

PEOPLE OF
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UNITE TO
DEFEAT
IMPERIALISM

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AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT BUILDS UNITY

Victory for the Third World

In the past month, the superpower rivalry over Africa has broken out in unprecedented proportions. Incidents in Uganda, Zaire, the Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan and elsewhere, which include the assassination of leaders and the outbreaks of armed invasions, all illustrate the schemes

of the two superpowers for control of the continent.

In this light, the recent Afro-Arab summit meeting in Cairo assumes special importance. The summit meeting has been hailed by all its participants as a great step forward in advancing third world unity and waging a com-

mon struggle against imperialism. It showed that Afro-Arab unity is a potent threat to the superpowers' schemes for world domination. As a result, it has come under sharp attack from the superpowers themselves, especially the Soviet Union.

Out of the meeting came im-

portant new measures to strengthen the economic and political cooperation between the two regions. The idea of an Afro-Arab common market was enthusiastically endorsed, and a number of Arab oil-producing countries pledged a total of \$2 billion to facilitate African economic development.

The 59 countries pledged powerful joint support for the liberation struggles in southern Africa and Palestine, which they termed "joint Afro-Arab causes." They agreed to strengthen regional cooperation at all levels and to further develop the unity of the African continent and the Arab world.

The Afro-Arab leaders

summed up the conference as a great success. At the closing session on March 9, a resolution was passed expressing all the participants' "full satisfaction with the results of the summit."

Commenting on the meeting, Zambian President Kaunda noted: "We are in the center of the global strategy of the superpowers. We must evolve a common approach to build a common future based on a collective commitment to success. Therein lies our survival."

Expressing a similar view, Prime Minister Ramgoolam of Mauritius said, "Through Afro-Arab unity and cooperation we

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 11)



ARMED LIBERATION STRUGGLES in southern Africa and Palestine won the full support of Afro-Arab summit.

INFLATION SKYROCKETING - FOOD PRICES JUMP 2%

The biggest inflationary attack in two-and-a-half years was recorded in February as consumer prices jumped a full 1%. Food prices, the most basic of all commodities, jumped 2% in the 28-day period.

This economic news comes on the heels of announced cutbacks in unemployment benefits which go into effect this week. The Carter administration has refused to extend benefits to 65 weeks, forcing unemployed workers off the unemployment rolls after 52 weeks instead. An estimated one million workers will thus be robbed of an average of \$500 in benefits each.

The inflation picture, coupled with the situation of the unemployed, is ample proof that the economic crisis of capitalism is growing more severe. In spite of

the politicians' nonsense about "recovery," all the basic symptoms of the crisis, like unemployment and inflation, are now hitting their 1974 levels, supposedly the worst point of the crisis.

In addition, wholesale prices are increasing at the fastest rate in years. The stock and money markets are floundering once again under the shadow of New York's over-extended debt. At the same time, the recession in Europe and other industrialized countries is sharpening all the contradictions in capitalism worldwide.

These are the realities of 1977—a far cry from the rosy image of economic progress painted by Jimmy Carter during his populist-style "town meetings" in New England last week. His gimmicks such as the \$50 tax rebate

and promises of jobs for youth are feeble band-aids for the rapidly-deteriorating economy.

The new round of inflation is (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 11)

CARTER'S SPEECH- SUPERPOWER RIVALRY SHARPENS

President Jimmy Carter's speech to the United Nations March 17 reflected the increasing contention between the superpowers, as well as the imperialists' fear of the third world movement. The speech showed that, while the U.S. rulers' basic strategy remains the same, they are making certain tactical adjustments to meet the needs of the present world situation.

In the days before Carter's speech, the USSR had been exerting pressure to end U.S. criticism of its fascist repression against dissidents. But this was obviously not as great as pressure on Carter from sections of the U.S. ruling class for stronger "human rights" statements.

In his speech, Carter said all

UN members have promised "to observe and respect human rights." He noted, "No member of the United Nations can claim that mistreatment of its own citizens is solely its own business."

While leaving the UN delegates wondering if this also applied to the treatment of Black people and other minorities in the U.S., Carter's statements provided a flat rejection of Brezhnev's plea for non-interference in the USSR's "internal affairs." His speech showed that, despite all the "detente" rhetoric, the conflict between the two superpowers is sharpening.

The hundreds of recent re- (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 11)



Free Lolita Lebron - see P.3

WOMEN AND THE
TRADE UNIONS

Demand for women's
equality strengthens
working-class struggle. p.8

SECCION
EN
ESPAÑOL

(Call photo)



EDITORIALS

DEMONSTRATE AT DAVIS CUP MATCH

A demonstration has been called for April 15 in Newport Beach, California, against South Africa's participation in the Davis Cup tennis match. The demonstration, which is sponsored by the October League and other groups, will denounce the racist system of apartheid in South Africa and give full support to the Azanian people's liberation struggle.

The April 15 action will also demand that the U.S. honor the sports boycott of South Africa which has been called by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The imperialists have not only refused to recognize this boycott, but they are actually stepping up their sports contacts with the apartheid regime.

Despite all the fancy words of Jimmy Carter, Andrew Young and Co. about "support" for Black majority rule in South Africa, the U.S. imperialists are continuing to prop up the fascist Vorster regime. Their defense of South Africa's participation in the Davis Cup play is just one blatant example.

Meanwhile, the spokesmen for the U.S. Tennis Association have justified their refusal to honor the boycott with the myth that "sports should not be political." But to invite the South African team to compete in the U.S. is every bit as "political" as the boycott itself.

The question is not whether to introduce politics into sports, but rather, the politics of which class. The imperialists defend South African apar-

theid because it is this system which brings them massive profits from the labor of 18 million Azanians. Apartheid is the pillar of U.S. domination in southern Africa, now a sharp point of superpower contention.

To the working class and oppressed nationalities of this country, however, sports is an extension of the class struggle as a whole. We must denounce the presence of the South African team, condemn apartheid and its imperialist backers, and take our stand in solidarity with the Azanian liberation struggle.

Down with Apartheid! Superpowers Out of Africa! Demonstrate April 15!



SPORTS BOYCOTT of South Africa is supported by demonstrators in Wales.

NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM!

This week a special White House Commission on Americans missing in Indochina, headed by United Auto Workers' President Leonard Woodcock, traveled to Vietnam for talks with that country's leaders. Although the U.S. is trying to focus attention on the issue of missing GIs, the real question in developing normal relations between the two countries is the continuing U.S. violations of the 1973 Paris peace accords.

The Paris treaty pledged large-scale U.S. reparations to Vietnam to help compensate for the massive destruction and loss of life which resulted from U.S. aggression. This commitment has not been fulfilled, nor have any steps been taken by the U.S. imperialists to fulfill it.

In addition, the U.S. has pursued a policy of trying to bully and blackmail socialist Vietnam into accepting its dictates. By use of its big-power veto at the United Nations, the U.S. has excluded Vietnam from the world body, despite the protest of more than 100 countries.

The emotional display carried out by Woodcock and his delegation over the remains of 12 missing soldiers returned by the Vietnamese was a sham. It was staged to cover up the history of U.S. crimes towards Vietnam, which are continuing to this day with violations of the peace treaty.

The Vietnamese, for their part, have lived up to every aspect of the Paris treaty and have made many gestures of friendship towards the U.S., including special steps to account for missing soldiers.

We demand that the U.S. imperialists cease their aggressive and hostile acts towards Vietnam, honor the peace treaty, and proceed rapidly with the normalization of relations on this basis.

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In the March 14 issue, the photo on page 5 should be credited to Harry Kemp.

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Dear Call:

I am writing this letter to tell about my experience in the San Francisco International Women's Day march. About 100 people from Los Angeles made the long trip to San Francisco. Once we got there, more and more people from the community kept joining in. Close to 500 people participated in the march: men, women and children. I was very happy because this was my very first demonstration, and I did not know how people would react.

Many people came out from their homes. Storekeepers along our route congratulated us. Drivers stopped their cars to talk, showing the interest and respect that the masses have for the Marxist-Leninists. When we arrived at Dolores Park, a huge crowd was waiting for us.

At the rally, many women spoke about their problems. Even though they belonged to different unions, they talked about the same problems. They suffered discrimination, low wages, bad working conditions in the factories, and humiliation as a result of the imperialists, revisionists and the labor bureaucrats. They all get rich with our labor.

One of the women spoke about socialism. She said that the only way women would be liberated from the capitalist system was through the unity of men and women in fighting against discrimination of women.

A worker from Davis Pleating
Los Angeles, California

Dear Comrades,

Your recent article, "Unemployment Benefits Cut March 31," was very good in linking this latest attack to its causes in the capitalist system.

You correctly pointed out, among other things, the role of the reserve army of labor in forcing wages down, breaking strikes, and providing a pool of soldiers for the next war. You showed how these attacks hit women and minorities the hardest, and how the revisionists and labor bureaucrats are crippling the workers' fightback by splitting employed from unemployed and promoting reliance

Letters



The Call, P.O. 5597, Chicago, Ill. 60680

on Congress.

All this was in complete opposition to the analysis of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP). In their newspaper Revolution, as well as their local "worker" papers and other agitation, they focus only on the most narrow economic issues. They call the unemployment cutbacks an "outrage" but never expose the root of this attack in the system.

Needless to say, they never mention the national question, the woman question, the present international situation, or the fight against reformism. Without this discussion, their analysis of the cutbacks boils down to nothing more than a demand for "more money" completely divorced from the broader questions workers must study in order to successfully wage revolutionary struggle.

Their demand for "more money" and their tactics of testifying before Congress about the issue as the main form of their work makes them scarcely different from the reformist union leaders.

Perhaps the reason their articles never mention the fight against reformism and revisionism is because they can't distinguish their own line from that of these arch-enemies of the revolutionary struggle.

J.G.,
New York

Dear Call,

I have just read your review of Denis Freney's book on East Timor. It is indeed "not worth buying," as the review pointed out. Freney is a former Trotskyite who

switched to the revisionist, pro-Soviet "Communist" Party of Australia (CPA). At one stage, he edited their newspaper. He is well known in Australia as an utter scoundrel.

I have enclosed a small pamphlet on East Timor which puts current events there in a scientific perspective ("Timor—Between the Superpowers"—ed.). There is a lot of interest in the matter here, and there are several support organizations which are very active. That is why Freney put out his booklet—to divert this Australian support for the heroic East Timorese, to play down the role of the Soviet social-imperialists, and to boost support for the CPA.

The Soviet Union is currently mounting an unprecedented political offensive in Australia. We are a second world country dominated economically and politically by the U.S. Formerly, we were a British colony. The British colonialists seized the country from the native Australians; the U.S. imperialists took power from the British; now the Soviet social-imperialists are striving to displace the Americans.

The Australian people, however, want neither superpower. They want national independence. The main Soviet fifth column, the "Socialist" Party of Australia, is their paid stooge. They have little mass support, but a lot of pull in trade union leadership. The revisionist CPA is insignificant.

