-and-file cadre. Regrettably some of the leading figures of a number of groups merely pay lip service to the struggle for unity. A few have even taken to slandering Marxist-Leninists in a most unprincipled, backward fashion, exposing themselves in the process as petty sectarians and opportunists. The Central Committee hailed the striving of all Marxist-Leninists, whether in rank-and-file or in leading positions, to unite in forming a new communist party.

The October League's appeal to unite, published last November, has met with a wide and mainly positive response. The seven points contained in the appeal, the Central Committee reaffirmed, are the basis for ongoing and future unity discussions with other Marxist-Leninists. They are not meant as the program for the party nor as substitutes for the October League's own full stand on the various questions. As a result of further discussions, the

Central Committee decided on a partial modification of the party-building plan put forward in the November appeal. The plan had as its first organizational step the formation of a "temporary leading body which can survey the organizational forces represented in the party, establish democratic centralism and prepare us for our first Party Congress, to be held within a year of our founding." The Central Committee decided to omit this "temporary leading body" and instead to call for the founding congress of the party to be held later this year.

The weaknesses of the "temporary leading body" idea were: first, the "temporary leadership" would not have the full authority that it could have if elected by a congress, and this would open the door to federationist weaknesses and undermine centralist unity. Secondly, under "temporary leadership" the party would be without a program to guide the struggle for up to a year until the first congress. Third, the unification process would be based solely on unity from above, not also on unity from below.

The plan as modified calls for unity from above as well as below—by discussions on the leadership level as well as by the rank and file. This is indispensable. All Marxist-Leninists should struggle for unity on the basis of Marxist-Leninist principles in an open and above-board way.

### UNITY CONFERENCE

To deepen this struggle and sum up the preliminary results, the October League proposes that the ongoing unity discussions (and unity discussions initiated between now and then) move on to a unity conference early this summer, open to all those who can unite on the basis of the November appeal.

Out of this conference will come a committee to prepare for the Founding Congress of the new party. Pre-Congress discussion papers and resolutions on the basic questions of the party program will be debated and circulated, leading up to the adoption of the full party program at the congress. The Central Committee chosen by the Congress will be the authorized leadership of the new party. The program and other documents adopted by the congress will be binding. Democratic centralism will be implemented and the party will immediately play an active, leading role in the mass struggles of the period ahead. Such, in outline, is the plan for party-building as modified in the light of discussions. The basic features of the plan remain the same. The modifications strengthen its basic purpose and make for a speedier implementation.

In conclusion, the Central Committee observed that the organizational questions of forming the party are part and parcel of the more general political outlook of each and every group in the movement today. Now is the time to put theory into practice, make new breakthroughs, and consolidate our forces. By putting Marxism-Leninism Mao Tsetung Thought in command and uniting with real friends to fight real enemies, we can build the proletarian vanguard party that the conditions demand. There are many contradictions, but the key to resolving them all is the formation of a new communist (Marxist-Leninist) party. This is the immediate task ahead.

**ON TO THE PARTY!  
MARXIST-LENINISTS UNITE!**

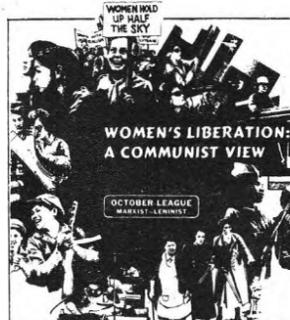
## New Literature from the October League

### Marxist-Leninists Unite! (15c)

Taken from the November, 1975 issue of *The Call*, the appeal for Marxist-Leninist unity outlines the October League's proposal for the construction of a new communist party in the present period. Printed in both English and Spanish.

### Women's Liberation: A Communist View (25c)

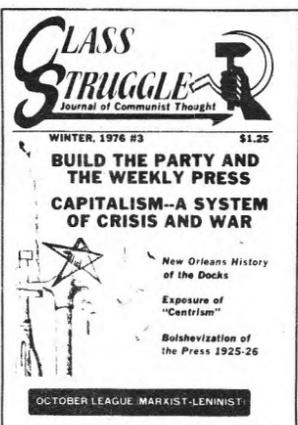
This new pamphlet is a popular summary of the Marxist-Leninist principles on the woman question and an analysis of the fight for women's liberation today.



### The Struggle for Black Liberation and Socialist Revolution (75c)

This document is the resolution of the October League's Third Congress on the Afro-American question. It traces the historical development of the Afro-American people as an oppressed nation in the Black Belt, and puts forward the revolutionary call of self-determination for Afro-Americans.

**THE CALL BOX 5597 CHICAGO, ILL. 60680**



**(\$1.25)**

# REVISIONIST CONGRESS REPUDIATES WORKERS' DICTATORSHIP FRENCH TRAITORS ARE UNMARRIED

The revisionist Communist Party of France sunk to new depths of degeneracy last month at its 22nd Party Congress. Even abandoning their previous lip service to Marxism-Leninism, the French revisionists officially repudiated the dictatorship of the proletariat—the cornerstone of Marxism. The congress also revealed the widening rift within the Soviet revisionist camp, a rift that has developed into open blasts by the French CP against the Soviet revisionists.

Of course, in practice, the French revisionists along with the other revisionist parties throughout the world abandoned the struggle for socialism and the dictatorship of the proletariat more than 20 years ago, choosing instead to follow the leadership of Khrushchov and the Soviet revisionists down the capitalist road. Having smashed the workers' rule in the USSR, Khrushchov and later the Brezhnev gang worked actively to destroy the world communist movement by robbing it of its revolutionary guts. Substituting the line of "peaceful transition to socialism" for revolutionary struggle, the revisionists tried to disarm the workers' movement and the national liberation movements. They also struck their main blow at the mightiest of

working class weapons for liberation—the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Reversing many of the gains that were made through great sacrifice and loss of millions of lives during the anti-fascist war, the revisionists seized control of more than 100 formerly revolutionary parties. In few countries were the effects more devastating than in France. The Communist Party of France had a long and glorious history since its founding in Tours in December 1920. Thousands of communists fought and shed their blood in the anti-fascist war only to be forced to hand over their victories to the bourgeoisie by the revisionist leadership who disarmed the resistance movement in exchange for a seat in the government. Thousands of workers, small farmers and intellectuals placed their faith in this party and trusted its pledge to carry on the class struggle in the tradition of the Paris Communards who made the first workers' revolution in 1871.

While the Paris Commune (see picture on this page) was ultimately crushed, it was from the struggle of these heroic French men and women that Marx and later Lenin drew the most important of their revolutionary conclusions. Lenin wrote:

**"Those who recognize only the class struggle are not yet Marxists . . . Only he is a Marxist who extends the recognition of the class struggle to the recognition of the dictatorship of the proletariat."**

Lenin called the recognition of the dictatorship of the proletariat **"the touchstone on which the real understanding and recognition of Marxism is to be tested."**

It is clear that the French revisionists, through the machinery of their own official congress, have openly and brazenly stepped on the red flag of Marxism-Leninism and have readily abandoned their few remaining Marxist fig-leaves in order to win a few more votes in the parliament and strengthen their electoral coalition with the Socialist Party.

## SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS DIVIDED

The social-democrats in Europe have recently grown more divided over the question of electoral unity with the revisionist parties because of the growing aggressiveness of the Soviet Union. While waving the signboard of "detente" the Soviet social-imperialists have combined increased militarization on West Europe's frontiers with internal subversion in Portugal and other strategic European countries. They have succeeded in turning many revisionist parties into "fifth columns" in order to pry open the doors of the European countries and shipping lanes to the USSR. The strategy of these revisionist parties is to gain some type of electoral foothold in the government through alliance with the social-democrats. They then try to use their position to weaken European resistance to Soviet hegemony, grab military bases and ports, and flood the countries with thousands of KGB agents. At the same time, they have shown a willingness to abandon their pragmatic alliances and to repress the other bourgeois as well as working class parties, when it suits their aims, as it did last year in Portugal.

At their 22nd Congress, the French revisionists, under pressure from the Socialist Party, openly criticized the Soviet Union for its repression of civil liberties and tried

to put as much distance between themselves and the Soviet revisionists as possible.

One day before the opening of the congress, a press conference was held in Paris for Leonid I. Plyushch, a dissident Ukrainian mathematician who was held for years in a Soviet "mental hospital" undergoing drug treatments and tortures stemming from his opposition to the Brezhnev regime. In a show of "independence" the French revisionists joined in the call for Plyushch's release.

