



# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

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25¢

## VENGEFUL SENTENCE



May 19: The hated police station and jail at Red Lake in flames.



## IN RED LAKE TRIAL

On July 23, the government took cowardly revenge on the Red Lake Indians. Pictured are (clockwise) Harry Hanson, Edward Cook, Bill Stately and Tom Barrett. Roland Roy, the other brother sentenced, is not pictured.

St. Paul, Minn.—The government has taken its cowardly revenge on the five Red Lake Indians who dared to stand up against it.

Harry Hanson, 40, accused of leading the May 19 armed takeover of the Red Lake reservation jail, has been sentenced to 26 years in federal prison. Edward Cook, 21, was sent up for 16 years. Tom Barrett, 20, Bill Stately, 19, and Roland Roy, 23, were hit with 10 year sentences.

Their sentencing came July 23, little more than a week after the five were railroaded through non-stop to an express conviction. Less than a month after they were first arrested, the defendants were forced to stand trial with no delays permitted. The judge picked an all-white jury, refusing to allow the defense lawyers to present questions to prospective jurors. When the judge would not let the Red Lakers defend themselves based on the argument that their actions were justified, the trial came to a swift and inevitable conclusion. The five were convicted of all charges against them—conspiracy and assault on federal employees (the four Bureau of Indian Affairs cops who were herded into their own jail cells during the takeover). The sixth defendant, Don Desjarlait, was acquitted of conspiracy.

The sentencing was carried out even more flagrantly and quickly than the kangaroo conviction. Federal judge Edward Devitt had fixed sentencing for the end of August. Then suddenly, less than a week later, on Thursday July 19, Harry Hanson was arrested for a minor incident, a collision with a BIA car which the government claimed did \$400 damage. Instead of a ticket, Hanson was held on \$20,000 bond. The next day the judge ordered all five defendants for sentencing the following Monday.

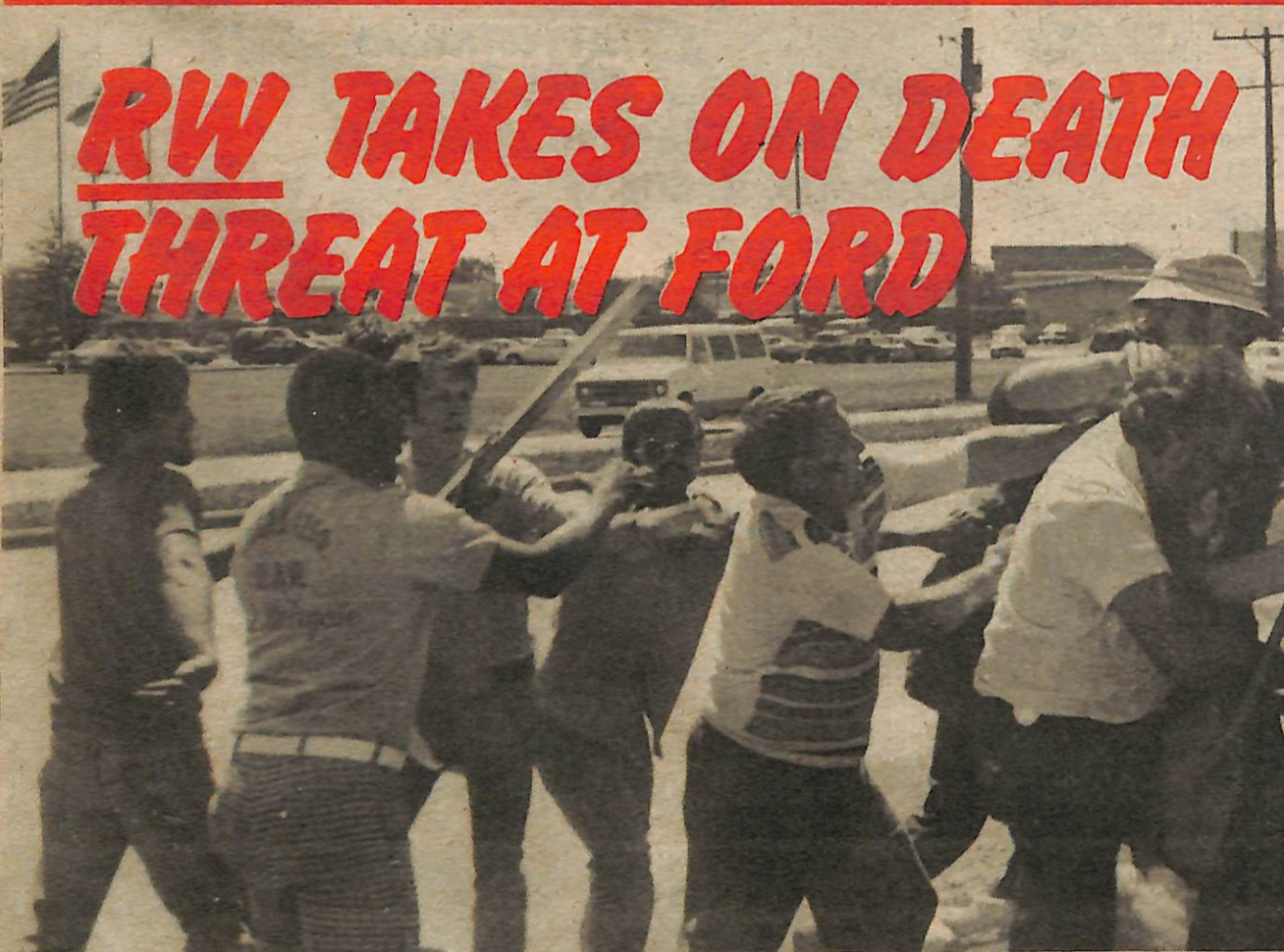
Almost simultaneously in a move no one believed was coincidental, the government announced the reinstatement of Stephanie Hanson as Red Lake tribal treasurer.

The judge refused to allow those 21 and under to be sentenced as juvenile offenders and ignored the fact that pre-sentence investigations, which supposedly determine the accused's ability to be "rehabilitated," had barely been started. Clearly the only thing the judge wanted rehabilitated were the chains these rebels had shaken.

The St. Paul courtroom, 300 miles from the reservation, was filled with three dozen supporters and families from Red Lake as well as others from Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Guards barred some tribe members from even going up to the floor where the court is located, with the excuse that there were no

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## RW TAKES ON DEATH THREAT AT FORD



UAW goons with heavy rocks in hand attack people selling the Revolutionary Worker at Ford plant in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cleveland, Ohio. Knives, brass knuckles, lead pipes, fights in front of the plant—death threats and attempted murder on the assembly line. Is this a scene out of "Blue Collar" or "Fist"? No. It's Ford's giant Brook Park auto plant outside of Cleveland, Ohio, where the combined forces of the company, union goons, Brook Park police, and local newspapers are desperately trying to set up and wipe out the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper and extinguish its growing influence among the workers.

But back up and check it out because this story is unfolding now even as you read.

Thursday, July 12. For the fourth time in as many

weeks the *Revolutionary Worker* was selling briskly outside Engine Plant No. 2. The paper always seems to sell better when the Brook Park cops show up with their threats and warnings, but today there were no warnings as they swooped down and busted two people, throwing them in the squad car, and driving off before the rest knew what was coming down.

Monday, July 17. We were back again—this time passing out a leaflet entitled, "Brook Park Pigs—Ford Hired Help." After ten minutes a lone cop showed up. He got hold of a leaflet and as he read it he turned alternate colors of red, white and blue. When this fool

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Managua, Nicaragua. People celebrate the departure of Somoza and await the arrival of the Provisional Government. Sign says, "No More Gringo Bombs Against the People."

# What Lies Ahead in Nicaragua?

Thousands of armed and mainly youthful rebels, described by one new Nicaraguan minister as "very jealous of their revolution," continue to patrol the streets of Managua and other major cities as the Nicaraguan revolution enters a decisive new stage.

Armed with automatic weapons, these guerrillas, veterans of the bloody revolutionary struggle against the U.S. imperialist puppet Somoza regime are continuing to organize their own irregular patrols, not officially recognized by the new government, for the suppression and execution of counter-revolutionaries and to defend and further their revolutionary victories. This young militia has brought criticism from certain forces in the new regime, which represents an unusually broad array of social and political forces, including conservative businessmen and others who continue to favor closer ties with the United States.

The great diversity in the new government, of course, is a reflection of the broad united front that was formed to wage the struggle against Somoza, who had alienated not only the masses of workers and peasants, but large sections of the Nicaraguan bourgeoisie. It was necessary and correct for the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN), the leading force in the revolution, to form such a united front to wage the battle against the Somoza regime, which objectively had the character of a struggle against imperialist domination in Nicaragua.

However, within such a united front there was and is bound to be sharp struggle and divergencies, particularly now that an important victory has been achieved with the ouster of Somoza and the destruction of the national guard, sharp struggle is taking place both within the new government and among the broad masses over whether or not to continue the revolution to thoroughly uproot U.S. imperialist interest and influence in Nicaragua. It is well known that the end of Somoza did not mean the end of the U.S. grip on Nicaragua. And in fact, at this point powerful sections of the national bourgeoisie in Nicaragua are opposed to a further development of the anti-imperialist revolution, preferring instead the policy of encouraging foreign investment and friendship with the United States.

These forces, who, as pointed out earlier, hold some influence within the new regime (although there are others in the regime, and within the FSLN who are demanding that the revolution continue and be aimed clearly at the United States), now speak contemptuously of the fighters who stormed Somoza's bastions with guns in hand, claiming that "the militia youth have no experience" and that "the idea is to get these kids into school." But the armed people are unwilling to turn in their guns exactly because they are "jealous of their revolution"—they know that it can only be protected, and its goals furthered, if the masses are prepared to repulse the inevitable onslaughts of the counter-revolution.

The U.S. imperialists have openly declared that they are prepared to give full "economic aid" to rebuild the shattered Nicaraguan economy, provided that the new government pursues a

"moderate" (i.e., pro-U.S.) policy. As was pointed out in the *Revolutionary Worker* last week, this is nothing but an attempt at vicious blackmail. But what is far more important to stress is the fact that at the present time the main question confronting the people of Nicaragua is not economic reconstruction, but the continuation of the fight to rid their country of the disease of

U.S. imperialist domination. The toppling of Somoza and the destruction of the national guard represent tremendous victories in this struggle; but by no means do these victories mean that the struggle is over. In order to finally drive the U.S. imperialists from their country, the revolutionary masses must continue their correct stand of refusing to relinquish their arms. They must continue to hunt down and mete out justice to the remnants of the criminal Somoza dictatorship. They must expropriate all of the wealth and property stolen by the U.S. imperialists and rapidly extract Nicaragua from the international web of credit and finance. They must topple and suppress all lackeys of U.S. imperialism within Nicaragua, either open or disguised, and they must vigilantly guard against all plots and attempts at armed counter-revolution, either in the form of open armed U.S. intervention or in the form of a Pinochet-style coup of U.S. imperialist puppets.

Only with the final expulsion of the U.S. imperialists from Nicaragua can "economic reconstruction" be anything more than a sham under which imperialism rebuilds its ability to extract riches from the toil of the people. Under the leadership of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN), important victories have been won in this anti-imperialist struggle. The new government is also an important fruit of this struggle, and its broad character is a reflection of the broad united front which was the vehicle formed to topple the U.S. imperialist puppet Somoza. With the fall of Somoza, there will inevitably be changes in the character of the united front as the struggle enters a new and deeper stage. Basing themselves on the victories won thus far, the revolutionary Nicaraguan people and their revolutionary leaders are now faced with a situation more complex, and different tasks present themselves than in the previous period of the struggle against Somoza. But in this new situation, as in the anti-Somoza civil war, the key lies in arousing and mobilizing the revolutionary enthusiasm of the broad masses, and unleashing their revolutionary initiative and zeal to thoroughly root out the old order and themselves take up their rightful role as masters of their country. ■



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# Iran's Draft Constitution Lofty Phrases— Low Blows

In late June, a draft constitution for the "Islamic Republic of Iran" was released to the public. It immediately produced a storm of controversy and widespread opposition throughout Iran—from workers, landless peasants, the Kurdish, Arab and other minority peoples, and from among students, professionals and others.

Since then, Ayatollah Khomeini, Prime Minister Bazargan and other religious and government figures have stressed the importance of getting the new constitution passed quickly. They are now debating whether to convene a handpicked assembly to ratify the constitution, to hold a rigged referendum similar to the yes or no vote on the "Islamic" Republic in March, or a combination of the two.

Khomeini himself has appeared on TV and radio every day or two, repeating again and again that the passage of the new constitution is essential to restore "law and order" in Iran. According to him, those who oppose the Islamic government's policies and the proposed constitution are counter-revolutionaries or linked up with foreign imperialism.

The mounting intensity of the Khomeini-Bazargan government's attacks on all opposition, especially on the revolutionary Left, demonstrates how important the constitution is to them. At present, it is the cornerstone of their efforts over the five months since the February insurrection to consolidate a stable capitalist economy and state apparatus (government, army, courts, police, etc.) to rule over the masses of people. However, they face two major obstacles: numerous outbreaks of mass struggle among many sections of the Iranian people, and their inability to deal with the deep economic crisis that is the continuing legacy of decades of imperialist domination and enforced backwardness in Iran.

This constitution represents the outlook and class interests of the upper petty bourgeoisie centered around Khomeini and the national bourgeoisie grouped around Bazargan. Though they do have some contradictions with the imperialists, especially the U.S., they above all need to keep the masses of workers, peasants, students and others "in their place" in order to strengthen their rule under an Islamic—but in reality a thoroughly capitalist—cover.

