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August 1974

10¢

ON THE MOVE

DC Area Workers Paper

The People United...



TOP: Throw the Bum Out Contingent in April 27 march (see page 3). LEFT: Veterans and supporters July 1-4 (see page 3). RIGHT: African Liberation Day march May 25 (see page 6).

Will Never Be Defeated!

Baltimore people back city strike

After a 15-day strike sparked by a wildcat by sanitation workers, Baltimore city employees of AFSCME Local 44 won a 70¢ per hour pay increase over two years. They also won an end to the inhuman "point system," a plan to control absenteeism which threatens workers with firings for missing as few as 8 days a year.

The wildcat started when the union officials tried to settle for a 6% pay increase, which was way below what the workers needed to make ends meet.

The next day, the union officials saw the unity and strength of the workers in taking the fight into their own hands, and had to sanction the strike.

The workers had no choice but to strike. Of course they were concerned about the health and sanitation problems presented by the strike, but the only way that could be accomplished was for the city to grant the workers just demands. Mayor Schaefer of Baltimore kept insisting, as he has always done, that the city has no money to pay higher wages. But like his counterparts in D.C. and everywhere else, he can always find the money to reward his political backers with lucrative city contracts. The fact was the city could have settled the strike any time. Their refusal showed how little they care about the workers and the residents.

The police went on strike at

Quarter-million workers strike for living cost increase

Now that the wage freeze is off, workers across the country are striking to get their paychecks caught up as much as possible with the high prices caused by inflation. As old contracts expire, over a quarter of a million workers are refusing to work until they can get paid amounts closer to the cost of living.

The major strikes are in steel, government work, copper, auto and construction.

The number of strikes has been fluctuating between 550 and 600 at

the same time the city workers did, but before the police strike, cops were busting picketers who were members of the same union (AFSCME).

PEOPLE COUNTERACT SCABS

During the strike, the sanitation workers, of course, weren't picking up the city's trash and garbage. The city tried to recruit people to take trash to landfills—which were in the poorest neighborhoods. They also paid 8- and 9-year-old children to get the trash. Housewives in one community where there was a landfill organized a petition campaign to support the strike. People were urged not to take trash to the landfills but to take it instead to where it belongs—city hall.

GARBAGE AT CITY HALL

They did take the garbage to city hall. The mayor sent the police in to break up the picket lines at the government headquarters and try to scare the workers. But this just showed how scared they were of the

once for the past several weeks.

Government workers in an Ohio prison walked out on July 6 and the strike spread to thousands of workers all over the state. In Harlan County Kentucky, United Mineworkers members have had to contend with continuous police harassment and arrests as they continue their strike against East-over Mining Co.

In D.C., 600 bindery workers, mostly women, went on strike and tied up the printing industry. Several construction unions have slowed down

growing support and unity of the striking city employees. The police singled out members of United Farmworkers and other active supporters of the strike, beat them and arrested several people. This only made the workers more determined to build the strike and increase public support.

The job of the sanitation workers is one of the dirtiest, hardest, and most hazardous in the city. The racist oppression of the system means that mostly Black people are found in this type of job. But all workers, Black and white, united together to fight to change the conditions on the job.

The Baltimore sanitation workers, and the rest of the city workers, have shown all of us that through the militant unity of the rank and file, it is possible to fight back. The rank and file must continue to carry out its actions, through the union when possible but separate when necessary. A united rank and file, relying on itself and drawing support from the masses of people, is the strongest weapon the workers have.

Metro with their strikes, and the Wonder Bread factory near Howard U also caused its workers to strike.

NOTE:

This issue was delayed for a month due to weaknesses on our part. Some of the articles stretch back to events of two months ago, but we felt they were important enough to report on anyway.

What is On The Move?

ON THE MOVE is a new newspaper in the DC area. Unlike the Post or the Star-News, we will not print what the businessmen, bankers, landlords or politicians want to hear.

We are a paper by a for working people. The staff of ON THE MOVE is made up of workers, housewives, vets and students. Some of us belong to the Revolutionary Union, a national communist organization. Communists have always been active in the working class struggle—building unions, leading strikes, fighting racism. But they also believe that our problems will not end until workers, who keep this country going with our labor, overthrow the large capitalists and build a government controlled by the working class.

All of us, communists and non-

communists, unite and fight around these points:

- * Full employment, a living wage and decent benefits.
- * Decent housing, food, medical care and education.
- * Defense of our democratic rights (to organize, to freedom of speech, to vote) against growing attacks by the corporations, government and police.
- * Full social, economic and political equality for Blacks and other minority nationalities.
- * Real equality for women in all aspects of life.
- * An end to U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The few on top try to divide us: men from women, Black from white, skilled from non-skilled and native from foreign born. But we all have a common enemy—the system of imperialism where working and oppressed people are ripped off by big corporations and banks.

We must begin to link our struggles each with the other and with those of our brothers and sisters around the world.

We need you. You can help by reporting struggles on-the-job and in the community, distributing the paper, building support for strikes and demonstrations. We need your comments, suggestions and criticisms.

WRITE: ON THE MOVE, P.O. Box 4256
Takoma Park, Md. 20012

July 4 demonstration

Veterans movement growing; thousands march in capital

On July 4, 5,000 Vietnam veterans and supporters from all over the country marched on the Nation's Capital to present 5 demands: universal and unconditional amnesty for all resisters; end aid to Thieu and Lon Nol; a single type discharge for all vets; decent benefits for all vets; and kick Nixon out.

This march was the climax of four days of demonstrations sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (VVAW/WSO) to build the resistance, not only of vets but of the entire public against increasing attacks on all of us by the U.S. imperialist system.

The July 4 march, from the Mall to the Lincoln Memorial to the Ellipse, was spirited. At the rally after the march, speakers included a representative of the Cambodian people now living in the U.S., a former POW, Sam Schorr from VVAW/WSO, and Brian McCarthy from New Jersey Workers Committee to Throw the Bum Out.

One of the highlights of the first three days' demonstrations was the march on the Justice Department July 3 to demand universal and unconditional amnesty for all resisters.

About 500 people arrived at the Justice Dept. and created diversionary actions while "Universal and Unconditional Amnesty" was spray-painted on each side of the building entrance. Meanwhile, the corner where the building stands was re-named Amnesty Intersection, the corner of Universal and Unconditional Streets.

As people were marching off back to the camp on the Mall, the Justice doors opened and out came about 10 police in full riot gear, wondering what was going to happen. But it had already happened and people were leaving and chanting, "The People United Will Never Be Defeated!"

The police retaliated that afternoon at a march on the Capitol in which the Vets and supporters were

demanding implementation of the Paris agreements and end of all aid to Thieu and Lon Nol. Unprovoked, police rushed the marchers with clubs, gas, mace. A few people were arrested and some were injured. But this was not a victory for the police and the system they serve. This action only made people's spirits rise even higher--just in time for the next day's big march.

MEANING OF VETS' DEMANDS

What do the Vets' demands mean?
Universal and unconditional amnesty for all people who resisted the war and the repression within the military. With 550,000 Vietnam-era vets having less-than-honorable discharges, vets represent the single largest group in need of amnesty.

Implement the Peace Agreements-- end all aid to Thieu and Lon Nol; aid to the corrupt and repressive regimes of Lon Nol in Cambodia and Thieu in South Vietnam must stop.

A single type discharge for all vets -- The present system of multiple discharges or bad discharges means a life-long mark; jobs are denied, promotion is jeopardized, and the rightful benefits the government owes the veterans are often denied.

Decent benefits for all vets-- The Veterans Administration (VA) is not providing the educational and medical benefits it should; educational allowances are miserably low, and the staff/patient ratio in VA hospitals is the lowest for hospitals in the country.

Kick Nixon out -- because he attacks the poor and working people and represents the profit-seeking corporate system that really runs this country.

WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT

The reason why the Vets' march was so important is that it is an



Veterans' "shitlist" contained a list of gripes by vets in New York City. It stretched the length of a city block and was left at the VA.

example of the strengthened unity of the working class. They're getting even worse treatment by big business and the rest of the system than most of us--even though they're the ones who had to leave their jobs and families to go fight the Vietnamese--whose enemy is the same as ours and the same as the Vets' as they found out. Black vets get even worse treatment. The bad discharge rate among Black vets is over twice that of white vets.

A good example of what happens to vets (besides bad discharges, drug problems, inferior hospital care and a "benefit" system that isn't beneficial to anyone except officers) is the job situation.

For example, take the vets who applied for jobs at the Post Office under a special program called "Veterans Readjustment Act" (VRA): they found that the so-called "preferential treatment" was really a hoax--a way the P.O. could use them as cheap labor and turn them against the rank and file at the PO.

The vets also found out that being hired under the VRA programs meant they could be fired or laid off without appeal, that they had no access to grievance procedures, and were denied Sunday premium pay given to all other government employees. (In the New Jersey P.O., other workers staged a demonstration against the VRA and in support of the vets. This action was sponsored by a rank-and-file organization called Outlaw.)

But the vets aren't taking things lying down--they're rising up and fighting back. The VVAW/WSO chapters in the DC-MD-VA region, as well as other chapters across the US, will continue to conduct local demonstrations, discharge upgrading clinics, military counseling and other activities to build public support for the five demands.



Throw the Bum Out - Organize to Fight!