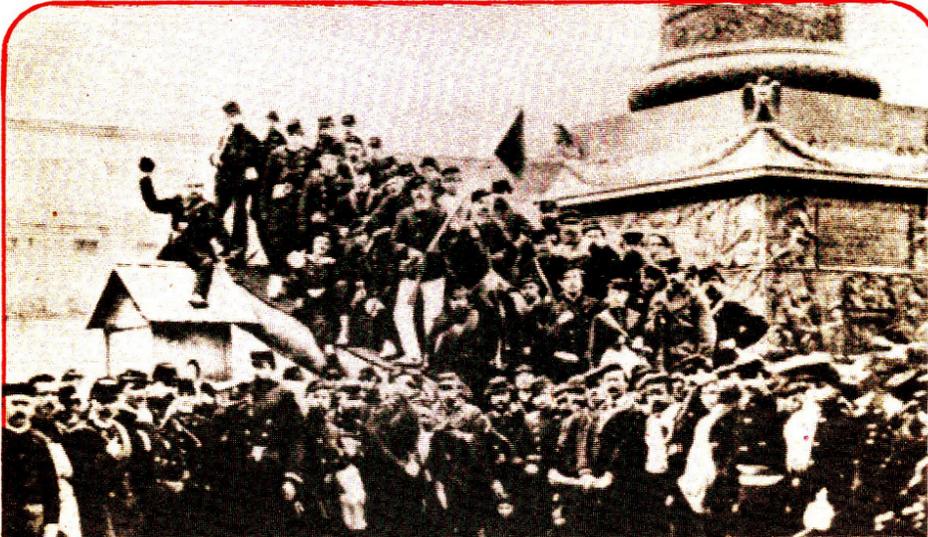
Revisionist leader George Marchais opened the congress with a broadside attack on the Soviet Union for "unjust and unjustifiable acts of repression against Soviet citizens." Embarrassed by the continuous exposures of Soviet fascist-type repression and the aggressive acts of the USSR in Europe and elsewhere in the world, Marchais' opening congress speech was an act of groveling before the critical eye of the other French bourgeois parties.

The French revisionists have also refused to join the Soviet revisionists in calling a world meeting of "fraternal parties" which could be used to launch further attacks on the Chinese, Albanian and other genuine Marxist-Leninist parties. However, Marchais' break was only superficial. He also tossed a bone to the Soviet delegate at the congress, saying that he wasn't trying to interfere in "the internal affairs" of another party. He called for unity with the USSR "against imperialism" and supported Soviet aggression in Angola.

## DISPUTE AMONG THIEVES

This falling out among thieves within the revisionist camp in no way means that the French traitors have become Marxist-Leninists. Rather it demonstrates the growing rifts and divisions of the same type that are common to all bourgeois parties and which are a natural result of the degeneracy of this whole camp of phony "communists."

In opposition to the revisionists, a new French communist movement is growing stronger every day as the open abandonment of Marxism by the CPF is no longer being hidden. In an article in L'Humanite Rouge, a daily newspaper of the Marxist-Leninists in France, a statement was published by Jacques Jurquet, a leader of the Marxist-Leninists of France, calling on the rank-and-file members of the revisionist party to break and come over to the side of



The month of March marks the anniversary of the very first workers' revolution—the Paris Commune which was established March 18, 1871.

In the picture above, the workers prepare to tear down the Vendome Column which was the symbol of French colonialism. Tearing down the column was just one of a number of acts of internationalism which the revolutionary workers carried out. Filled with this spirit, a poet and leader of the Commune, Eugene Pottier, wrote a song called the "Internationale."

Pottier's song, the "Internationale" has since become the anthem of communists and workers in every country.

## THE INTERNATIONALE

Arise ye prisoners of starvation. Arise ye wretched of the earth:  
For justice thunders condemnation. A better world's in birth.  
No more tradition's chains shall bind us. Arise ye slaves, no more in thrall.  
The earth shall rise on new foundations. We have been naught, we shall be all.

'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place.  
The Internationale shall be the human race.

We want no condescending saviors to rule us from their judgment hall.  
We workers ask not for their favors. Let us consult for all.  
To make the thief disgorge his booty, to free the spirit from its cell.  
We must ourselves decide our duty, we must decide and do it well.

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The law oppresses us and tricks us. The wage slave system drains our blood.  
The rich are free from obligations. The laws the poor delude.  
Too long we've languished in subjection. Equality has other laws.  
"No rights" says she, "without their duties, no claims on equals without cause."

'Tis the final conflict. Let each stand in his place.  
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Behold them seated in their glory, the kings of mine and rail and soil.  
What have you read in all their story but how they plundered toil?  
Fruits of the workers' toil are buried in strongholds of the idle few.  
In working for their restitution, the workers only claim their due.

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We toilers from all fields united, join hand in hand with all who work,  
The earth belongs to us, the workers. No room here for the shirk.  
How many on our flesh have fattened. But if the noisome birds of prey  
Shall vanish from the sky some morning, the blessed sunlight will stay.

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## Letters



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Gary Tyler and friends, in the Angola State Penitentiary, Louisiana  
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this growing movement to strengthen the genuine working class party.

Jurquet said: "Certainly, we have known for a long time already that step by step and revision by revision, these unworthy leaders were guiding the Party toward its opposite, transforming the revolutionary proletarian Party into a bourgeois counter-revolutionary party."

Jurquet added: "And in the final analysis, it is an excellent thing that these old traitors, the modern revisionists, are unmasking themselves today, still more rapidly than we would have expected 10 or 15 years ago, when they ignominiously expelled us for our opposition to their perfidious maneuvers. Things are really becoming clear. The 22nd Congress is the depths of irreversible degeneration."

Today it is this genuine communist movement in France and around the world that is the real defender of Marxism-Leninism and the proud inheritor of the traditions of the Communards in France and the Russian Bolsheviks. It is this movement

that defends the dictatorship of the proletariat, which stands for the power of the working class to run the society for which they have shed their sweat and blood.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is not the "tyranny" that Marchais and other revisionists claim but rather the rule for the first time in history by the majority of people. It is a dictatorship only for the exploiters and oppressors who are robbed of their rights to profit off the labor of working people. It is also the opposite of the fascist, imperialist dictatorship found in the Soviet Union today which invokes the name of socialism to defend the wealth and power of the new capitalist class in that country.

The results of the 22nd Congress of the French revisionist party also serve to expose the U.S. revisionists who even earlier than their French counterparts dropped the dictatorship of the proletariat from their program and who make no pretenses about their role as the shameless defenders of Soviet social-imperialism here in the U.S.

Like our French comrades, we too must take up the red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought and march forward to the building of a single revolutionary communist party—the party which will lead us to our victory over capitalism and to socialism.



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tion here in Bergen and are in great demand. I'd like to congratulate you and wish you the best for the future.

Internationalist greetings,  
Oktober Bookstore  
Bergen, Norway

Dear Comrades,

Bobby is dead!!

He was murdered with heroin—they met in 1969 for the first time. Now he's another name in the long list of Chicano-potential allies of the proletariat's army who've been eliminated by the bourgeoisie with their special weapon—drugs.

Bobby cleaned up for awhile—he even tried politics. Drugs made him weak though. He was confused by the fragmentation of the communist movement—damned revisionists! He became despondent during this current depression.

Whenever a minority-nationality member dies, the bourgeoisie can smile a smile of satisfaction. The proletariat loses a potential ally in the war of the classes.

How does an intelligent, proud, young and healthy person fall into the quidsand of the drugs? Bobby grew up with them. Since his youth, as he grew up "en el barrio 18" in L.A., weed or reds, later acid or heroin, were everywhere. The government's policy was "benign neglect." Drugs ran

rampant through the community.

What hurts most about Bobby's death is that he is but one of tens of thousands of people in objective contradiction with imperialism, who subjectively fall prey to one of its surest and deadliest traps.

You can be sure that your death will not go unavenged. The scaffolding of the revolutionary vanguard party is being built. *The Call* will be a weekly soon. You may not appreciate what that means now, but let me put it this way:

If the dictatorship of the proletariat had existed in the U.S. instead of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie—you'd be alive today. Unlike Chou En-lai, you may not get to see Marx—"that wasn't your thing"—but believe me, you serve as an inspiration to many of us to further escalate our resistance.

Your Camarada,  
Pancho Mendez

Dear Friends,

You have been sending me 10 *Calls* per month for distribution. Until recently that was sufficient but now more people are interested in *The Call* than I can supply with papers. The paper keeps getting better. Please increase my order to 20 copies.

B. S.  
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

# CTATORSHIP UNMASKED

this growing movement to strengthen the genuine working class party.

Jurquet said: "Certainly, we have known for a long time already that step by step and revision by revision, these unworthy leaders were guiding the Party toward its opposite, transforming the revolutionary proletarian Party into a bourgeois counter-revolutionary party."

Jurquet added: "And in the final analysis, it is an excellent thing that these old traitors, the modern revisionists, are unmasking themselves today, still more rapidly than we would have expected 10 or 15 years ago, when they ignominiously expelled us for our opposition to their perfidious maneuvers. Things are really becoming clear. The 22nd Congress is the depths of irreversible degeneration."

Today it is this genuine communist movement in France and around the world that is the real defender of Marxism-Leninism and the proud inheritor of the traditions of the Communards in France and the Russian Bolsheviks. It is this movement

that defends the dictatorship of the proletariat, which stands for the power of the working class to run the society for which they have shed their sweat and blood.

The dictatorship of the proletariat is not the "tyranny" that Marchais and other revisionists claim but rather the rule for the first time in history by the majority of people. It is a dictatorship only for the exploiters and oppressors who are robbed of their rights to profit off the labor of working people. It is also the opposite of the fascist, imperialist dictatorship found in the Soviet Union today which invokes the name of socialism to defend the wealth and power of the new capitalist class in that country.

The results of the 22nd Congress of the French revisionist party also serve to expose the U.S. revisionists who even earlier than their French counterparts dropped the dictatorship of the proletariat from their program and who make no pretenses about their role as the shameless defenders of Soviet social-imperialism here in the U.S.

Like our French comrades, we too must take up the red banner of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse-tung Thought and march forward to the building of a single revolutionary communist party—the party which will lead us to our victory over capitalism and to socialism.



tion here in Bergen and are in great demand. I'd like to congratulate you and wish you the best for the future.