The Soviets are also busy cultivating business leaders (they have considerable investments here) and politicians. Even the present deputy Prime Minister, Anthony, is pro-Russian, as is the boss of the Returned Serviceman's League (a die-hard fascist) who recently visited the USSR as the guest of the corresponding Russian body.

An Australian reader

Dear Comrades,

Your recent articles about *Roots* and the real, revolutionary essence of Black history have inspired me to make this small donation. Keep up the good work.

R.J., Louisiana

LATINOS DENOUNCE 'ANTI-ALIEN' LAWS

Nearly 300 Latinos braved driving rain to demonstrate at the Rhode Island State House in Providence March 13, demanding an end to deportations and attacks on the city's Latin American community.

Organized by the United Spanish Speaking People of Rhode Island, a coalition of Latino organizations, the demonstration focused on a proposed state law attacking foreign-born workers. This law would require employers to demand a certificate of citizenship from anyone applying for work who "might be considered to have entered and remained in this country illegally." It would also fine employers up to \$500 for hiring "suspected illegals."

UNEMPLOYMENT UP

In Massachusetts, where a similar law was passed last year, unemployment in immigrant workers' communities has risen sharply at the same time that exploitation has intensified. Many foreign-born workers have been fired or permanently laid off, without hope of collecting welfare or unemployment benefits.

In some cases, bosses have refused to hire foreign-born workers even when they were able to show proof of legal residence.

Terror against foreign-born workers has been increasing throughout the country, and the new laws have intensified employer and government attacks.

This is especially true in the state of Massachusetts. In a January raid on a hospital in Wellesley, immigration officials (INS) arrested 30 foreign-born workers. In another raid in Lynn, INS officials rounded up 40 Latinos, many of whom were actual-

ly citizens. And in the sweatshops of Boston, Chelsea and Lawrence, the INS regularly stages raids around pay day, arresting and harassing Latino and West Indian workers.

The Carter administration is actively promoting the new "anti-alien" laws, and Carter himself has called the elimination of "illegal aliens" a "component part of solving unemployment."

The labor bureaucrats, for their part, are pouring millions of dollars into lobbying efforts aimed at passing, on both the federal and state level, laws like the one in Massachusetts. In both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the AFL-CIO state councils and union officials from the highly-paid skilled trades have been a leading force behind these chauvinist laws.

PROMOTE CHAUVINISM

Their purpose is to promote chauvinism and divisions between native-born and foreign-born workers. They blame "illegals" as the cause of unemployment, covering up for the imperialist system which causes unemployment and drives foreign-born workers to the U.S. in search of jobs. In this way, the labor bureaucrats hope to divert the workers' anger at the effects of the capitalist crisis away from the system and against fellow workers.

The misleaders who run the labor unions also help the capitalists increase their profits from the labor of foreign-born workers. Along with Puerto Rican and other minority workers, foreign-born workers are concentrated in New England's shoe, rubber, garment and paper factories, as well as in restaurants and other service fields. These

are the lowest paid and most unsafe jobs, and most workers in these areas are unorganized. Even where the workers have won union rights, the bureaucrats have opposed the demands of the foreign-born to end deportations, to translate union documents into Spanish, and to struggle against all forms of discrimination.

Many reformist politicians like Puerto Rican Democrat Herman Badillo and the Hispan-

ic Caucus in Congress support a so-called "amnesty" plan for "illegal aliens." This plan, which also has the support of the revisionist Communist Party (CPUSA), would "suspend prosecution" of foreign-born workers already in the U.S., but would not guarantee them the right to remain, or eliminate restrictions against immigrant workers just entering the U.S. Such measures cannot provide any real protection for the masses of foreign-

born workers and can only serve to intensify divisions in the workers' movement.

The demonstration in Providence showed that many Latino people are not waiting for Badillo or other liberals to "save" them, but are taking action themselves. Stressing the need to intensify the fightback, one speaker stated, "When and wherever necessary, we will take to the streets to demand our democratic rights."

Rally for 5 Nationalists at Alderson prison

Alderson, W.Va.—About 50 demonstrators marched through the streets of this small town to the gates of the Federal Penitentiary for Women, chanting, "Independence for Puerto Rico!" "Free the Five Nationalists!" "Free Lolita Lebron!"

The demonstration was held at Alderson because Lebron, a heroine of the Puerto Rican independence movement, has been a prisoner there for the last 23 years. The March 12 protest was sponsored by the October League and the Southern Conference Education Fund (SCEF).

Despite heavy police surveillance, the spirited crowd marched around the prison so their banners and chants could be seen and heard by the prisoners. (Almost 80% of the prisoners are minority women, and nearly 50% are Puerto Rican.) A small group of prisoners managed to gather at the front of the dormitory building, raising clenched fists and shouting back: "Que viva Puerto Rico libre!"

Prior to the march, a rally was



PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE was theme of October League speech. (Call photo).

held in Beckley, West Virginia, more than an hour's drive from the prison. Over 60 people gathered to hear speakers from the OL, SCEF and the Iranian Students Association from West Virginia.

The OL speaker described the brutal oppression which U.S. rule has imposed on Puerto Rico.

The speech traced the militant history of the independence struggle, including the armed insurrection of 1868, the Nationalist Uprisings against the U.S.,

and the broad patriotic movement which today has grown stronger than ever before.

The demonstration came just a week after Lolita Lebron returned to Puerto Rico to attend her daughter's funeral. It was her first trip to the island since her imprisonment almost a quarter of a century ago. She was greeted enthusiastically by thousands of Puerto Rican patriots.

Lebron was arrested in 1954 with three other Nationalists for leading an attack on the U.S. Congress to protest the suppression of the independence movement and the U.S. scheme for imposing a "commonwealth" status on the island.

Last week's demonstration to free the five Nationalists also coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Ponce massacre on March 21, 1937. The massacre was carried out against a peaceful protest action which demanded the freedom of the Nationalist hero Pedro Albizu Campos. The U.S. governor of the island ordered troops to fire at demonstrators, killing 20 and wounding 140.

The picket line at Alderson was an important demonstration of support for the Puerto Rican independence movement. It highlighted the need to intensify the struggle to free the five Nationalists, the longest held political prisoners in this country.



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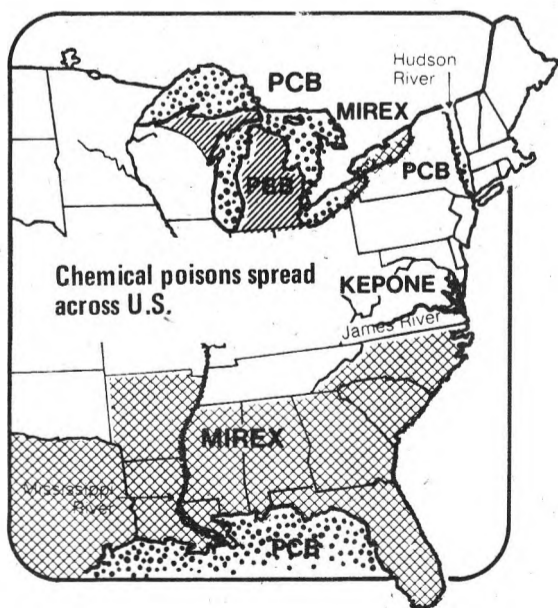
PBB POISON STILL SPREADING

Among the almost daily reports of chemical spills, food contamination, and other environmental "accidents," the story of PCB and PBB poisoning is one of the most alarming indictments of capitalism's disregard for the people's health.

The chemical compound PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls) and its close relative PBB are highly poisonous substances. These chemicals are used in many items, from fluorescent light bulbs to paper and ink. They are manufactured by a handful of monopolies led by Dow Chemical.

PBB is a compound five times as poisonous as PCB. It recently received nationwide attention as a result of a mass poisoning in Michigan and an attempted cover-up by state officials there.

In 1973, hundreds of pounds of PBB compound, accidentally distributed by the state farm bureau as animal feed, were given to cattle, hogs and chickens on Michigan farms. Thousands of cattle got sick almost immediately, yet the state refused to ban the sale of the contaminated meat or to check for poisoning among farmers whose cattle were affected. Officials were apparently afraid that if they admitted



CAPITALISTS have allowed poisonous chemicals to spread unchecked.

the seriousness of the situation, they would be held liable.

One farmer whose herd was wiped out exposed that state agriculture officials told him to keep selling his sick and dying cows to the market. "They told me I could sell mine," said Lewis Trombley, "even though my own kids were getting sick."

As a result of these state efforts to cover up one of the largest chemical poisonings in U.S. history, thousands of farmers and other Michigan residents who have eaten the

meat and drunk the milk of contaminated herds will suffer life-long effects from the PBB.

A study of more than 1,000 Michigan residents found evidence of serious poisoning in over one-third of the people. The symptoms of PBB contamination include tremors, headaches, loss of memory, difficulty in sleeping, sexual impotence, and other

neurological disorders.

The state, however, tried to hide the effects of the poison for as long as possible, claiming that they found "no evidence" that PBB was harmful to people.

PBB contamination continues to this day because the deadly compound exists in the food chain of the animals and is passed on through the cows to their calves. But Michigan officials are doing nothing to protect the health of the people. PBB-contaminated meat is still being

New evidence, including the retracted testimony of a chief prosecution witness, continues to expose the frame-up of the Wilmington 10 as one more glaring example of racist repression against the Afro-American people. At the same time, the case is now being used as a political football in the current fight between the two superpowers over "detente" and "human rights."

Earlier this month, the chief prosecution witness in the North Carolina frame-up case admitted that he lied under pressure from the state. The chances for a reversal of the convictions against the nine Black and one white civil rights activists now seems greatly improved.

The Wilmington 10 were workers involved in the school desegregation struggle in Wilmington, North Carolina. Framed and convicted of arson in 1972, they were sentenced to a total of 282 years in prison. Since that time the three main witnesses for the prosecution have all recanted their testimony.

Eric Junious and Allen Hall, the main witnesses against the 10, previously admitted that state prosecutor Jay Stroud offered them bribes to get them to testify. Last week the third witness, Jerome Mitchel, told a state grand jury investigating the case that Stroud had offered him an early release from prison if he would lie for the state.

TEN MIGHT BE FREED

It now appears possible that the Wilmington 10 might be freed. But these revelations of the state's premeditated racist frame-up would not ordinarily be enough in themselves to free them. The facts around the railroading of Gary Tyler, Ronnie Long, and other political prisoners, for example, have been well-known for some time. Yet they remain in prison.

What is different in the Wilmington 10 case is that it has become a centerpiece in the growing struggle over "human rights" between the U.S. and the USSR.