10,000 demonstrators, mostly youth, came to Washington, D.C. April 27 to demand Nixon's ouster. In late afternoon a breakaway march (shown above) sponsored by the Attica Brigade and the RU went to the Justice Department where they demanded an end to police repression.



Behind the Metrobus strike

"They're trying to take something away from us that we've already got," became the battle cry of Metrobus drivers during their strike May 2-6. The strike ended--but the drivers' fight for a decent contract has not as the drivers have twice rejected contracts negotiated since the strike before accepting a third offer June 19.

Since Metro took over all bus operations in the D.C. area a year ago, it has meant increased harassment for the workers--which culminated in Metro's contract offer in April that would have reduced the cost-of-living escalator clause and cut back on benefits such as sick leave, vacations and the medical plan.

In addition Metro ended negotiations and told the union that they would submit all issues to binding arbitration (where a "neutral" observer decides what goes in a contract and what doesn't).

DRIVERS VOTE TO STRIKE

The union officials knew they would have to call a strike. At a special union meeting May 1, George Davis, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689, told the 2,000 members present that the union had agreed to submit all other issues to arbitration except the cost-of-living escalator clause and that he and the union's executive board was recommending a strike.

Davis told the membership that Metro would get an injunction against the strike and it was up to individual members to decide whether they would go back or not. He also said that no picket lines would be set up and that drivers should simply stay home.

Those present at the meeting voted unanimously to strike in a resounding voice vote as of midnight that night.

FIRST INJUNCTION ISSUED

District Court Judge Hart signed a temporary injunction against the

strike 23 minutes after it began that told union officials to order the drivers back to work.

Meanwhile the strike had begun in earnest. After the meeting drivers began gathering at the seven depots to discuss the strike. No buses went out at all. Some of the shop stewards came around and told the drivers of the injunction but said that while they could not publicly urge continuation of the strike, they really wanted the drivers to stay out.

The strike continued all day Thursday and Friday without picket lines, tying up traffic both days. Both the D.C. and Federal government, which employ a total of 260,000 people reduced workdays and many workers did not show at all. Business in the downtown area was off considerably.

UNION ORDERS DRIVERS BACK TO WORK

George Davis called a meeting Friday at 8 p.m. to tell the drivers of the injunction. At the meeting of 2,500 drivers at the Sheraton Park Hotel, Davis read the court order and firmly urged compliance.

Midway through Davis's speech, a driver stood up and shouted a loud "NO!" He was then joined by hundreds of other drivers, black and white, men and women.

Davis finished his speech amidst a number of catcalls and opened the floor to questions. The speeches by the rank and file mainly called for a continuation of the strike. One driver from the Alexandria division summed it up in his speech:

"If we go back now we've lost everything. We'll go back on our knees and Metro will be able to take from us anything they want from now on. We went out to keep the cost-of-living (escalator clause) and we're going to stay out until we get it."

After about 20 minutes, one driver said, "I move we adjourn, let's go back and keep this strike going, there's no sense in staying here." His motion was accepted and hundreds of drivers walked out the door chanting "Strike! Strike!"

WILDCAT BEGINS

Later that night drivers began gathering at the depots again. A number of drivers began reporting for work as shop stewards called them at their homes and told them that the strike was over. But most were persuaded not to take buses out when they got to the depot. And those who did usually found that their buses broke down somewhere down the line. Of the 424 buses scheduled to roll Saturday, only 20 completed their runs.

Saturday afternoon, a court hearing was held to see whether the union was in contempt of the temporary injunction. Although the union officials had certainly done everything they could to sabotage the strike--from ordering the drivers back to work at the union meeting to calling up drivers and telling them the strike was over--the judge found the union in contempt and ordered a \$25,000 a day fine levied against the union starting 8 a.m. Sunday. Davis was also found guilty of contempt, but was not sentenced.

The union leaders, George Davis and Rodney Richmond, mapped out their strategy for ending the strike for the judge in open court. They told Judge Smith that they would concentrate on the largest division--Bladensburg--in getting the drivers back to work. They felt that if they could break Bladensburg, the others would go back.

"BLADENSBURG STRATEGY" FAILS

Drivers began discussing the ruling at the depots and the majority favored continuing the strike. Union officials and shop stewards were visiting each depot, but concentrating on the Bladensburg division.

Sunday morning 47 buses rolled out of the Bladensburg garage when union officials convinced many of the drivers that the other divisions had broken down and were returning to work. But when some of the rank and file drove to the other divisions and found out that they had been tricked--the buses began coming back in to the depot--or break-

ing down.

Cody Pfanstiehl, Metro's main spokesman, praised the efforts of union leaders to try to get the men back to work before the press. "The union guys are working their tails off, and you can't say that too strongly."

By this time striking drivers had begun to organize independently of the union. A group of drivers from the Northern Division on 14th Street were playing a particularly active role. They set up telephone communication between the D.C. divisions, organized cars to stop buses and were the first to set up picket lines.

COURT GOES ALL OUT TO BREAK STRIKE

Monday during the rush hour next to nothing went out as picket lines were set up at all divisions.

That afternoon the judge ruled the strike illegal, ordered the cost-

of-living clause into binding arbitration and ordered the \$25,000 a day fine continued. At this time Metro offered to reopen negotiations if the strikers went back to work.

SELLOUT

That night word was spread among the D.C. depots that a mass meeting of rank and file was scheduled for the RFK Stadium parking lot. About 250 drivers met. Although the meeting was disorganized, nearly all the speakers called for a continuation of the strike. As the meeting was breaking up, one of the most active leaders from the Northern Division, a driver named Tucker, showed up and said that the drivers had won a big victory in the court decision and that everyone should go back to work.

The appearance of Tucker, who had played a big role in organizing the strike after the union officials back-

ed down, threw tremendous confusion into the drivers and many began arguing with each other. People began going home discouraged.

Tuesday morning nearly all the buses went out of the divisions who had representatives at the rank-and-file meeting the night before. But the Virginia divisions stayed out through the morning rush and only went back when they confirmed for themselves that the D.C. divisions had been broken.

After the strike, the union and Metro resumed negotiations and came up with a couple of contracts. They both included the cost-of-living escalator clause, but were for three years and didn't provide any decent wage increases. Both contracts were rejected by fairly close margins because of this. The one that was accepted June 19 did not increase wages significantly, but a two-year contract was won.

Metro driver urges rank-and-file union caucus

(The following is an interview between On the Move and a driver who participated in the strike - ed.)

What was the role of the local union leadership during the strike?

Well to start with, before the strike, they agreed to arbitrate every other issue except the cost-of-living clause. This was when Metro was trying to cut back our sick leave, make us pay more for hospitalization, and cut our vacations down too.

But anyway, they called on us to strike and 2,000 of us at the meeting unanimously agreed. But they told us not to set up picket lines and to stay home--this kept us isolated from each other and didn't build our unity and strength. They also told us that when an injunction came down it was up to individuals to decide whether they would go back to work or not--more or less inviting some people to scab.

When the court injunction did come down ordering us back to work, they did stall for two days, which was good--and a number of shop stewards told us to stay out--that they were with us, but they couldn't say so publicly or they'd be thrown in jail.

But after those two days, they did everything they could to break the strike and get people back to work--including calling us up on the phone and telling us the strike was over and going to different divisions to tell drivers that other drivers had gone back and it was useless to stay out.

What about the rank and file?

To sum it up, we were the strike. When we voted unanimously to strike Wednesday night, we intended to stay out until we won. When the court injunction came down--we said fuck it--we'll pay the \$25,000 a day fine. When the union officials backed off--we began to organize ourselves. Communications were set up between the seven divisions--and eventually we set up our own picket lines--and called a meeting. We were definitely the strength and backbone of the strike.

Was it right to strike at that time?

A lot of us are confused about this, but I'd say definitely yes. If we

had waited and announced our strike, Metro would have gotten an injunction before we ever went out and we might have ended up taking their contract lying down. As it was we showed our strength and our voices said a resounding NO to their contract. We showed we weren't going to take any cuts lying down and defied Metro, our union leaders, the courts and the cops with a militant 5-day strike. On the fifth day Metro weakened and agreed to reopen negotiations--but only because we struck.

What about the courts?

Well, there's no doubt about it. The courts were doing the bidding of Metro. Altogether three injunctions were issued against us. It didn't really matter what our union leaders said in court because the courts wanted that strike ended and that's all there was to it.

Of course the reason those judges were against us is not because they care about the public they talked so much about, but because we forced the federal government to shut down early and because we hurt the big businessmen around town.

They ended up ordering all issues in the contract including the cost-of-living clause into binding arbitration, the same offer Metro made before the strike. We were definitely right not to rely on the courts.

What kind of support did you get?

Well we got two kinds of support--one good and one bad. I'll talk about the bad first. Basically there are people who want to use any kind of movement for their own ends. We had a lot of phony communists come around during the strike. One group called the National Caucus of Labor Committees told us that our strike was organized by the CIA and we should all go back to work.

Another, the Progressive Labor Party came and tried to break up our union meeting and later passed out leaflets telling us they should lead our strike. Another group called the Workers League did the same kinds of things.

Something else too--that guy Tucker from Northern basically falls into this same category. Here was a guy who

really worked to organize the strike--but what for? He wants to ride on the backs of the rank-and-file to get himself elected to some union position.