Internationalist greetings,  
Oktober Bookstore  
Bergen, Norway

Dear Comrades,  
Bobby is dead!!

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# WOMEN ADVANCE WAVE UPON WAVE

In June of 1975, the UN-sponsored International Women's Year Conference in Mexico City heard Li Su-wen, the leader of the Chinese delegation, give a speech on the question of the road to women's emancipation. Below, we reprint excerpts.

The emancipation of women is a question of great importance. Women make up half of the world population and no great social change can be completed without their participation. To win emancipation, the oppressed women of the world, together with the rest of the oppressed people, have fought long and heroically, advancing wave upon wave in countless moving deeds that propelled the continued advance of society . . .

In every country women form a part of the whole nation and people. Their fate is invariably linked with that of the whole nation and people. Their emancipation, therefore, is an inseparable part of the struggle of the whole nation and people.

Right now imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism are still carrying out aggression and plunder; particularly the two superpowers are practising hegemonism and power politics everywhere, and are contending for spheres of influence, seriously encroaching upon and menacing the sovereignty, independence and basic rights of the people of many countries. All this also endangers the existence and security of the broad masses of women and children in these countries.

Under these circumstances, women cannot win emancipation without taking part in the main struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, particularly against hegemonism of the two superpowers . . .

How can our sisters in the Arab countries and in Palestine win women's rights without fighting Israeli Zionism and the superpower hegemonic policy of contention in the Middle East, without recovering their lost territories and restoring their national rights? . . .

In the developed countries, the working women are not only subjected to exploitation like other working people, but also face superpower control, interference and threat. If hegemonism is not opposed, there will be no "peace and security," or full guarantee for women's rights.

## FIGHT THE TWO SUPERPOWERS

Clearly, the primary task at present in the struggle for women's emancipation is to fight imperialism, colonialism and particularly hegemonism of the two superpowers. Only when this struggle is carried out successfully, while giving due attention to and solving the special demands and problems of women, can the cause for women's emancipation be pushed ahead steadily . . .

Women's emancipation is of vital interest primarily to women themselves and must be won through their own struggle. They must not expect emancipation to be granted them as a favour, or wait for a small number of people to win it for them.

Can the emancipation of women be realized by enacting laws protecting women's rights? Such laws will be of some help, but without struggle by women themselves, no such laws will be formulated, and even if they are formulated, it will be difficult to put them into practice. In such case there is still no real guarantee for women's rights and emancipation.

Experience proves that only when women take part in the liberation struggle of the oppressed nations and people and in social productive labour can they broaden their horizons, raise their political consciousness, give their talents full play, get rid of their inferiority complex, see their own strength and increase courage and confidence in struggle. By contributing to the cause of revolution and construction through participation in struggles, women will raise their position and win the respect of society.

What merits our sharp vigilance is that while women the world over are becoming increasingly awakened and throwing themselves actively into the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism to win and safeguard national independence, social progress and women's rights, the superpowers are doing their utmost to lead the women's movement astray.

One superpower insists that women's problems are "non-political," while the other superpower advocates that "detente is opening up favourable prospects" for the achievement of the purposes of International Women's Year, that "only under the conditions of peace and reduction of military expenditure" can women "win their defined social rights," etc.

## SUPERPOWER LOGIC: ULTERIOR MOTIVE

According to the logic of that superpower, the prerequisite to the emancipation of women is not persistent struggle against imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism, or the mobilization and organization of women, but waiting and begging for "peace," "detente" and "disarmament," and depending on kind favours bestowed by the superpowers. Such talk is spread with ulterior motives . . .

The harsh reality today is that the contention between the two superpowers is getting more and more intense and the factors for war are increasing. The people and women of the whole world must heighten their vigilance and be prepared . . .

Chinese women had sought long and hard the way to emancipation and had waged protracted struggles for its realization. Countless setbacks and failure had taught them that the system of oppression of man by man was the root cause of the discrimination and oppression they suffered, and that to achieve emancipation they must, first of all, fight for national liberation and social progress.

Under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tsetung and the Communist Party of China, Chinese women, together with the entire Chinese people, threw themselves into the struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucrat-capitalism and finally won the victory of the people's revolution and established the People's Republic of China.

The Chinese people have stood up, so have the Chinese working women who were at the bottom of the old society. The establishment of the socialist system in China eradicated the centuries-old root cause of oppression of women. The working people have become masters of the country and women have won equal rights with men in all fields of life. A new human relationship has developed, characterized by comradely mutual help and co-operation . . .

China is a developing socialist country. We are exerting our greatest efforts to consolidate the dictatorship of the proletariat, prevent the restoration of capitalism and carry the continued revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat through to the end. China is not a superpower, nor will she ever seek to be one. Chinese women have always stood with the oppressed women of the world. We will unswervingly fulfill our proletarian internationalist obligations, strengthen our unity with the oppressed nations, people and women of the whole world, support each other . . .

# 1911 SWEATSHOP FIRE KILLED WOMEN WORKERS

March 25 will mark 65 years since a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Company in New York City killed 146 workers, mostly women.

Most were Jewish and Italian immigrants—many under 15 years old. They were among 500 who worked 6 days a week at the factory making the popular blouse for women of the period called the shirtwaist. Flimsy and white, full at the top and narrow at the waist, it was called the symbol of American women at the turn of the century.

The ruling class rarely talks about the lives of workers and their history. It tries to bury this or distort it. This is why most people today, including garment workers, don't know the horrifying story of the great Triangle fire.

On Saturday, March 25, 1911, on Greene St. off Washington Square in New York's Lower East Side, a fire broke out shortly before 5:00 in the afternoon. It started on the top floors of the Asch building where the Triangle company occupied the top three floors.

Within minutes, the entire area was roaring with flames. A locked fire exit, a door that opened inward and tons of scrap material kept in bins under the cutting tables all fed the fire, leading to scores being trapped inside and to scores of others hurling themselves out the windows and off balconies to the streets below.

A reporter on the scene said the women "were jammed into the windows. They were burning to death in the windows. One by one the window jams broke. Down came the bodies in a shower, burning, smoking,

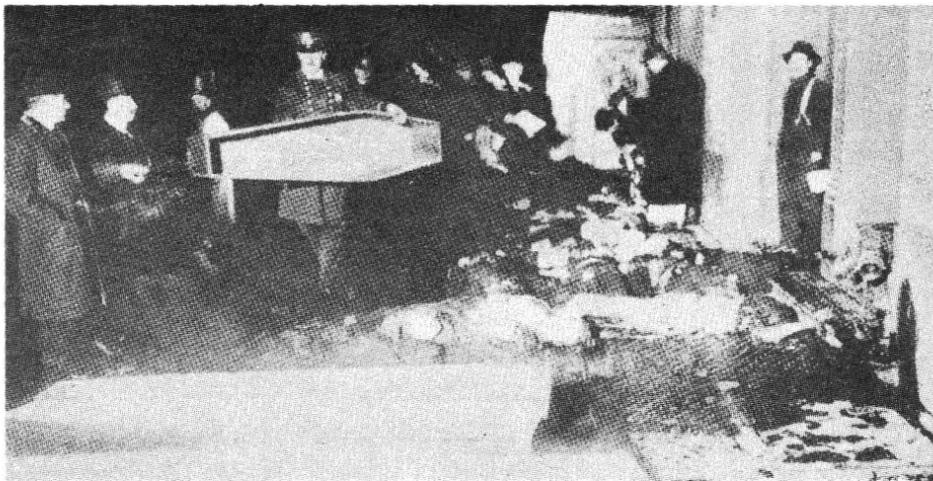
flaming bodies, with disheveled hair trailing upward.

"The floods of water from the firemen's hoses that ran into the gutter were actually red with blood. I looked upon the heap of dead bodies and I remembered these girls were the shirtwaist makers. I remembered their great strike of last year in which these same girls had demanded more sanitary conditions and more safety precautions in the shops."

Newspapers, books and protest meetings after the fire noted the violations in the building that caused so many women to be trapped. But, as a study done the year before by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union showed, 99% of coat and garment shops in the city were hazardous to the workers including lack of fire escapes, defective drop ladders, only one exit, locked doors during the day, doors opening inward instead of out, etc.

A reporter for the Times commented: "The neglect of factory owners in the matter of safety of their employees is absolutely criminal. One man whom I advised to install a fire drill replied to me: 'Let 'em burn. They're a lot of cattle, anyway.'" Most of the victims lived in the historic landing spot for immigrants to the U.S., the Lower East Side. On block after block on the days following the fire, funeral processions went slowly by and wreaths hung on doors on every street. The headquarters of the Waistmakers, Local 25 ILGWU, on Clinton St., was draped in black from roof to ground.

Over 100 families were affected, most without anyone to turn to in this foreign



adopted land. They had been forced to come to the U.S. from Russia, Austria, Palestine, Jamaica, Hungary, Romania and England. Most depended almost entirely on the incomes of the daughter or wife working at the Triangle factory.

After the fire a typical round of "who is guilty" began among the politicians and was played up by the press. The fire department, the buildings department, the Manhattan Borough president, the district attorney and others accused and were accused of being responsible. This enabled the trial of the factory owners to be postponed for over 8 months—allowing the workers' outrage to cool somewhat; and allowing a "not guilty" verdict to be safely rendered.

The first protest meeting was organized by the Women's Trade Union League the day after the fire. Representatives from many labor and civic organizations took part, all doing their best to channel the people's just anger in to voting for capitalist party politicians.