The revisionist Communist Party (CPUSA), which acts as a servant of Soviet social-imperialism in the U.S., has been using the case to counter recent charges of political repression against the Brezhnev regime. It has also become a central part of their propaganda campaign around "detente." When the fin-

WILMINGTON 10 FRAME-UP BECOMES SUPERPOWER FOOTBALL



WILMINGTON 10—victims of racist frame-up.

ger was pointed at the new Soviet tsars for their jailing thousands of political dissidents, they responded with a counter-attack on U.S. political repression. They singled out the Wilmington 10 case, one of the main defense projects of the American revisionists.

The counter-charges showed many people that both capitalist governments are essentially alike, despite the USSR's claim to be "socialist." The charges followed on the heels of the Bukovsky-Corvalan prisoner exchange between the Soviet Union and the fascist regime in Chile. This exchange exposed the Soviet denial that they even had such a thing as "political prisoners."

The Kremlin's counter-exposures of the Wilmington 10 case in no way serve to let the USSR off the hook for its own repression. Rather, they unwittingly reduce the "defense" of their own dictatorship to the claim that the U.S. is "just as guilty" when it comes to violating human rights.

The Soviet use of the Wilmington 10 case clearly touched a nerve of the U.S. ruling class. The two superpowers only

recently signed the Helsinki agreement which on paper, called for a commitment to increased civil liberties, promoting illusions about permanent "world peace."

Immediately after a flurry of Soviet commentary on the Wilmington 10, Attorney General Griffin Bell ordered a "full investigation" into the five-year-old case. Bell, who is not exactly known for his sympathy towards Black civil rights activists or political prisoners, has suddenly asked judicial authorities to determine if the "constitutional rights" of the 10 were violated.

The major wire services and newspapers such as the New York Times and Washington Post are beginning to carry articles on the Wilmington 10 case expressing a largely sympathetic attitude. A significant section of the ruling class appears ready to reverse the racist conviction in order to improve the international posture of U.S. imperialism.

These are the real reasons the present grand jury hearings are being held. It is precisely on this international conten-

tion between the two superpowers, that the CPUSA and their front-group, the National Alliance, have placed their hopes for victory in the Wilmington 10 case.

While all this is going on, tens of thousands of Black political prisoners and frame-up victims fill the prisons of this country. Gary Tyler in Louisiana, Ronnie Long in North Carolina, Dessie X Woods in Georgia, Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in New Jersey and Robert Arnold in Tennessee are but a few.

While some light is now being shed on the racist frame-up of the Wilmington 10, the revisionists are trying to use this case to hide the real nature of the capitalist system, both here at home and in the USSR.

CP RELIANCE ON LIBERALS

Inside the U.S. they are preaching reliance on the good graces of the liberal Jimmy Carter and his man in the Justice Department, Griffin Bell, rather than on the power of the masses. A spokesman for their defense committee was quoted in the Atlanta press as saying: "Based on my meeting with Mr. Bell, I am fairly optimistic that he will not disappoint us. He was receptive and seemingly concerned about improving the program image of the Justice Department."

Bell may in fact make a small concession in order to clean up the "image" of U.S. imperialism under the pressure of the U.S.-Soviet rivalry. But this opportunist program for defense against repression can only have negative effects in the struggle for freedom of all the political prisoners now filling U.S. jails.

Reliance on the good graces of either Carter or Brezhnev cannot bring freedom to the political prisoners. It was the capitalist system which put them in prison in the first place, and only mobilization of the masses in their millions against the capitalist system will win their freedom.

UFW-TEAMSTER AGREEMENT

A five-year jurisdictional agreement has been reached between the Teamsters Union and the United Farm Workers (UFW), covering California and twelve other western states.

The agreement was jointly announced on March 10 by UFW leader Cesar Chavez and Teamster head Frank Fitzsimmons. Its provisions take the Teamsters out of the fields but give them jurisdiction over the canneries and other agricultural-related industries.

While the agreement is a step forward for farm workers and will help clear the path for further unionization, the Teamsters have already done their job of sabotaging UFW organizing efforts in California. Spending over \$7 million to hire scabs and goon squads, the Teamsters managed to pull in 50,000 of California's 250,000 farm laborers. In addition, the Teamster-Grower collaboration really decimated the UFW base—from 60,000 members in 1972 to only 18,000 today.

Now that the Teamsters are up against a wall, they have decided to make "peace" with the UFW. They have been charged with pension fraud; there is rank-and-file insurgency in their own ranks, and they have a mounting record of losses in the farm union representation elections.

The Chavez leadership has gone overboard in its praise of this agreement, just as they did in 1975, holding up the Agricultural Labor Relations (ALR) Act as the "real turning point" for farm workers. Chavez even claimed at the Democratic Party Convention last year that Governor Brown's help in setting up the ALR board was "decisive" for farm workers. He made these claims, totally ignoring the militant and courageous battles fought by the masses of farm workers.

It is mass mobilizations and strikes by rank-and-file farm workers which have really been the decisive factor in the decade-long battle against the Teamster-Grower opposition. These actions will continue to determine the success or failure of future union drives.



475 TEACHERS ARRESTED IN 8-WEEK RACINE STRIKE

Racine, Wis.—Large, militant picket lines and mass arrests marked the eight-week-long strike by 1,305 Racine teachers which ended in a victory. The teachers belong to the Racine Education Association (REA).

A total of 475 teachers were arrested in the course of strike actions like the one pictured above at Horlick High School. At this school, pickets laid down in front of cars, shouting, "Scab!" and "Traitor!" at passing cars. The strike began January 25 in

response to a two-year-old union-busting campaign by the Board of Education. The REA contract expired in 1974, but the Board refused to negotiate, saying it would "set wages, benefits and working conditions as a matter of policy."

REA strikers faced a return-to-work court order and a vicious propaganda campaign. The school superintendent called the strike "anarchy in our community," and the press bemoaned the strike's effect on the children.

Negotiations ended March 16, with the REA winning a closed shop, wage and benefit gains, improved working conditions, and a guarantee of no recrimination against strikers. One strike leader stated: "Racine is definitely a test of strength between teachers' unions in general and the cutback fever that's sweeping many boards of education."

Shortly before the Racine strike ended, Milwaukee teachers voted March 14 to authorize a strike.

YOUNG WORKERS DEMAND JOBS AND UNION RIGHTS CETA - CRUMB FOR JOBLESS YOUTH

New York, N.Y.—Every year as summer approaches, the government starts stepping up its promises of jobs for youth. Just two weeks ago, Jimmy Carter announced he was going to establish a National Youth Conservation Corps, Youth Community Conservation Projects, and also expand the CETA program (Comprehensive Education Training Act).

These programs are a good example of what this system has to offer youth, who are currently suffering an unemployment rate of over 20%. The programs are nothing more than crumbs

providing temporary jobs for a small percentage of the millions of unemployed and angry youth.

Young people forced into such jobs are exploited as cheap, unorganized labor, and used to drive down wages and weaken the unions for the rest of the work force. All the while, the masses of young people remain unemployed.

CETA was set up at the height of the economic crisis, with the stated purpose of curbing the sky-high unemployment among youth—which is up to 60% in the Black and Puerto Rican ghettos throughout New York.

CETA workers were given the same jobs as city workers but were forced to do the work at considerably lower pay. They were all classified as “temporary,” even though some have remained at the same job for two to three years.

It was no coincidence that CETA was brought in during the period when city workers were staging massive marches and strikes to protest the anti-working-class attacks of New York’s financial crises. These attacks included: denial of the right to strike, imposed wage cuts, huge layoffs and across-the-board

cutbacks in services.

While 60,000 public workers were forced off the payroll in the past two years, the city began adding on a crew of young workers under CETA. These workers had no union rights and were paid substantially below union wages.

The CETA program became a weapon in the hands of not only the capitalists but also of the union bureaucrats to beat back the militancy of city workers and divert their anger away from the system and its agents. The union misleaders like Victor Gotbaum, head of the large AFSCME District 31, jumped at the opportunity to cover up their own betrayal in New York’s financial crisis by making the young CETA workers into scapegoats.

GOTBAUM SELLOUT

Gotbaum himself collaborated in the layoffs of thousands of city workers. He negotiated a two-year contract with wage deferment, no salary increases, a meager cost-of-living raise tied to productivity increases, and a loss of fringe benefits.

To take the heat off this disgusting sellout, Gotbaum launched an attack on CETA workers. In August 1975, he made a deal with the city to fire 1,400 CETA workers and replace them with his union members. Then, in January 1976, faced with even more layoffs, Gotbaum arranged a second deal. This time, he called for the layoffs of all 14,000 CETA workers, dismissing a certain number of them each month.

REAL UNION-BUSTER

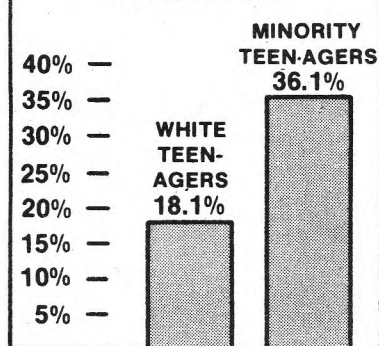
But this second deal exposed Gotbaum as the real union-buster, not CETA employees. According to his scab agreement, all city workers who replace CETA people lose their civil service protection, become temporary workers and, in many cases, take a cut in pay.

In response to these different attacks, CETA workers have taken steps to organize themselves, forming the CETA Workers Action Committee (CWAC). They have carried out a number of demonstrations over the past years to put a halt to the massive layoffs of CETA workers. The most recent protest occurred March 16, when 100 youth marched on the downtown CETA commissioner’s office, demanding equal pay for equal work, a grievance procedure and other job guarantees.

The struggle of CETA workers has run into difficulties, not only due to the opposition by union misleaders, but also due to opportunists within the CWAC

JOBLESS RATE

JANUARY 1977



leadership. These opportunists, such as the Worker-Student Organizing Committee (WSOC), have tried to keep the struggle limited to a few narrow demands. At the same time, they have misdirected it, claiming that it is simply a struggle between CETA workers and the CETA commissioner.

In this way they have helped to cover up the real problem, which is the capitalist system and the labor misleaders who work full time to defend it.

They also have fanned anti-union sentiments, denouncing the unions themselves instead of the bureaucrats. Instead of encouraging workers to fight for union rights at their work place and in the already existing city unions, they are busy trying to build a separate union for CETA workers, promoting dual unionist ideas among young and largely inexperienced workers.

WSOC OPPORTUNISTS

The WSOC phony “revolutionaries” have made every effort to keep revolutionary ideas away from the youth, arguing that politics “would scare the workers away.” But when October League and United Workers Committee members exposed the system and the treachery of the union misleaders at a mass CWAC meeting February 23, rank-and-file workers responded with applause and interest.

This put the WSOC on the defensive. They started red-baiting and even sent a goon to a local CETA organizing meeting in Brooklyn. The goon tried to disrupt the meeting and then attacked an October League member.