The good support we got came from a lot of working people--clenched fists when they drove by, a lot of people offered to walk the picket line with us and one local radio station, WGTB, did a show that tried to give our point of view--a real difference from the big media which tried to stampede us back to work.

Where do you go from here?

We've stopped Metro from taking away from us things we've won in the past, but we've still got a big fight ahead of us. There's a law the judge used to issue the injunction against our strike--we need to win back the right to strike. We need that so we can win better benefits, wages, an end to swing runs, reasonable running times and a lot of other things.

We also need a union that will fight for us all the way--not just half way. And we need to fight for the things that all working people want. Let's face it, one of the reasons we didn't win our strike outright was because we weren't organized enough to win active public support.

The people who ride the buses all have complaints--from lack of bus

service in mainly poor neighborhoods to the older people who need lower fares. Everyone complains about us driving too fast--but why's that? Because the running times are so short on some lines that if we want to make a schedule we have to go fast.

Even more than the issues that affect solely riders and drivers, we have to take up the fight, along with others, against things like police repression in the communities, against discrimination on the basis of nationality and sex and against wars like Vietnam, where many of us saw what this system is really like first hand.

Other working people face the same thing and need our active support. To do this we've got to organize ourselves--the rank and file--into a caucus in order to make our union fight and to take up the fight of all working people in their struggles outside our union.

Which way forward for Black people?

The struggles of Black people have clearly been dealing telling blows to U.S. imperialism. But many questions about the direction of the Black liberation movement have come to the surface. It will be only by resolving these questions that the basis for moving the Black liberation struggle forward can be laid.

It was for this reason that the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) called for a conference May 23-24 with the theme, "Which way against racism and imperialism?"

The conference was part of a month of ALSC activities leading up to African Liberation Day which included forums on police repression, the energy crisis, getting rid of Nixon, and local rallies and demonstrations.

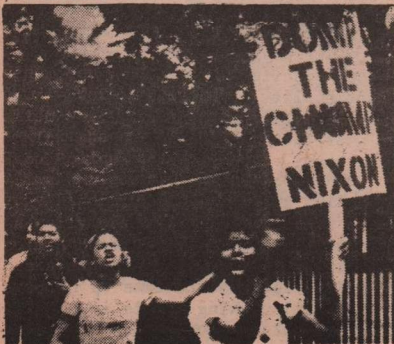
People from all over the country came to the conference. The overwhelming majority were already sure that the system of imperialism is our enemy and that working people have a special role to play in the fight against it. Most of the people were also either beginning to get into Marxism-Leninism or open to checking it out. They talked about the need for socialism and a communist party to lead the mass struggles.

WHICH WAY FOR BLACKS?

There were two major positions that came out in opposition to each other during the conference.

One opinion was the "free Africa first" line, presented by Stokely Carmichael (All-African People's Revolutionary Party) and Kwadwo Akpan (Pan African Congress). They said that a free Africa under socialism is the prerequisite for a decent life for U.S. Blacks, and that this is what the Black revolutionaries should concentrate on rather than the struggle here.

They did not say how this will change the living conditions of Blacks in the U.S., or what the masses of Black people should be doing. They said that those Blacks who have the skills or resources could be directly involved in African liberation. Also they failed to see the intimate involvement of the masses of black people in American society primarily as workers--and their revolutionary potential.



Imamu Baraka addresses African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) conference on the direction of the black liberation movement.

PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION

The other position, presented by Abdul Alkalimat of People's College and Owusu Sadaukai, first chairperson of ALSC, said that proletarian revolution is the precondition for Black liberation.

They said that there is no real solution for Blacks under monopoly capitalism, that Black revolutionaries should struggle for the acceptance of revolutionary ideas among all sections of the Black community.

They said special attention should be placed toward Black workers and that after the overthrow of capitalism, Blacks may decide what they want their relationship to be to the rest of the U.S. This position was best received by the majority of the people at the conference.

There was also another position secondary to the two major positions outlined above put forth by Imamu Baraka.

Baraka, who until recently thought of the Black liberation struggle as one completely separate from other struggles in the U.S. made known his new position that, "Monopoly capitalism will exploit all people...to a great extent the struggle for Black liberation is a struggle that will transform this society. We can't shrink from our responsibility to the entire society."

However Baraka does not yet see that the working class struggle and the national liberation struggle

of Blacks will surely merge, and not just support each other. But each step toward unity, like Baraka's help in organizing Black and white taxi drivers in New Jersey recently, points the way forward toward more unity, and this scares the ruling class more than anything.

It is the dual oppression of Black people in this country, both as members of a single, multi-national working class and as members of an oppressed nation within the U.S. that gives the struggle of black people tremendous revolutionary potential.

The struggle of the Black masses against national oppression: for decent housing, equal education and employment, and against police repression as well as the struggle of black workers (who make up the overwhelming majority of black people) as part of the single U.S. working class that is at the heart of the black liberation struggle today. This is a strong blow against U.S. imperialism, the real enemy, and it should be taken up by the whole working class.

This year's African Liberation Month accomplished four basic things: Large numbers of Black people in the Western Hemisphere came out in active support for the African liberation movements. Serious political discussion of the direction of the Black liberation movement in the U.S. was carried out at the ALSC national conference. And imperialism and racism were identified as the enemies of Black people in Africa and in the West. And money was raised to support the African Liberation struggles.

Thousands celebrate African Liberation Day

African Liberation Day was celebrated on May 25 by over 100,000 people in 30 U.S. cities. In D.C., over 10,000 Black people marched in support of the African Liberation struggles against imperialism. Beginning in Malcolm X. Park, the demonstrators marched for 3 hours through the Black community and the government section of the city.

Banners and chants got the message across: Recognize Guinea-Bissau! Portuguese colonies must be free! No

chrome from Rhodesia! Freedom for Zimbabwe! Nixon Gets Paid Off--Workers Get Laid Off! Imperialism No! Racism No! Dump the Chump! Kick the Ass of the Ruling class! Stop Police Brutality! Jail Nixon and the Whole Profit System! End the Energy Ripoff!

The march ended with a rally of over 15,000 people in Malcolm X Park. Speakers included Imamu Baraka and Dewolu Gene Locke, chairperson of the ALSC.

Third World deals blow to big powers

On April 10, a special session of the United Nations General Assembly opened--and a stormy debate began, with the Third World countries (developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America) pitted against the world's superpowers (U.S. and the Soviet Union).

The debate centered around the question of unequal economic relations between the Third World and the superpowers, and also on the national rights of Third World countries to control the production of their raw materials and the direction of their economies.

THE THIRD WORLD

The Third World countries have 80% of the world's population, and most of the raw materials needed today are found there. Yet they are very poor. This is because the Third World countries--through political, economic and military control--have been forced to develop according to the needs of the industrially powerful countries.

Their economies are geared to producing low cost raw materials for the superpowers. Their national industries remain undeveloped, their people are exploited by foreign companies as cheap labor, and they must buy finished goods from the superpowers at high prices.

OIL EMBARGO BRINGS POWER AND UNITY

The Arab oil embargo had a powerful impact on the world situation. Politicians like Kissinger, representing the imperialists, raised a big stink, calling it "blackmail."

But to 80% of the world's people it was a tremendous inspiration and a concrete blow at the unequal relations that have existed for so long between them and the superpowers. The Arab nations united to win a fair price for their oil, and asserted their national

Prairie Fire



Sings:

"Out Of Gas" ...and other songs

"...and I believe that
We're ridin' with a reckless driver
In a system that has run out of gas.
And he wants the people to get out and push
When the damn thing's breathin' its last..."

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Greek fascist government falls

Greek-Americans demonstrating in front of the White House against the military junta in Greece April 21. The junta was deposed July 22 and was replaced by constitutional rule by the old political parties. The 7 years of fascist rule was ended by the rising movement of the Greek people. Two years of increasing strikes and demonstrations culminated last November in a three day uprising. Renewed anti-inflation strikes and dissatisfaction with the fascist intervention in Cyprus by the junta finished them off.

rights to control their own raw material production and their national economy, without outside interference.

WHO'S THE BLACKMAILER?

To Kissinger's charges of blackmail, speakers at the UN session replied with facts--that the price of most Mideast crude oil had been fixed by the big oil companies at \$2 per barrel in 1947, and had dropped as low as \$1.30 per barrel by 1970. On the other hand, finished goods imported by the Third World have risen rapidly in the last 5 years (wheat, from the U.S. and Canada, had quadrupled; steel tripled; essential machinery like tractors had doubled).

So who was blackmailing who? It has been the superpowers who have blackmailed and bullied the Third World countries into poverty, with threats of economic pressure and raw military force.

THIRD WORLD -- OUR FRIENDS

Since World War II, the U.S. has dominated the world scene. The capitalist rulers of the U.S. have extended their empire past our country's boundaries, and have exploited and oppressed people all over the world in their search for profits.

But this empire is being challenged. It's being challenged by the Third World. And it's being challenged by us, the American people, who want no more rich man's wars, no more runaway shops, no more wage freezes to protect big profits.

The capitalist class and its spokesmen (like Kissinger) try to tell us that our interests lie in supporting them to control the world. But we can see that the same monopoly capitalist-run corporations that exploit people in other parts of the world are here, exploiting us too. And the same men who tell us to fight in their wars are the ones who trick us and lie to us here at home.