### Lofty Goals

The stated goals of the new constitution are lofty: to "avoid the cultural, political and economic exploitation of other human beings." (Article 2). "In establishing the classless society, the Islamic Republic of Iran bases its political and economic affairs on Islamic principles" (Art. 4). That "all peoples and tribes such as the Fars, Turks, Kurds, Arabs, Baluchis, and Turkomans enjoy equal rights..." (Art. 5). The constitution goes on to state that men and women are equal before the law (Art. 22), and even that "the possibility of work will have to be provided for everyone in such a way that no one can exploit another" (Art. 9).

These fine sounding phrases had to be used to appear to keep in step with the powerful struggle and revolutionary aspirations of the Iranian masses. However, closer study of the draft constitution, as well as the increasingly reactionary policies the government is already implementing, lay bare its actual content.

For instance, one of the main points of the constitution (which contradicts earlier claims of avoiding the "exploitation of other human beings" and a "classless society") is the protection of private property, particularly the factories of the big capitalists and estates

of the landlords. "Private ownership cannot be taken away under the pretext of public need." (Art 41).

One of the chief spokesmen of the regime was quoted as saying, "Neither Imam Khomeini, nor the Islamic government, ever contemplated the question of confiscation of property, since the ownership of property is almost sacred to Islam." Thus the continued exploitation of the Iranian working class and peasantry is to be guaranteed and legally sanctified.

For months Iran has been gripped in a severe economic crisis, bordering on collapse. More than 60% of industry is idle. Two out of every five workers are unemployed, while those who still have jobs try to survive on wages averaging 40 touman (about \$5) a day. In the face of this, only a revolutionary program can thoroughly uproot imperialism and the big Iranian capitalists and landlords, and then successfully rebuild the economy by mobilizing the millions of workers and peasants to take production and the affairs of society into their own hands.

Instead, the government has begun to implement a general amnesty plan for former businessmen and industrialists who fled the country, in order "to ensure the restart of large and small industries owned by them." The vast majority of contracts with foreign companies have not been cancelled.

In the case of a contract cancelled with U.S.-owned Anaconda Copper, the government promptly awarded it to a West German firm. While the government has plans to build up the strength of the national bourgeoisie in both privately owned industry and state-owned firms, they are already beginning to bring back imperialist technicians and advisers to get the economy running again. (All this is expressly permitted in the draft constitution).

Exactly because production and new investment have been grinding to a halt, the new government has been forced to implement a "nationalization" program of banks, insurance companies and some industries. This is simply an effort to restore profitability and "investor confidence" in these enterprises by backing them with the state treasury. The only area of expropriation has been the banks and companies owned by the Shah and his clique of comprador (dependent) capitalists. The holdings of other big Iranian capitalists and those of foreign investors have been left nearly untouched. And where the government is planning to "nationalize" these holdings, it is promising to pay full compensation.

### Government Backs Big Landlords

Control of the land is a critical question in Iran today. While repeatedly making ownership of property a sacred principle, this new constitution says nothing about redistributing land to the peasantry. It specifically says that only the government can take over the land of the Shah's family and clique, not the peasants.

To show what side the Islamic government stands on, as groups of armed peasants in more than 100 localities throughout Iran have begun to seize the landlords' estates or have stopped paying exorbitant rents, the government has consistently sided with the landlords, aiding them in regaining control of the land.

Further, in outlying areas such as Kurdistan where the government hasn't been able to establish its own authority, it has increasingly relied on the feudal landlords and their private armies to suppress the peasant associations and struggle for land.

Besides saying that the languages of Iran's minority nationalities can be spoken "in local schools and news-



In this cartoon a Tehran newspaper comments satirically on the reactionary nature of the proposed constitution by showing Prime Minister Bazargan and government officials Yazdi, Ghotsbadeh and Banisadr standing in front of the tomb of the Shah's father, Reza Shah. Bazargan assures Reza Shah's ghost, "Sleep well, for we are awake." The ghost applauds the work of these agents of capitalism in restoring "law and order" to Iran.

papers," the constitution does not specify that any of the democratic rights, including regional autonomy, of these oppressed minorities are to be protected. Instead, the constitution repeatedly makes statements like "Neither individuals nor groups have the right to endanger the country's independence and territorial integrity in the name of freedom."

Since the government has been claiming that the just struggles of the Kurds, Arabs, Turks and other minorities are the work of "separatists" and "reactionaries," the constitution is clearly promising that the armed suppression of the Kurds and Arabs by the army and "revolutionary guards" will continue in the future.

### No Opposition to Gov't Tolerated

The democratic rights of the Iranian people spelled out in the constitution are all qualified to leave their enforcement up to the government and the "needs of the Islamic revolution." Article 25 states that there is freedom of press "except when they are against public decency or religious principles." Article 26 states that political parties and vocational societies (such as unions) are allowed "provided that they do not impede our independence, our national unity, or the principles of the Islamic Republic."

What these "rights" mean in practice has already been demonstrated by the

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## This System Is Doomed Let's Finish It Off!

Speech by Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party at May Day rally, May 5, 1979 in Washington D.C. Includes historic call for revolutionary May Day demonstrations on May 1st 1980.

### Workers' Responses

"I've heard them all—I've even heard Malcolm X—but I've never heard anything like this!"

\*\*\*\*\*

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# SAN FRANCISCO POSTER SHOW TAKES AIM



The two posters shown here are part of an exhibit of 35 posters by the San Francisco Poster Brigade on display at the well-known City Lights Bookstore, owned by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. The poster show, which has been at the bookstore for two months, was originally set to end in July but has been extended for another month. Several thousand people have seen the show so far and it has stirred up a lot of controversy, particularly among local artists, over the development of the Poster Brigade's work.

Last year, the Poster Brigade did another show which opened at the city gallery and included the work of a number of other political artists. The show drew the biggest crowd of people that the gallery had ever had, which clearly demonstrated the desire of the people to see art that has political content. But this year's show is quite different—it is more explicitly revolutionary, representing some development in the artists' thinking and in their work. Last year, only three people commented on the posters in the "Comment Book" that the artists encouraged people to write in. But this year, the "Comment Book" is filled with page after page of remarks ranging from "This stuff stinks" to "This is terrific! Let's see some more!"

The Poster Brigade, a husband and wife team, have been working for a number of years to develop the technique and content of their work. They were deeply moved by the events at the International Hotel, became close friends with a number of the tenants there and became active in the struggle to stop the eviction of the tenants which ended in a face-off between 400 San Francisco police and 1500 demonstrators in August 1977. They produced a number of posters around the I-Hotel struggle. But the poster reprinted here on the I-Hotel which was produced this year shows a clear departure from their past work, portraying the great strength of the masses against the enemy, which is shown as puny, raunchy and ridiculous. This development is typical of the changes that the Poster Brigade has gone through.

The Poster Brigade talked with the *Revolutionary Worker* about the changes in their posters, and they strongly emphasized that what has strengthened their work—both in form and content—has been their developing grasp of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, centered around their reading and studying the *Revolutionary Worker* to analyze their work. They said, "It's like shooting a gun. Either you can shoot

blindly in any direction, which is what we used to do, hitting in the dark... or else you can understand who your enemy is and direct every blow in that direction." This partisan view of art, that it serves one class or another and cannot stand above the class struggle, obviously has irritated a number of people who preferred the Poster Brigade's work when it did not present such a clear view of the enemy and the role of the masses in making history. In fact this revolutionary view that art must take sides with the working class and the masses of people cuts against the tradition of general "protest art" in this country, fostered by the revisionists, which portrays the masses as poor downtrodden slobs wait-

ing to be saved from the evils of capitalism.

Much of the current Poster Brigade's work is drawn from material in the *Revolutionary Worker* newspaper, and some of the more recent posters like "SALT II" shown here are clearly agitational pieces. Their posters deal with a variety of themes, many related to topical political events—the revolution in Iran, Nicaragua, the struggle of the people of Africa, and others of a more sweeping political character like a portrait of Mao Tsetung as a young man, or a hideous portrait of Uncle Sam which is called "Bite the Hand that Feeds You Shit!"

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# LYNCHING 1979— UGLY MARK OF SLAVERY

Chester, South Carolina. A group of Black workers driving home from work after midnight found the mutilated body by the side of the dark farm road. They recognized him as a Black youth who lived less than a mile away and immediately called the hospital and the cops. His parents were not notified by the authorities for several hours even though they live on the same road as the hospital where his body lay.

The official reports all follow the same line. The county sheriff said the death was accidental homicide—a hit and run. The county coroner agreed, and the autopsy said the same thing. The highway patrol sent his clothes to Columbia to check for car paint. And as far as the local papers were concerned—that was the end of the story. An open and shut case.

But Mickey Poag, a 17-year-old Black youth, was brutally murdered. Many Blacks in the rural Chester area believe that he was lynched and possibly castrated. This horror story is not some memory of the distant past—Mickey Poag was murdered last May 11. And there is still an air of tension in this small rural town as the story has spread throughout the Black community. Meanwhile the ruling whites cover for the murderers.

When a reporter from the *Revolutionary Worker* talked to people in Chester, this story was told...

Mickey Poag had a white girlfriend who was pregnant. Her father couldn't stand the thought of his girl marrying a Black man. This reactionary had his head so full of racist garbage that he was out to get Mickey any way he could. The old man forced his daughter to call the youth to their house late one night, and the father and some friends killed Mickey when he arrived. Then

they threw his body out on a dark stretch of road nearby, knowing full well that they would be protected by the law.

So far they have been protected. People in the Springs textile mill where the father worked said that he just disappeared—left work and moved out of town with his daughter. This is not the first time in recent years that this has happened in Chester. It was only a couple of years ago that James Franklin was found hanging by the neck, castrated, his hands tied behind his back. He was another young Black man whose white girlfriend was pregnant.

## Ugly Legacy

These kinds of lynching murders of Blacks have been widespread in the rural South for over a hundred years. They are an ugly legacy of the system of chattel slavery, when Black people were chained to backbreaking labor in the fields, owned outright by the slavemasters. They were property and were treated viciously as such. If one ran away, cut off his foot. If one got too uppity—kill him before "the disease" spread. This carried over from slavery to the system of sharecropping, where Blacks were in many cases kept producing on the same land where they had slaved. Lynchings are a modern-day result of the kept-backward history of development of the South. They have been reported every year up through the 1970s.

This remnant of slavery is firmly entrenched in the law, culture and outlook of the rural South. A number of rural white workers and small farmers, stuck in a narrow life and narrow rural ways, have carried over the old overseer mentality from the slave days—a reactionary heritage passed down from

generation to generation. These reactionary-minded elements are often given free rein to terrorize and murder Blacks.

In a book entitled *Lynch Law* written in 1905, James Cutler says, "The judicial system adapted to a highly civilized and cultured race is not equally applicable to a race of inferior civilization." Since the Civil War there's hardly been a case of anyone who was tried and convicted for these brutal slayings. Lynchings are allowed to continue in areas of the South and are in fact promoted by the capitalists as part of their overall oppression of Black people nationwide.

## Chester

Chester is a milltown in rural South Carolina. It has been a milltown since the first and largest cotton mill was built in 1890 by Spring Mills, the second largest employer in South Carolina. 3500 of the town's population of 7000 work in one of Spring Mills' four textile mills. Blacks were not hired in the textile mills anywhere in the state until 1964. Before that most Blacks scraped by as farmworkers or small farmers.

In Greenville, South Carolina, Eugene Stown, owner of the largest garment factory in the area, said in 1963, "No nigger is ever going to run one of my machines." A Black person is 60 times more likely to be lynched in Chester than in or near the half dozen

or so urban centers of the area.

The circumstances surrounding the lynching of Mickey Poag are all too familiar. One of the main justifications for these brutal murders has been around the whole theme of sexual relations between Black men and white women. Along with the accusations of white women being raped, intermarriage between Black men and white women has been a howling cry of the lynch mob, and young couples like Mickey and his girl are singled out for attack. In 1955 in Mississippi, 14-year-old Emmet Till was hung for supposedly whistling at a white girl.

Historically, lynchings have been openly used in futile attempts to halt upsurges in the struggle of Black people. After World War 2, Black veterans were the hardest hit targets of lynchings. They had been taught how to shoot and were known not to take as much shit. One Black vet in a small Tennessee town had his eyes gouged out because he had the nerve to go to the "whites only" restroom at a bus station.

There are countless cases of brutal slayings over the years of Blacks and whites too who stood with the Black people's struggle. After Reconstruction (from 1880 to 1900) at least 600 abolitionists were recorded as being lynched, while about 2000 Blacks were lynched during the same period. In the years after 1954 when desegregation of the schools was being forced by the developing civil rights movement of Blacks, lynchings and bombings became more frequent again. These attacks were particularly aimed at the activists (Black and white) or anyone suspected of being one.

Even today, lynchings still serve the purpose of keeping Black people down and the decayed system intact. The fact that such atrocities continue to be preserved in this "modern, enlightened" capitalist society is still another indictment of a system that, to stay alive, gives nourishment to every form of oppression, no matter how backward.

## Embassy 5 New Trial Set

Washington, D.C., July 25. The Embassy 5 went before Judge June Green in Federal Court to be sentenced on guilty pleas to misdemeanor charges stemming from an action taken against the Chinese Embassy last January 24.

The maximum sentence that could be imposed was six months in jail and/or a \$500 fine. After an hour in court the Embassy 5 left, still unsentenced and due to come back again one week later on August 1 to stand trial on the felony charge of destroying the property of a foreign government.

The misdemeanor charge to which the defendants had pleaded "guilty" last June 14 was accepted by the Judge after three days of pre-trial hearings in June. During those three days it had become increasingly clear that the U.S. government had both fabricated phony charges and destroyed crucial evidence in its attempt to railroad these defendants. After a day of listening to secret service agents' testimony about how they put crucial witnesses' statements into "burn bags" and destroyed them, the Judge accepted misdemeanor pleas over the opposition of the U.S. Prosecuting Attorney.