The struggle of the CETA rank and file, their militancy as well as the confusion spread by the opportunists, shows the need for strong communist leadership in the youth movement. “The fight for jobs for youth and for union rights like in the CETA struggle,” explained a leader of the Communist Youth Organization, “must oppose any schemes which would pit young against old, unemployed against employed, or non-union against union workers. It has to target capitalism as the real cause of unemployment and exploitation of youth, as well as the labor bureaucrats who defend the system and attack youth.”

AFSCME RANK AND FILE ON THE MOVE



Atlanta, Ga.—A March 3 demonstration in front of Grady Hospital called for an end to cutbacks in patient services and to the wage freeze. It also demanded that AFSCME misleaders drop the charges against Pat Murphy, a communist activist in the Union. Murphy, pictured above with news-

men, was threatened with expulsion from AFSCME Local 1644 for his role in leading the fight against cutbacks and exposing the union bureaucrats. This protest resulted in a victory for the workers last week when the union misleaders were forced to drop charges against Murphy.

MINERS DEFY BUREAUCRATS SICK LEAVE PROTEST

Charleston, W.Va.—The recent wave of wildcat strikes, which hit West Virginia, Illinois and Pennsylvania earlier this month, brought tens of thousands of miners into struggle against the coal bosses and face-to-face with their union misleaders.

The battle over sick-leave policy at Eastern Coal Corporation in West Virginia sparked the largest wildcat movement. It brought United Mine Workers (UMW) misleaders into the fray, shouting, “Go back to work!” like a broken record.

The walkout began in mid-February and didn’t end until March 2, when Eastern Coal was forced to drop their new policy, which required miners to get an OK for illness from their section boss as well as a doctor’s note.

When miners at two of Eastern’s mines first struck, the coal bosses refused to discuss the issues. But by March 1, there were over 16,000 miners out in West Virginia alone. They made it very clear they would not return to work until Eastern retracted its policy.

At a rally right before Eastern gave in, 500 miners denounced the coal company’s attack and UMW President Arnold Miller’s

“back-to-work” appeals. “Look around you,” said one miner, “you can see wildcats all over the place. Miners are going to shut down everything, and aren’t going back until this thing is settled.”

Another miner added, “If the coal companies can shove these policies down our throats in one local, they can do it at all of them. We’re all hard up for money, but we’ll be even harder up if we let them mess us over.”

The next day, the strike spread, and both Eastern and the UMW misleaders made a quick move to settle. On March 2, Miller sent Secretary Treasurer Harry Patrick to Charleston to meet with company officials “to investigate the strike.”

This was a clever move on the part of Miller, who is being challenged by Patrick in the upcoming UMW elections. Patrick has tried to let Miller do all the wildcat-busting work so that he could strike a more liberal and militant pose in “support” of the miners. But Patrick’s work in engineering the settlement has helped to expose the fact that he is no less a friend of the coal bosses than is Miller.

Under strong pressure from the miners, Eastern signed an

agreement dropping the sick-leave provision. This was a clear victory for miners. But true to the nature of these labor lieutenants, Patrick and Miller agreed to something else in return.

The settlement states that the union promises to “crack down” on miners who abuse sick leave privileges. It says, “The union does not condone the actions of some employees who refuse work assignments. Each local will instruct its membership that it will not tolerate members removing themselves from the mines to avoid work, placing the burden upon other union employees and the company.”

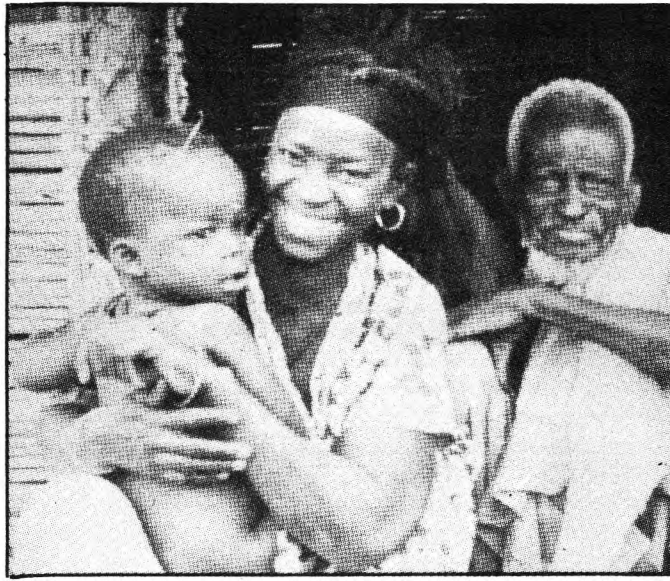
This provision is nothing but a direct attack on miners’ right to strike or protest unsafe conditions in the mines. It denies miners the right to fight job combination, discrimination or harassment. What’s more, this outrageous deal was signed the very day that a Pennsylvania mine disaster took the lives of nine miners.

With this agreement, Miller and Patrick have provided comfort for the coal barons and shown their contempt for the masses of coal miners.

Victory at GM-Van Nuys

Los Angeles, Calif.—Workers at GM-Van Nuys won a victory when the auto giant was forced to rehire Harriet Elliot March 15 after a seven-month struggle. She was fired last August for passing a petition to fellow workers denouncing company negligence in the death of Chicano worker Jose Gonzalez. The charges were “soliciting during work hours” and circulating a petition with a “derogatory and scurrilous content.”

Elliot told *The Call* she won her case “because I depended on the people. I fought for the rights of all workers and didn’t rely on the bureaucrats, who were as anxious as GM to keep me out of the plant.” The demand to rehire Elliot won support among the rank and file. It was raised along with the contract demands as part of the fight to make the UAW a class struggle union.



WOMEN in countries around the world in China (left), Guinea-Bissau (center) and Albania (right) celebrated IWD as a day of struggle against imperialism.

SUPERPOWERS HIT, THIRD WORLD UNITY BUILT WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE

International Women's Day (IWD), March 8, was celebrated this year with meetings, marches and demonstrations in all parts of the world. These celebrations pointed to the friends and enemies of women and marked the role of women in the struggle for independence, national liberation and socialist revolution.

In China, Albania and other socialist countries, women have been liberated through the overthrow of capitalism and the revolutionary struggle of the whole working class to build socialism. IWD celebrations in these countries provided an opportunity to sum up the great achievements women have made under socialism.

In China, for example, the Peking Women's Federation sponsored a mass meeting in which over 1,300 women participated. There were representatives of the Chinese Communist Party, the National People's Congress and Chinese women from all walks of life as well as foreign guests attending the meeting.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN CHINA

People's Daily, the national newspaper of China, devoted three pages of articles on March 8 to reports and photos on the achievements of the Chinese women. The most important article was one entitled "Chairman Hua Kuo-feng Leads Us Women in Advancing Along the Revolutionary Road" by the Women's Federation of Hsiangtan county. It pointed out that Chairman Hua Kuo-feng has always paid great attention to the role of women as a revolutionary force. It said "He is close to the hearts of the working women."

Hsinhua News Agency interviewed sev-

eral veteran comrades on the eve of IWD. Among them was Kang Ke-ching, widow of Chu Teh and member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Comrade Kang Ke-ching stressed, "Women can achieve liberation only in the course of national liberation and class emancipation." She denounced Chiang Ching, one of the ringleaders of the reactionary "gang of four," as a counter-revolutionary who "never had anything to do with China's women's liberation movement."

Kang Ke-ching went on to say that, had Chiang Ching's plot to become the "new empress of China" been realized, she would have cruelly exploited and oppressed the working people, men and women." She concluded her interview by saying, "The women's movement in China... is advancing victoriously along the road charted by Chairman Mao."

A March 8 editorial in the Albanian newspaper Zeri I Popullit pointed out: "The historic victories of the Albanian women and the entire Albanian people have been achieved through struggle, blood and innumerable sacrifices thanks to the correct Marxist-Leninist leadership of our Party."

"On this outstanding day," said the editorial, "the Albanian woman expresses her solidarity with all the women of the world who are fighting to get rid of the

capitalist and revisionist bondage." The article specifically attacked the theories on women's liberation peddled by the revisionists which separate the woman question from the class struggle of the proletariat.

In many countries of the third world, the fighting spirit of women could be seen in the IWD activities. In Panama, for example, nearly 10,000 women rallied to demand their country's sovereignty over the Canal Zone, as well as political and economic independence from imperialism and colonialism. Banners in the meeting hall called on Panamanian women to fight for a "free and sovereign motherland." Panama's head of state, General Torrijos, also addressed the meeting.

DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM!

Shouts of "Down with Imperialism! Down with Colonialism!" rang out in Guinhamel, Guinea-Bissau, on March 8. Over 1,000 women met and listened to a government representative speak on the tremendous contributions the women of Guinea-Bissau made in the fight for national liberation against Portuguese colonialism. The speaker stressed the opposition of the government to discrimination against women and its stand for equality of the sexes.

In the imperialist second world countries of Europe, Canada and Japan, where the crisis conditions have brought about a new upsurge in the working-class struggle, Women's Day events mobilized large numbers of workers. Many of the

Marxist-Leninist parties and organizations which have developed in opposition to the betrayal of revisionism played a leading role in organizing these events.

In Italy, tens of thousands of people participated in mass demonstrations for IWD. Some 5,000 women students demonstrated in Rome against fascism, demanding equality between the sexes and jobs for women. That afternoon, 10,000 women held another demonstration. Similar activities were held in other major cities.

Tsu City, Japan, was the site for a gathering of over 200 Japanese women sponsored by the Council of Youth and Women of the Federation of Trade Unions in Mie county. One speaker at the meeting condemned the two superpowers and their arms race and war preparations. She attacked the Soviet Union in particular for its occupation of four northern Japanese islands. She went on to unite with the victory over the "gang of four" in China, calling it tremendous support to the Japanese women's struggle for emancipation.

Clearly the world's people took this day to affirm the revolutionary role of women in the fight against oppression and exploitation of all types. Throughout the world, the system of imperialism headed by the two superpowers was singled out as the enemy of women, and the unity of the women's struggle with that of all oppressed people was emphasized.

Toolmakers fight economic crisis POWERFUL STRIKE AT BRITISH LEYLAND

Striking toolmakers of British Leyland Ltd., in England's Midlands, ended their four-week walkout March 17. The 3,000 strikers stood united throughout the struggle despite tremendous pressure exerted by the company, government, and union misleaders.

The workers were demanding that their wages be restored to the scale that existed before the Labour Party-led government imposed wage controls.

As the strike progressed, it became evident to the workers that the union leaders of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union were sabotaging the struggle. This resulted in the formation of rank-and-file committees which led the strike.

Although not all of the strikers' demands were met by the company, their firm unity and determination indicates that their struggle will continue.

The Leyland strike was supported by auto workers throughout Britain. At a Rolls-Royce plant, 400 toolroom workers went on a one-day sympathy strike in support of the Leyland workers. Ford

workers sent representatives to the strikers' meetings promising them "moral and financial support."