When the editor of the Jewish Daily Forward took the floor and began to tell the bereaved, angry audience that the mayor was to be thanked for organizing the charity for the dead workers' families, hisses broke out. Trying to quiet the crowd, he told them of a "crazy" worker who came to him and told him the only solution would be to "place a few bombs in the camp of the capitalists to redress the working class." But the audience took this up and cried out: "Throw a bomb under city hall!" "Blow the place up!"

## WORKERS OUTRAGED

Police moved quickly throughout the auditorium to keep things "under control," just as a year earlier they had tried to club the workers into submission during a strike at the same place. When "order" was restored, Leonora O'Reilly of the ILGWU and an officer of the WTUL got up to speak. When she mentioned the "martyrs who died that we might live," outrage broke out again.

Then a speaker from a Chicago socialist newspaper got up and talked in favor of unionizing as the answer to the deaths as well as to the general crisis faced by the working class. "We have the votes. Why should we not have the power?" he declared, adding, "Your future lies in unionism."

The owners of the factory, Isaac Harris and Max Blanck, had made a fortune in shirtwaists for ladies. They were among the first in their field to bring into one building the workers who had sewed at home, laboring over bundles of cut garments farmed out to them by jobbers.

Nevertheless, the hated subcontracting system still prevailed: Triangle would hire a machine operator, renting him half a dozen machines out of the 240 on the 9th floor. This operator, in reality a contractor for the firm, would then hire the young women, mostly immigrants, at starvation wages.

But gathering the workers under one roof meant trouble as well as profit for the capitalist. For under one roof the workers were organized not only to produce but also to rebel.

Two years before the murderous fire, in September 1909, the women at Triangle went out on strike. The dissatisfaction with the contractor system and all its evils brought out thousands of other garment workers.

The company hired thugs, bribed police and used every tactic to break the strike. By Christmas, 723 arrests had been made. After 13 weeks, the ILGWU, which started



FIRE, pictured by newspapers of the day. Out with 400 members, had organized 354 sweatshops.

The Triangle shop was one of the places where the strike did not succeed. As Rose Safran recalled after the strike: "I was one of the pickets and was arrested and fined several times. The union paid my fines. Our bosses won and we went back as an open shop having nothing to do with the union. . . If the union had won we would have been safe. Two of our demands were for adequate fire escapes and for open doors from the factories to the street. But the bosses defeated us and we didn't get (either). So our friends are dead."

New York City garment workers still work by the thousands in tenement buildings as old as if not older than the one where the Triangle workers died. In 1958 a fire broke out at a garment shop just a few blocks from the old Triangle building. Forty-four workers died as the floor collapsed from under them. It happened that a survivor from the Triangle fire still living on the Lower East Side saw the flames from her apartment and rushed to the scene. There she recognized a union official and approached him saying, "What good have been all the years? The fire still burns."

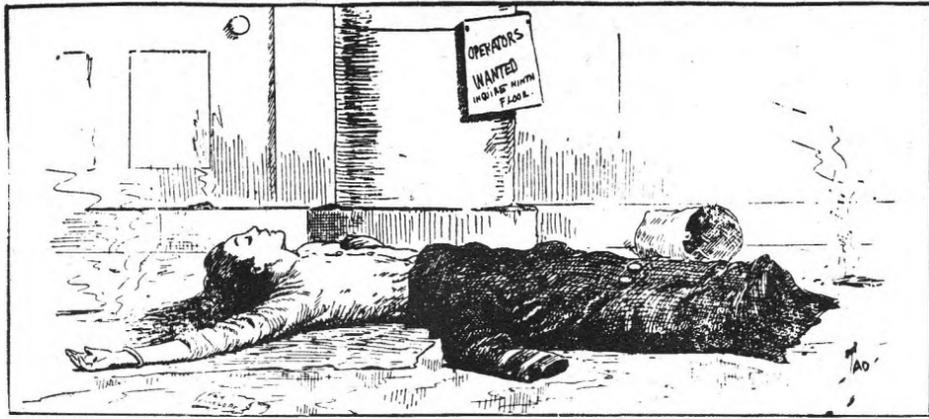
The fire still burns in many other ways as well. The low wages typical of this industry have been perpetuated by the class-collaborationist policies of the ILGWU leadership. Thousands of garment workers have been laid off due to the capitalist crisis and partly because of runaway shops to the South and to Third World nations, where U.S. imperialism insures cheaper labor. But the union leadership, instead of directing the struggle against the employers and the whole system, chauvinistically blames the high unemployment on the workers of the oppressed nations. Even the old "farming-out" system is far from dead. With a vast pool of unemployed garment workers, the employers tell workers still in the shops to take a wage cut or the company will get home laborers to do the work.

Sweatshop and unsafe conditions still prevail for the mainly Latino, Black and Asian women who work in the garment factories today.

The piecemeal gains made over the years since the Triangle fire have done nothing to alter the fundamental exploitation of the garment workers or their oppression as women.

## This Is One of a Hundred Murdered

Is any one to be punished for this?



## Seattle Garment Worker Writes on the Language Question

From a Seattle Worker Correspondent:

In the October issue of *The Call*, I read a letter from a woman who wrote telling about the bad and unfair conditions that were present in the garment factory where she worked, Robert T. Hall. This letter started me thinking about the conditions that are present in the garment factory where I work, Sunset Sportswear in Seattle. At Sunset the employers try to do everything they can to cheat the employees out of their hard earned money.

For example, Sunset has a contract with the Lee Company, one of the biggest clothing manufacturers in the country. The jackets we make sell for \$30.00 or more in the store, yet it costs Lee \$1.30 to make each jacket. For the operation I am doing I get 5¢ per coat, and \$5 per hundred. To get 100% pay for my work I must do 300 jackets. In some operations the sewers have to do 400 or more to make 100%.

Sunset also discriminates against the Asian people that work here. They neglect to get things translated into the Asian peoples' languages. They try to get the Asian people to fight among themselves by spreading lies.

Our union is racist, just like the company. They will not pay translators for the Asian people and then the local officials blame the Asian women for not being interested.

There are two revolutionary groups here at Sunset, one is the October League, the one I believe in, and the other is called the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). The RCP has a caucus called Sew Much. The Sew Much tries to separate the workers by saying that the English speaking workers get upset everytime we bring up that we need translations for non-English speaking workers and that things should get translated into their language. I do not consider the RCP to be a revolutionary group because they say that they are for all the workers, but they are actually not. The company knows this, so the people in Sew Much never get harassed like the people who are in the OL or people who believe in the OL, who are fighting in the interests of all the workers.

I feel that the only solution to this misery at Sunset and under this system is for us to unite all the workers to overthrow this company and others like it.

# Guatemalan Earthquake Shows: IMPERIALISM IS GREATEST DISASTER

Hitting with the force of 7.5 on the Richter scale, last month's Guatemala earthquake killed 19,000 people, wounded another 66,000 and left a million people—one sixth of the whole population—homeless.

While the quake's path of destruction spread across the whole country, virtually every eyewitness concurred with the statement of Guatemala's U.S. ambassador: "It is the poor who have suffered the most."

Newsweek magazine noted that "The teeming slum districts in Guatemala were piles of debris," but added, "The middle and upper middle class sections of the capital were relatively undamaged." A CBS news commentator ended one of his on-the-spot reports by asking "Why it is those who have the least, who always lose the most?"

The facts of the Guatemala earthquake provide the answer to the newsman's question.

Guatemala is a third-world country, long oppressed and kept underdeveloped by U.S. imperialism. It is imperialism which has robbed the natural wealth of Guatemala and exploited the labor of its people. As a result, Guatemalans live in extremely poor conditions. The majority of the population lives in huts and shacks which crumbled easily when the tremors hit. Over 300 towns and villages were completely destroyed in the countryside and mountain areas.

By contrast, the imperialists have built some fancy homes and offices for themselves and their chosen handful of Guatemalan friends. The great majority of these buildings, as the reporters on the scene noted, withstood the quake.

Over the years, U.S. imperialism has invested close to a billion dollars in Guatemala. But none of this investment has helped improve the housing, medical care, or trans-

portation system needed by the people. It has only gone into the construction of profit-churning factories and the extraction of fruit, coffee, and minerals for export to the U.S.

Of course the U.S. made a big point of advertising its "massive assistance" to its "good friend Guatemala." As of this writing, the U.S. has provided Guatemala with \$3 million in aid to recover from the earthquake. This puny "generosity" is all the more hypocritical when compared to the fact that the CIA spent \$100 million to overthrow the popular Arbenz government in 1954, when it began to stand up to imperialist domination.

The U.S. aid is an attempt to cover up a ton of crimes with an ounce of sympathy. But it cannot make the U.S. "look good" in the eyes of the Latin American countries. They are stepping up their fight against both the U.S. and the USSR and all foreign attempts to dominate and control.

Two days after the earthquake, the Catholic church, one of the foremost apologizers for U.S. imperialism, called a nationwide mass. They proclaimed the earthquake "an act of God" and called on the people to "repent for their sins."

But earthquakes are not "acts of God" and their destruction cannot be halted by prayer. They are natural disasters and their harm can be minimized only when people

get organized and prepared.

In socialist China, an earthquake of a similar magnitude occurred exactly a year before the Guatemala earthquake. Although millions of people lived in the affected area, there was no loss of life and injuries were minimal because the quake was predicted in advance.