In the time since the pleas were accepted, the U.S. Attorney's Office filed a motion before Judge Green asking her to "reconsider" her decision, citing legal cases which, they claimed, demonstrate that it does not lie within her power to take such an action over the objection of the U.S. Attorney. The

defense, in turn, filed a motion citing cases which demonstrate that, based on the wholesale and premeditated destruction of evidence in this case, bourgeois law itself backs up the defendants' claim that the whole case should be thrown out—and this should be what the Judge should "reconsider."

The day before the sentencing was to take place, the U.S. Attorney filed a lengthy argument in the Court of Appeals adding still more legal pressure to his argument. When court opened July 25, the Judge had clearly done an about-face, and she quickly threw out her earlier decision to accept the misdemeanor pleas. In the course of the hearing on this question, the issue of the defendants' right to a speedy trial was raised, one more "right" supposedly guaranteed by the law. The system of justice demonstrated its respect for such "rights" when the prosecution, with the court's approval, tried to convene a trial on the spot. "If you're worried about a speedy trial—let's have one right now." The kind of speedy trial they had in mind, of course, was a speeding locomotive, a railroad to begin immediately. Now the trial is however scheduled to begin Wednesday, August 1.

The government's decision to go ahead with another trial indicates the seriousness with which they intend to pursue this attack. This is further underlined by the fact that the newly

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## \$1,000,000 Fund Drive

# I-Hotel Fighters Go All Out

"Look across this country. How many ghettos—the Chinatown/Manhattan—are there? How many International Hotels? How many millions hate this system in their guts and have fought it like we have? Yet millions are also asking, 'Where are the people just like me?' We've got to answer them tonight: We're right here and we're with you. We, the fighters of the International Hotel, are stepping forward to stand with revolution, and the only party that can lead it, the Revolutionary Communist Party!"

These words initiated an inspiring fundraising dinner for RCP's million dollar drive on July 22 in San Francisco. Fifty activists of the International Hotel struggle, young and old, including tenants from the Ping Yuen Housing projects and nearby hotels gathered. Only a block away stands the remaining walls of the International Hotel. Still draped on them are banners—"We won't live in the streets, while the rich live in mansions! To hell with your profits!" Behind it the Transamerica pyramid and high rises are like bloated carcasses in the night sky. The lessons of the 10-year-long struggle burn in the hearts of those present.

A retired Chinese garment worker stood up, "When I got involved in I-Hotel, I started reading the *Worker* newspaper [forerunner to the *Revolutionary Worker*], especially the speeches of Bob Avakian. Through that, the hotel struggle and eviction, I learned that revolution is the only way. I used to give a lot of money to churches, thinking they had an answer. But instead they only demoralized me, made me wait around to die. Now I see that they have no solution. I'm donating \$300 to the Party, money I'd saved up

and from my kids for Mother's Day." One I-Hotel tenant, a seaman, called back to his ship at the last minute, made a special detour to come to the dinner and make a \$20 donation before leaving. Other I-Hotel tenants, although they had only social security and little pensions to live on, came forth with donations. Joe, a 70-year-old retired longshoreman and ship scaler, said, "My people in Nicaragua and El Salvador are rising up and here in the U.S. we're rising up too." A young Chinese worker from Canada, enthusiastically reported how people in Canada were inspired by the International Hotel, and pledged 10% of his wages for one month to the RCP, saying, "I've never seen such a militant Party before and it's the main reason I want to stay in this country." Another young activist in the thick of the I-Hotel struggle since 1970 stood up and said, "In all those years through all the twists and turns it's only been the RCP that's directed the battle right at the capitalists." In a letter to the RCP which included a \$100 donation, a retired Chinese worker active in the revolutionary movement for over 50 years, recalled, "That old CP had the wrong line, in all my years the RCP is the greatest thing ever to happen to the working class. It's a Party based on Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought, it is a great Party, a glorious Party." Twenty tenants from the Ping Yuen and surrounding hotels who couldn't make it to the dinner came up with \$94.

Like a powerful fist of defiance, \$2939 was raised that night alone! People vowed to go out even more broadly and inspire others to build this million dollar war chest for revolution.

## Inside Report

## Federal Torture Chambers

The following article was received from a prisoner at Marion Prison.

**Marion, Illinois**—The form of official violence against federal prisoners might be undergoing some change, but its content remains the same. It is just as vicious as always, although it appears as if administrators have made a decision to try and conceal some of the more brutal manifestations of their violence against prisoners from friends of the victim. It seems bitter experience has taught the administrators of federal prisons the error of openly assaulting their captives.

There was a time when it was enough that such crimes were merely hidden from the public behind prison walls. In some jurisdictions this is still the case. The other day, for example, a recently arrived prisoner from Texas was telling men on the segregation tier here at Marion about assaults on prisoners at his alma mater. He said it was not unusual for Texas guards to be beating on a convict while other inmates watched and cheered them, hollering, "...that's right boss, hit that bastard—hit 'im again, boss." Texas of course still has the infamous system of building tenders; prisoners acting as assistant guards in exchange for special privileges.

In the federal prison system, however, convicts are generally more sophisticated than those suffering bondage in some of the more backwards of the Southern states. When guards attack federal prisoners, and those of most states too, friends of the victim or merely concerned prisoners increasingly file law suits, attempt to report such incidents to progressive elements of the community and often even intervene on the side of the abused prisoner. A couple of the more notorious examples will illustrate the form of violence used until recently by federal prison guards in their efforts to force convicts into submission to (and acceptance of) an illegal and dehumanizing condition of existence. These examples represent methods of control which are still in use, but, due to a growing level of public pressure, are not subtle enough to remain fashionable within the correctional bureaucracy.

The first revolves around the naked violence against prisoners housed in the infamous Control Unit here at Marion. An independent commission, as you recall, was investigating the treatment

of prisoners in the Control Unit because of the large number of law suits and documented exposures of guard viciousness. The investigators established that officials would enter the cell of a man who did not represent a threat to either his captors or government property and beat him with axe handles because the prisoner protested against intolerable conditions. Ben O'Connor had his ankle broken with a blow from an axe handle while in that unit. Many others were similarly wounded for peacefully objecting to such criminal mistreatment. The commission found at least one guard who admitted that milk containers full of urine were kept in the lock box at the end of the tier for the purpose of throwing it on the more uppity of the caged prisoners. A federal court subsequently ruled that conditions in the Control Unit did indeed violate the constitutional prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment and found that officials had violated the prisoners' rights to due process of law.

A second well known example of aggression being waged against federal prisoners is last fall's assault on holdovers arriving at Lewisburg penitentiary from other prisons. Investigators found that prisoners disembarking from transfer buses, who had not provoked guards, were systematically, unjustifiably and intentionally assaulted and injured by officials wielding axe handles. The prisoners, who at the time were handcuffed, waistchained and wearing leg irons, were forced to walk through a gauntlet to the prison's reception center. In the reception area they were derided and individually assaulted, thrown into cages, and left for days without medical attention or even having their leg irons removed. The assaults took place under the direct supervision of warden Charles (Axe-Handle) Fenton. A suit was filed against the Director of the Bureau of Prisons in federal court around this incident.

The emerging practice seems to be toward isolating the target of violence before inflicting same. A case in point stems from an incident many of you who keep up on prison news may remember reading about last month. In mid-June a group of Marion prisoners refused to return to their cells until medical help was available for prisoners wounded in an alleged mass escape attempt. One of the more vocal of the concerned men was a Washington state

prisoner, Alvin Gilchrist, who was transferred to Marion because of his opposition to policies at Walla Walla. Al's concern for the physical well-being of his fellow prisoners succeeded in getting a medical technician on the scene. His reward for this humanitarian gesture was an immediate trip to the institution's segregation unit. Shortly after Al's placement in the hole, prisoners there initiated a protest against the constant denial of their court-ordered right to one hour a day out of their cells for exercise, and against other abuses inflicted upon segregation prisoners by guards working in the unit.

This was too much for the administration. First they stopped feeding prisoners, then they gassed them in their cages (victims who received severe body burns as a result of the indiscriminate gassing are in the process of filing law suits). Fourteen were transferred to points unknown. Then those the administration thought were leaders were transferred out to various county jails. Al was part of the six men who made up the second shipment. He and three others wound up at the Metropolitan Corrections Center in Chicago. Days later, on July 8th, a goon squad entered the cells of all four men and beat them, using the pretext that the prisoner in each of the four cells resisted "a routine security check." Al received six stitches under his eye. It is not yet known here how badly the other three are hurt or the fate of the other prisoners transferred as alleged leaders.

What is being done to Al and other seg prisoners is kid's play compared to the treatment one gets if they *really* don't like you. Last month a prisoner named Rick Goodard supposedly stabbed the associate warden of custody in the abdomen, causing a light-weight riot in the mess hall where the incident happened. Rick, who his friends know as a generous man with a strong sense of justice, was transferred to Springfield's Federal Medical Center on the same day. His friends at Marion wrote letters and articles, and contacted progressive media and groups in an attempt to get some support to Rick. It seems, however, that many left-oriented people have been taken in by the propaganda of the state. Despite repeated examples of abuse against prisoners, otherwise responsible people say to themselves: "Oh, it can't be all that bad." Against this attitude there was

little we could do but wait and hope that Rick would not be hurt beyond repair.

This was more or less the status of things as a few of us here in seg, tired of griping to each other about not being able to get out of our cells for any exercise, began discussing the uselessness of the Administrative Remedy procedure as a means of changing things. The conversation had reached a point where guys were swapping stories about the different ways in which people were punished for filing administrative complaints. At this point a prisoner who had just arrived that morning entered the discussion, saying he had been transferred from Springfield for filing an administrative complaint in behalf of another prisoner. He said the night before he had been in Springfield where he witnessed the mistreatment of another prisoner by guards. Since the victimized prisoner was in no condition to write the complaint for himself, he wrote one for him. Early the next morning he was on a small plane bound for the hole at Marion.

We pressed him for additional details and learned that the prisoner he had tried to assist was Rick Goodard. The Springfield prisoner said he was housed in 21 East Dungeon just four cells down from Rick. He said he could see across to Rick's cell through a peep hole in the front of his cell and would look in on Rick through the latter's peep hole when released for showers. Bondurant told us that Rick was continuously strapped down, forcibly drugged, repeatedly kicked and beaten, verbally abused and, if I remember right, gassed. He detailed how guards would stomp and hit Rick while yelling about how he would never stab another employee. Their tactic, he said, was to torment Rick until he was mad, then unstrap his hands. Rick would untie his feet and try to drive them out of his cell. They would then use his efforts as an excuse to drug and beat him, a scenario that was repeated day after day. Bondurant said he would be willing to testify to the truthfulness of his statements at any time.

Perhaps the form of state violence against prisoners is not really changing after all but merely varying in form. The form is not as important as the content, which is unchangingly brutal. While efforts should be made to put a stop to all forms of violence against prisoners, special attention must be paid to those instances where the actual infliction of same takes place in isolation—away from the friends and sources of support the victim needs. The brutality perpetrated against prisoners is not unlike the police violence waged against unarmed "suspects" on the outside. Each is a form of terrorism against oppressed peoples. Both must be stopped or forcefully resisted. The state cannot terrorize people into forced conformity with an unnatural and diseased status quo.

E.M.

July 13, 1979

I am a prisoner at the Kentucky State Reformatory. I would like to make an appeal to the people to contribute to the prisoner literature fund.

In this prison like most prisons in this country, the prison library is very inadequate to suit the needs of the revolutionary minded prisoner. The administration tries its best to keep revolutionary material out of the prison library, but the road to the revolution has already been laid in the prisons and is generating everyday.

I make this appeal for every prisoner that is confined in this country and I ask support from the people. So that the light can shine behind the prison walls.

May peace and blessing be upon you.

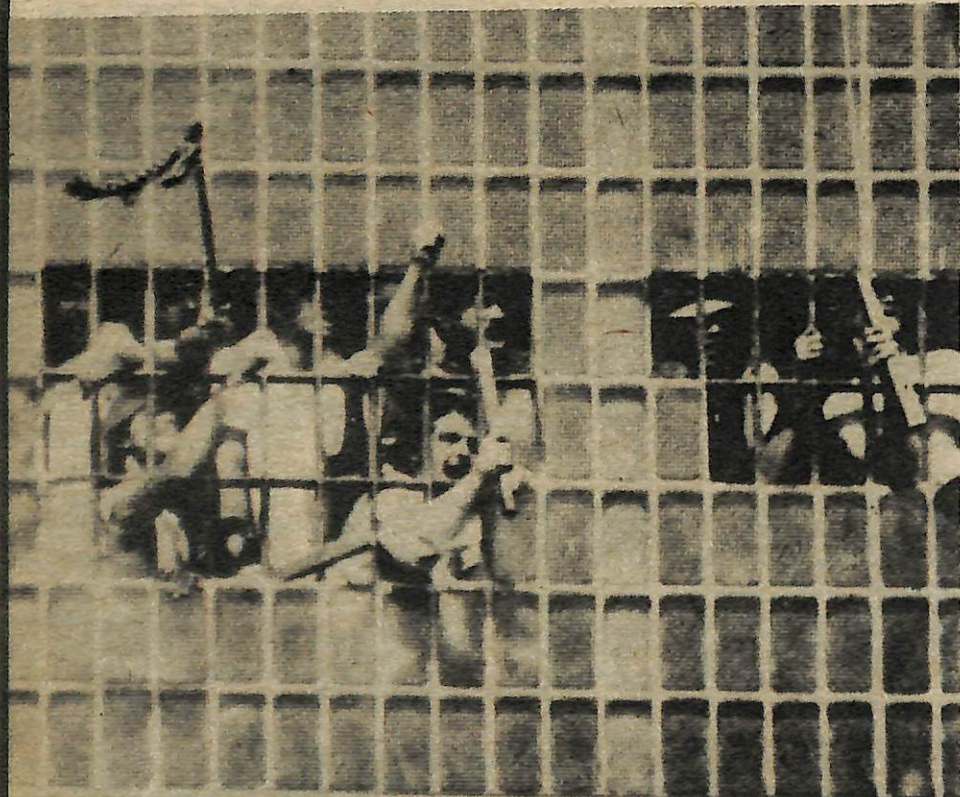
Yours in Revolution, M.S.

## Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls

### Contribute to the Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund

The Revolutionary Communist Party receives many letters and requests for literature from prisoners in the hell-hole torture chambers from Attica to San Quentin. There are thousands more brothers and sisters behind bars who have refused to be beaten down and corrupted in the dungeons of the capitalist class and who thirst for and need the *Revolutionary Worker* and other revolutionary literature. To help make possible getting the Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party as well as other Party literature and books on Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tsetung Thought behind the prison walls, the *Revolutionary Worker* is establishing a special fund. Contributions should be sent to:

Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund  
Box 3486, Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, IL 60654



Rebellion in NYC Tombs, 1970

**July 23,  
1967:**

# Rebellion in the Streets of Detroit

July 23 marked the twelfth anniversary of the Detroit Rebellion. The rebellion, along with the Newark uprising and the whole "long hot summer" of 1967, rocked this country's rulers and their system to their very foundations. Their shock and alarm was expressed well by *Newsweek* magazine in the week following the rebellion:

"The trouble burst on Detroit like a firestorm and turned the nation's fifth biggest city into a theater of war. Whole streets lay ravaged by looters, whole blocks immolated in flames. Federal troops—the first sent into racial battle outside the South in a quarter of a century—occupied American streets at bayonet point. Patton tanks—machine guns ablaze—and Huey helicopters patrolled a city of blackened brick chimneys poking out of gutted basements. And suddenly Harlem, 1964 and Watts, 1965 and Newark only three weeks ago fell back into the shadows of memory. Detroit was a new benchmark, its rubble a monument to the most devastating race riot in U.S. history—and a symbol of domestic crisis grown graver than any since the Civil War."

Exactly twelve years later, on July 23, 1979, Patricia Roberts Harris, newly appointed to head HEW by Jimmy Carter, spoke to the national convention of the Urban League. She said great advances have been made since this time. "President Carter has appointed 21 black Federal judges... The current opportunities for Blacks in the military have never been greater... Today if you want to 'tell it to the marines' there's a good chance you will be talking to a Black general."

It is ironic that at this very time, around the anniversary of the Detroit Rebellion, a number of the major tired old civil rights organizations have held conventions—the Urban League, NAACP and Jesse Jackson's PUSH. What is so ironic is that it's the very line that these three-piece-suited pimps for the ruling class run that the Detroit Rebellion smashed to smithereens.

The inheritors of the bankrupt and corrupt mantle of the Martin Luther Kings, Roy Wilkinses and Whitney Youngs run the same old line with maybe a little militant rhetoric (sometimes). They say there's lots of chances and opportunities for Black people in America—it's just that people are too dumb to recognize them. They have to be educated, like by Jesse Jackson's "PUSH for Excellence." According to these re-run misleaders, racism and discrimination don't have their source in the system of capitalism. After all, it's the "enlightened" among the capitalists who bankroll their second-rate Urban League Inc. or PUSH Inc. empires. And the bottom line of the whole thing is "We need more Black faces in high places" and "Vote for me and I'll set you free." Malcolm X spoke to this in 1965:

"I just read where they planned to make a black cabinet member. Yes, they have a new gimmick every year. They're going to take one of their boys, black boys, and put him in the cabinet, so he can walk around Washington with a cigar-fire on one end and fool on the other.

And because his immediate personal problems will have been solved, he will be the one to tell our people, 'Look how much progress we're making: I'm in Washington D.C. I can have tea in the White House. I'm your spokesman, I'm your, you know, your leader...' But will it work? Can that one, whom they are going to put down there, step into the fire and put it out when the flames begin to leap up? When people take to the streets in their explosive mood, will that one that they're going to put in the cabinet be able to go among those people? Why, they'll burn him faster than they burn the ones who sent him."



Detroit's 12th Street engulfed in flames of rebellion. The American nightmare goes up in smoke.

## Detroit—American Nightmare

This is exactly what happened in the summer of 1967. The civil rights leaders and their meek non-violent through-the-system preachings were run out of Detroit, Newark, etc. Millions had learned through bitter experience the role of these "respectable" Black front men and their outlook of "standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most sacred values in our Judaeo-Christian heritage," as Martin L. King wrote in his *Letter From the Birmingham Jail*. They saw what the American dream was—it was the real nightmare of everyday life, being trapped in wage slavery and oppression. All this dressed up in the fine language of "democracy" and "equality."

Sure the Black people of Detroit could vote, and even in 1967, there were some "Black faces in high places" like Congressman John Conyers and a number of other lower-level officials. And many in the ruling class were stunned that Detroit, of all places, would erupt in open rebellion—after all, so many Black people in Detroit had jobs, good jobs in the auto plants. "With all this, what could there be to complain about?", they asked. "It must have been just a bunch of crazy maniacs that were responsible for the rioting."

But what was this "good life" in

Detroit really like? It was falling-down, rat-infested housing. It was murder and beatings by cops. It was white-owned stores that sold rotten meat with a hefty "ghetto tax" pulling up the price. And it was high unemployment and discrimination, tens of thousands on welfare.

Yes, some had jobs in the auto plants—in the lowest and most back-breaking jobs, in the foundries and in the pits. A true "slave"—6 days a week in a grimy sweat box. All in all, Detroit was a fine example of "America's promise" to Black people. People began to feel that they truly had nothing to lose but their chains.

Before the rebellion, Detroit's inner-city ghetto was like most in the summer of 1967—dynamite ready to explode. The civil rights leaders saw this and were desperately trying to regain their influence, which was steadily tumbling. They proposed scheme after scheme—A. Phillip Randolph's "Freedom Budget" for a "total war on poverty" and Whitney Young's "domestic Marshall Plan" to name a few.

In the wake of the 1967 riots King lamented, "We spent ten years in the South using new tactics of nonviolence that were successful. But in the northern cities, with time running out, we failed to achieve creative methods of work. As a result a desperate... mass of

people acted with violence..."

You better believe they did! The Detroit cops obligingly provided the necessary spark. On July 23 at 3:45 a.m. they raided an after-hours bar on 12th Street, arresting 82 people and beating them over the head as they dragged them away. How many other Black men, women and children had these pigs brutalized and murdered in Detroit that summer? That year? "It was like one big shout went out—the thing is on!" The people poured into the streets and started giving it back to the pigs.

## Cool-Out Squad Fails

Within a few hours the crowd of thousands had gathered, smashing windows, looting stores and throwing rocks and bottles at the cops. As the rebellion began to spread, the city authorities sent out their local "Negro leader," Congressman John Conyers, to head up a team of "counter-rioters" to cool things out. Conyers stood up on a car and before he could get a word out he was challenged from the crowd. "Why are you defending the cops and the establishment? You're just as bad as they are!" That is as far as Conyers got. Further attempts failed. The fighting spread like wildfire.

At first it was mainly rocks and bottles. Then came that summer's most refreshing concoction—the Molotov cocktail. The word spread throughout Detroit's mainly Black West Side and beyond—and soon it seemed like *everyone* was looking for a cop to rock up and down the streets and neighborhoods for miles. In some areas, whites fought the police side by side with Blacks.

Later the newspapers went wild talking about how the people had burned and looted, as though they were animals without reason. But they had plenty of reason. Justice came to the department stores whose credit held so many like prisoners. Down came the pawnshops, the loan companies and other leeches, all the places where people were robbed of their paychecks week after week. The greatest force of police was massed to protect the property of the monopolists themselves—the biggest stores and especially the banks and other glittering targets which symbolized the grip of the rich on the people's necks.

Whole blocks went up in flames. The Kerner Commission report on the riot reported in horror: "It appeared to one observer that the young people were 'dancing amidst the flames'." After the rebellion the capitalists would launch a propaganda offensive to convince people how senseless the whole thing was, saying, "They burned their own neighborhoods, how senseless." Their "own" neighborhoods? What a joke! The people owned nothing, or nothing worth owning. They burned a lot of rats and roaches—"slum removal" the people called it.

## Guard Couldn't Stop It

By the night of the 23rd things had escalated to a new level, as large-scale sniping at police began. The National Guard was called in and Detroit was turned into a true battlefield. Jeeps with mounted machine guns, half-tracks, and tanks rolled down the streets. Buildings were sprayed with 50 mm. machine gun fire. But by now many people were better organized. In one instance, Guardsmen were jumped from out of nowhere and the next thing they

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## Red Lake Reservation

# “We’ll Never Bend To Their Ways”

Red Lake, Minnesota. At the same time that the Red Lake freedom fighters were being sent to prison, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) announced it was re-instating Stephanie Hanson as tribal treasurer. The government’s message was clear—if you rebel we will crush you. There is hope for you only if you play by the rules.

Just to make sure no one misunderstood, just to make it clear that it was the stick and not the carrot that the government was relying on, the BIA had brought in reinforcements, SWAT teams and county sheriffs deputized as federal marshals were standing by in the nearby town of Bemidji. Reservation superintendent Jim Stevens told the press, “It’s not a political thing. It’s a criminal defiance of law and order. A few people around here are used to getting away with things.” A chief BIA pig on the reservation declared, “People who have been responsible for terrorism will no longer be tolerated.” Individuals spoke even more plainly to reporters—next time they will just shoot to kill.

But a tribe member laughed as he explained that all this tough talk was just bullshit. They hadn’t stopped the “dissidents” because they couldn’t. “They’ve been trying to shoot to kill all along. It’s a people’s war. They just don’t know who to shoot.”

On the previous Friday, with Harry Hanson in jail and the rest of the defendants ordered in for sentencing, the cops added one abuse too many. Half a dozen BIA pigs surrounded a pick-up truck full of young children and pointed their automatic weapons at them, apparently ready to fire. All day these cops had been hounding the driver, Don Desjarlait, but not until the truck was full of kids did these cowards dare stop it. While the cops were standing there holding their weapons on a woman and four children, first one Red Laker marched up from across the road and began quarrelling with them. Then more and more tribe members surrounded the cops ’til they finally backed off.

Later the cops admitted they had no reason to stop Desjarlait at that moment, claiming they had seen someone drinking in the back of the truck earlier that day. But they said they were going to charge him with pointing a rifle at them when they had him surrounded. Hilda Cook, wife of defendant Eddy Cook, was accused of using the baby who she was holding in her arms to protect it, as a “human shield” in what the cops tried to portray as an attack on them. The kids were 5, 7, and 11 years old and an 8-month-old baby.

Later that night dozens of Red Lakers put up a blockade, a burning car, across the main road on the reservation near the BIA headquarters. That night, BIA cops were pinned down in the fort for several hours by sniper fire. With this as an excuse, the reservation was flooded with cops. News reports that went out around the country made it sound like the police were defending themselves against a massacre. A move which led many people to believe that the cops themselves were preparing to massacre the people.

Then a chopper flying over the reservation was hit twice with rifle fire. The tribe members said, “The reservation people are crack shots and if they had really wanted to kill BIA cops they wouldn’t have missed.” The TV news later showed BIA SWAT soldiers in general camouflage, with taped-together banana clips full of rounds for automatic fire, about to sweep the brush in Vietnam-style. But in real life they never left the brush and the roads right around the BIA—they never dared venture into the woods, where the fire was coming from. Another flaming barricade, a log this time, was used to blockade the highway, and the homes of the BIA cops and several others link-

ed to tribal chairman Roger Jourdain were burned to the ground.

It was not the BIA’s fire power, nor its threats, nor the heavy rain that the BIA superintendent hailed as a “god-send” that brought an end to this round of armed resistance. It was not the sentences against the defendants on Monday nor the announcement that the grand jury was going to bring more charges against more Red Lakers for taking part in the May 19th takeover.

### Playing with Fire

The re-instatement of Stephanie Hanson brought tribe members the hope that the struggle against the conditions on the reservation could advance through this channel. This was exactly what the government wanted people to think, but the Red Lakers are not fools and anyone who tries to fool them is playing with fire.


“They’re trying to save as much of their asses as they can,” said Don Desjarlait, the only one of the six original defendants to be acquitted, “I think maybe they’re starting to get sick of that Jourdain character. Maybe they’ll be trying to get rid of him themselves.”

This fear that the game is up for Jourdain is certainly very strong among his henchmen. In one of the few interviews they’ve given, nine of Jourdain’s gang met with a *Minneapolis Tribune* reporter during a rainstorm: “Every clap of thunder overhead caused each of them to recoil in fear. Some lurched toward the floor as if to dodge gun fire. Others cautiously looked outside, fearing a sniper’s attack. ‘The thunderbirds are out,’ said one. ‘It sounded like a 30-30 and it’s not the first time we’ve heard that awful sound.’”

Jourdain and his backers fear the people a lot more than they fear the BIA and the rest of the government—and it’s the people’s determination to get rid of him that’s finally forced the government to even consider that possibility. But Jourdain still has more than one card up his sleeve. All the tribal council members are his people and he’s still head of it. Stephanie Hanson’s re-instatement did not necessarily mean the end of Roger Jourdain’s reign. Jourdain has had close ties to many of the high and mighty in the government and elsewhere, and they may very well feel compelled to protect him lest he pull them down with him. At the same time the situation on the reservation has become extremely embarrassing to the government, exposing its oppression of Indians to many people around the country. This is the contradiction that the government is now squirming around trying to get out of.

But what about the logging on the reservation that pays half of what it does just off the reservation, what about the fortune in wood and Indian labor the capitalists are grabbing and trying to grab more of? What about the fact that the people can’t live off hunting and can’t afford the gas to go hunting anyway so that they have to end up working for the capitalists? What about the fact that the whole reason the BIA funds tribal governments in the first place is to serve as their puppets? These are questions the tribe members are now grappling with as they fight to make their reservation sovereign as the government.