The walkout almost led to the collapse of the government-subsidized Leyland company, which produces well-known cars like the Jaguar, MG and Triumph. The company was thrown out of its strong position in the world market and lost about \$85 million in revenue.

The strike action at Leyland is part of the growing workers' movement throughout Britain against the deepening economic crisis.

For the past three years, the world wide capitalist crisis has been particularly severe in Britain. Industrial production is declining, the pound plunged to its all-time low last September, and inflation and unemployment rates are soaring. But, as the Leyland strike shows, workers are refusing to let the burden of the crisis fall on them.

Leyland not only exploits British workers, but has operations all over the world. Along with the big U.S. automakers and other imperialist transna-



LEYLAND WORKERS demonstrate against government policies.

tionals, it directly backs the South African apartheid regime. Leyland has invested over \$40 million in South Africa over the past year. This has also been the focus of attack by workers in Britain, who have taken stands in support of the struggle against apartheid.

Although Britain's Labour government supposedly has an arms embargo against South Africa, about 36 British companies manufacture arms there, and hundreds more supply the South African military in one way or another.

Leyland has been exposed for export-

ing auto parts from its British parent company to South Africa for the assembly of Land Rovers. When it was discovered that these Land Rovers were used by the South African police in the Soweto rebellion last June, Leyland workers voted not to handle any more parts destined for South Africa.

This internationalist stand of the Leyland workers, together with their militant actions in opposing the economic crisis, have made the current struggle one of the most significant labor battles of this year.

'We will not lay down arms until victory'

The thirteenth session of the Palestinian National Council opened in Cairo March 12 to chart the course of the Palestinian liberation struggle in the coming period. The Council is the highest legislative body of the Palestinian revolution.

In the opening address to the Council session, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat supported the unanimous resolution of the 1974 Arab summit at Rabat, recognizing the Palestine Liberation Organization headed by Yasser Arafat as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Sadat also sharply condemned Israeli Zionism aggression and expansion in the occupied territories. He stated, "Not a single inch of land will be ceded and national soil is not subject to bargaining. We have no alternative but to continue the march to recover our land and restore our rights."

Khaled el Fahoum, Chairman of the Palestinian National Council, extended greetings to the Palestinian people in Israeli-occupied territories, declaring, "We will not lay down arms until the will of the Palestinian people is fulfilled and their authority established on their free homeland."

Fahoum's speech, as well as the Council's continued program for a Palestinian "national state on national soil," provided a flat rejection of U.S. Secretary of State Vance's demand that the Council re-write its Charter to "recognize the right of Israel to exist." Vance had made this demand a precondition for PLO participation in Mideast negotiations.



PALESTINIANS in New York demonstrate support for PLO and the struggle against Zionism (Call photo).

PLO leader Yasser Arafat also rejected the idea that a big-power Geneva conference is the "solution" to the Palestinian question. The main promoter of such a conference is the USSR, although the U.S. is also favorable to it. Speaking before leaving for Cairo, Arafat opposed the idea of a "theatrical conference... which will accomplish nothing."

While the Council itself was in session, huge demonstrations were held in the occupied West Bank in which Palestinians shouted anti-Israeli slogans and fought pitched battles with Israeli troops. The demonstrations were called in the cities of Ramallah, Nablus, Beit Lah, Beit Jala and Khalil to show the support for the Council's 13th session among the people.

In Lebanon, the assassination of Moslem leader Kemal Jumblatt, who had been closely allied with the Palestinians, touched off a mass demonstration of 150,000 people at his funeral. Many mourners affirmed their solidarity with the Palestinian revolution.

During the Council session, the delegates agreed on a main political resolution expressing their policy for the next period. Although there was debate over the tactics of the Palestinian movement, all the delegates were united on the need to continue the armed struggle against Israel until victory.

The 13th session of the Palestinian National Council concluded amid the strong unity of the delegates in fighting for the victory of the Palestinian cause. The Council session was also held at a time of growing international support for Palestinian liberation by the peoples and countries of the third world.

In a message to the Council meeting, Chinese Premier Hua Kuo-feng expressed the firm support of the Chinese people for the Palestinian cause.

Chairman Hua pointed out that, "The Palestinian liberation movement has become an important revolutionary force in the struggle of the people of the Middle East and the whole third world to combat imperialism and hegemonism and to win or safeguard national independence."

WHY IS CASTRO IN AFRICA?

The current trip by Cuban Premier Fidel Castro to Africa is a key part of the Soviet Union's new offensive in the ever-widening rivalry between the U.S. and the USSR.

In the last two weeks, Castro visited Libya, Algeria, Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania and Zambia. He is reportedly headed for Angola, where he will review the 12,000 Cuban troops which spearheaded the Soviet-Cuban conquest of the country in 1975. His itinerary will be followed by Soviet President Podgorny next month.

Cuba, a third world country, which has been under the domination of Soviet social-imperialism for some time, is now being used by Brezhnev and Co. to fight the Soviet Union's war. It also spreads the ideology of social-imperialism and hinders and weakens the third world movement. As a third world country, it is able to do the Soviet Union's dirty work more effectively than the new tsars themselves. Seizing on the African peoples' legitimate hatred of U.S. imperialism, Castro is trying to bring the African countries and liberation movements under the hegemony of the social-imperialists.

The Angolan civil war provided the clearest example of Cuba's role as a mercenary puppet of the Soviet Union. Even today, Cuban forces are killing and suppressing Angolan patriots in the countryside who oppose Soviet domination of their country.

But more Angola-type situations are developing on the African continent as a result of the intrigues of both superpowers. Castro's trip revealed that Soviet-Cuban forces are anxious to move into these areas, just as Jimmy Carter's threats against Uganda last month reflected the aggressive ambitions of U.S. imperialism.

Arriving in Ethiopia, Castro said that Cuba was ready to help suppress the Eritrean secessionist movement which has been involved in armed conflict with the central government over the last few years. He charged that the Eritrean people's organizations were all "CIA-backed," and offered Cuban arms and

personnel to crush them.

Behind Castro's eagerness to involve Cuban forces in Ethiopia's internal affairs lies the Soviet Union's lust for control of the Red Sea area. The Eritrean region, for instance, has a 600-mile coast line on the Red Sea. Consequently, this part of the world is extremely crucial to the interests of both superpowers in controlling the oil flow.

Previous attempts by the Soviet Union to gain political influence in northern Africa have failed. Most notably, Egypt has broken its "friendship" treaty with the USSR, and the Sudan has foiled several Soviet-backed coup attempts. At the same time, the U.S. has improved its relations with these countries. As a result, the USSR has become more determined than ever to secure a foothold in the Red Sea area and is ready to send in Cuban troops to do it.

MORE SUPERPOWER RIVALRY

In the midst of Castro's trip, other manifestations of the superpower rivalry revealed themselves. Several thousand Katangese mercenaries began marching on Zaire in an attempt to conquer the copper-rich region of that country and overthrow the Mobutu government. In response, the U.S. and some European countries sent several million dollars worth of arms to Zaire.

The Katangese forces were driven out of Zaire in the 1960s after their collusion with the reactionary Tshombe. They have been fighting under Soviet-Cuban command in Angola for the last two years. Their recent invasion of Zaire originated in Angola, and the soldiers themselves are clearly armed and trained by the Soviet-Cuban forces.

It is not currently known if any Cuban troops are with the Katanga troops in Zaire, although during the Angola war, Cuban forces made incursions into Zaire. The USSR has also launched repeated overt and covert attacks against Zaire because the Mobutu government has been an outspoken opponent of Soviet influence in Africa.

Cuban forces are also reported to be in Uganda and other East African coun-

tries. For some time, the Soviet Union has been pressuring the Zimbabwean liberation movement to allow an "international force" to lead the armed struggle against the Smith regime. Cuban troops also have been made available for this purpose. But thus far the Zimbabweans have rejected the social-imperialists' scheme.

All this Cuban activity in Africa is being carried out under the signboard of "internationalist aid" and "fighting U.S. imperialism," themes which Castro demagogically stressed throughout his tour. But his real purpose is to stir up trouble in Africa, foment splits and divisions within sovereign countries and among different African countries and provide bases for a puppet army to carry out the dictates of the Soviet Union.

From the World Press

THE FORGE
Workers of all countries, oppressed peoples and nations, unite!

The Forge, newspaper of the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist), carried a major article in its most recent issue hailing the Chinese people's victory in smashing the reactionary "gang of four."

The article saluted the great victories of the Chinese Communist Party headed by Chairman Hua Kuo-feng in smashing the "gang." It pointed out that the "gang's" downfall is "an important triumph in strengthening the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialism in China."

The article went on to expose the "gang" as "ultra-rightists who hid themselves behind a left cover." In particular, The Forge took note of the intrigues and conspiracies of the four, emphasizing that they "plotted to seize state power, they sabotaged socialist construction, they held empiricism and not revisionism to be the main danger, they attacked unjustly honest cadres in the Party, they used their influence to undermine revolutionary culture, and as they pretended to attack bourgeois right all the while they themselves lived in a lavish and decadent fashion."

The Forge concluded that the four were "typical representatives of the bourgeoisie infiltrated into the Party," whose wild ambitions could only lead to the restoration of capitalism if they were not defeated.

The article also stressed Chairman Mao's warnings against the intrigues and conspiracies of the "gang," and pointed out that Hua Kuo-feng's decisiveness in smashing their plot showed that he is a worthy successor to Chairman Mao Tsetung.

The article said that the Chinese people, the Communist Party, and Chairman Hua have the fullest support of the Canadian Communist League in their continuing efforts to realize Chairman Mao's behests and carry the revolution through to the end.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

The fight for women's equality is a component part of the overall fight to turn the trade unions into organizations of class struggle. As in the labor movement a whole, it is the reformist and revisionist trade union leaders who stand opposed to this fight, helping to perpetuate women's oppression and the exploitation of all workers.

Bribed by imperialism's superprofits, these labor lieutenants defend the system and its attacks on women workers.

1) They have collaborated with the bosses in keeping large numbers of women out of the work force and maintaining them as a reserve army of cheap labor to be manipulated with the ebb and flow of the economic crisis.

2) They have ensured that the level of organization among the ever-growing numbers of working women remains extremely low. As a result, 88% of women workers have been kept outside the trade unions. The bureaucrats have aided the capitalists' efforts to force women into



FARMWORKERS movement has relied on women as a backbone force.

the lowest-paying, least organized industries, while systematically excluding them from heavy industry.

3) They have done their best to pit men and women workers against each other, promoting the bourgeoisie's ideology of male supremacy with all its myths about the inferiority of women. They attack the special demands of women as "divisive" and promote such views as women are "temporary" and "unreliable" workers.

4) Their blatant chauvinism towards all minority workers and support of the bosses' racist attacks intensify the triple oppression of minority women workers.

In all of these ways, the misleaders work to divide the working class by sex and nationality and undermine its fighting capacity by excluding the masses of women workers.