The Chinese people have kicked the imperialists out of their country, and built up their society by mobilizing the people. In China, there are no imperialists living in palaces while the people live in shacks. All the money that is available for housing goes into producing the highest quality housing for all.

Even with the best housing, though, earthquakes can be dangerous. Understanding this, the Chinese have developed both highly sophisticated detection devices and a system of home-made devices to predict quakes. Once predicted, people can be moved out of the area likely to be hit.

In earthquake-prone areas, everyone from young school children to old peasants

join with scientists in earthquake-detection. This concern for prevention of natural disasters reflects the famous statement of the Chinese people's leader, Chairman Mao Tsetung, who said, "Of all things in the world, people are the most precious."

Earthquakes have caused disaster throughout the recorded history of man. But now in socialist China for the first time in history their impact is being scientifically curtailed. Even Western scientists have been amazed at the advances China has made in earthquake prediction.

Such advances can only be made in a society where people are considered precious. The only thing that is precious to U.S. imperialism is profit. When the earthquake hit Guatemala, all the imperialists did was shed crocodile tears and worry if any of their factories were hit.

The people of Guatemala will never be free of the danger of the earthquake until they are free of the chains of imperialism and can fully mobilize the people to defend against natural disasters.

## LOCKHEED BRIBED JAPANESE MILITARIST

A Senate subcommittee report has exposed that the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation has paid more than \$22 million in bribes overseas. An uproar was set off when it was shown that the corporation paid \$7.1 million to a convicted Japanese fascist war criminal and a spokesman for the revival of Japanese militarism.

Yoshio Kodama received the multi-million dollar bribe payments to use his influence within Japanese ruling circles to gain a foothold for Lockheed. The bribes began in 1958 when the company was competing with Gruman Corp. to sell jet fighters in Japan, and Kodama was pushing to militarize Japan.

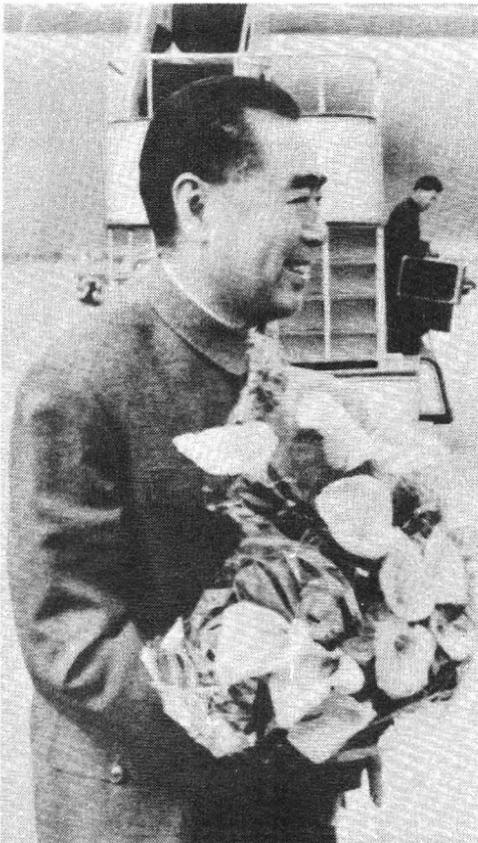
Kodama is described in the New York Times as "a shadowy man behind the scenes, who is credited with having financed the

formation of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, helped pick several prime ministers and mediated political and business disputes for 25 years." The Senate subcommittee adds that Kodama had both political influence and ties to the Tokyo underworld. He spent some time in prison in the late 1940's on war criminal charges. It was in prison that he met and became friends with former Japanese Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi.

All told Lockheed has sold nearly \$800 million worth of aircraft in Japan in the last 15 years.

The Lockheed scandal is also rippling through a number of European countries where big payoffs were made. An important sidelight on the whole affair is that after tossing millions to its foreign friends, Lockheed was forced into near-bankruptcy and had to be salvaged by U.S. government guarantees and taxpayers money.

## CHOU EN-LAI REMEMBERED



Comrade Chou En-lai, the Premier of the People's Republic of China who died in January, was a great revolutionary hero of working and oppressed people in China and around the world.

Above, two scenes from his life are depicted. At left, Chou En-lai returns to a warm welcome from the Chinese people after powerfully rebuffing Soviet revisionist attacks on China at a 1964 meeting in Moscow. At right, comrade Chou is pictured as he often was—among the workers and peasants. In this 1965 picture, Chou visits with peasant leaders who helped turn the Tachai production brigade from a barren desert into flourishing farmland. (Hsinhua photos)

Thousands of people attended memorial gatherings across the U.S. last month to mourn the death of comrade Chou En-lai, Premier of the People's Republic of China.

The biggest single meeting was in New York City, where nearly 2000 mourners heard Dr. Yang Chen-ying, Nobel prize-winning physicist, deliver the main eulogy of the late Chinese premier.

Also in New York, the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United

Nations received many hundreds of visitors who came to convey their condolences. A large reception room at the Mission was bedecked with wreaths—more than 160 of them in addition to those sent by other governments. Among the wreaths was one presented by a delegation of the October League (Marxist-Leninist).

A Chicago meeting was co-sponsored by the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (Union of Democratic Filipinos), the

October League and other organizations. A speaker representing the KDP traced Chou En-lai's life from his birth in a well-off family to his lifelong exemplary service in the cause of the proletariat, and recalled his proletarian-internationalist stand toward the Filipino people. Eileen Klehr delivered a eulogy on behalf of the October League, recalling her meeting with Chou En-lai on a visit to China five years ago, and summing up the outstanding contributions Chou En-lai made to the world struggle.

## E. TIMOR RESISTS AGGRESSION

The people of East Timor are continuing to fight the Indonesian invaders who have tried to occupy the former Portuguese colony.

Alarico Fernandes, an official of the Democratic Republic of East Timor affirmed the fighting spirit of the people of East Timor in a radio broadcast from the popularly-held mountain area. Fernandes pointed out that even though Indonesia invaded East Timor several months ago, it has been unable to control the territory. Armed with planes, tanks, and guns, Indonesia has not been able to subdue the people who are armed only with a minimal number of rifles.

Fernandes also pointed out that the Indonesian invaders were being turned back in decisive military battles. Today, approximately 80% of East Timor is still held by FRETILIN, the liberation organization of the people of East Timor.

The aggressive Indonesian invasion has been condemned by a number of neighboring countries. Worldwide protests against Indonesian atrocities have stepped up, especially with reports from FRETILIN that 20,000 women and children have been massacred by the invaders.

### Angola forum

Sunday, March 28th 6p.m.  
Harlem Cultural Council  
2349 Seventh Ave. (at 137th St.)  
New York City, N.Y.

Speakers from  
Congress of Afrikan People  
October League  
and others

# TAKING UP THE CALL

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

## VIETNAMESE CRUSH CIA PLOT

Using the religious cover of the Catholic church, a small number of Vietnamese traitors have recently made attacks on the government, including an armed occupation of a Saigon church. The New York Times has quoted south Vietnamese officials as stating that the attempted plots were backed by the CIA.

Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh pointed out in a February 18 statement that the official Catholic church fully supported the government and opposed any attempts to use religious pretexts for attacking the government.

The incidents show that even though the U.S. has been thoroughly defeated in Vietnam, it still plots to return to a position of domination.

## WATCH MAKERS LEAD THE WAY

Workers at the U.S.-owned Timex watch factory in Portugal have been in the vanguard of the struggle against layoffs and unemployment.

The Timex workers, mostly women, are being asked to swallow the layoff of 800 workers and a cut to a three-day week for 1,200 more. But they are fighting back with militant mass actions and have threatened to occupy the factory.

The Timex plant has a history of struggle. Workers there carried out a number of illegal strike actions even before the anti-fascist coup of April, 1974.

During the period of the fifth government, when a number of revisionist Communist Party officials were in power, Timex workers again stood up to attempts to stifle their struggle. They demonstrated against a so-called "communist" labor ministry official who kept taking the side of the bosses.

In order to better combat the current wave of layoffs, the Timex workers have made an appeal to workers throughout the area to join with them in solidarity actions.

The struggle of the Timex workers is a rallying point for organizing against the foreign interests that still control Portugal's economy. But it is also a significant step in breaking the revisionist party's stranglehold on the trade union movement.

## TEACHERS STRIKE IN VIRGIN ISLANDS

Defying a back-to-work order, 1,700 school teachers in the U.S. Virgin Islands are on strike demanding higher wages and better working conditions. Over two-thirds of the students have stayed out of class to back up the teachers' demands.

The teachers, like other public employees who have been engaged in a battle against mounting layoffs, must bargain with a colonial arm of a U.S. district court.

## HEROES OR TSAR'S CANNON FODDER?

In early February, the Soviet Embassy in Malaysia invited guests to an annual celebration. The event was billed as a "ceremony to unveil tombstones" of dead "Russian heroes." But who were these "heroes" and why did the Soviet revisionists choose this time to commemorate them?

The dead "heroes" turned out to be drowned Russian military men whose ship was shelled by Germany during a World War I battle. The men died fighting for the riches of Tsar Nicolas II against the interests of the German imperialists.

The first World War was nothing but a battle among the thieves to divide up the world. In fact, the Russian revolutionary leader Lenin urged Russian troops not to

defend tsarism but to "turn the imperialist war into a civil war" and make revolution. Yet the Soviet revisionists who claim to be heirs to Lenin today, glorify the dead soldiers as "heroes of their motherland." They were actually nothing but cannon-fodder driven to their death in Malaysian waters by the Tsar.