“They’re trying to bend us to their ways,” Don Desjarlait said about both the carrot and the stick, “and we’ll never bend to their ways. There’s no point in begging those sons of bitches.” That is the mood on the Red Lake reservation. It is a wait-and-see—but a wait-and-see on the basis of a burning hatred for the government, a wait-and-see educated by the capitalists’ blood-thirsty viciousness which outweighs a thousand times over the concessions forced out of it by gunfire and sacrifice, a wait-and-see with rifles still standing in every closet. ■



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## Red Lake

Continued from page 1

more seats in the courtroom. It was a court which many Red Lakers and other Indians had passed through on their way to prison.

Harry Hanson was brought into court smiling and wearing a red t-shirt emblazoned with the words “Freedom Fighter”—matching the shirt worn by his wife, Stephanie, seated in the spectators’ bench with other supporters. He had few words for the judge, “I did my job and I feel I’ve done it well.”

Now the judge’s barely controlled rage and trembling stood out sharply in contrast to Harry Hanson’s calm. He spit out a speech filled with fury, calling Harry a “lunatic” and a “disgrace to your people,” etc. Harry was going to have to pay, he said, not just for the takeover which he had proudly admitted, but also for the burning of the police station, jail and so on, carried out by hundreds of armed tribe members after the takeover ended, and for the deaths of two youths which even the FBI ruled were accidents and in no way directly related to the takeover.

All during the trial, the judge claimed it was not political and used that to forbid the defendants from making political statements about their actions. But the judge’s tirade after sentencing could not have been more political. This was his bottom line reason for sentencing Harry to many times more than the usual on such charges: “You have led a revolution of blatant lawlessness, a massive civil disorder...shocking to the mind and conscience. Under the American system of justice, even the most onerous [oppressive] government is no excuse for recourse to violence.”

Here the judge was letting the truth hang out most clearly. A Red Laker from Minneapolis said later, “The judge was right about one thing: violence was the mainspring of the whole matter.”

The Red Lake tribe members had suffered for a generation under tribal chairman Roger Jourdain, a brutal and corrupt pirate similar to many other petty desk men who run Indian reservations like foremen on the federal payroll. Stephanie Hanson explained such men with statements that the media never saw fit to carry, “The government doesn’t care how they spend the money as long as they keep the people quiet.” All the so-called peaceful and “legal” channels turned out to be a joke. The BIA cops under Jourdain’s command carried out violence against the people, especially the dissidents whenever they felt like it. As

for the law, many have been oppressed and murdered under the law for 100 years and more. When it comes down to it the government likes Roger Jourdain just fine and the laws protected him.


Even the judge had to personally admit to all this when he referred to “even the most onerous government.” He is certainly right about the rebellion being illegal under the American system of justice. But this “American system of justice” is no more than a brutal dictatorship, class rule, of a handful of capitalists and their henchmen where it is fine and legal to oppress and exploit. Anyone who stands up against it faces the most violent and vicious bunch of cowardly bloodsuckers that guns ever protected.

The jailings of Red Lake’s freedom fighters is as cowardly as it is vicious because it reveals the government’s great fear of the Indian peoples. Although the capitalists’ media have all parroted the judge’s lies, that the defendants are just an isolated bunch of “criminals,” there is no question that the harshness of the sentences and the judge’s words were meant for all the people on the reservation and for Indians of all tribes across the country who have recently begun a new wave of resistance from Seattle to South Dakota to Wisconsin where the Bad River BIA office has been occupied by a sit-in against the tribal chairman since May 19, the day the Red Lake takeover began.

They were also meant for all those who have been inspired by Red Lake. The ruling class was frightened by Red Lake, and they wanted the most brutal sentences for the defendants to remind everyone of the unyielding, brutal and swift sword of the “American system of justice.”

But when the people make up their minds to be free no matter what, they can’t be so easily intimidated. The judge called the defendants’ action “futile” and all the TV reporters badgered the defendants and families about what a waste it had all been, clearly trying their best to get some TV shots of Indians crying. They got nothing but defiance. “If they think they are going to break our spirits they’re wrong. We all believe in them. What they did was worth it. It made us all stand up,” declared Harry’s mother Lorena.

The judge may think he threw the book at these five but the last chapter has not yet been written. There will be an appeal and certainly much more struggle around this outrage. Everyone who has the sparks of hatred of injustice within them has to be inspired by the stand these people have taken and stand with the five in their fight against the “American system of justice.” ■



**REVOLUTIONARY WORKER**  
Voice of the Revolutionary Communist Party, U.S.A.



# Indian Freedom Fighter Captured

FBI agents gnashed their teeth and announced a massive manhunt. But Indian activists and supporters cheered the prison escape of Leonard Peltier, a man who has become a symbol of Indian resistance. Peltier broke out of Lompoc prison in a daring escape on July 20. Two other Indians tried to escape with him; one was gunned down, the other recaptured. Peltier managed to slip away into the brush.

The government thought they finally had Peltier locked away for good. They had sentenced him to two consecutive life terms in connection with the Indians' armed defense against an FBI attack on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota in 1975.

This reservation was the scene of the liberation of Wounded Knee in 1973. In the wake of Wounded Knee, the FBI and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) had terrorized the Indian people, especially singling out activists from the American Indian Movement. On June 26, 1975, SWAT teams, BIA goon squads, U.S. Marshals and about 20 FBI agents converged on a spiritual camp and opened fire. The security team, which included Peltier, defended the camp. The shoot-out left one Indian, Joe Stuntz, dead, as well as two FBI agents.

The death of these agents sent the government on a rampage, hunting down suspects. On the very day of the FBI attack, 1/8 of the reservation was secretly transferred to the government—land which contained a huge deposit of uranium. By diverting attention to the shoot-out and entangling the Indians in a web of repression, the government was able to take the land without major opposition.

Peltier was among four Indians charged with aiding and abetting in the shootings of the FBI agents. He had long been on their hate list. He had founded the Milwaukee chapter of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and helped organize the takeover of the main office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. in 1972.

Peltier fled to Canada where instead of laying low, he actively organized the Indians there. Meanwhile two of the defendants went to trial in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The all-white jury not only acquitted them but wanted to file charges against the FBI for misconduct. Charges on the third defendant were dropped. The government then moved with increased vengeance on Peltier. At Secretary of State Kissinger's request, the Canadian government gladly arrested and extradited him.

From the moment Peltier was taken into custody, no bail was even set for him. He was rushed to Fargo, North Dakota, far from the reservation. Not wanting a repeat of the Cedar Rapids trial, the judge announced, "Leonard



Leonard Peltier

Peltier is on trial, not the FBI. I will hear nothing derogatory about the FBI." The only facts that mattered were the lying testimony of the FBI and government agents. They stopped at nothing, even murder, to railroad Peltier.

One Indian woman, Anna Mae Aquash, whom they tried to coerce into being a witness against Peltier, and who

had steadfastly refused, was found dead on the reservation. Government agents told the family she had died of exposure and they had done the family a favor by burying her. The family had her body exhumed and found she had a bullet in the back of her head.

Peltier was convicted. His appeal was tossed around from court to court (one of these "unbiased" judges was

nominated to be head of the FBI while he was hearing Peltier's case). Although Peltier was behind bars, his spirit wasn't broken. In the fall of 1978, he issued a statement from his cell to all Indians: "As warriors of our nation we must show our people the spirit of Crazy Horse so they may raise off their knees. . . . Raise up with me and resist the terrorist attacks of genocide against our nation!"

After his escape, the police issued bulletins that he was "armed and dangerous" in order to create hysteria and get people to turn him in. At an AIM rally in Los Angeles called to support Peltier, John Trudell, national co-chairman of AIM, called Peltier "this generation's Geronimo" and urged supporters to "aid and abet and hide him if anyone is given the opportunity."

On July 25th near Santa Maria, Ca. and close to Lompoc, a farmer spotted Peltier in his field and got his gun and began shooting at Peltier. He then called the sheriff and the whole area was swept by the cops. Soon Peltier was captured. One person has been arrested outside Lompoc prison as an accomplice and the cops are looking for another. While one reactionary farmer has managed to aid and abet the pigs in capturing him, many people especially Indian people were more than willing to aid the escape of this fighter. The Indians at Red Lake had said, "If one of us were driving in our car and spotted Peltier, we would have picked him up and given him shelter." ■

## Mounted Police Charge Autograph Party

By Friday morning the blood had been washed off the sidewalk. The broken windows had been replaced, and the blood-stained display cabinets had been redecorated. By noon the music was once again being piped out into the street. And the Wiz music store was open for business. Jamaica Avenue had the usual crowd of shoppers and unemployed youth hanging out. There was no physical sign of what had gone down the day before.

South Jamaica is a Black neighborhood of Queens. It's a neighborhood that's been rotting away for years. The main street, Jamaica Avenue, is a string of music stores, bargain shops, bars and empty buildings. The only subway into the neighborhood now stops a few miles away, since the old "L" tracks had rotted away and had to be torn down. The number of burned-out, boarded-up buildings almost matches the number of occupied buildings. On any given day, hundreds of Black youths hang out on the street corners with nothing to do but get high and wait for tomorrow. Nothing special ever happens in South Jamaica. The lights of tourist New York never shine on neighborhoods like this.

But Thursday, July 19, was different. All week there had been announce-

ments from the radio and in the local newspapers. Stephanie Mills, the star of the Black Broadway musical, "The Wiz," was coming to the music store to autograph her latest album. By 10 a.m. people had already started to line up. By 1 p.m. there were more than 1,000 Black youths outside the store. Then it broke. Malcolm, a Black youth who was there, told us the story.

"There wasn't no riot. That pig just drove his horse into a crowd of Black people. No reason. He just rode in and started pushing. All week people were looking forward to this. Something to break up the boredom, something to check out. So people from all over Jamaica came down to see what was going on. People were having a good time, there was no trouble, music was playing and some people were smoking some weed, that's all.

"There was a whole day school out here, little kids, 7 years old. I heard some people yell and I looked around and here comes this cop on a horse. He was charging that horse right down the middle of the sidewalk, he was coming right at us. People started pushing to get out of the way. A couple of little kids got hit by the horse. Then the pig turned around and charged us again. The horse was snorting and dancing in

the middle of the crowd. People were scared and the cop kept pushing people back. Finally about 10 or 15 people were pushed through the store windows. Glass was flying all over, blood was everywhere, and that pig was sitting on his horse enjoying the whole thing. That pig was a racist, he saw a crowd of Black folks and it clicked—probably a riot. He knew he could do what he wanted and get away with it."

The *New York Post* and other newspapers called it an "autograph riot." The police department said that "Officer John Jurgensen acted in a proper manner to dispel the wild mob."

Malcolm responded, "They always call it that. No matter what happens, it's always our fault. I'll tell you, something big has got to change. It's not just this one thing. It's tied up with the whole way we're treated. This kind of thing wouldn't happen in a white neighborhood. They jam us into these ghettos, we get no jobs, nothing to look forward to. Something like this comes up and what happens? A pig charges into us like we're animals, hurts 52 of us, puts 5 in the hospital, and everything is supposed to be okay. I'll tell you something big, something's got to change." ■

## Trenton City Workers Wildcat

Beginning on July 10, thousands of white collar government workers in New Jersey wildcatted for four days—the first strike ever of its kind in New Jersey's history. At its peak 30,000 striking workers jubilantly swept aside union leaders, court injunctions and threatened firings. These government workers face increasing attacks. A new contract offer contained a pitiful 5.5% wage hike—an actual wage CUT with inflation—and increased worker contributions to medical benefits.

Trenton, seat of the New Jersey state government, was turned into "strike city" within hours as workers spontaneously walked off the job when union leaders accepted the contract. Massive picketlines, car caravans and demonstrations brought most government services to a halt.

A state trooper testifying in a courtroom hearing for an injunction called the strike "a celebration," one that state troopers didn't laugh at when they had to stand guard outside the State House Building as thousands of strikers amassed, demanding to see the governor.

Workers, now back on the job, still have the government and union leaders worried. The *Newark Star Ledger* reported, "If Byrne [the governor] fails to reopen wage negotiations they fear that rank and file members will disregard their leaders' advice and again head for the picketlines."



Revolutionary Worker

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## Embassy 5

Continued from page 5

appointed head U.S. Attorney Carl Rush personally presented the case, pushing aside the assistant prosecutor. The government's intentions are clear; here are the words of former U.S. Attorney Earl Silbert, taken from a court record, when he protested the acceptance of misdemeanor pleas:

"If this was a situation in which the defendants had got drunk or were on some spree and had gone out and recklessly, maybe even wantonly, done some damage to a foreign embassy in this country, maybe under those circumstances that plea would be acceptable.

"But that's not the course of the conduct in the view of the government. This was a premeditated, planned venture on their part. It was part of a larger episode in which subsequent to this one of the spokesmen for this Committee for a Fitting Welcome took credit for

what it had just done with great pride and announced that they would on the day that the Vice-Premier (of China) arrived, provide a further example of a fitting welcome.

"I can't in good conscience agree to a misdemeanor plea for these persons, particularly since they have expressed no remorse, no regret, no signs indicating that they are sorry for what they did, for the insults to a foreign country... They take great pride in it, they defend what they did, they justify what they did and they think it right."

This is the question that goes on trial on August 1. Is it "right" to heap scorn and insults on the chief traitor to the revolutionary struggles of the people of the world today, Teng Hsiao-ping? Is it "right" to stand up for Mao Tsetung and revolution? Is it "right" that revolutionaries who take this stand should be railroaded to jail with the "good conscience" of the U.S. government?

When the trial of the Embassy 5 opens on August 1, it will be but the opening shot of a battle to Free the Mao Tsetung Defendants and Stop the Railroad of Bob Avakian. ■

## COMMITTEE TO FREE THE MAO TSETUNG DEFENDANTS

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or c/o the Revolutionary Worker  
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## Iran

Continued from page 3

government. For the least criticism of the new regime, Tehran's major dailies have been censored and closed down and purged of "leftists." A draft of a new press law is being circulated that makes it illegal to criticize government officials and sets jail terms of 1-3 years for publishing any articles "slanderous to the clear tenets of the Islamic revolution." In an attempt to set up obstacles to the Left's newspapers and other publications, the government has borrowed one of the Shah's reactionary tactics by cutting down on the output of the paper mills in Iran.