Our interests are with these people in other parts of the world who are fighting U.S. imperialism and Soviet social imperialism. And in unity with the working and oppressed people of the world, we are stronger--stronger than the handful of capitalists that rule us. As the Chinese representative said to the UN session, "It's not the one or two superpowers that are really powerful. The really powerful are the Third World and the people of all countries uniting together, daring to fight and daring to win."

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Strikes Shake South Africa



Striking South African workers march through Durban.

Strikes are illegal for Blacks in South Africa, as are unions, demonstrations and nearly every other democratic right. Nevertheless, during this last year hundreds of thousands of Black workers—bus drivers, garment and factory workers, and miners—have gone out on strike.

Most of the strikes have been against discrimination in pay which makes white wages about 20 times higher than Black. They began last year in the industrial city of Durban, where 100,000 bus drivers and other municipal workers paralyzed the city for over a month.

Not only did these workers win some of their demands, but they also proved their power against the police and government, which were unable to force them back to work, even at gunpoint. The workers held huge marches throughout the city while the police watched helplessly. This inspired other Black workers all over the country and began a great wave of strikes and demonstrations which terrified the government.

SPARKS ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

One of the most important strikes started in September when 80 Black machine drill operators at the Western Deep Levels Gold Mine near Johannesburg refused to work until something was done about the pay differential between them and white operators. These skilled workers were able to rally all the Black workers and shut down the mine. Police surrounded the strikers during a mass meeting and

opened fire. But even the killing of 11 men and wounding 27 others didn't end the strike.

The shooting sparked a general movement against apartheid. Black people from many classes, especially students, took part in anti-segregation demonstrations. Even the official white student organization was ordered dissolved by the government when it took action to support the Black struggle.

By December, after a long struggle, the gold mine owners were forced to grant pay increases boosting the average Black miner's wage from \$48 to \$60 a month. These few dollars are important, since Black miners have not been able to win "real" wage increases since 1889.

U.S. PROPS UP SYSTEM

But the government hasn't budged on the system of apartheid itself. It relies on a huge army and police force to maintain its suppression of Black people. This armed power is backed up by what has become white supremacy's main prop in Africa—U.S. investment and military aid.

South Africa has been ruled by whites for hundreds of years. About four million whites and 18 million Blacks and other peoples of color live under a system called apartheid—strict racial segregation. All Black people are forced to live in special areas and to carry a pass which says exactly where they can and can't go. It's illegal for Black people to enter white districts, except, of course, to

work.

As the world's main producer of gold and diamonds, South Africa is certainly a rich country. But while gold sells for \$120 an ounce, the Black miners who dig it up make only \$60 a month. Last year, South African gold mines paid out only \$120 million in wages and made six times that much in profits.

Clearly, the real source of the country's wealth is Black labor. The apartheid system keeps it cheap, insuring that South African, European and American big businessmen can exploit Black workers at a terrifically profitable rate.

The U.S. has over \$1 billion invested in South Africa. Ford, GM, Chrysler, Chase Manhattan Bank, Polaroid, Colgate-Palmolive and other American companies hold strategic areas of the economy.

As a recent article in the New York Times explained, "American investors are attracted to South Africa because wages for African workers are low...and profits are high." This trend of U.S. investment is growing.

The South African government uses apartheid to oppress all Black people in South Africa, from peasants to merchants. But when Black workers began to stand up, there wasn't much the government could do about it. The country's bosses face a contradiction—they need Black people to run the mines and factories, but when they concentrate Black people in industrial production, they create a class that threatens everything.

Coup in Portugal started in Africa



Spinoza is desperately searching for a way to hold on to the colonies...

The government of Portugal was overthrown in a military coup in April. Hundreds of thousands of joyous Portuguese poured into the streets on May Day to celebrate the fall of Europe's oldest fascist dictatorship.

For 48 years, the people of Portugal, as in all fascist countries, have had no democratic rights—no legal unions, no freedom of press or speech, and all political opposition was harshly put down. For the first time in half a century the Portuguese are free of the yoke of fascism.

The reason for the coup was the constant defeat of the Portuguese armies at the hands of liberation fighters in Portugal's African colonies. The people of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau have been fighting for 13 years to win their independence from Portugal. They too have been completely enslaved by the Portuguese rulers who have drained off their natural resources, exploited their labor, and kept them in absolute poverty.

In their effort to maintain their control of their African colonies, Portugal spent close to half its entire national budget trying to suppress the liberation struggles with military might. This has led to tremendous inflation and political and economic crisis in Portugal, which is one of the poorest countries in Europe.

There had been illegal strikes and demonstrations protesting the wars, repression and inflation. Many soldiers were against the war also, and over 100,000 young men have left the country to escape the draft.

The coup is an attempt to head off the growing resistance and struggle of the Portuguese people. Spinoza, the new head general, is no friend of the people. He fought for the dictator Franco in the Spanish Civil War, then went to Nazi Germany for more training. The two largest corporations in Portugal are also reportedly backing the coup 100%.

As always under the capitalist system, people will have to fight for whatever they get. The Portuguese workers are doing just that. Though some reforms have been made, they are not waiting for an old fascist like Spinoza to benevolently give in to their just demands.

Workers in auto, textiles, bakeries, transportation, and other industries have been striking for higher pay, better working conditions, and to throw out tyrannical bosses, despite Spinoza's threats about using the army to prevent "anarchy."

Spinoza's attempts to curb the workers movement have been aided by the so-called "Communist" Party of

Ala. miners protest S. African coal

A giant U.S. energy monopoly's plans to import South African coal have met with a stone wall of resistance from Alabama working people.

Over 6000 members of the United Mine Workers District 20 in the Alabama coal fields walked off the job for the day May 22, saying that they were "taking time off to take care of business"—the business being stopping South African coal.

In Birmingham, about 1,000 miners and other people held a militant picket line in front of the hotel where the Southern Company, which plans to import the South African coal, was holding its annual stockholders meeting.

The Southern Company, a holding company which is itself owned by the country's largest banks, in turn owns power companies, electric generating stations and coal mines in four Southern states. In May it contracted for half a million tons of South African coal to be brought into Mobile for its operations, announcing plans to import another 2.5 million tons over the next three years.

The Coalition to Stop South African Imports was formed to stop them. Uniting around the slogan, "Support the struggles of Alabama miners--support the struggles of South African miners against slavery!" were United Farmworkers Support Committee, students from the University of Alabama, striking hospital workers and rank and file miners from the Alabama Miners Committee, Turning Point (an anti-imperialist workers' newspaper), the Revolutionary Union and Black Workers Congress. UMW District 20 also officially supported the Coalition's May 22 demonstration.

Miners, both Black and white, as well as workers from other industries and people in community organizations and tenants groups, responded



May 22 demonstration by Alabama miners against the importation of S. African coal.

ed enthusiastically. Carrying signs which read, "Fight oppression--stop the coal," "Stop Imperialism in Africa" and other slogans, they held an angry and forceful picket line outside the hotel while several miners got inside to present their demands. They were finally kicked out.

At a subsequent rally, Mrs. John Merchant, a retired miner's wife spoke, "We have always had to fight for everything we have and now we have to fight again, and the only way we can win is by sticking together."

Don Stone of the African Liberation Support Committee continued this theme by declaring, "All working class people must stand together, all the time, everywhere. Racism in S. Africa contributes to the oppression of the working class here."

These actions are only the beginning. On June 17, 2000 District 20 miners walked out again. And when the first of Southern's shipments arrive in Mobile later this summer, more action is expected.

At the same time that they are importing S. African coal, U.S. companies are shipping out 300,000 tons of U.S. coal through Mobile every month. At the same time that U.S. energy monopolies are making a bundle

out of selling the coal produced by U.S. workers to other countries, they're using the energy shortage as an excuse to import coal and threaten U.S. miners' living standards which were won in bitter struggle.

It's estimated that Southern's imports will mean the loss of 375 miner's jobs. Another giant, the Consolidation Coal Company, which was hit by a W. Virginia miners' strike demanding gas for all during the freeze last winter, is also reportedly trying to buy South African mines.

But the point stressed by the Alabama Coalition is that this is not just a matter of African miners being "willing" to work for less. The same monopolies which run Southern and all the mines are the main prop holding up the South African apartheid (white supremacist) government and its slave labor system for Blacks, who have no legal right to refuse when they're rounded up and forced to work at gun-point for 1/20 of what their white supervisors make.

The Coalition is trying to build the understanding that it's the same U.S. monopolies and their world-wide system which is responsible for all oppression and exploitation in the U.S., South Africa and elsewhere.

Portugal. The "C" P of Portugal has been leading a campaign against a growing workers movement for long overdue wage increases and more say in how the factories are run. For example when 125,000 postal workers went on strike for more money and better working conditions, the "C" P held a demonstration at the main post office denouncing the strikers. "Fascists," the "C" P demonstrators shouted at the workers, "go back to work, you are sabotaging democracy."

The "Communist" Party of Portugal, like its counterpart here in the USA, has merely become the left wing of the loyal opposition. They rely on the good graces of the Spinoza government, like the American "Communist" Party relies on the Democratic Party.