That is why the fight for women's equality is a part of the struggle to revolutionize the unions, why this fight is in the interests of all workers, and why the struggle must be aimed at driving the reformist and revisionist labor lieutenants out of the working-class movement.

In opposition to these misleaders who base themselves on a small handful of privileged workers in the unions, the com-

munist have always based their work among the masses of working men and women and made work with women a special task. The Russian revolutionary Lenin stressed the importance of going "deeper into the thick of the masses... among all those who toil and are exploited by capital, particularly those who are least organized and educated, who are most oppressed and least amenable to organization."

Communists have led some of the most important labor struggles among women in this country, some of the main organizing drives, demanding the opening of all industries to women and bringing large numbers of women into the trade union movement. Communists have concentrated work also in light industries, like electronics and garment, where the highest percentage of workers are women and minorities.

In the day-to-day struggles in the plants, communists have always sought to unite men and women in support of special demands like equal pay for equal work, paid pregnancy leave, free child-care, protective legislation against unsafe working conditions, and passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). This has been done in the context of class-wide demands.

OVERTHROW CAPITALISM

In fighting for every reform and just demand that will push forward the cause of women's equality, communists have stressed that the aim of these struggles must be the overthrow of the capitalist system itself, since women's oppression is rooted in the system and can't be eliminated through reforms.

The inequality of women arose with the development of classes and class society and will continue as long as a handful of monopoly capitalists own and run the means of production for their own profits. The labor of women—both as workers and as housewives—is essential to the reproduction of the work force itself, as well as to the accumulation of capitalist profits.

Historically, women have been a strong force struggling for the rights of all workers and for their own equality. International Women's Day arose out of the struggle of women garment workers in the U.S. in 1908 when masses of women marched through New York City protesting sweatshop conditions, child labor and demanding the right to vote.

HISTORIC TEXTILE STRIKES

The great textile strikes of mainly-women workers at Lawrence, Mass., Passaic, N.J., and Gastonia, South Carolina, in the first decades of the century are milestones in the history of the U.S. working class. Today, the Farah and Oneita union drives and the on-going battles at Cannon Mills and J.P. Stevens stand as outstanding examples of labor militancy on the part of working women.

The greatest advances for women in the labor movement came when the Communist Party, the then-revolutionary vanguard of the U.S. workers, led the struggles of the '20s and '30s to organize women in textiles, tobacco and electronics. The Party raised special demands around maternity insurance and protective legislation and fought against the triple oppression of minority women. All the while, they pointed to socialism as the only path for genuine liberation and equality.

Outstanding working-class leaders were forged in these struggles and joined the ranks of the communist movement—women like Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Nanny Washburn, who today, continues

to inspire the workers' movement with her tireless dedication to socialism.

The Party placed special emphasis on mobilizing the masses of women in all decisive class battles. In the Flint strike in 1938, the Party helped rally the wives of auto workers into defense teams to guard the plant, beating back police with sticks, bottles and bricks. The same militant traditions of struggle are carried on today. In the Brookside miners' strike in Kentucky in 1974, for example, women were also organized into a committee to fight off goons and police attacks.

In the fields as farmworkers, in the sweatshops as immigrant workers, women have set an example for the labor movement. The leading role of women and communists in the recent Davis Pleating struggle in Los Angeles against deportations and the garment union bureaucrats in this country.

Clearly it is not the women, nor the fight for equality which "divides the workers' movement," as opportunists like the Revolutionary Communist Party claim. It is the chauvinism of the revisionists and the reactionary trade union leaders which act as the main blocks in the way of the working-class struggle.

The labor bureaucracy has reserved its privileged positions for a handful and has excluded the masses of workers, especially women and minorities, from their exclusive club. They have historically refused to organize the masses of women, particularly minority women concentrated in the industries and sweatshops across the South and Southwest and around the country.

BETRAY CANNON MILLS DRIVE

A vivid example was seen recently in their abandonment of the organizing drive at Cannon Mills in North Carolina, despite the fact that thousands of women signed union cards and committed themselves to bringing in the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

The misleaders also help the companies enforce discrimination against women and minorities through the seniority system. Only after sharp struggle did any women win the right to work in auto and steel plants. But they are often put on the worst jobs in these plants, to force them to quit.

The union officials defend the bosses, claiming that women have the lowest seniority and, therefore, must do whatever job they are assigned. "If you can't do the job, go back to the kitchen" is the familiar refrain of the bosses and the bureaucrats alike.



GARMENT SWEATSHOPS have historically used women as cheap labor.

While the entire bureaucracy is opposed to women's equality and the revolutionary struggle necessary to win it, the new line-up of liberal trade union leaders that has recently made a bid for control of the workers' movement has also been claiming to champion the cause of women's rights. The new-found "concern" of these liberals for women reflects their fear of the sharp upturn of struggle among women workers.

Ed Sadlowski, the militant-talking liberal who recently lost his race for presidency of the steel workers union is one such example. Sadlowski spoke several times during his campaign about "defending the rights of our women members."

But this was nothing more than rhetoric. When it came to an attack like the Consent Decree, which took away the right of women and minorities to protest discrimination in return for a small cash payment and denied that any discrimination still existed in the mills, Sadlowski fully supported it.

In a similar vein, the liberal leadership of the Communication Workers of America has said that it will make maternity benefits one of the main issues of its upcoming contract negotiations.

But at the same time, the union leadership is using their acknowledgement of this one issue to diffuse all the other demands against discrimination which rank-and-file women have raised. They are trying to cover up for their own disgusting record at the bargaining table which has left the average salary of telephone workers barely above the minimum wage.

In the UAW, where the liberals and social-democrats have firm control of the leadership, resolutions are regularly passed at the national convention in



TELEPHONE CO. WORKERS have forced their union to demand maternity benefits.

READERS CRITICIZE NICOLAUS ON AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA WORK

Since the exposure of Martin Nicolaus' revisionist line and his expulsion from the October League, The Call has received many letters and commentaries from readers further criticizing his line. Following are excerpts from two of these:

Dear Call:

The Chicago Call/El Clarin Committee has just finished studying the paper's exposures of Nicolaus' revisionist political line. We have learned a number of lessons from this struggle between Marxism-Leninism and revisionism.

Nicolaus' anti-party view, that it is too early to form the party because there "aren't enough advanced workers," reflects a bourgeois intellectual's total disdain for the masses. Rather than winning the advanced workers to Marxism-Leninism and the party and placing special emphasis on propaganda work in educating the workers, Nicolaus wants to keep them at a low level by focusing primarily on agitation.

Nicolaus argues that propaganda should be reserved for the intellectuals. Like the RCP with their separate "worker" papers, Nicolaus cuts workers off from communist propaganda, trying to force them to rely on "geniuses" like himself for leadership. With his bourgeois view that "great heroes" make history rather than the masses, it's no wonder that he sees the liberal bourgeoisie as our main ally!

As we studied Nicolaus' line, our committee realized that we have been making a rightist error in our approach to writing propaganda articles. We have been hesitant to write propaganda, thinking that only highly developed intellectuals should do it and the rest of us should focus on writing agitation for *The Call/El Clarin*.

We now see that in *The Call/El Clarin*

committees, we have to train ourselves to be skilled writers of both agitation and propaganda. The committees must be places where communists are trained so that we can write in-depth propaganda as well as agitation articles on local, national and international events and questions.

Chicago Call Committee

Dear Comrades,

The present criticism against the revisionist line of Martin Nicolaus is greatly deepening Marxist-Leninists' understanding of communist tasks in the present period. In studying Lenin's *One Step Forward, Two Steps Back*, we have seen the parallels between the struggle in Lenin's day against the anti-party forces and bourgeois intellectuals like Martov and our own struggle today against Nicolaus.

1. THE PARTY AND THE MASSES

Neither Martov nor Nicolaus viewed it as decisive to win the advanced workers to communism and the Party. In Paragraph 1 of the proposed Party Rules, Martov called for bringing into the Party "every striker" or any person who "associates themselves" with the Party. Lenin exposed Martov's line as "serving bourgeois intellectuals" and their desire to control the Party.

Martov's formulation merges with Nicolaus' view that "few advanced workers exist in the U.S." and "political agitation should be chief during the party's whole first period of development." Both Martov and Nicolaus sought to lower the level of the party and deny workers and na-

tional minorities their crucial weapon for liberation, Marxism-Leninism.

In *One Step Forward*, Lenin wrote: "To forget the distinction between the vanguard and the whole of the masses gravitating towards it, to forget the vanguard's constant duty of raising ever wider sections to its own advanced level, means simply to deceive oneself, to shut one's eyes to the immensity of our tasks, and to narrow down these tasks."

2. PARTY ORGANIZATION

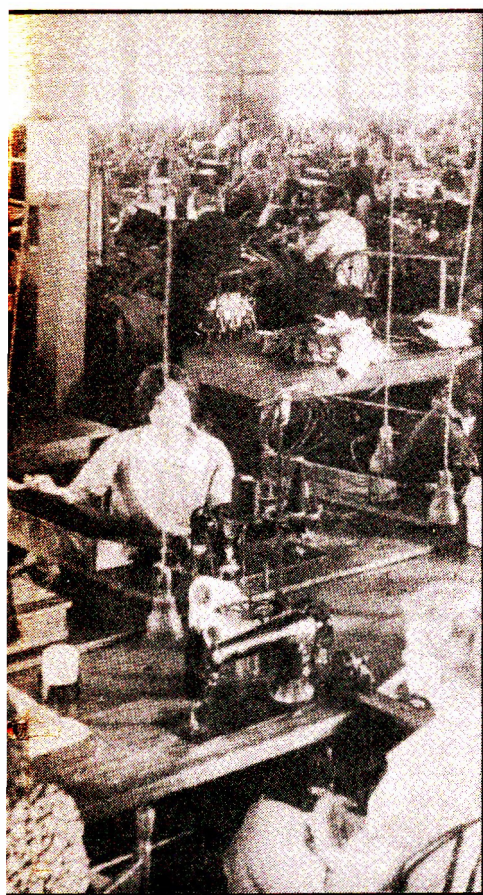
After the defeat of Martov's opportunist line on Party organization, Martov refused to work on Iskra, attempted to wreck the Party, and finally retreated from the struggle with the words, "we are not serfs!"

Similarly, Nicolaus' revisionist line ended in defeat. His continuous refusal to accept criticism, "even if 10,000 people shout in unison that I am wrong," and his factionalizing reflected his opposition to democratic centralism and his disdain for the masses.

A quotation from Lenin describes Nicolaus to a tee: "The mentality of the bourgeois intellectual, who counts himself among the 'elect minds' standing above mass organization and mass discipline..."

The defeat of Nicolaus' revisionist line is a great step forward in the building of a new communist party. Like Lenin's successful struggle against Martov, our rejection of Nicolaus' revisionism will push ahead the day when the working class under the leadership of its vanguard party will end the rule of imperialism and establish the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Friends of *The Call*, Boston



...been notorious for their exploitation of

support of the Equal Rights Amendment, maternity benefits and other aspects of the fight for women's equality. But this verbiage is just an attempt to keep control over the developing movement of militant rank-and-file women.