In contrast to the government's recent amnesty decree that makes it virtually impossible to imprison any former member of the armed forces of SAVAK for their crimes against the people, revolutionaries have been attacked, arrested and even tortured. 42 members of the Fedayeen guerrilla group have been arrested and imprisoned without charges, and more recently, a leader of the revolutionary Moslem Mojahadin group was jailed for exposing the continued U.S. presence in the country.

Militant workers who have organized job actions or demonstrations have been fired and arrested (such as three leaders of the oil workers now being jailed in Anvaz). Leftist rallies have been attacked repeatedly by right-wing Moslem gangs organized and spurred on by forces inside the government.

In a highly revealing move, the government has recently proposed reviving virtually the same anti-communist law first enacted by the Shah's father in the early 1930's. This "Black Law," as it is still known, broadly prohibited any form of opposition or action against the government. (The Shah later creatively added onto this reactionary law by making it a crime punishable by life imprisonment to even "think against the government.")

Furthermore, the new constitution spells out a subordinate, oppressed position for Iranian women. Article 14 states that "to strengthen the foundation of marriage, the rights of the family have priority over the rights of the individuals united in marriage." (In other words: divorce will be nearly impossible for women to obtain without the approval of their husbands and local mullahs.)

The social role envisioned for women is spelled out in Article 12: "Since the raising and education of children are the responsibility of the parents, especially the mother in the early stages of life... family laws have to provide

mothers with the financial as well as the spiritual facilities to enable women to take care of their maternal duties."

To drive this point home, the government has recently prohibited married women from going to school with unmarried women (who presumably have not learned about the "facts of life"). The result of this is to force married women out of the universities and schools altogether since separate institutions don't exist. The only thing that has kept the government and Islamic clergy from ramming through more reactionary feudal customs that would tighten the chains on millions of Iranian women has been the unyielding opposition of progressive Iranian women, organized into groups such as the League of Fighting Women of Iran.

Finally, the draft constitution calls for strengthening the armed forces and isolating them from the people as much as possible. Soldiers will have no right to vote or participate in politics. These provisions go hand in hand with the current all-out efforts of the regime to rebuild the military and reinstate the old laws governing rank and file discipline and prohibiting all political, especially revolutionary, activity inside the armed forces. In addition, the new constitution explicitly says that the new parliament may allow foreign military advisers and technicians to return to Iran.

These proposals met with immediate opposition throughout the armed forces. In late June, hundreds of junior officers and cadets demonstrated in front of the Justice Ministry in Tehran in opposition to the new constitution and to press their demands to purge the military of all of its pro-imperialist reactionary officers.

Thus, despite the promise that the Islamic Republic will follow neither "East nor West" and will eliminate inequality and oppression for the masses, the new constitution is in reality a reactionary document whose main purpose is to build up and legitimize a state apparatus for the suppression of the people's continuing struggle and their revolutionary leadership, and to reconstruct the economy on a capitalist basis.

At the same time, due to the attacks the government has launched on the masses and due to the deepening economic crisis, new outbreaks of struggle are reported daily among the workers, peasants, the oppressed nationalities, soldiers, students and professionals. Among nearly all sections of the people, faith in the government is falling and the new constitution is widely opposed as a thinly disguised attempt to strip away the gains of the revolution. In the weeks and months to come, this new constitution will undoubtedly become an important battleground between the forces of revolution and reaction. ■

## Posters

Continued from page 4

While their style has a unified approach, drawing heavily from the look of woodcut art and collage, there are a variety of influences reflected in the posters. The I-Hotel poster reprinted here shows inspiration from the woodcuts done in revolutionary China, inspired by the line of Mao Tsetung and his wife Chiang Ching. The portrayal of Felix Ayson, a tenant at the I-Hotel who died more than a year ago, is definitely one of revolutionary romanticism, showing the revolutionary spirit and the determination of this veteran fighter, who in real life walked with a cane. The more recent works like SALT II and the Uncle Sam poster are strongly influenced by New Wave punk art. The Poster Brigade uses brilliant colors, including some fluorescents which, in combination with the heavy black line in their posters, pack a heavy wallop. (Unfortunately the colors could not be reproduced here.)

The current show by the Poster Brigade is certainly not the end of the story. They are constantly producing new works, and some of the posters on display were added while the show was still in progress. New developments are bound to happen as they continue the struggle to produce revolutionary art. ■

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## 2,000 March in Birmingham

# SCLC Holds Hands With Mayor

Birmingham, Alabama. On Friday, July 20, a crowd of over 2000 people, furious about the murder of Bonita Carter at the hands of a city cop, marched on City Hall. On the Tuesday before the march, Mayor Vann had announced that the cop, George Sands, who shot Bonita four times in the back was going to be given a job behind a desk. On the same day the D.A. announced that there were no plans to indict Sands. As far as the city was concerned the case was closed.

Thousands in Birmingham were enraged at this blatant act. Already, the anger had boiled over into the streets for 3 days after the murder and had been fueled by one outrageous police attack after another since then (see *Revolutionary Worker*, July 13 and July 20).

So, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) stepped in for the city's rulers to provide a safety valve for the built-up fury among the people. Hundreds of Black people from Birmingham who look to SCLC for leadership were demanding a march. As one woman said to the *Revolutionary Worker* the week before, "I'll give the SCLC five more days to do something." The SCLC leadership put out a call for a mass march.

But the purpose of this march was later made crystal clear by these leaders' own words as they begged for support at the city's Chamber of Commerce. "It is true that the mass meetings and marches we conduct have helped to contain some of the anger our community feels... In the absence of justice we will not be able to continue to control the pull of emotions in our community."

While it is true that the large turnout at this march reflected the influence of reformist ideas among the people spread by SCLC, it is also true that it reflected widespread and underlying hatred for the conditions bred by a system which shoots a woman in the back while it winks at the gunman. According to one of the marchers, a 77-year-old Black man, "We ain't never had this in Birmingham and I've been through all of them." One man walked the whole way on crutches, another came in a wheelchair. A young white man marched carrying a sign, "Now there's blood on your hands, Vann."

But any of Vann's worries were calm-

ed by the march leaders. One preacher after another took the stage to spew out glowing phrases as empty as their previous calls to keep the faith in the liberal Mayor Vann and in their negotiations with the city over Bonita's murder. They had planned to let the mayor speak at this rally, but when people began to chant "Vann and fans must go," the SCLC quickly scratched this part of their plan. Still, Vann hung around, carrying on outside of the crowd to make sure his picture appeared in the paper the next day, and singing "We Shall Overcome" as he swayed to the music with crocodile tears in his eyes.

Lowery, the national president of the SCLC, was the featured speaker. He

dramatically began to speak by taking off a red, white and blue ribbon holding the key to the city that the mayor had given him last year. "I shall not put on this key again until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty sword!" But with these thunderous words, did he throw the key against the walls of the City Hall or in the mayor's face? No, he placed it in the vest pocket of his three-piece suit for safekeeping.

At the rally, SCLC laid out plans for winning justice. What was to be done? Follow up on the mayor's promise that the cops will start asking questions before they shoot. A boycott of white-owned businesses. A request for more Black cops. Regular meetings with the

Chamber of Commerce. But when these stern measures prove to be ineffective, when another Black body becomes the target of a pig's bullet, what course was indicated? Vote out the mayor!

The rally began with a prayer. The marchers were urged to pray for Bonita Carter's family, pray for the mayor and pray for the police department! But it was the SCLC leaders and their masters who preyed on the people, leading them in a chorus of "We Shall Overcome" as the demonstration passively returned to the starting point.

As the Birmingham cops prepare for their next murder, they should thank the SCLC leaders for a job well done. ■

## Travis Morales Tours West Coast

Travis Morales, a member of the Moody Park 3 and a man who has been continually hounded for the role he has played in the struggle in Houston, traveled to California in mid-July to contribute to the RCP's million dollar fund drive. He spoke at meetings and gatherings in Los Angeles and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In East Los Angeles and Watts, Travis urged people to donate to the fund drive and spoke to the crucial role of the Party not only in regard to the struggle in Houston but generally in regard to the revolutionary struggle in the U.S.: "... unlike the '60s, there is a Party of the working class, the RCP, that stepped forward to defend the (Houston) Rebellion and point out that it was a seed of the future... what the capitalists can't stand is that the RCP refused to go down on its knees, unlike some others. That's why they are trying to put the Chairman of the Party, Bob Avakian, away for 100 years, because the Party refuses to throw down the banner of revolution."

In San Jose a contingent of farm-workers came to hear Travis and pledged a donation to the Party. A number of Chicano students showed up because they had heard a pile of slanders from opportunist groups like the CPML.

They wanted to make up their own minds. They said he gave them a lot to think about.

Travis went on the radio and on the syndicated TV show called "All My People." During the show the interviewer remarked that he had always believed that communists slinked around hiding their views, but that the RCP had changed that. He was impressed by how open the Party was about its aims and the road to achieving them.

Travis also spoke at a chemical plant in the Bay Area, sparking panic on the part of company officials, who locked the gate to the plant to prevent workers from getting too close. One Chicano worker told him, "Chicano workers here are proud of you and we're going to let the other workers here know it."

At a dinner in L.A. and a cocktail party in S.F., Travis met with doctors, lawyers and other professionals. Many

were curious to know how he had gotten the strength to keep going in the face of the constant attacks by the rulers. He answered that the more the struggle went on, the more he realized that he wasn't just representing himself and People United to Fight Police Brutality, but that he was speaking for the masses of people who hate oppression and want to see it ended.

At another meeting, after a talk by Travis, someone recounted a story of an elderly woman in Houston who was so deeply moved upon hearing about the Party and its work in defense of the Houston Rebellion, that she reached into her purse for her last \$10 and donated it to the RCP. Upon hearing this story at the meeting, an elderly white woman who is barely scraping by, attempting to live on Social Security, jumped up and said, "I'll match that" as she gave a \$10 bill to start the donations. ■

### Letter to the Editor

I heard Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, speak at May Day in Washington, D.C., and I've listened to the tape of that speech several times now. When a member of the West Virginia state legislature was recently indicted on sexual assault charges, the description the Chairman gave of lawmakers and government officials really came to life for me. He described them like so: "... in their tall buildings and marble halls full of decadent roaches scurrying around and decrepit old men whose time has long since passed, who stumble out of the warehouses and topless and bottomless bars, to route ways to try to keep us further oppressed."

Clyde Richie, 44, a legislator from the Morgantown, West Virginia area, was indicted for rape of a 14-year-old boy who was working as a page in the house of delegates. This by itself is pretty damn sick, but checking out this creep's history, his actions fit right in. It was only a couple of years ago that Richie wrote an adult novel about perverted sexual and brutal acts among members of a boy scout troop by the scoutmaster, entitled *A Near Fatal Attraction*. Richie claims the book is "totally fiction" and "not pornographic, but is a serious psychological study." The story takes place in a small fictitious West Virginia town.

Well, it seems that Richie has spent most of his life in Morgantown. He became established as a fine, upstanding civic leader, and was named Morgantown's J.C.'s outstanding young man of the year in 1971. He always gravitated toward "helping young boys." He founded the local Big Brother organization, basketball teams, and a boys' theater group, and he taught at many schools as well as the neighborhood youth corps and the Kennedy youth center. After being re-elected for a second term, besides being accused of rape, he co-sponsored a bill that would have lowered the legal marriage age in West Virginia to 12 for women. Apparently, he's not only interested in using and abusing boys, but he wants to see young girls offered up as playthings for dirty old men, too.

While the West Virginia ruling class and its news media pretend mild disgust at Richie, they only expose their hypocrisy. It's a well known fact that when the West Virginia legislature is in session, the city of Charleston is one big wild party with a ready supply of prostitutes bought and paid for by the coal companies.

Chairman Avakian really hits the nail on the head when he calls out these decadent roaches and decrepit old men for what they are.

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Farmworkers in Salinas, California read the Revolutionary Worker. In many areas of the country, the RW is developing beginning but significant ties among the masses of people. Below is an inspiring account of one such area.



RW—An Organizer for Revolution

## NETWORK OF STRUGGLE

Building the Revolutionary Worker is more than just "paper work." It has proven to be a very sharp part of the struggle. Since this newspaper is a weapon for revolution, it comes as no surprise that it usually finds itself in the midst of enemy fire as well. And as its influence among the people grows wider, not only does the enthusiasm with which it is received grow; so does the controversy which surrounds it. This is always true whenever the enemy is challenged and whenever new ideas meet old ones head on.

What follows is the story of building the Revolutionary Worker as a force among the people in a Spanish-speaking neighborhood in a major city—the story of the minds it has opened to revolution, the forces it has mobilized and organized, and the struggle it has provoked.

"In big cities and small towns this newspaper strengthens the people who want to step out a little in the lead, so that they can see they aren't alone in their thinking, that there are other people who have the same ideas, who are also struggling to liberate themselves from oppression like in Houston, Texas, in New York and in Washington D.C. Here in this city it gives us more power. Over time it is helping the Party here to be stronger so as to be able to help us rise up."

These are the words of a Chicano worker who himself only three months ago believed he was alone. He believed that his ideas about this system were strange, ideas which no one else shared. He didn't know how many others felt the same way and that some were already beginning to struggle against the system. He didn't know that his class already has its own political party, the RCP, to lead the struggle for revolution and he didn't know that the Party has a national weekly newspaper, the *Revolutionary Worker*, to play the major role in preparing for the time when the people can and will rise up in revolution.