For the colonies, Spinoza has a definite plan. He worked it out with leading industrial families, bankers, military and government officials and printed it in a book a month before the coup. He admitted that Portugal couldn't smash the popular liberation movements militarily and called for a set-up where the colonies would have local "self-rule" but Portugal would control all foreign, military and economic policies. This is not independence or liberation, but just another form of Portuguese dominance

and subservience to imperialist control.

The liberation movements have announced they will negotiate with the new government, but will settle for nothing short of full independence. That's what they've been fighting for all these years and that's what they are close to winning now. In fact, in Guinea-Bissau, the people have captured 85% of the territory from Portugal. And they have declared their independence. In both Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique, Portuguese soldiers are refusing to fight anymore since the coup.

As usual, the monopoly capitalist system of the U.S. has a big

stake in what happens in Portugal and its colonies. Gulf Oil has huge investments in Angola and Mozambique and the U.S. has military bases in Portuguese colonies. For this reason, the U.S. government and these corporations have given huge amounts of aid to Portugal. For example Gulf alone paid \$50 million to Portugal in 1972.

One thing is clear, whatever the immediate future in Portugal, the Portuguese people will never allow a return to the dark ages of the past 50 years. And the freedom fighters in Africa will push on to complete independence for their countries.



...but the masses of Portuguese people are demanding independence for the African nations. Pictured is a mass demonstration of workers, soldiers, and students

Police increasing attacks — but people step up resistance

For the past few months, the DC police have stepped up their terrorizing of people. This is most noticeable around 14th St. NW as more and more people are being beaten and arrested by police. The harassment is up too, as police squad cars, unmarked detective cars, "mod squad" and undercover police have saturated the area.

It's bad enough that D.C. police are spying on people, collecting names and addresses, busting people, and shoving and beating us. But they are also murdering our people.

A Black woman was killed in November by an officer who said she had threatened him with a pair of scissors in an attempt to steal bread. At the 5th District police station, John McKeytheon was shot in the thigh by a policeman while handcuffed in the station. We all remember the young Black child who was tricked by police into taking a bicycle and then shot to death. A Metrobus passenger was just killed by a cop over a 40¢ busfare.

(A lot of people thought that the man in the bus wouldn't have been shot if the cop hadn't been a woman. They forget that police are trained to kill people if they find an excuse to do it. That cop's bullet wasn't just a wild, emotional shot—it hit Clinton Hayes square in the head. The policewomen are trained as well as the men and they are just as dangerous.)

PG County, where there are also many Black and other working class people, has had a huge increase in police brutality over the past few months. In March and April there were 20 reported brutality incidents, all against Black people.

Meanwhile, striking workers' picket lines are attacked by police and union meetings are infiltrated by undercover police agents. During a recent strike at the Peoples Drug warehouse, a worker was shot in the leg by police.

NATIONAL INCREASE

D.C. is not alone. In every major city police are attacking workers in general, Black people in particular. For instance, the Zebra

searches in San Francisco where police stopped any Black men they felt like, pretending to be looking for the "Zebra killers," and then framing some Black Muslims with a so-called "Death Angels" murder beef.

In Detroit, Atlanta, and most other big cities, police have special squads which they tell people are to prevent crime but really are meant to murder Black people and leaders of resistance to this crumbling system.

In Detroit and Birmingham, police viciously attacked workers as they picketed for decent pay and better working conditions. And in Los Angeles, police staged an all-out armed attack against the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) members, murdering everyone inside the house where they were hiding. (Reporters saw people attempting to come out and police shot them back into the house not letting them give themselves up.)

But people are fighting back. San Francisco people fought back until Mayor Alioto was forced to stop the Zebra searches. Detroit people demonstrated and raised hell until the murderous police squad called STRESS was put out of existence. And when Donald DeFreeze (Cinque) was buried in Cleveland after the SLA members were murdered, 500 people came out to the funeral home and raised their fists as a symbol of people's resistance to police repression.

WHOSE POLICE?

What is happening? Police are used by whoever is in power in a country to make sure that they keep that power. In the U.S., we have the minority ruling class (the bourgeoisie) in power and the majority (working class and its allies) proletariat not in power. So the minority's police are armed to protect their interests while the rest of us are supposed to stay unarmed and not fight back.

The reason police are stepping up their attacks is because the system doesn't work and the rulers are taking it out on us. Also because we are fighting back and they're afraid of us. They're trying to keep all workers especially all Black people,



down. Also they spread rumors and emphasize reports of crime by Black people so they can turn whites against Blacks (divide and conquer). We all know, of course, who the real criminals are. Nixon, Rockefeller, Mayor Washington, Jerry Wilson and the system they represent.

As a contrast between what police are in the U.S. and what they should be, take China for example. The proletariat is in control, led by the Communist Party. The people are armed (the Red Army) and the police are not armed. In China people don't even have to lock their doors at night.

The people of the U.S. proletariat are resisting these police attacks ordered by the ruling class. In Harlan County, Kentucky, striking workers were unarmed as police harassed them and tried to threaten them with shotguns, teargas, pistols and dogs. So the miners went home and got their guns and told police they better not try to break things up. The police were rendered harmless and the miners went on fighting for decent pay and safer working conditions.

The rich monopoly capitalists who rule this country are not about to give it back to us (who keep it going with our sweat and blood) without using all their police, armies and firepower against us. But we are ready to fight back. United, we will win.



Nearly 1,000 people rallied at city hall in San Francisco to demand an end to the Zebra manhunt in April. Because of mass actions like this, the mayor was forced to call off the gestapo-style raids.

What is causing the economic crisis?

by the Revolutionary Union

Inflation is hitting us hard now. Everywhere we turn we're feeling it. Supermarket prices have risen over 20% during the past year. All prices have gone up 10% on the average. It's the basic things we need that are going up too--food, fuel and housing.

In addition, unemployment's up and production's down and we've seen shortages in everything from fuel to wheat to paper. The government has cut back on social services--from education to welfare and the big corporations are increasingly trying to render workers powerless through no strike deals with our union leaders.

NATURE OF THE SYSTEM

Inflation, recession and depression--and their side effects--are as sure as seasons in a capitalist economy such as the one we have in the U.S.

Workers produce the goods of society, but we don't get paid the full value of these goods. The owners and directors of the industries and banks (capitalists) make a healthy profit from our labor. Part of this profit goes to yachts, country mansions and other luxuries we can't even dream of.

But much of the profit is kept within the corporation and must be spent (on new plants, machines, etc.) to bring in additional profit. The individual capitalist has to do this in order to keep up a strong market position against the other capitalists he is competing with.

The capitalist gets in trouble when he overproduces--that is, he can't sell all his goods because working people overall have not been paid enough to buy them all back. Then he has to cut back on spending for new equipment and lay-off workers. When this happens in a few key industries (like auto and steel) a recession (or the more serious depression) occurs.

The government, which serves the capitalists (whether Democrats or Republicans head it up), tries to stop this from happening by taking a chunk out of our paychecks and spending it--and then some--to buy up these extra goods. Usually they purchase military equipment to protect the capitalists overseas investments (more on this later). The fact that the

government is always running at a deficit lately (the last 25 years) shows how serious tendency is for the capitalists to slide into depression.

But this only puts off the inevitable. The government it never completely in control--obviously, or they wouldn't be having the problems they are now. Each company is going to do what's best for its own profits at the moment (move overseas, raise prices, cutback on production and lay-off workers, etc.), not what's best for the economy.

IMPERIALISM: EXPAND OR DIE

Since the turn of the century, huge monopolies have developed world-wide. GM, IIT, IBM and all the rest depend heavily on foreign raw materials, exploiting foreign labor, sales and plants to keep up their profit rates.

The U.S. flag has followed them to every corner of the globe--military bases, foreign aid, diplomatic pressure and war--to protect their investments and profits. All modern capitalist countries operate in this way (including the Soviet Union since the time capitalism was restored in the 1950s)--expand or die. This is called imperialism.

Competition between imperialist countries over markets, resources and "spheres of influence" is always pushing them toward war with their rivals. Both World Wars were caused by competition between capitalist countries.

But there is also another kind of war that is being fought in the world today. Wars fought by oppressed peoples and nations against the imperialist powers to gain political and economic control of their homelands. These wars of national liberation have been a great inspiration to working and oppressed people around the world because they have shown that even tiny nations like Vietnam can defeat the monopoly capitalists if they are united and armed with political understanding and guns.

Both types of wars will continue to exist as long as imperialism does. This is why talk about "detente" with the other major superpower is a bunch of hogwash.



The victory of the Vietnamese people was a turning point for the U.S. monopoly capitalists.

WHAT CAUSES THE PROBLEMS NOW?

The U.S. came out of World War II as the top dog imperialist country. Through the monopoly capitalists export of capital (money and equipment) and government loans, the ruling class of this country penetrated more deeply the colonial areas in the world like Vietnam as well as reaping huge profits from the rebuilding of Western Europe and Japan.

But lately the U.S. monopoly capitalists have suffered a series of set backs, especially since their defeat in Vietnam. The increasing victories of the national liberation movements in Africa and the Arab oil boycott are part of this.

Because of these setbacks which have cut deeply into profit rates, the monopoly capitalists are trying to squeeze more out of the people here at home to make up for their losses abroad.