To the Soviet social-imperialists of today, the dead soldiers are in fact "heroes." The social-imperialists, much like the Tsar, would like to capture Malaysia and the strategic Malacca Strait. They have good reason to eulogize the Tsarist soldiers, who died pursuing the same goal.

## MOZAMBIQUE HONORS MONDLANE

About 50,000 people held a mass rally February 3 in Maputo, Mozambique, to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the death of Eduardo Mondlane, the late president of the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO).

Speaking in the city formerly known as Lourenco Marques, Samora Machel, the current president of FRELIMO, paid tribute to Mondlane and the inspiration he provided to the people's struggle against the Portuguese colonial rule.

## DJIBOUTI FIGHTS FOR INDEPENDENCE

The French government has promised to grant independence to its Territory of Afars and Issas, also known as Djibouti, but is trying to maintain a huge naval base in the country as part of the independence plan.

Djibouti, which lies at the entrance to both the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, is currently used to house over 10% of the French navy. Both the U.S. and the USSR have huge fleets in the nearby Indian Ocean, and both appear anxious to intervene in this strategic country of 200,000 people.

France meanwhile has stepped up its occupation of Djibouti even as the independence negotiations continue. Over 6,000 French troops have been moved into Djibouti, and police have closed off a number of neighborhoods where there was strong popular sentiment to get France out.

Attempts to demolish shanty towns in order to build new military facilities were met by demonstrations of several thousand people in Balbala, a poor quarter within Djibouti City.

## ARGENTINA CP(M-L) HOLDS CONGRESS

The Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Argentina, formerly known as the Communist Vanguard, held its second congress at the end of January.

A bulletin from the party took note of the strict secret conditions under which the congress had to be held owing to the growing fascist threat in Argentina. It said, "The congress called the Argentine people to struggle with all possible means to hinder the intentions of fascism and summoned them to arm themselves so as to face and defeat the reactionary terror."

The bulletin warned that forces within Argentina were conspiring with imperialist powers abroad to engineer a fascist coup d'etat similar to the 1973 coup in Chile.

Commenting on the international situation, the congress called on the Argentinian people to make their country an ally of all the Third World countries fighting imperialism and the superpowers. It warned of the danger of the third world war stemming from the rivalry of the U.S. and the USSR, and called on the Argentinian masses to get prepared.

## IRISH HUNGER STRIKER DIES

British colonialism has murdered yet another victim in its attempt to keep Northern Ireland enslaved.

Frank Stagg, a fighter in the Irish Republican Army (IRA) died on February 12 after a month-long hunger strike in an English prison. He began his hunger strike demanding a transfer to an Irish prison. Stagg was serving a ten year sentence for his role in opposing Britain's rule of Northern Ireland.

Following Stagg's death, a new wave of anti-colonial struggle broke out in Northern Ireland. His picture was prominently displayed in many areas of Belfast.

## MORE JAILINGS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Opposition to martial law in the Philippines has been growing. The largest mass demonstration since the 1971 institution of martial law saw thousands of people demand the right to strike. In addition, both rural and urban squatters have militantly defended their land and homes against attempts to evict them by the Marcos government.

In the wake of this heightened militancy, 41 activists in the struggle against martial law were rounded up and arrested on January 23. Among those arrested were six suspected members of the Communist Party of the Philippines, nine labor and slum organizers, and eight students and teachers from the University of the Philippines.

## KISSINGER TRIES 'SOFT TOUCH'

Henry Kissinger traveled to six Latin American countries in February, attempting to shore up the declining influence of U.S. imperialism across that continent.

In Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia, Kissinger was met by demonstrators opposing U.S. control of their countries' economies.

Kissinger was forced to adopt a stance of support for Latin American efforts to

organize and unite together, even though U.S. interests have consistently tried to undermine such unity.

Kissinger told Peruvian leaders that the "U.S. understands and supports the Peruvian revolution." He informed Venezuelan leaders that the U.S. will try to deal with Latin American nations on an "equal footing." He also announced support for SELA, the new economic association of Latin American countries which excludes the U.S.

Kissinger's new "soft touch" is a response to the growing independence of the Latin countries as well as increasing attempts by the USSR to penetrate the economies of the region. Summing up the tide of independence, Colombian president Alfonso Lopez told Kissinger, "Colombia doesn't have to go on its knees before the U.S. or any other country."

## M-L PARTY BUILDS IN EAST GERMANY

The Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Germany (KPD-ML) has announced that with the beginning of this year a section of the party has been founded in East Germany.

In a bulletin announcing the creation of the East German section, the KPD-ML pointed out that the party is fighting for a unified, independent, socialist Germany. This struggle will lead it to fight against the new bourgeoisie ruling in East Germany and the Russian social-imperialists who are the main enemy of socialist revolution in East Germany.

The article added that the continued division of Germany exists only because of the treason against the German people committed by both the ruling class of West Germany and the new bourgeoisie of East Germany. It added that the continued division serves the superpowers but is against the aspirations of the German people.

## CORRECTION OF CANADA C.L. ARTICLE

In the January, 1976 issue of *The Call* we reported the formation of the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist). Our article stated that the three organizations which united to create the CCL-ML did so on the basis of unity gained from discussion of a document by the Revolutionary Students Movement of Quebec (MREQ).

In fact, all three of the former organizations (Militant Workers Cell, Revolutionary Workers Cell and the MREQ) produced documents calling for the creation of a Marxist-Leninist organization and outlining its proposed political principles. All of the texts contributed significantly to the formation of the new organization.

## FROM THE WORLD PRESS

**TOUFANH**  
ORGAN DE L'ORGANISATION  
MARXISTE-LENINISTE IRANIENNE  
کانون مارکسیست-لنینیست ایرانی

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PROLETAIRES DE TOUS LES PAYS, NATIONS  
ET PEUPLES OPPRIMÉS, UNISSEZ-VOUS!

The newspaper Toufahn, central organ of the Iranian Marxist-Leninist Organization, denounces all those who pretend to be revolutionaries while in the name of the struggle against U.S. imperialism and the Shah have thrown themselves into the arms of the Soviets.

The article appeared in the French edition of Toufahn number 98.

The article goes on to refute that it is a "rightist" line to combat the reactionary Iranian bourgeoisie, U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism at the same time. The article notes:

"The line of the right is the line which has found a 'common language' with Soviet imperialism and which collaborates with it and its fifth column. This line is a reactionary line, the true rightist line. But these gentlemen represent their line as 'combative' and that of our organization as 'rightist' because we consider the USSR as an imperialist and denounce it seriously and sharply. Since when does falling into the arms of imperialism signify 'militancy' and struggling against imperialism make one a 'rightist'? It's news to us!

"Is it true that we have made the struggle against Soviet imperialism our 'principal struggle'? No! We consider that on the world scale U.S. imperialism and Soviet imperialism are the most ferocious and greatest enemies of the peoples of the world and of Iran. This is why we struggle against both of them.

"But it is necessary to see that U.S. imperialism has by now been widely denounced in the eyes of the peoples of the world. The USSR, this new imperialism, having the mask of socialism, can still deceive some people, by relying on its past history, of the Soviets, of Lenin, of Stalin. It has become the duty of all revolutionary organizations, of all those who prize liberty and independence, to tear off the mask of socialism and show its reality and its true nature.

"Our organization is accomplishing this revolutionary task and is pursuing this path."

# 'PERMANENT UNION' SCHEME AIMED AT PUERTO RICO

A sinking economy and a desperate political situation in Puerto Rico have produced a "new" scheme to salvage the puppet government of Hernandez-Colon and to assure a few more years of U.S. colonial rule. The scheme's name is "the Compact of Permanent Union between Puerto Rico and the United States."

Its main objective is to impose harsher and more oppressive conditions on Puerto Rico's working population and to set up more flexible and profitable arrangements for U.S. corporations, under the guise of granting greater "autonomy" to the Puerto Rican colonial government.

The "new" pact rehashes many old arrangements. Ultimate power and authority still lie completely in the hands of the U.S. government. In all key matters of defense, trade, international relations, the determining factor is what "is essential to the interests of the United States." Where "autonomy" comes in, referred to as "exclusive jurisdiction," is in articles 17 and 18. The colonial government of Puerto Rico is given exclusive jurisdiction "over all matters pertaining to minimum wage and working hours, (...) labor-management relations, (...) laws and regulations on occupational health and safety." Ecology and environmental control are

also "exclusively" in the hands of the "Free Associated State."

Commonwealth officials have been arguing for some time that the real cause of Puerto Rico's devastating crisis and soaring unemployment (estimated at about 40%) is application of the federal minimum wage bill on the island. They have been fighting for more authority to lower wages, speed up workers and bypass safety and health regulations. Teodoro Moscoso, head of the Puerto Rican Economic Development Administration (Fomento) reiterated this reactionary logic during hearings on Jan. 21 before Congress in support of the pact.

(Despite the fact that the federal minimum wage law has recently been applied to Puerto Rico, latest figures place per capita income in Puerto Rico at 54% of the per capita average for the state of Mississippi—the lowest in the United States.)

Moscoso as well as Hernandez Colon are key spokesmen for the pact. They fear that without immediate changes to lure more U.S. industry to the island, there will be unprecedented hunger, misery and bankruptcy along with unprecedented popular rebellion. This is an election year in Puerto Rico, and Hernandez Colon is being challenged by both pro-statehood and pro-independence forces.