And the Revolutionary Communist party, its members and supporters in this town did not know him either. They did not know he existed and more significantly, until three months ago, they did not know that a significant community of Chicanos and Latinos existed in their area. Today this has changed, and much of that community

is now crackling with struggle over the *Revolutionary Worker*. And this worker became one of a number to come forward around this paper and take it into their own hands so that together with millions they can "liberate themselves from the oppression" of this system of capitalism.

In an interview with the *Revolutionary Worker* recently, a group of these workers spoke about how they saw the *Revolutionary Worker*—why they first came to take it up. "In my opinion this newspaper is the only means we have at this point to bring these ideas to the people, like how we are going to make this revolution. And on the other hand, right now it is helping us also with our fund drive, in being able to collect the million dollars we are working for. Today this newspaper is the weapon that we have because we are preparing ourselves mentally, with understanding, and every day is a day to begin doing more. And this is our principal weapon, the newspaper."

Another man said, "This newspaper can go into any house, it can reach any person wherever they are. It can be spread to many millions of people. We're at a point in the world where crisis is deepening; the crisis of hunger and war. There are already wars and more war is coming. The capitalists have to tell us something about all this on their television. They talk and they talk but in reality they tell us nothing. Like in Iran, they told us only that the Shah was gone, but never what had really happened. Why did the people rise up in a revolutionary war, why was the Shah forced to leave? This newspaper brings us the news—but the news according to a different line. Why did it happen? What is the system of exploitation? How are people struggling against this? Like with Vietnam, I only knew that there had been a war in Vietnam, but why did the United States go to war with Vietnam, why did the war last so long, how could a country like Vietnam win against the United States? The U.S. government said, 'This is our property and we will keep it.' But from this paper I learn that the Vietnamese people showed the U.S. they would rather fight and die than live like slaves."

Until this recent period no one in the local Party or close to the local Party had the ability to translate articles into Spanish or write leaflets in Spanish.

Before the national weekly *Revolutionary Worker* first came out on May 1st, Party members and supporters struggled along to produce a monthly local paper, which of course had no Spanish section. When the weekly *Revolutionary Worker* appeared, the Party and its supporters began to get down on broadening and systematizing its use, one multi-national community in particular was singled out for some concentrated work.

### Making Contact

One Sunday afternoon 2 or 3 weeks after the first weekly issue a large group of people went out in the neighborhood with it. Taking turns on bullhorns, knocking on every door, they went down every street, alley, and into apartment complexes and buildings. Going down one street they ran into a couple walking home from the grocery store. "We're from the *Revolutionary Worker*." "No hablamos inglés," was the answer.

A couple of the revolutionaries with the paper who had some knowledge of Spanish stepped forward. They flipped the paper over to the Spanish edition, *El Obrero Revolucionario*, and as they tried to communicate what this newspaper stood for, paper and money changed hands. The first *El Obrero Revolucionario* had been sold in the city. And the revolutionaries were told, "Come down to our street. There's an apartment building there that no one but a dog should live in—and it is full of Mexicanos."

So they went and still more papers and money changed hands while their memories probed for forgotten Spanish. But the people didn't need prompting. They had their own anger which had burned below the surface for years. They had lives filled to the brim with degradation and oppression. The revolutionaries not only got a lesson in Spanish—they got a lesson in the outrage that millions seethe with which is ready to overflow at any moment given the opportunity.

Many came forward to discuss and struggle around the question of communists coming into the community with such a paper. Among them several told the *Revolutionary Worker*, "I know another apartment building where only Chicanos live." "Don't you know the neighborhood on the northside of town. It is full of Latinos and

Chicanos." "What about the restaurants in that part of town. Hundreds of people who work in there speak only Spanish. Take the paper there." "I work in a factory where there are thirty Latinos. Can you sell the paper there?"

As the *Revolutionary Worker* penetrated into the heart of some of these areas, people spoke hesitantly, then with more boldness and anger about their conditions. "In Mexico they tell you the United States is heaven itself," one young Mexican worker told us, "and then you come and you find out how you will live. There is no work. Prices are high and everything's getting worse. It isn't heaven—it is more of the same thing—capitalism."

Another young worker said he had worked all over the country—the fields of California, sugar cane in Florida, factories in Colorado and in Texas. Most others had come more recently. This community had swelled from a few thousand to many tens of thousands in less than ten years. Many had no "legal" right to be here, in this "land of opportunity," where they were living in some cases 7, 8 or more in a small apartment without furniture or any modern conveniences.

Their jobs? They told of minimum wage jobs working 60 to 70 hours a week or in sweat shops where the owners don't care what language you speak as long as you're willing to slave for pennies. Unemployment? Very high, but you'll never find it in the percentages. According to government statistics these people don't even exist. Cast onto the back streets of the city, no one knows they are there and no one cares—at least that is the way many felt until recently.

As soon as people from the *Revolutionary Worker* went back out and began to talk with these people, it became clear that there existed here a great reservoir of hatred for this system and the way it forces the masses to live. It also became clear that to tap this reservoir it wasn't enough to skim its surface, pausing here or there to sell them copies of the newspaper. This hatred had to be sharpened by directing it at the real source of the problem. It had to be channeled and directed and turned into revolutionary practice—into something more organized and lasting.

### Relying on People

The people from the *Revolutionary Worker* who took up this task didn't know much about it. But they were determined to "learn warfare through warfare." They began reading articles from the paper first in English and then in Spanish and getting with each other to discuss them in Spanish and then they went back out to the people. Because they couldn't speak the language of the people very well themselves, they were forced to look for and rely on people coming forward who had a more advanced understanding of revolutionary ideas and the need for revolutionary struggle against this system, to unite with them to keep going out more and more broadly. And they found such people.

As one of these workers said, "Many people here know that we are held down by the capitalists and that we are oppressed. They know life is very hard. Even when we work hard, we still have to try to advance even just to live. Many are already conscious of the fact that it is this system that oppresses us. But many say, 'This is the way that it is. I was born poor and I will die poor.' But in the future hunger will teach them, and necessity will teach them to struggle and they will become a force. They will have to fight and this paper is the only thing that tells us why and how to fight. People will read it, some are already reading it. If they understand and agree they will begin to join us in fighting. Many are going to do this because in reality each knows that they live at the bottom of this society, that they are oppressed, and it is a question of capitalism."

"These people can be brought to see that it is a question of struggle, a question of preparing ourselves, like has happened in every country where a revolutionary war took place. It is

Continued on page 14

**Major Speaking Tour by Party Chairman**

# **“To All Those Who Refuse To Live and To Die On Your Knees!”**

Bob Avakian, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist Party, will be speaking throughout the country in the next several months. Bob Avakian is facing charges adding up to more than 100 years in jail.

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Last half of August — Midwest & Great Lakes Area ;other places later.

## Network

Continued from page 12

always difficult at the start. In my opinion, this revolutionary war we're fighting is very young in the world. It is natural to begin with that there won't be very many people fighting and even that some people will hate those of us who already want to fight this war, because they hate war and they are afraid of it. This is natural. But people can learn. With this newspaper we can bring them information to learn from: Where is your life now? What is the source of all your problems? What is happening in the world? People are struggling, and if you want to struggle too, here is the way to begin now, with this newspaper."

And it began to happen. The communists looked for different ways to tap the potential of the people to bring forward new fighters. Groups began to meet and discuss the questions the paper raised. People from the community began helping to write leaflets in Spanish. A group from the community came to a conference about the paper which was held only six weeks after the first *El Obrero Revolucionario* was sold. It was held bilingually. The 10-minute film about the Houston rebellion came to town and when the people in the community heard about it, film showings were set up in houses and on the walls of apartment buildings. One older man organized a showing in his home and brought out fifteen friends.

### Deeper Questions

Deeper questions arose that demanded an answer. At one of these film showings a communist sold copies of the Party's pamphlet "Cuba: The Evaporation of a Myth." Doing this sparked a heated struggle among the people about how to sum up the Cuban revolution. For example, one worker thought Cuba was great, a revolutionary country that, along with the Soviet Union, aided freedom struggles in Latin America and around the world. But he also bought a Cuba pamphlet, which puts out a very different view.

Sometime later somebody went to talk with him about the pamphlet and what he now thought about Cuba and the Soviet Union. This worker said, "I didn't really know anything about Cuba and the Soviet Union except that there had been revolutions, and I knew that I was for revolutions against this system. I only understood that the Soviet Union is capitalist when I read that pamphlet and that it isn't a question of any kind of revolution, but of one led by the working class. One thing I've learned from working with you all is that you communists have been lucky. You have read Marxism. All my life I've had a lot of these ideas about this system and I've always known that I was oppressed and that the people and the workers were oppressed. And I have thought 'Revolution is the answer.' But I didn't know anything about it and I didn't know how to find out. I tried to read books. I even read a lot of books about all kinds of different religions because I thought there might be some answers there. I read about Buddha and I read about Krishna, but it all seemed like the same shit. Now I know what I have to do and what I want to do, I want to read and study Marxism."

Every time a communist came into the community, people would be drawn out of their houses and into the streets like iron to a magnet. One day a large discussion broke out in a parking lot about religion, about why communists were atheists. The people who had come to sell the paper left. But when they came back next time they were told dozens of people had stayed in that parking lot discussing their questions and lots of politics for several hours more.

### Bringing Trouble?

But of course it wasn't all smiles and agreement. People had sharp questions on their minds. "The people have it so much better here than in the countries we came from—we'll never make revolution here." "What can we do—there aren't enough of us." "This is the strongest country in the

world—how can you make revolution against it." And there were those who charged that revolutionaries and communists only bring trouble to the people, that where communists came—the police were sure to follow, creating more problems for those in this country "illegally."

The work around the newspaper among the people went through a process of development. When they first heard about it, many people were open and curious, "Who are these people, why are they here, what do they want from us." Many people liked the paper and a lot of copies were sold. But as the work went on, it deepened, the contradictions in the situation sharpened. People at first had only looked at the newspaper as a "good thing," something that would give them information about the country and the world and the struggles of the people. And they had looked at the communists as people who "wanted to do good things for the people." But the communists challenged them from the beginning, "If all we are doing is good, then you should be doing it, too. It isn't enough to buy and read the paper in your own home, liking what it has to say. Why do you like it? What is it really saying? It is saying that we must get organized and prepared now, putting this paper into the hands of millions so that when the time is ripe millions can rise up and do away with this system for good. How can a handful of us carry out this task? Step forward and join our ranks."

While it was necessary to struggle to advance the work of the paper, it was also necessary for the communists to struggle against pre-conceived notions—little boxes into which everything must neatly fit. In particular people sometimes tended to forget what Mao Tsetung once said, "Once correct ideas... are grasped by the masses, these ideas turn into a material force which changes society and changes the world." Sometimes there was a tendency to think that the "organizers" had to be everywhere to make anything happen, and to forget the tremendous organizing role the paper itself can play when people read it.

One day in the midst of a more organized discussion group on the paper, one worker spoke up and said he liked the wide open parking lot discussions better since they involved more

people. One organizer immediately reacted against this and said, "No, we have to have organized groups." Later on people became clear that it was wrong to pit one against the other like this, and when it was explained to the worker that both were important and that each could help build the other, he readily agreed. People were creating their own forms, with the paper and its political line acting as the unifying link. Things always had to be taken to a higher level but over-formalized ideas about what a newspaper network was had to be dumped. When people gathered in a parking lot to work on their cars and discuss the paper, the parking lot became part of the network. When people talked about the paper in cars on the way back and forth to work, that was part of the network too.

### Battle Sharpens Up

There were those in the community who had real reason to dislike the newspaper. Some are even small capitalists—ready to "loan" a \$100 to be "paid back when you can" and they line up work—in their own businesses slaving for pennies. Some of these and others like them would at first smile and joke when the paper came into the community, but as soon as the paper sellers would leave, the tune would change to backbiting attack.

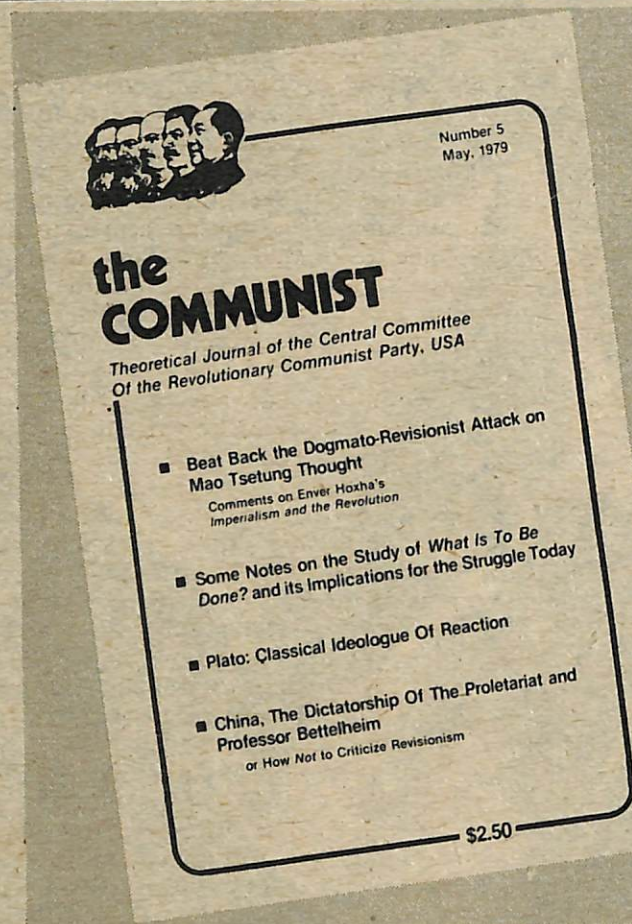
One man who had begun to read and sell the newspaper reported that he was visited by the FBI. He said they came asking by name for the communist from the *Revolutionary Worker* and told him, "Be careful. If you play with fire you'll get burned." This story caused still more controversy among the broader masses. Some people said, "You see, these communists and their paper can only bring trouble to us." But others stood firm. "I believe as in the whole world we need revolution here but the police will come around and grab someone up and put him in their car and take him away—and this gives rise to the idea that you can't do anything with revolutionary ideas. But for me, I know that one day I will die. This is true for everyone. But what does it say to me—it says that I have to die and I'll have to die still oppressed. No, for me it is better to die fighting with the whole world. In the country I come from things are heating up. My country today is like a tank of gas that needs on-

ly a match to explode. Many will die if that happens but what will the future be—will the future be more of the same oppression? This is the same question in this country. This is what we believe—we have to fight. There is no other way and we have to fight so that our children will not be slaves."