The true colors of the UAW misleaders were exposed when a struggle for compensative seniority broke out at GM-Fremont. Leonard Woodcock, the union president, rushed in to defend General Motors' discriminatory practice and attack the women as "disruptive elements" in the union.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) provides yet another example of the bankruptcy of reformism and of the liberals in particular. This organization was set up by a group of women bureaucrats in 1974. Its purpose was to keep the working women's movement from developing in a militant and revolutionary direction.

TALK ABOUT "SISTERHOOD"

The CLUW bureaucrats used a lot of talk about "sisterhood" and "women's rights" to draw in the most active women in the labor movement. Then they systematically crushed the fighting potential of the organization by severing it from the masses of unorganized and minority women, refusing to take up mass action of any kind and preaching a program of reliance on congressional legislation and the Democratic Party to bring about "women's liberation."

Besides trying to confine the fight for equality to a few legislative measures, the CLUW bureaucrats often treated women's demands as a concern of women only, placing them in opposition to class-wide demands. This feminist approach is an example of how the misleaders use both feminism and male supremacist ideology to divide and undermine the working-class movement.

Along with these reformists, the other snake hiding in the grass of the working women's movement is the revisionist Communist Party USA (CPUSA). These renegades destroyed the work and organization which communists had built over decades among the masses of women.

They try to get the women's movement in the U.S. to rely on the Soviet Union and "detente" between the superpowers as the road to liberation. They bloc with the reformist trade union leaders in organizations like CLUW and in the unions themselves. This way, they get positions of influence and can keep the movement of women and the working class as a whole from developing the militant initiative of the rank and file. They have stood in the forefront of red-baiting attacks against genuine communists.

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 10)

'LEARN FROM LEI FENG' MASS CAMPAIGN IN CHINA

On March 5, 1963, Mao Tsetung wrote an inscription calling on the people of China to "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng." That inscription was reprinted this month, unfolding a new movement throughout China to follow the example of this great communist hero.

Lei Feng was a soldier in the Chinese People's Liberation Army and a Communist Party member. He died in 1962 at the age of 22, a martyr and an example of self-sacrifice in the cause of forging socialism. When he was alive, Lei Feng was cited as a model Communist Youth League member and was elected to represent the people of his area in the local congress.

This year on March 5, an editorial of major importance appeared simultaneously in China's People's Daily, Red Flag and Liberation Army Daily, calling on the millions of Chinese people to follow the example of Lei Feng.

This editorial, which is being carefully studied everywhere, said: "Lei Feng was a communist fighter nurtured by Mao Tsetung Thought... His life was one of consistently combating and preventing revisionism and continuing the revolution under the dictatorship of the proletariat and one of plunging his limited years into the infinite cause of serving the people."

Along with Chairman Mao's inscription, the Chinese press has carried an inscription from the late Premier Chou En-lai which pinpointed Lei Feng's four most important qualities. Premier Chou called on people to: "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng's clear-cut class stand on what to hate and what to love, his revolutionary spirit of suiting his actions to his words, his communist selflessness, and his proletarian fighting will in disregard of personal danger." An inscription by

the late esteemed leader Chu Teh, encouraging the campaign, was also published.

The movement to learn from Lei Feng is being closely linked to the overall struggle against the influence of the reactionary "gang of four." For example, aside from acting completely contrary to Lei Feng's selfless example, these four renegades to the cause of socialism tried their utmost to suppress the campaign. When certain newspapers and publications were under their control, they slandered the campaign and went so far as to censor Premier Chou's writings.

This suppression was part of their all-round attacks on the line of Mao Tsetung and their fight against Chou En-lai, attacks which they carried out as part of their plot to seize power.

In opposition to the example of Lei Feng, the "gang of four" promoted ideas among the youth such as slavishness and blind obedience. The March 5 editorial also charged the "gang" with lauding "opportunism and trickery, sabotage and trouble-making" as merits. It pointed out that the "gang" countered the model of Lei Feng with that of reactionary youth "to induce people to go after fame and fortune and official posts and power."

Since the republication of Chairman Mao's inscription, mass rallies have been held in Shenyang and Peking by PLA soldiers. The movement to learn from Lei Feng's example is growing. Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and Vice Chairman Yeh Chien-ying



Chairman Mao's inscription: "Learn from Comrade Lei Feng."

published their own inscriptions, which urge the movement forward in carrying through the revolutionary cause and serving the people wholeheartedly.

Responding to this call by Chairman Hua, Chinese people from all walks of life are increasing their study of the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Chairman Mao and are deepening their criticism of the "gang of four." The campaign is also being used to increase production and heighten preparedness for war.

Summing up the feelings of the people of China, the March 5 editorial states: "We must be like comrade Lei Feng, and persist in putting proletarian politics in command, and with the great revolutionary goal in mind, do our work well with our whole heart and soul and persist in grasping revolution, promoting production and other work and preparedness against war."

WOODY GUTHRIE: A PROLETARIAN ARTIST

Review of 'Bound for Glory'

"Then I . . . made up songs telling what I thought was wrong and how to make it right, songs that said what everybody in that country was thinking."—Woody Guthrie

Bound for Glory is a movie about the life of Woody Guthrie, the working-class singer of the '30s. Guthrie's songs, like "Union Maid," "Pastures of Plenty," "Dust Bowl Refugee" and "Deportee" are still loved today because they captured the struggles and life of the working class during the Depression Era.

Bound for Glory shows many of the events that shaped Guthrie's music and a number of his songs are included. For these reasons it is well worth seeing. But the film's underlying message is actually a distortion of his life. Rather than a revolutionary artist of the working class, Guthrie is portrayed in the United Artists film as a crusading liberal, an individualist who pops in and out of the masses' struggles with his songs.

In fact it was among the working and farming people of Oklahoma that Woody grew up. As he says in his autobiography on which the film was based: "Right in the dead center of the dust bowl, with the oil boom over and the wheat blowed out and the

hard-working people just stumbling about, bothered with mortgages, debts, bills, sickness, worries of every blowing kind, I seen there was plenty to make up songs about."

The film graphically shows the life of these people—the thousands driven off the land in the '30s by dust storms and debt. They hit the road in old jalopies or hoboed on freight trains, lured by the promise of opportunity and jobs in California.

Bound for Glory follows Woody to California where he and the Dust Bowl "refugees" are crowded into migrant labor camps, waiting day after day for a chance to make a few dollars picking fruit. It shows the vicious attacks by company goons on workers trying to organize.

ORGANIZING IN FIELDS

Woody teams up with another singer-activist to go into the fields and organize, and is attacked time and again. Woody's songs capture the workers' struggles and the workers tell him—"Keep up your music 'cause everybody's listening."

The film also shows Woody's refusal to compromise his music or sing only what is acceptable to radio show sponsors. He turns down offers to sing in fancy

hotels and says, "I got no desire to sing to folks drinkin' martinis and stuffin' themselves with lamb chops . . . I made up my mind to speak out. I'm gonna let people know what I want."

It's clear that Woody's music is destined for the working people and it is to them that he sings—in bars, on picket lines, in the fields. "The worst thing that can happen," he says, "is to cut yourself off from the people."

DISTORTS HIS LIFE

But beyond these few facts, *Bound for Glory* distorts the life of Woody Guthrie, robbing it of its essence. Woody's censorship troubles for example did not stem from one or another of his songs as the film implies, but from the fact that he was closely associated with the Communist Party (CPUSA) at a time when it was a revolutionary organization. He wrote a regular column for the CP's newspaper, the *Daily Worker*, and read the paper on his radio show.

LEARNED FROM CP

According to Woody himself: "I learned all I could from the speeches and debates . . . where the famous labor leaders spoke. I heard William Z. Foster, Mother Bloor, Gurley Flynn, Blackie Myers. I heard most all of them and played my songs on their platforms . . . I made up my song, "Union Maid" on the typewriter of Bob and Ina Wood, the organizers of the Communist Party in Oklahoma . . . They made me see why I had to keep going around and around with my guitar making up songs and singing . . . I never did really know that the fight had been going on so long and so bad. I never had been able to look out over and across the slum section nor a sharecropper farm and connect it up with the owner and the landlord. . ."

Bound for Glory divorces Woody Guthrie from this revolutionary movement that gave rise to many progressive musicians of the time—Pete Seeger, Leadbelly, Sonny Terry, to name a few. In watching this film, one would never know there was a



WOODY GUTHRIE brought the life and struggle of the working class to his music.

communist party, nor that it led many of the migrants' union drives which the film itself portrays.

The one time the film mentions communism is in showing two well-dressed union organizers vainly trying to lead a meeting. As they are being red-baited, Woody comes to save the day by singing "Union Maid" and winning the workers to the union.

The Woody Guthrie of *Bound for Glory* is a self-proclaimed missionary, a singing social worker, trying to set things right on his own. The film makers have projected their own self-image onto this great proletarian artist. They even fabricate a love-affair with a rich Beverly Hills social worker to boost this image.

Bound for Glory is afraid to show Woody Guthrie as he really

was—so afraid that it cuts his songs short, leaving out many of the best verses. This is in line with the bourgeoisie's long-standing attempts to distort the meaning of his songs, such as "This Land is Your Land." Guthrie wrote this song to show that working people built this country and it should belong to "you and me." But the capitalists promote it as a super-patriotic song, always playing it without the class struggle expressed in verses such as those about organizing in the unemployment lines.

One has only to hear Guthrie's words to know the real meaning of his life: "Come on Black man! Come on white! Show these rich how the poor can fight! Stand up woman and meet a man! Gonna make this country the promised land!" ("Sharecropper Song")

Chinese film at festival

Los Angeles, Calif.—Over 200 people responded enthusiastically to the showing of *Breaking With Old Ideas* here March 12. Distributed by October Films, the film was shown as a feature of Filmex, the largest film festival in the United States. The screening of the film from the People's Republic of China marks the first time that socialist culture has been included in the annual film series.

For many of those in the audience, *Breaking With Old Ideas* was a welcome change from the heavy influence of Hollywood's decadent films in the festival. It also provided a clear contrast to entries from the Soviet Union and other revisionist countries, which included such trash as *Slave of Love* and other films glorifying Soviet social-imperialism, bourgeois romanticism and heroes who have nothing in common with the masses of people.

Breaking With Old Ideas depicts the struggle to consolidate the gains of the Chinese revolution in the educational system. In a lively meeting after the showing, a representative of October Films described how the class struggle is being continued today in the current mass campaign against the reactionary "gang of four."