Prior to the announcement of the pact, submitted to Congress on Dec. 17, 1975, the colonial government carried out a massive advertising campaign to attract U.S. industry. In the past few years industry has been abandoning Puerto Rico for Taiwan and south Korea. Hernandez Colon promised in full-page ads in the N.Y. Times and Wall Street Journal, ever greater tax exemptions to companies, pre-paid training programs and government subsidies to pay part of the workers' wages. A new "personnel" law was also passed destroying seniority rights. Widespread repression was unleashed against the labor movement and the independentistas, including the arrest and frameup of Federico Cintron Fiallo, a pro-independence leader of the United Workers Movement (MOU) and the El Gremio union.

Despite such wholesale sell-outs, U.S. companies have as yet shown little interest in opening new factories on the island. Hernandez Colon hopes to use the pact's rulings as well as its promise of "permanency" as additional lures.

The "Compact of Permanent Union" has been in the works since 1973, when the United Nations opened discussion on Puerto Rico and classified it as a U.S. colony. Fearful of losing its colony at a



PUERTO RICAN people's struggle is surging forward despite new attempts to keep the island enslaved.

time when its power and influence have declined world-wide, the U.S. arranged with the colonial government to set up an Ad hoc Committee to prepare recommendations for "self-government within the framework of Commonwealth." Its job was to arrive at a fixed formula of "permanent union" before any UN action could occur. (The UN Decolonization Committee is scheduled to discuss the case of Puerto Rico in August of this year.)

Such committees and recommendations for increased self-government or autonomy have appeared a number of times since the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico in 1898 and set up military occupation of the island. These offers have historically come in response to an upsurge in the struggle for independence. They have also been coupled with brutal repression of the independence movement.

In 1936, for example, when the Puerto Rican people under the leadership of the Nationalist Party were taking the road to independence, the U.S. sent in military forces to crush the movement. Following this violent repression, the Tydings Bill was introduced, supporting "independence"—but only

if all U.S. aid would be halted, all U.S. investments ended, and an economic embargo placed on the island. Then in 1947, under increasing pressure to grant independence, the U.S. altered its rule over Puerto Rico by passing the Elective Governor Act that enabled Puerto Ricans to vote for a governor. Up until then the governor had been a U.S. military appointee.

Since 1947, each gesture to award greater autonomy has been a means of imposing the harshest colonial measures which could not be as effectively enforced if they originated in Washington, D.C. Operation Bootstrap's tax-free industry incentives had a local trademark under Fomento and the plans to forcibly sterilize women are also administered locally.

The "new" pact, giving jurisdiction over wage and working conditions, occupational safety and environmental control, will enable the U.S. to shift responsibility for increased exploitation of Puerto Rico's people and resources over to the puppet government. This proposal for the so-called "Free Associated State of Puerto Rico" in "permanent union" with the U.S. is just one more smokescreen for U.S. colonial rule.

MAP SHOWS strategic location of Puerto Rico and its importance to U.S. control of Latin America.



The sizable number of people attending the Chicago Hard Times Conference last month was one indication of the growing spontaneous fight-back and the desire among activists to establish organized leadership in the struggle. But groups like the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) who were the main forces behind the conference, could provide neither a fighting program nor lasting organization for those who attended.

What the Hard Times leadership had to offer was a reformist "Bill of Rights" that never once targeted the capitalist system itself as the cause of the crisis. In addition, an "action program" was presented which was based almost exclusively on electoral reforms and bicentennial "counter" demonstrations. Speeches and workshops reflected this reformism, especially on the national question. No workshops were scheduled to discuss national oppression, and the "Bill of Rights" included only a passing reference to the fight against discrimination.

In reaction to the outright abandonment of the revolutionary struggle of this country's oppressed nationalities, a Black caucus formed during the course of the proceedings, which correctly targeted Hard Times for failing "to understand the full depth of the racist character of U.S. imperialism."

Efforts on the part of the participants to raise more discussion and take up the fight against national oppression with concrete proposals were stifled. In the anti-repression workshop, a move to oppose the anti-busing segrega-

tionist movement and support the Black and Latino students at South Boston High was tabled without discussion. When the Black caucus asked for an "open mike" at the Sunday plenary, Jose de la Cruz of PSP, making a sham call for "unity," demanded that "action proposals" be discussed instead.

The Hard Times' organizers could not lay the basis for strong multinational working class unity because of the view—expressed by a number of speakers—that the whole U.S. working class is "bought off." Pete Kelley of the Hard Times Planning Committee said in a keynote address: "The average American worker has benefited from imperialism abroad, and the white worker benefits from racism at home."

This view writes off white workers as a revolutionary force in this country and feeds the petit-bourgeois view that the working class as a whole cannot fight discrimination nor lead the struggles of the broad masses against imperialism.

The trade union workshop reflected the same petty-bourgeois pessimism. There was no discussion of a strategy for winning the un-

ions to a revolutionary position, no concrete plans for building caucuses and rooting the fight-back among the industrial workers.

As a further example of the reformism promoted at the conference, the welfare workshop was led by a New York politician who channeled all debate into support for electing "better" officials. The "actions" called for in numerous other workshops also centered on letter-writing and petition campaigns to Congress.

Besides providing a platform for a reformist strategy domestically, Hard Times went out of its way to drum up support for the Soviet Union's schemes for world domination. An international workshop passed a resolution praising Soviet "aid" to Angola and other third world nations and movements as "friendly and helpful." In discussion on Angola, Southeast Asia and Puerto Rico, Soviet social-imperialism's criminal objectives were covered over, and efforts to clarify the role of the USSR and oppose all superpower intervention were silenced.

The Hard Times Conference exposed the centrist role played

by groups like PSP. In an effort to find an "alternative" to the genuine revolutionary movement growing across the country, they dress up a thoroughly reformist and bankrupt program with a few militant-sounding phrases. As a result, they provide a "left" cover for a program that in its basic points corresponds to the electoral strategy and reformism of the revisionist CPUSA.

These centrists end up diverting people away from the path of revolutionary struggle and abandon them to the revisionist leadership. The alliance built between the centrist leaders and the array of Trotskyite sects at the conference indicates their desperation to find an alternative to a real fight-back with working class leadership and an anti-imperialist program.

While willing to put forward the same program as the revisionists and unite with the Trotskyites, these centrists refused to support the National Fight-Back Organization (NFBO) which was founded in December.

In contrast to Hard Times, the NFBO targets imperialism as the source of the crisis, opposes both

superpowers and unites workers of all nationalities against discrimination and chauvinism. The NFBO is also firmly rooted in local organizations among thousands of workers, while Hard Times which brought together a large number of people, was unable to build any type of stable nation-wide organization.

It has also been learned that the conference was in large part funded by the federal government and approved by Eugene Eidenberg, the head of the Illinois State Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) commission which dispenses all federal police funds in Illinois.

Eidenberg approved the conference in his capacity as vice-chancellor of the University of Illinois Circle Campus, the site of the meeting. Eidenberg verified to *The Call* that the conference received several thousand dollars from American Issues Forum, a conduit for the National Endowment for the Humanities (a federal agency). Eidenberg also told *The Call* that he called "all concerned government police agencies" to attend the conference.

## 'HARD TIMES' MEET-- ROAD TO DEFEAT

# WEEKLY BY MAY 1ST ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The weekly newspaper will enable us—and encourage us—to play a much more active role in intervening in ongoing struggles. Unlike a monthly, the weekly paper is able to stride into the thick of a conflict as it develops, to strike blows while the iron is hot, and to decide the outcome of a struggle by giving correct leadership. This is as true of events on the international scene as of the day-to-day struggles in the shops, communities and campuses.

With a weekly, the comrades involved in a strike, for example, will be able to sum up events weekly and speak to the most pressing questions as they arise, rather than sum them up after. What the participants in a strike write this week will be in the other workers' hands next week, and will have a direct influence on

how the struggle turns out. The same is true of other issues and struggles besides strikes. In this way the weekly becomes a more integral part of the struggle than a monthly, and a more powerful collective organizer.

The weekly will allow a much broader and deeper participation in the newspaper by the masses of the people than was possible with the monthly. The weekly's greater punch as a collective organizer and agitator will make it a more powerful tool for building factory networks, caucuses, community groups and other mass organizations of struggle.

The weekly will have more emphasis on agitation and on comprehensive, all-sided exposure of the capitalist system. It will aim to become an even more popular paper, reaching out to the broad-

est possible mass audience. At the same time the weekly will play a more active role in the struggle to win the advanced and most class conscious workers to socialism and to the party. It will give guidance more effectively in the theoretical struggle, and serve as even more useful material for group study of Marxism-Leninism Mao Tsetung Thought.

The weekly, in short, will be a more powerful instrument in building the new communist party, whose formation is the principal and immediate task of Marxist-Leninists in the present period.

Call Committees in most cities of the country began weeks ago to get concretely prepared for the new tasks. Several city committees, by taking a scientific look at past Call distribution schedules and waging a struggle against com-

placency, are now selling nearly as many Calls in the first week of the month as they used to sell during the whole month. Others have discovered and eliminated looseness in organization or unnecessary delays in distributing the paper from a central place to smaller distributors and to the masses. As the weekly approaches, there is taking shape all across the country the kind of fast, well-oiled revolutionary distribution machine that is the pride of the proletariat.