For example, to "fight inflation" Nixon slapped wage controls on us. The result last year "real" earnings for workers went down almost 5% while corporate profits went up 27%. Nixon has cut back on housing loan assistance, so that building of new homes is off 40% from a year ago. He has also vetoed a day-care bill for working mothers, and cut back all across the board for other social services we need.

In short it boils down to the capitalists' attempt to put the burden of their crisis on us is the reason for phony shortages, layoffs, inflation, cutbacks in social services and no-strike deals.

--Next issue: How Can The Problems be Solved?

What Is

The Revolutionary Union?

Today the need for revolution is becoming clearer to more people. The system we live under, ruled by bankers and businessmen, is heading into deeper crisis, in this country and internationally. And the struggle against this system is growing worldwide. The last decade has seen mighty mass movements against the oppression of minority nationalities, against wars of aggression, the oppression of women, police terror and government repression, and against the attacks on our living and working conditions.

The RU is a national communist organization. It bases itself on building these mass movements. But beyond this, the RU bases itself on the understanding that the oppression of the people flows from the basic contradiction of this system: the exploitation of the working people by the capitalist-imperialists. And the liberation of the people lies in the overthrow of the imperialists by the working class, the replacement of capitalism and all exploitation with socialism, under the rule of the working class.

To achieve this historic task, to unite and lead all the people's struggles to this goal, the working class must have the leadership of its own Party, the general staff of its revolutionary struggle. A new Communist Party because the old Communist Party long ago sold out the workers' interests. The creation of this Party will mean a great advance for the people's struggle in this country and will help to bring closer the day when the decay and corruption of imperialist exploitation will be overcome by the international working class, representing the great majority of mankind and holding the future in its hands.



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Third World students fight repressive deportation code

The government has stepped up its attacks on foreign students in recent months. At least 17,000 foreign students are being forced to apply for their work permits through district immigration offices rather than the college they are attending. The indication is that few permits will be granted.

Repressive laws (which limit foreign students to 20 hours of work per week) passed during the McCarthy Era and not enforced during the 60's, are now being strictly enforced. The result is that foreign students who are forced by the rising cost of tuition and living to work more than the "allowed" 20 hours are being deported.

The immigration department is even taking away the licenses of the students who drive cabs because the officials "can't be sure that they are working only 20 hours."

"Foreign students cannot work in the U.S. this summer because Americans would be deprived of jobs." This is the jive line that the ruling class is trying to foist on working people. What the facts reveal, of course, is that foreign students are not taking away jobs from American workers. Of the 150,000 foreign students in this country, only 17,000 sought summer employment this year. Compare this figure to the 4,301,000 Americans who are out of work and looking for work. It works out to a ratio of one foreign student looking for work for every 5,000 Americans unemployed. What's more, foreign students work the \$1.60 to \$1.85 per hour jobs like dishwashing that most Americans don't even want.

ATTACK ON THIRD WORLD PEOPLE

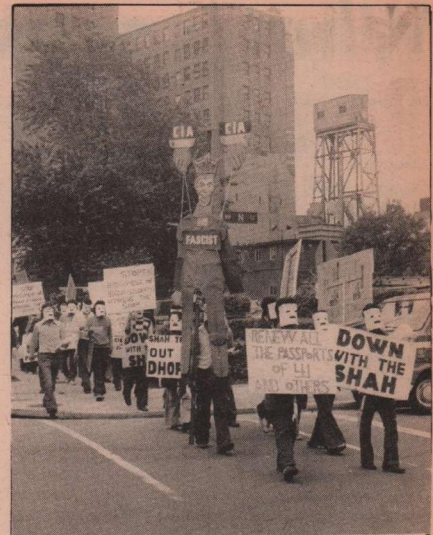
The attacks on foreign students

are coming down particularly hard on third world people. This is because third world (Asian, African, Latin American), students coming from countries that are the most exploited by U.S. and Soviet imperialism find it practically impossible to afford the rising tuition of American schools. Take one example--the University of California at Davis tells foreign students not to come "unless their resources exceed \$5,000 a year." Meanwhile most state legislators are revoking existing preferential tuition fees for foreign students and the federal government is making less money available to them.

What's the reason for this sudden oppression of foreign students? During the 60's when the economy was doing fairly well, the monopoly capitalist system used the state apparatus (State department, Immigration Office, Police, etc.) to encourage foreign students to come to the U.S. as a source of cheap labor and to train them in capitalist ideology so they could spread it among their people when they returned to their countries.

IMPERIALISM IN TROUBLE

But now, with the U.S. imperialist system in serious economic trouble both at home and abroad, the strategy of the ruling class monopolists is to find scapegoats to blame the crisis they created on and thereby distract the working class from seeing who the real enemy is. It's the old game of divide and conquer. The trick is to get the workers to think that it's the foreign students who are to blame for the fact that Vets and other Americans can't find work. But we know that working peo-



Deportation demonstration

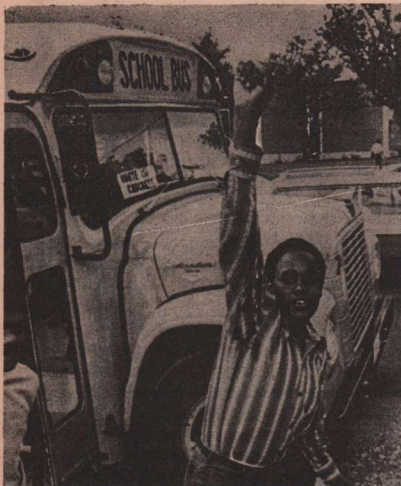
Demonstration by Iranian students in June against the non-renewal of passports of 41 Iranians by the Shah's government. The U.S. is conducting an "anti-foreign" campaign here in the U.S. designed to divide people along national lines.

ple aren't going to fall for this. And neither are the Vietnam Veterans. Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization recently sent a representative to a special meeting of the D.C. Anti-Imperialist Committee called to deal with the deportation crisis. They made it clear that they were having none of the jive about foreign students taking jobs away from Vets, and that they knew what the real cause of unemployment is--the monopoly capitalist system.

We call on all working people, Black and white, to unite and join in the fight against the oppressive deportation of foreign students.

PG school code means attack on students

The Prince Georges County board of education has tentatively approved a repressive code of student conduct that provides for suspension



The proposed code of conduct for Prince Georges County schools is an attack on the democratic rights of all students and is aimed particularly at black students.

from school for offenses like distribution of literature & petitions and organizing or participating in demonstrations as well as fighting or calling school officials names.

ATTACK ON BLACK STUDENTS

The code is part of an attempt to take away many of the democratic rights that students fought for and won during the 1960s and is a particular attack on black students in P.G. County.

Why is this code coming down now? The reason can be traced back to the forced busing of students that began last year. After the busing began, a number of fights broke out between black and white students--and the students who were disciplined were usually black no matter who started the fights.

The school board presently in power rode to their election on the crest of the white anti-busing movement. Many were leaders in it and their reasons for opposing busing were because they were racists.

Any kind of forced assimilation of people from different nationalities (like the busing of black and white students) should of

course be opposed. But the members of the school board who led much of the anti-busing movement had much different reasons and the new code is part of their general attack on black students.

AFFECTS ALL STUDENTS

The code, while a particular attack on black students, affects all students.

For example in the past hundreds of students distributed petitions and organized demonstrations against the Vietnam war and in support of the United Farm Workers boycott of scab lettuce and grapes as well as against particular administrators in the school system and school board policies like the "dress code."

Activities like these would be restricted to those "approved" by the school system.

In neighboring Montgomery County, thousands of high school students walked out or boycotted schools in support of the 1968 teachers strike. Would activities like this be barred with the penalty of suspension or expulsion? Of course they would under the new code.

National Convention Launches Revolutionary Student Brigade

On June 15, 16 and 17 students of all nationalities from around the country met in Iowa at the founding convention of the Revolutionary Student Brigade. The convention, called by the Attica Brigade, an anti-imperialist student organization, marks a real step forward, not only for the student movement but for the whole revolutionary movement.

Students came from all over to Iowa City with a spirit of unity and enthusiasm that hadn't been seen in the student movement in years. A Brigade member set the tone when he laid out how much trouble the imperialists are in all over the world--with national liberation struggles winning in Indochina and Africa, and with Watergate, inflation and shortages at home. He told about the new strength of the growing workers' movement, and the new possibilities for a student movement even more militant than before.

With that as background the students attended workshops on such things as African liberation, the Middle East, the veterans movement and Indochina. They compared their experiences in organizing students around cutbacks, Throw the Bum Out, women's liberation and other issues.

A FIGHTING ORGANIZATION

The speakers and the workshops were good, but they weren't the most important thing about the convention. The big thing was the discussion and struggle that went on all through the conference about how to build the Brigade as a live, multi-national fighting organization.

Everyone at the conference agreed about the need to unite all nationalities of students in common struggle against imperialism. But differences arose about how to go about doing that.

One position was that Blacks, Chicanos, Asians and other oppressed nationalities must first unite on their own before they can relate to whites. This took the form of proposing a third world caucus at the convention so that the oppressed nationalities could discuss the development of the Brigade as a multinational organization and its relation to the national forms.

The other position was that there was no need for the caucus to exist at the convention, because the questions that were to be taken up by the caucus could and must be taken up by everyone on the basis of equality, struggle, and political unity.