WOMEN'S EQUALITY . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

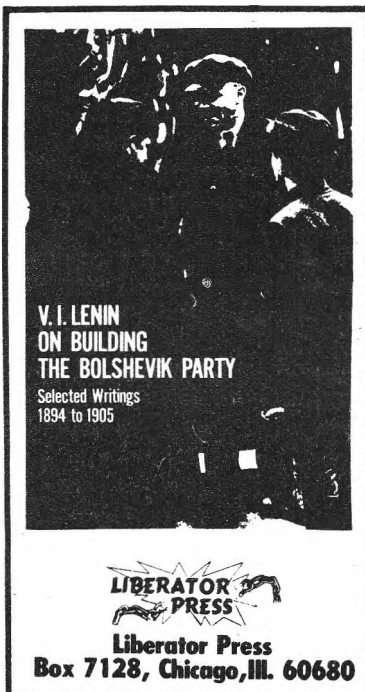
The key to advancing the fight for women's equality and building the revolutionary movement of working women is to break the stranglehold of the reformists and revisionists over the labor movement. A decisive step in building the class struggle trade unions will be the formation of a new communist party in the near future.

It will be the task of this party to give leadership to all fronts of the workers' movement and to clearly demarcate the revolutionary road of socialism from the bankrupt opportunism of the reformists, who are frantically

trying to hold back the struggle of the working class.

Special tasks of this party will be to train and recruit the most active and conscious women fighters and to develop forms of organization to push forward the initiative and leadership of women.

The party must lead the fight to bring women into production, organize the millions of working women into the trade unions, and build the unity of men and women workers into a single, fighting fist aimed at the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialism, where women and all working people will be finally liberated.



Sports Report

Jim Thorpe honored

Jim Thorpe was recently named the "greatest American football player in history" by Sport magazine.

What is significant about this honor is that James Francis Thorpe was a Native American. Most of his extraordinary feats, such as those at the 1912 Olympic Games, have been hidden from public view in a cloud of scandal spread by the capitalist barons of sport.

In the Olympic Games in Sweden in 1912, Thorpe won gold medals in both the decathlon and the pentathlon. The King of Sweden called him the "world's greatest athlete." Yet the International Olympic Committee (IOC) ruled that Thorpe's brief stint as a semi-professional baseball player had made him ineligible for Olympic competition. They took away his medals and erased his name from the record books.

Because of this 'scandal' surrounding his alleged professional status, Thorpe never received the adulation and fame accorded other athletes of his era whose deeds were no match for Thorpe's.

Thorpe died unnoticed in 1953, but his family and their supporters have continued the struggle to have his medals returned. While this activity has resulted in the Amateur Athletic Union restoring his amateur status, it has had no effect on the reactionaries who control the IOC.

Today's IOC officials turn a blind eye to the huge payoffs and other aspects of professionalism surrounding Olympic teams from the U.S., as well as the Soviet Union and other capitalist countries. But when it comes to the case of Jim Thorpe, an Indian, they insist on maintaining their reactionary decision of the past.

AFRO-ARAB . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shall become a kind of force which the superpowers will have to reckon with."

The summit was the first of its kind. The heightened unity resulting from it is especially crucial in this period when the splits and divisions engineered by the superpowers have led to civil wars of massive proportions in Lebanon and Angola.

It is no wonder that the superpowers are attacking the conference. Their rivalry is extending to every corner of Africa and the Mideast. The U.S. and the USSR are contending bitterly for control of the world's resources. At the same time, they are fighting to secure strategic military bases and control of the sea lanes as part of their strategy for confrontation in Europe. Both Africa and the Mideast are flanks of Europe, which is the focus of superpower contention.

Between the superpowers, it is the Soviet Union which is the most aggressive and dangerous. The U.S. is being forced to beat a fast retreat from much of Africa and the Mideast. It has long been exposed as an enemy of the Afro-Arab peoples' struggle for independence and liberation. It came as no surprise to hear a State Department official attack the Afro-Arab summit as "an exercise in rhetoric."

But the Soviet social-imperialists, posing as the "natural ally" of the third world, are the most vicious in their attacks on Afro-Arab unity. The Soviet press agency TASS, for example, attacked Arab economic aid to Africa as a "Trojan horse of imperialism." TASS accused the Arab countries of trying to "exert pressure" on Africa through economic aid and indulged in the the Soviet social-imperialists' favorite tactic of dividing the third world into "progressive" and "reactionary" camps.

Beneath this demagoguery, the revisionists are trying to induce the third world to rely on Soviet "aid" instead of collective aid among the third world countries themselves. By charging that the Arab countries represent a "Trojan horse exerting pressure," the social-imperialists are trying to create divisions in the third world while covering up their own crimes there.

It is the Soviet Union, and not the Arab countries, which uses economic aid as a lever to meddle in the internal affairs of the third world. This lesson was learned by the Egyptian people, who finally expelled Soviet advisors and tore up a Soviet-Egyptian "friendship" treaty.

It is the Soviet Union and its agents which are the real Trojan horse, hiding under the banner of "anti-imperialism" but all the

while working to bring the third world under their control. Soviet-Cuban intervention is bringing this home to the Angolan people today.

The Soviet social-imperialists, like the U.S. imperialists before them, have wild ambitions in Africa and the Mideast. They think they can manipulate the whole third world to follow the Soviet baton. But the unity and militancy of the Afro-Arab summit meeting was a living refutation of the social-imperialists' schemes.

Economic aid from the Arab countries has been warmly welcomed by the African countries. Far from being a "Trojan horse for imperialism," such aid will provide many African countries with opportunities for economic development free from the imperialists' manipulation.

Sudanese President Numeiri expressed the sentiments of many Afro-Arab leaders when he commented, "The difference of social systems of Arab and African countries does not hamper cooperation between the two groups. It is the interference of big powers' strategies and their sabotage for their own interests and goals that are detrimental to Afro-Arab cooperation."

The emphasis at the summit meeting was clearly on rejecting superpower interference and solving Afro-Arab questions collectively. This orientation, coupled with the all-out solidarity for the armed liberation struggles in both regions, graphically illustrates the role of the third world movement as the main force combating imperialism and the hegemony of the two superpowers.



FANNIE LOU HAMER DEAD AT 59

Fannie Lou Hamer, the staunch plantation-reared civil rights activist, died March 15 at the age of 59. Born in Ruleville, Mississippi, she became a leading figure in the struggle for Black liberation, especially in the Black Belt South.

At the age of 44, Hamer joined the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's (SNCC) voter registration drives in the South. She did this, saying that she wanted to take her stand with the militant young fighters of the 1960s. Her tireless work led her to be jailed, beaten, and harassed by Klansmen and the capitalists who stood behind them.

With SNCC, Hamer travelled to Africa in 1964 and often spoke of the unity between the African liberation struggle and the movement of Blacks in the U.S. She bitterly condemned the Vietnam War.

Hamer was also the vice-chairman of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party when it attempted to unseat the all-white delegation to the 1964 Democratic Convention.

We salute Fannie Lou Hamer as one of the many Black women who stood firm in the fight against the discrimination, hardship and racist terror of capitalism and national oppression.

In sum, Carter's speech to the UN revealed little except that U.S. imperialism may change its tactics but never its basic character. The U.S. must continue to be "highly competitive," as Carter described it, with the social-imperialist Soviet Union. This aggressive character of the imperialist superpowers is leading rapidly towards a new world war despite all talk of "peace."

Behind Carter's lofty words about "human rights," the U.S. continues to support reactionary regimes in Israel, South Africa, Rhodesia and throughout the world. Within the U.S., as well as in the Soviet Union, the daily exploitation of working people goes on uninterrupted, and the savage persecution of revolutionaries and opposition forces and the systematic oppression of minority nationalities is a way of life.

These realities cannot be covered up with a few high-sounding phrases from the podium of the UN.

INFLATION . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

particularly significant in understanding what the capitalists have in store for the working class. Even the government's economic experts are predicting that the inflationary spiral will continue well into 1977, affecting all the most basic needs of workers—food, utilities, clothing and auto maintenance. Meanwhile, Carter, aided by George Meany and the rest of capitalism's labor lieutenants, is

setting the stage for a new freeze on workers' wages.

This is the capitalists' "solution" to the economic crisis: squeeze the working people tighter between the vise-grips of inflated prices and frozen wages, while stepping up layoffs and cutting back unemployment benefits.

The latest economic indicators should be a call to arms for working people to fight back with new intensity and demand that the bosses pay for this crisis.

CARTER . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ports of Soviet jailings, tortures and the repressive use of mental hospitals have revealed a crack in the Soviet armor that Carter seems intent on widening. While exposing the fascist-capitalist nature of the USSR, these reports have also shown the bankruptcy of the Helsinki agreements, which supposedly guaranteed "human rights" and political freedoms in the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Carter's UN speech, therefore, was one more sign that the "detente" fraud is on shaky ground and that sentiments within the U.S. ruling circles against appeasement of the Soviet drive for world supremacy are growing.

Carter, however, continued to use the rhetoric of "detente," as he made a fresh appeal to the Soviet Union to join in greater efforts "to contain the global arms race." He called for "mutual military restraint in the Indian Ocean" as well as a "major step toward arms limitations and arms reductions" in the SALT talks.

WAR DRIVE HEIGHTENS

But despite this continued talk of "arms reductions" before world bodies, the war drive of the two superpowers continues to heighten. All of Carter's UN talk about "common interests" and "mutual survival" can't conceal these realities.

Carter's remarks on other aspects of foreign policy also reflected some shifts in U.S. tactics towards the USSR as well as the third world countries:

- The call for "majority rule through peaceful means in southern Africa is one aspect of Carter's response to rapidly-growing Soviet influence in African affairs. Recent Soviet activity has led the U.S. imperialists to adopt dual tactics, beefing up the white supremacist regimes while trying to disarm the liberation movements and bring them un-

der U.S. control.

To back up the new U.S. image as a "supporter" of majority rule, Carter announced the repeal of the Byrd amendment, which allowed U.S. corporations to import Rhodesian chrome in violation of UN sanctions. At a time when liberation movements in southern Africa are gaining in strength and international support, the Byrd amendment has become a liability U.S. interests can no longer maintain.

CONCERN FOR EUROPE

- Concern for the U.S. position in Europe, the focus of superpower rivalry, was reflected in Carter's backing of a summit meeting scheduled for this spring between the U.S. and leaders of second world countries of Europe as well as Canada and Japan. Carter also promised support for the "efforts of our friends to strengthen democratic institutions in Europe, particularly in Portugal and Spain."

- The growing influence and power of third world countries could be seen in Carter's promises of financial "aid" to developing countries and his invitation of a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the presidential reception after the UN speech. Carter is pursuing a policy of expressing support for a Palestinian mini-state while at the same time protecting the Zionist state of Israel. This policy is both a token concession to the third world movement as well as an attempt to undermine Soviet influence in the Arab world.

- Paying a few new words of lip service to normalization of relations with China, Carter spoke of "parallel interests" between the two countries in "maintaining stability in Asia." Although he promised to "act in the spirit of the Shanghai Communique," no mention was made of continued U.S. support for the fascist clique on Taiwan.

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