As the situation sharpened with the *Revolutionary Worker* at the heart of the controversy, some people who had been buying and even selling the paper stepped back and they said, "This is too much for me right now, and I can get by on my own." But still others came forward when they saw how things were coming down. One man who had become active around the paper was given a choice by others he was sharing a room with—either cut it out or move out into his car. At the time he put it, "You know there is a nice bed in my car."

The situation continues to sharpen up, and the enemy is adding on pressure in many ways. But many are getting a clearer and clearer understanding of what the stakes are and the enemy will not have an easy task in pulling up all the roots that have been developed by the *Revolutionary Worker*.

One of the workers summed it up like this, "This paper gives us organization. I'm not talking about organization like in barracks in an army. But it's a system of organization just the same, an organization of understanding where people begin to think in the same way, looking for the sparks that will flare up, the same sparks that will help us to rise up in revolution. There are already people in this organization of ours, and we are in theirs, and already we can begin to take a hold of these sparks, to unite together and to fight. But you understand, it is this paper that gives us the way to unite together. Many more people already want to fight. They are ready to fight with us. But the questions are there: Who do we fight against and how do we fight? This paper teaches us what we are fighting against—the system of capitalism—and that capitalism is the rich, and their police and their army and all that they have. This newspaper is our system of organization that is preparing us to fight—and it is a good system, and today it is our main one." ■



The latest issue of *The Communist* contains a number of articles which represent a valuable contribution to the class struggle on the theoretical front:

- Full reply to Hoxha's wretched attack on Mao Tsetung Thought. When revisionism triumphed, for the moment, in China after Mao's death, many revolutionaries looked to Albania with hope. But now this article shows how Enver Hoxha's new book is really a stab in the back and betrayal of Marxism and revolution.

- Lenin's *What Is To Be Done?* and its role today. This book of Lenin's played a crucial role, not only in preparing the way for the Russian Revolution, but in other times and places. What Lenin says here has been the subject of debate among revolutionaries throughout the 1970s.

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# Detroit

Continued from page 7

knew, their machine guns were being driven deeper into the ghetto to be used by the people.

But even the massive use of National Guard troops could not put a stop to the upsurge, and 2700 crack troops of the 101st airborne division of the Army had to be called in. The same combat troops, tanks and helicopters that the U.S. had hurled at the Vietnamese people rolled through Detroit.

By the time the Army troops arrived, the rebellion had reached its peak, but it wasn't until days later that things had died down to the point where they could leave. By August 2, 43 people had been killed, mostly Black people. (They say only 1 cop was killed; however, a nurse in a hospital emergency room said that in one day alone, 18 were brought in D.O.A.) 2000 were injured and 7200 arrested. An estimated \$85 million in property damage was caused.

A stunned Lyndon Johnson spoke on nationwide TV on July 27, even as gunfire still cracked through the streets of Detroit. "My fellow Americans: We have endured a week such as no nation should live through: a time of violence and tragedy. . . My fellow citizens, let us go about our work. Let us clear the streets of rubble and quench the fires that hatred set. . . Let us resolve that this violence is going to stop and there will be no bonus to flow from it. We can stop it. We must stop it. We will stop it."

The civil rights leaders were as shaken as their masters. Martin Luther King along with Wilkins, Young and A. Phillip Randolph endorsed the use of troops in Detroit, appealing to the people to stop the rebellion. "No one

benefits under mob law. Let's end it now."

## One-Sided Non-Violence

This was their non-violence, calling for and supporting the shooting and vicious beating of thousands of Black people at the hands of government troops and police. And like their imperialist masters, they looked upon the masses of Black people as a senseless mob.

After the rebellion, they issued a statement which echoed the words of LBJ and the entire capitalist class, saying in part: "Killing, arson, and looting are criminal acts and should be dealt with as such. Equally guilty are those who incite, provoke and call specifically for such actions. There is no injustice which justifies the present destruction of the Negro community." Of course, it goes without saying that wanton murder and machine gunning of homes in the Black community of Detroit by the police and troops is "justified."

But history had delivered its verdict. The masses of Black people by their very actions rejected mealy-mouthed so-called non-violence of all who preached submission while the police, National Guard and federal troops slaughtered people in the streets, beat people until the streets ran with blood, and arrested and jailed thousands. The people had grown tired of the endless choruses of "We shall overcome." They had had their fill of pious prayers and the "I have been to the mountain" speeches from the mouths of humbled lackeys posing as saviors and prophets for Black people.

## The Aftermath

In the aftermath the ruling class knew that certain steps had to be taken to at least superficially deal with the conditions that the people had risen up against. How would they do it? Simply,

more money for more hypocrisy—a bigger dose of the "American nightmare." If millions had to be spent, why not spend them driving the knife deeper into the backs of Black people and act like they were being done a great favor? Why not give oppression a facelift and say, "If you people would just keep cool like your civil rights leaders preach, everything would be all right. But if you get violent you will just mess everything up and hurt yourselves." This is what they set about doing in Detroit.

Today, 12th Street in Detroit where the rebellion broke out has been renamed Rosa Parks Boulevard after the Black seamstress from Detroit who became a symbol when she refused to sit in the back of the bus and helped spark the Montgomery bus boycott in the mid-'50s—a symbol of the old civil rights movement. There aren't so many storefronts, the "ghetto tax" merchants are gone. There are a lot more empty lots, some with basketball courts to keep the unemployed youth "out of trouble." On other lots new expensive condominiums are going up to give the area a "facelift," part of plans for a "Detroit Renaissance" to go along with the new GM headquarters and the "Renaissance Center." Of course, Black people will have to be removed to make way for this. And, oh yes, there are plenty more "Black faces in high places"—a Black mayor and all kinds of Black politicians and officials. All this is just frosting on the same old cardboard cake.

And behind this ugly paint job, itself an attack on the struggle of Black people, a slap in the face, the situation for Black people is worse. There is massive unemployment. Many who were recruited for jobs in the auto plants following the rebellion have been laid off or face layoffs as the capitalist economic crisis deepens and the "last

hired-first fired" discrimination comes down harder and harder. Most people still live in the same old wood frame houses full of rats and roaches. And the cops still run amuck.

The never-tired Toms even have the nerve to point to the mess that Black people live in today in Detroit and say it proves the "futility and self-destructiveness" of rebellion and the correctness of their own bootlicking strategy. But if anything is proven futile, it's begging and bootlicking from a system that once again has shown it can deliver nothing but more hell to Black people. True enough, rebellion by itself could not end this system, but that only drives home the need to go further—to revolution. To talk instead about a "new civil rights movement" is just about as helpful as spreading poison.

What lies ahead is a decade of great turmoil around the world and the real possibility of revolutionary crises here at home. With deepening crisis and the threat of war—world war—looming ever larger on the horizon, to talk about an orderly movement for social reforms is a ludicrous—and dangerous—illusion. And while the rebellions of the '60s were fine, we do not need a mere repeat.

Where things are at today is actually an advance over the '60s. Powerful forces are in motion which will pull vast numbers of people into activity. And from the '60s has emerged clearer political understanding and a party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, capable of seizing any opportunity that arises to lead things through to the end.

"It is right to rebel" was the burning manifesto of the Detroit Rebellion. It is right, and necessary, to finish the job—this is the stand which will push things forward. ■

# Cleveland

Continued from page 1

got up the nerve, he called reinforcements, who arrived thick as flies, billy clubs drawn, arresting three for charges including riot. When two people went to bail them out they were busted on the spot for "suspicion of disorderly conduct." The pigs couldn't decide whether they'd been disorderly at the plant or at the police station lobby!

Wednesday, July 18. These outrageous busts served to mobilize even more people as twenty loudly sold the *Revolutionary Worker* at Gate 12. But something seemed strange when after twenty minutes no cops or Ford security guards had shown up. Then it happened. Two carloads of puffed up committeemen and staff pulled up and jumped out, led by Thurmond Payne (president of the local) who orchestrated from a safe distance away. These goons expected a complete, swift, and easy mopping-up operation as they came at the revolutionaries with pipes, knives, brass knuckles and rocks. But they got what they hadn't bargained for. . . The shit hit the fan! When the smoke cleared, these puffed-up pimps were reduced to the whimpering cowards they really are, with three in the hospital and others licking their wounds.

## Stuck Pigs Squeal. . . (and organize)

Thursday, July 19. What happened at the gate the day before put a light in the eyes of many workers at Ford and around the city—the bully had gotten beat! The bourgeoisie could not let this go down. To counterattack they splashed the sensationalistic account of what happened in the *Plain Dealer*, the local newspaper. The article turned the truth upside down and inside out. The headline screamed, "Workers and Communists Scuffle at Ford." The way they told it the Revolutionary Communist Party had carefully conspired to attack workers in order to gain publicity. Showing a photo of one UAW goon with blood on his face, the *Plain Dealer* shed crocodile tears, as if this mouthpiece for the capitalists gives a

damn about the blood of the workers!

All over the plant. . . it was hot. Mobs of union officials, many of whom hadn't seen the inside of a plant in two years, swarmed all over, *Plain Dealers* in hand. They thought it would be a cinch to mobilize people to attack two well-known members of the RCP that work in Engine Plant No. 2. And try they did. All day Thursday they held dozens of meetings up and down the assembly line, making outrageous threats. They were in fact able to unleash some cowardly backward fool to push an engine down the line at forty miles an hour, narrowly missing one RCP member (who is six months pregnant) who was pulled out of the way by a fellow worker.

In the face of the intense attack on the *Revolutionary Worker* and the Party from all quarters, newspapers, hacks, radio, police. The mayor of Brook Park issued a statement saying, "We will arrest any member of the RCP on sight."

Up and down the assembly line, in the cafeteria, heated debate was raging. Why was this Party being so ferociously attacked? What did the RCP stand for? And who the hell are these hacks claiming to speak for us?

On Thursday when stepping forward and taking a stand had very heavy consequences, workers openly brought out and discussed these questions with RCP members: "You're the only guys that don't back down. If there's going to be revolution yours will be the Party to lead it." "I guess if I get involved in this it will mean my whole life is going to change." And it was a commonly held and openly expressed view among Black workers that if these union hacks weren't in the Ku Klux Klan they were acting exactly like them.

Friday, July 20. Carl Edelman, an aspiring union hack indistinguishable from the rest of Thurmond Payne's buddies (except for the fact that he's confessed to about a dozen workers that he's a member of the sell-out revisionist Communist Party), went wild on Friday! Thurmond Payne had given him the scoop! "Wild-eyed RCP members had broken into the plant the night before desperate to use Ford's mimeo machine and beat up a worker who caught them in the act." Poor Carl. Workers started asking him some

hard questions. After he'd talked to about ten workers up and down the line he looked like a dejected punctured balloon.

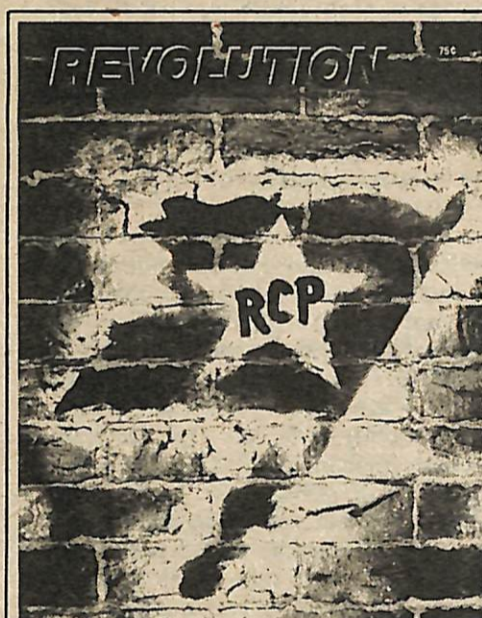
Thurmond and the hacks ran into similar problems. They got desperate and that afternoon they distributed 10,000 "death threat leaflets," openly calling on workers to stop the communists and "use every method at your disposal and do exactly that."

The air in the plant was electrified. Reactionaries and the union's paid hierarchy of petty reactionaries were whipping into a frenzy. "Death to the commies" was scrawled on garbage cans. Here were these hacks, who never call on the workers to fight against the company, trying to whip them up to kill some revolutionaries. Many workers were shocked and the reactionaries were not able to whip up a massive campaign. But the atmosphere was extremely tense.

The attacks have not ceased, the *Plain Dealer* and several radio stations have interviewed everyone and his brother who opposes the RCP—giving them plenty of free air-time to spread their lies. The *Plain Dealer* went into the swamps and dredged up the Ohio chairman of the Communist Party who in a prominently featured article stated, "The RCP's objective is to discredit honest left forces. I call upon Brook Park officials to prosecute the RCP to the fullest extent of the law."

All these attacks have exposed the many faces of the enemy and put the Party on front street as the only resolute force for revolution in this country. The *Revolutionary Worker* is definitely on sale inside Engine Plant No. 2. But this story is not over. . . Ford and their Thurmond Payne, etc., are undoubtedly hatching new plots and trying to figure out how to mobilize their little followers to whom they have doled out cushy jobs and other favors in exchange for loyalty. But in the end their schemes will fail.

One older skilled tradesman walked up to an RCP member who was being baited by one of these hacks and said, "I just can't believe how outrageous this is. These guys don't do a damn thing for us but look at what they're doing now. Look how they protect the company. Something has to be done to stop these guys." ■



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