(It was pointed out that building the Brigade as a multinational organization was not in opposition to anti-imperialist organization among Black and other third world students.)

This struggle over the third world caucus reflected deeper questions about the direction of the whole people's movement and the development of the multinational unity



A plenary session at the Revolutionary Student Brigade founding convention.

needed to overthrow imperialism. This was brought out most clearly during the discussion around the Brigade's fall campaign.

FOCUS ON SYSTEM

The convention decided that to be the most effective, the Brigade should take up only one major campaign that could be a focal point around which to unfold the whole struggle against imperialism. Two major proposals were made: to continue the work around "Throw the Bum Out" or to switch to a campaign against police repression in the oppressed communities.

Those who supported the idea of having the emphasis on police repression said that the only way third world people could be brought into struggle against imperialism was around their own national oppression. They said if the Brigade didn't make this the focus of their work, it was doomed to become an all-white organization.

The other position held that it was crucial for the whole Brigade to take up the struggle against national oppression but that in terms of a national campaign at this time, it should continue to be "Throw the Bum Out." The advocates of this position argued that third world students and third world people as a whole have the potential to see the need to fight the whole system, which is what Throw the Bum Out means--and that not to understand this and implement it is to isolate third world people from the rest of the revolutionary movement, holding back the development of unity based on equality.

At the same time, this position

stressed that the fight against national oppression was a central part of the overall anti-imperialist struggle, and that the Brigade has to take up every instance of national oppression. After full and principled struggle, this position was supported by the overwhelming majority, which included all nationalities.

REVOLUTIONARY NAME

The other major struggle was over the name change. A spokesman for the Revolutionary Union submitted the name Revolutionary Student Brigade, saying, "The question that faces the student movement is whether it will become reformist or revolutionary, patch up the ills in the system or seek to get at the root of the problem, and whether it will be a student movement that moves defensively rather than taking the offensive."

Those opposed to the name change held that using the word "revolutionary" would turn off students and ensure that the Brigade would not become a truly mass organization. After several hours of intense debate, 95% of those at the convention voted to support the name Revolutionary Student Brigade.

The students ended the convention on their feet, chanting, "The people united will never be defeated!" It was clear that a new kind of student movement is being built--one that will take its place with all working and oppressed people in a common fight to bring the system of imperialism to an end.

For information about the Revolutionary Student Brigade, contact On the Move at P.O. Box 4256, Takoma Park Md 20012.



**AFRICAN
WORLD***

SPECIAL ISSUE:
Which Road for
Black People?

Available for 25¢ at Asia Books & Periodicals,
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RU speaker on new communist party

Bob Avakian, a member of the National Central Committee of the Revolutionary Union will speak on "The Road to a Revolutionary Communist Party--Current Struggle in our Movement."

American Univ. - Ward Cir. Bldg - Ward 1 - 8 p.m.
Monday, Aug. 5

System offers no solution to US heroin addiction problem

In the U.S., heroin and other hard drugs comprise one of the top five profit-making industries. The government has two reasons for not smashing dope traffic: (1) they can't afford to lose the revenue dope brings into the economy, and (2) dope immobilizes a few million people who might otherwise be fighting back against their oppression by the capitalist system.

Although dope addiction does cross class lines, it is heavily concentrated in the Black ghettos in every city in the U.S. This is where housing is the most unfit for living, food is most expensive and least fresh, and jobs that pay enough to support a family are most difficult to get. People don't live in ghettos because they like it there—they stay there because the system won't let them out.

The government has "drug treatment centers" that supposedly cure addiction. The Narcotics Treatment Administration (NTA) is a national government network of treatment centers. The D.C. government also pretends to deal with drugs. The NTA program in D.C. is typical of those in other cities:

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE

A person who is strung out on heroin and finally decides to look for help goes to the main government center on H St. NW. From there they send you to a treatment center in your own neighborhood, or to a detoxification center if you don't want methadone maintenance.

Detoxification means getting off drugs entirely. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is one detox center. There they start giving you methadone and taper off the amount gradually. But methadone stays in your body for a couple of days. After three days,

you're allowed to leave, and you feel well enough to go home. But the next day, the methadone starts wearing off and you start feeling sick.

There's too much red tape to get back into the hospital (start over at H St.). You can either get methadone on the street (it's usually scarce) or stay violently sick for a few days, or go get some more heroin (or dilaudid, a synthetic drug like heroin). You probably don't have any money, so you have to rob a store or find some way to get money—nobody's likely to give you a job, and you can't work if you're sick anyway. Getting this money seems to be the most important thing, and when you're desperate, you'll take higher risks, probably ending up in jail.

METHADONE MAINTENANCE

Methadone maintenance programs are another trick by the government. The main reason for maintenance is so you won't have to steal from the Man to feed your habit.

They have you come to the clinic every day for your dose of methadone. Methadone is addicting, so they have to increase the dose gradually until you've reached a certain amount that is enough for anybody.

After a few months of this, you can't do anything. You're always sleepy and groggy. After about a year your bones and your brain have deteriorated and you have trouble breathing.

Finally you decide to go to a hospital to stop the methadone habit the government gave you before it kills you all the way. There's usually at least a month's wait before the hospital will admit you.

RAP, INC.

RAP, Inc. is the best drug pro-



gram in D.C. RAP pulls people from the courts, the jails and the streets and involves them in their drug-free re-education program, with the intent of changing the addicts' outlook from an individualistic, negative attitude to one of serving the people in a positive way.

But RAP falls short of getting people involved in real political change which is the only thing that will get rid of the heroin problem. Because RAP has very little money, most of RAP residents' energy and time is spent helping RAP survive and dealing with their own internal problems, rather than becoming involved in the real mass struggles. RAP is a good program for what it is, but it doesn't go far enough, and even if it did, it couldn't deal with the drug problem of all of D.C.

Drug addiction is a result of individualistic ways of dealing with our oppression. But this oppression will not end unless all of us work together and destroy the real cause of our problems—imperialism. Imperialism will not voluntarily let the drug problem die.

No more dope in People's Republic of China

Despite all the anti-drug propaganda, so-called "sure-fire" treatments, and police crackdowns (on users, not big-money dealers), the drug problem continues to grow in this country.

If the U.S. with all its science and technology can't deal with its drug problem, can any society handle addiction? The answer is yes. The People's Republic of China, in a space of three years, 1949-52, (while fighting the Korean War) was able to help 10 million drug addicts kick their habits.

To understand how the Chinese did this it is helpful to look at how the drug addiction developed in China.

HOW OPIUM CAME TO CHINA

Opium was almost unknown in China until the British East India Company started smuggling it in 1781. At the root of this dope-dealing was the drive for profits. Rising British merchants were hungry for high-quality Chinese products like silk,

tea and porcelain. The Chinese, on the other hand, had little use for British products and wanted silver as payment.

Alarmed by the spread of opium addiction, the Chinese government moved to stop the opium trade. Britain's response was to start the "Opium Wars." As a result of these wars, Britain began dumping even more opium on China and forced China to open itself up to trade with countries trying to get its resources. Large amounts of opium flowed into China until the War of Liberation in 1949.

The victory of the people's revolution followed by the transformation of China into a socialist state created the conditions for ending China's massive drug addiction problem.

In 1950, mass education programs were started. The Chinese Communist Party led the way in involving all the Chinese people in the fight against opium. Addicts learned that addiction was a social, not an individual problem. They came to un-

derstand how drugs serve the interests of the imperialists and Chinese bourgeoisie (profits and keeping people down so they won't fight back).

Addicts were given a period of time to withdraw from drugs. If they couldn't do it with the help of their families they were taken to institutions. After they kicked their habits, the addicts were given training and provided with productive jobs.

But how were the pushers dealt with?

Big pushers were given a chance of education, but many refused this and were jailed. Some were executed as enemies of the people. Small pushers were given a salary by the government while they learned new occupations. The most important lesson we can learn from this is that the socialist society has set the conditions which make the abolition of drugs a realizable goal. In China, the drug-pushers could be defeated because the people control the making of the laws and their enforcement.

NFL players strike against owners

Since July 1 about 800 members of the National Football League Players Association have gone on strike against the owners for several demands, including abolition of the "Rozelle Rule."

The rule, named for NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle, is much like professional baseball's reserve clause. This clause in baseball goes something like this: a player signs to play with, say, the Orioles. The owners of the Orioles are free to ship him off to any other team, regardless of what he prefers, keep him on the bench on a low salary, or whatever else they want to do. The player is not free to leave the Orioles and join another team unless the owners make the transaction.

"The Rozelle Rule" has an added twist that's supposed to make this bondage look better. When a player has finished out his contract with one team (say the Redskins), he is free to negotiate with any other team. The catch is that if the Steelers, for instance, sign the player, then Rozelle can make the Steelers compensate the Redskins by turning over a first draft choice (college players are drafted each year to play for the pros, and the first draft choice is an excellent player who is worth a lot of money to whoever owns him), or just some cold cash.

Most football owners wouldn't even think of signing such a player. For one thing, it might encourage members of their own squad to split, and for another, signing such a player probably isn't worth it because of the compensation award that will follow.

The football players also want to change the grievance procedure. As it stands now, Rozelle can levy fines, sometimes up to \$1,000, for various infractions of NFL rules. If a player doesn't like it, he appeals to a "neutral arbitrator"—who just happens to be Rozelle, the owners' well



Redskins veterans picket training camp in Carisle, Pennsylvania during strike.

fed pet.