The campaign to build the weekly Call/Clarín is in essence a political struggle. The weaknesses and obstacles that stand in the way such as primitiveness and economism, as well as sectarianism, all have a definite class content. They serve the bourgeoisie. To build the weekly in any of its parts, no matter how small, is to participate in the class struggle on the side of the proletariat, and to deliver a blow against imperialism and revisionism.

Next month's issue (April) will be the last of the monthlies. A format that was necessary in its time, and that has now become clearly inadequate to our capabilities and obligations in the struggle, will be discarded in favor of a more appropriate tool. A most exciting and challenging course lies before us. It's time to redouble our efforts in the factories and communities, in practical work and in the study of theory—in every area—to greet the First of May by launching the revolutionary weekly Call/Clarín.

"Read, Sell and Write for The Weekly Call" says a new poster now ready for posting wherever potential readers may be found. We call on all workers and nationalities, all anti-imperialists and other progressives to take up these tasks. There is room for hundreds of new correspondents, distributors and sustainers. Join the campaign to build the revolutionary weekly!

ON TO MAY DAY!

# LESSONS OF ANGOLA ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ism. They collectively agreed to defend the territorial integrity of Angola which became especially important when superpower activity began to threaten a split-off of Cabinda enclave. At Alvor and afterwards, a cease-fire was agreed to among the groups.

**You say that the two superpowers are to blame for the civil war, and especially the Soviet Union. Why is it the Soviet Union which must take the greater part of the blame?**

To really understand what is happening in Angola, it is necessary to view it against the world backdrop. The Soviet Union is not a socialist country, but an imperialist superpower. Both superpowers are aggressive and bloodthirsty. But the U.S. has been greatly weakened by the defeat in Indochina and the general awakening of the third world in struggle. It has been forced out of many parts of the world, which the Soviet Union has been able to sneak in the back door by hiding under the red flag of socialism.

The Soviet Union has now surpassed the U.S. in most areas of military strength, and it is aggressively seeking to redivide a world which for many years has been largely dominated by the U.S.

**"The Soviet Union is aggressively seeking to redivide a world which has been largely dominated by the United States."**

The USSR, as a rising imperialist power, finds it more crucial to embark on the Angolan adventure. It must gain a foothold in southern Africa and a port in the South Atlantic in order to back up its growing contention with the U.S. over Europe.

The Soviet social-imperialists, while talking about "internationalist aid" to Angola, have been doing nothing but committing crimes against the people of Angola and Africa.

In the first place, it was the Soviet Union, which at the moment that Angolan unity seemed most possible, began to propagandize against FNLA and UNITA and prod MPLA to unilaterally set up its own government.

Secondly, the Soviet Union unleashed a flood of arms in Angola, the moment it had aggravated tensions to the point of civil war.

The Soviet revisionists sent between \$200 and \$400 million worth of tanks, helicopters, MIG's and rockets to MPLA—the very weapons which they never sent as long as MPLA was fighting the Portuguese. It was not only arms which the Soviet Union supplied. They sent 1,000 of their own military men and induced Cuba to send 10,000 troops to lead the military assault on the FNLA and UNITA-held areas.

Thirdly, the Soviet Union used the opportunity of its attack on Angola to undermine Africa-wide unity which has been growing steadily against foreign domination on the continent. They openly threatened Zaire and Uganda, stirred up trouble in Zambia to undermine the government there, and reportedly carried out extensive bribery and intimidation in a number of other countries. They saw to it that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was split down the middle and then gleefully celebrated this weakening of the main voice against superpower hegemony in Africa.

These are some of the reasons why the Soviet Union can be considered the main enemy in Angola. The U.S. for its part is also guilty of crimes against the people there—including the well-documented role of the CIA, the use of mercenaries, and the egging-on of South Africa into the battle. The U.S. too tried to sow dissension among the liberation forces and promoted one side against the other. But because of its position internationally, the U.S. proved unable to intervene in Angola on the scale the Soviet Union did. In fact, Congress repeatedly turned down the requests made by Ford and Kissinger for more arms and money to Angola.

**What is the Soviet Union after in Angola?**

In addition to Angola's great natural wealth, it is also clear that the Soviet imperialists are anxious to secure a position in the South Atlantic which can effectively oversee the shipping and oil lanes of the world and sever the U.S. from Western Europe.

Soviet involvement in Angola is an overall test of political and military strength. The Soviet Union is

trying to see how many countries it can bring into line supporting its aggression under the cover of "socialist friendship." It is experiencing its first attempts to utilize troops from third world countries to do its dirty work. It is testing the waters to see where U.S. imperialism will draw the line and stand up to it.

In addition, Angola is providing the Soviet Union with a test for its ability to deliver heavy equipment and supplies over long distances—something which is "old hat" to U.S. imperialism, but a new problem for Soviet imperialism. The Soviet Union is also utilizing its warships for the first time to back up an ongoing military invasion and testing a variety of weapons for the first time under battle conditions.

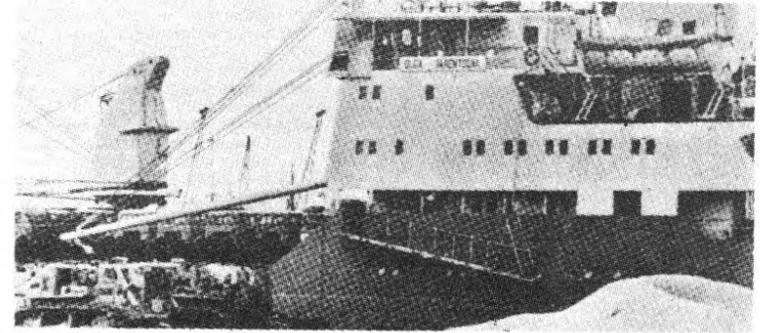
**"If you support Soviet aggression in Angola today, a precedent is set for your support elsewhere tomorrow..."**

On top of all these factors behind Soviet zealotry to jump into Angola, the social-imperialists are also trying to build a base of support for their aggression. Playing on the complexities of the Angola situation and the hatred of the world's people for U.S. imperialism, they are trying to enlist the support of countries, parties, mass organizations and people throughout the world. If you support Soviet aggression in Angola today, the social-imperialists see a good precedent for getting you to support it tomorrow whether it be in Europe, the Mideast, Africa or Latin America.

**What about the role of U.S. aid in Angola? What has this aid meant for the groups that have accepted it?**

In today's complex world, the fact that a movement takes aid from one or another superpower is not unusual, and certainly constitutes no proof that such a movement is a superpower "puppet." Both superpowers try to wedge their way into every corner of the globe, often using "aid" and arms as their chief tools.

There is nothing wrong with taking "aid" in the abstract, the question is what strings are attached to it. For example, there are only a few arms-exporters in the world and the superpowers



SOVIET SHIP unloads trucks and jeeps in Angola aggression.

have a near-monopoly. Under these circumstances, the mere fact that a liberation fighter fires a Soviet or U.S.-made gun is not decisive in determining the character of that struggle. FNLA and UNITA fired a number of U.S. guns, while MPLA utilized mainly Soviet guns. Rather than proving that MPLA is a Soviet "puppet" and FNLA and UNITA are U.S. "puppets," all this proves is that superpower contention is very sharp and makes use of divisions among the Angolan people.

The problem with "aid" lies not in the fact that the recipient needs it or might be willing to take it, but with the imperialist donor seeking to use "aid" for ulterior purposes. We should continue to struggle against U.S. "aid" to intervene in Angola as part of our struggle to get both superpowers out.

**How do you evaluate the role of South Africa in Angola?**

This racist power certainly must be stopped from further aggression or intervention in Angola. It is pursuing military action in Angola only for the purpose of bolstering white supremacist rule in southern Africa, especially in Namibia which borders Angola.

Our opposition to South African involvement is firm. It is also important to take note of how South Africa got its foot in the door. It was unable to do so as long as the three liberation groups took a united stand. It was only able to do so after the Soviet Union had fomented the civil war.

**What about the question of program?**

Each of the three groups has its own program for the future of Angola, with important differences among them. Contrary to what is said in the bourgeois and revisionist press, however, the question of program is not one of "communism" vs. "anti-communism." None of the three groups have a communist program since all are broad united front organiz-

ations. All three programs allow for capitalist development to continue either in the form of foreign holdings, a substantial private industrial sector or privately held land.

What all three programs have in common is a pledge to continue fighting colonialism and to guarantee the independence of Angola. The struggle for genuine political and economic independence is still the main struggle in Angola as it is among all newly-independent countries. As to the question of social system, this can only be determined by the masses of people themselves and it cannot be determined while foreign imperialist armies are occupying the country.

**What are the lessons of Angola for the struggle in the U.S.?**

In the first place, Angola points out the need for the third world to stand united in order to keep the superpowers from taking advantage of differences and divisions. People in this country face the task of defending the independence and self-determination of the Angolan people as well as their national unity. Upholding genuine independence means that the Angolan people alone can settle questions of who their leadership should be or how their society should be organized. Speculating on the differences among the Angolan people, attacking this or that side, only aids the schemes of the superpowers.

Secondly, the events in Angola show that there is no "detente" in the world and that superpower contention in the direction of war is sharpening. Angola throws light on the role of the Soviet superpower in particular. Many people have not yet understood the imperialist character of the USSR, while others are deliberately trying to prettify it. We should use the example of Angola to help arm the struggle here with the understanding that both superpowers are the enemy of the world's people, and both must be fought.