Other demands are for increased insurance and disability insurance, elimination of the waiver procedure, and an increase in the minimum wage.

PRO SPORTS: BIG BUSINESS

Professional football, like all professional sports, is big business. Football owners grossed \$178 million in 1973 on TV alone, up from \$102 million in 1969, and the pre-tax profits for the owners of each club have gone up an average of 400% in four years.

The football capitalists have been able to increase their profits by cutting down on the share going to the players, from 37% in 1969 to 25% in 1973.

Professional football players, like all professional athletes, are not workers. Their average salary, for example, is considerably higher than the average wage of a factory worker. But the athletes are totally controlled by the monopolists, in much the same way the workers are, and the players' fight against the monopolists is a positive development.

"Billy Jack": Can he really fight the system?

When just about everyone is feeling pretty disgusted with the way things are going in this country, Movieland starts pushing "Billy Jack." Billy is advertised as someone who fights the system. But what does "Billy Jack" really have to offer other than some good karate fights, a few good scenes like when an Indian boy shoots back at some men who are chasing him?

The movie takes place in a small Southwest town and on a nearby Indian reservation. Townspeople are all white conservative, and afraid of the big boss man who runs the town. On the reservation action centers around the "Freedom School."

This school, run by pacifist Jean, is a place where teenagers go "find themselves" and escape from a brutal, racist society. So here is the first answer "Billy Jack" has to offer. Turn to group therapy and do your own thing and everything will be ok. Most people have to work, though, and don't have time to go off and spend their days in blissful isolation. Jean seems to have no money problems running the school. She can afford to be a pacifist and push love-power because she doesn't have any responsibilities.

Billy Jack is a veteran back from

Nam who has returned to the reservation where he was raised up. Billy's fighting to protect Indians, the Freedom School students, and wild horses on the reservation is always done alone. This impossible one-man way to fight is carried through the major action of the movie.

The big blow-up comes after a pregnant 15-year-old town girl moves to the school after her father beats her. She takes up with an Indian boy. Jean is raped by the big boss's son and the Indian boy is murdered by local vigilantes.

At this point Billy jumps on his motorcycle. He's ready for revenge! but Jean (being non-violent) pleads with him not to take the law into his own hands. Then Billy tells how the law won't help and how there's no place in the world where people treat each other any better. This is the kind of pessimistic bullshit that we are supposed to swallow time after time. Moviemakers, who get their money from the rulers of this country, want us to believe that everybody is always thinking of "number one." There's no mention, even on the reservation, of the American Indians who joined together to fight for their land and their people at Wounded

Knee last year.

Billy rides off and kills the rapist with a karate chop and then puts a bullet between the eyes of a cop.

Finally Billy is holed up in a church surrounded by a small army of police. He is ready to die. Teary-eyed Jean persuades him to surrender and go to trial to expose the injustices to Indians. This decision provides the makers of Billy Jack a good chance to make another 60 million on "The Trial of Billy Jack," currently being filmed in Tucson.

But whether Billy gave up or not misses the point. In the real world the way to win victories is to fight together. Individual heroics doesn't stop war, corruption, or oppression. People fighting back collectively is the answer capitalists are afraid to show. Farah textile workers stuck together and won! D.C. Metro drivers are fighting together to protect their standard of living! Vietnamese people fighting together defeated the might of the U.S. military!

Billy Jack presents us with the rulers' ideas of pacifism, individual heroics, and pessimism. They're afraid to show the real ways to fight back.

Wildcats hint of national strike as phone workers resist C & P

A wildcat strike at the C & P Telephone Company in D.C. began July 24 when 500 workers walked off their jobs. A national telephone workers contract expired July 15 although the union has continued negotiations without calling an official strike yet.

According to the workers, the strike is beginning to spread across the city. This latest wildcat was preceded by three other wildcat strikes at the phone company here in the last two months.

These wildcats in D.C. are part of a rank-and-file upsurge among phone workers across the country who are demanding a strike against the Bell System (AT&T) whose contract offer has been peanuts.

Some phone workers in Virginia, West Virginia, Hawaii and the Carolinas are already out, mainly over Ma Bell's ridiculously low wages.

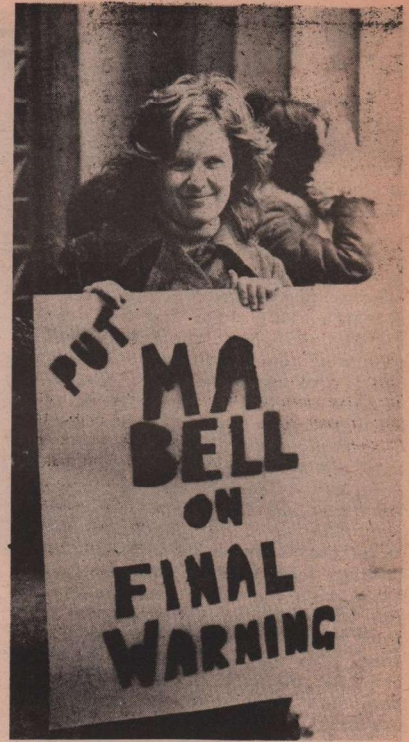
Workers are also looking to get protection against automation,

a program to attack race and sex discrimination, a cost-of-living clause, better pensions and a dental plan.

Two wildcats occurred here in June. The first in Virginia happened when the phone company fired a worker for having the wrong kind of phone in his home (?!). Fellow workers walked off the job demanding his job back. C&P capitulated after one day. The same thing happened in Maryland and the worker also got his job back.

Another wildcat occurred July 18 when 200 workers walked off the job at the Wheaton Plaza office and 200 others at the Hyattsville office. Telephone installers and repairmen, and business office and clerical workers were among those involved in the action.

(NOTE: The latest strike here and the national strike vote are occurring as we go to press. We'll have a full report next time.)



Farmworkers intensify boycott

For ten years, the farmworkers Chicano, Black, white, Filipino, Indian and Arab, have been fighting to organize. The growers they are fighting are not small farmers. Behind them stand the same bankers and big businessmen who own and control the factories, the chain stores and everything else. The biggest ranches are owned by corporations like Tenneco and Bank of America. These people have used every trick and weapon they have to stop the farmworkers' movement.

GALLO BOYCOTT

The United Farmworkers union is now boycotting Gallo, the largest US

winemaker, producing 1/3 of all wine sold in this country. For 6 years, Gallo workers enjoyed the benefits and protection of a UFW contract. Last year Gallo refused to renegotiate and instead signed a 4-year contract with the Teamsters, whose leaders are good friends with Gallo.

Foreman Brothers, Inc., distributors of Gallo wines in the D.C. area have admitted that the liquor stores here which have dropped Gallo from their shelves had seen a 25% reduction in Gallo sales due to the UFW boycott.

Picketing and leafletting the liquor stores selling Gallo is the weapon used by the UFW. Woodley's liquor store on Connecticut Ave NW

is the biggest and most dead-set against the boycott. They even had picketers arrested and obtained a court injunction against them. But the UFW still pickets Woodley's and Woodley's sales of Gallo wines are steadily going down.

It's a known fact that UFW boycotts are an effective weapon. Last year many of the grapes that the growers did manage to harvest and send out of California rotted in railway cars and warehouses. Since then, thousands of people all over the country have learned about the farmworkers struggle and taken it up.

If you want to help, call the Boycott House at 587-0510. Viva la Huelga!

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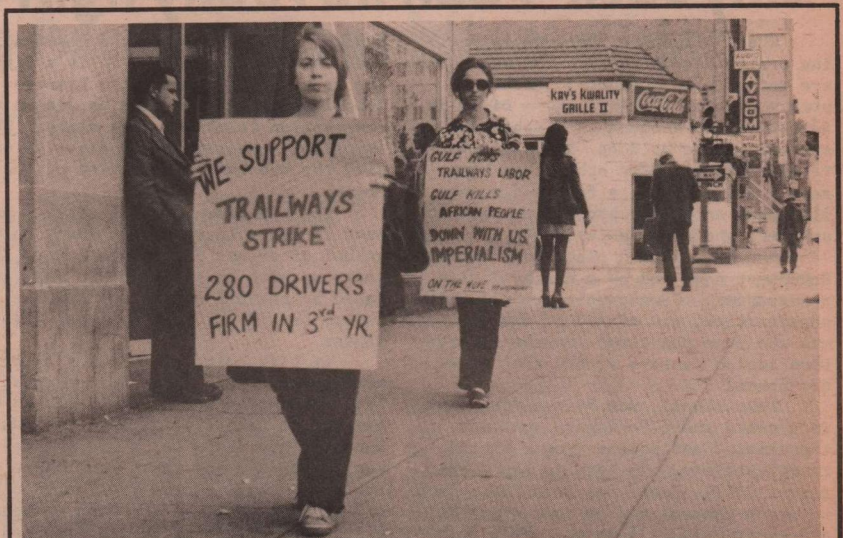
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(Free to all prisoners and GI's)



Support grows for Trailways drivers

Support picket line for the Trailways strike held May Day this year. Although a recent National Labor Relations Board ruling went against the strikers, they are still holding strong. They've been out for over two years and are asking for any kind of support from other working people.