



End the Criminal Rule
of U.S. Monopoly
Capitalist Class,
Fight for Socialism!

WORKERS VIEWPOINT

The Proletariat and
Oppressed People
and Nations of
the World, Unite!

NEWSPAPER OF THE COMMUNIST WORKERS PARTY

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50 CENTS

President Reagan, AMERICA SAYS HELLO



Sara Anderson

Reagan and his advisors knew there would be heavy flak flying after he dropped his 1983 budget bomb before Congress on Feb. 6. A sure-fire defense would be a quick retreat to heartland, U.S.A., to camouflage his assault with support for his New Federalism. But in less than a few days' notice, the people of the Midwest were mobilized into action. Braving sub-zero temperatures, thousands of protestors lined the streets along Reagan's motorcade in Indianapolis, Minneapolis and Des Moines. Even one New York Times commentator had to admit, "... there were surprisingly large numbers of protestors standing in the snow to greet the President. But this time, they did not come entirely from activist groups on the left. There were farmers and unemployed laborers like the lonely-looking Iowan with a sign reading, 'We Want Jobs, Not Cheese.'"

To the agricultural areas of the Midwest, where bankruptcies of farmers are as common as during the Depression, Reagan's release of surplus cheese to the "needy" is, at best, an insult. Reagan's two-day trip into Indiana, Minnesota and Iowa was a direct appeal

to these farming states to which he thought his program would appeal most. Never once did he mention their sister states of Michigan or Ohio, industrial states in depression situations. Although the states he visited are farming regions, the most populated centers are the metropolitan areas dependent upon industrial production. The Quad-City area in Iowa, for instance, has been overwhelmed by the layoffs at John Deere and International Harvester, the leading producers of farm equipment.

For farmers the main issue is the enormous national deficit and the resulting high interest and tight credit policies it brings. During the holiday recess, one Iowan Congressman said he spoke to over twenty local groups, and out of all of them, he heard overwhelming opposition to increases of the military budget. Surprising to the Reagan administration, farmers are more concerned about feeding the hungry than having local control over who can starve them.

Reagan's pitch for his New Federalism, which would shift responsibility for major federal programs for the poor to state level, also fell on disbelieving Iowa and Indiana state

legislatures. Sensing the New Federalism was going nowhere, he quickly shifted to a bravado defense of his 1983 budget. Calling in his joke-writer, C. Landon Parvin, he revised his prepared speeches with political theatrics.

In Iowa he said, "The budget we've proposed is a line drawn in dirt. Those who are serious about reducing the deficit will cross it and work with us on our proposal or other alternatives." (Is this the same as tug-of-war, where you lose if you cross the line?) Challenging his critics to "put up or shut up," Reagan said, "Before the budget came out you could hear the sound of knee-jerking all over Washington." Apparently forgetting the late Pres. Johnson's pet phrase about tunnels and the Vietnam War, Reagan promised his economic program would lead to "the end of the tunnel."

All this was sorry news for Republican office seekers in next fall's elections. Reagan has a reputation for long coat-tails — the ability to engorge campaign coffers and successfully ride public opinion. But getting elected is quite different than getting re-elected.

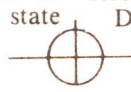
During the last session of Congress

Reagan honeymooned along with Congressmen who, in their ardor to get along, gutted along. The budget cuts didn't bring the prosperity Reagan promised — just more cuts, fewer jobs, higher interest rates and a recession looking more like a depression everyday.

Democrats have been quick to blame the "Boll Weevils" — the southern Democrats who have teamed up with Republicans to push Reagan's program through Congress. Political speculators are laying odds the coalition is about ready to break up during the election campaign this fall. The pressure is enormous, mainly from working, unemployed and poor people. But there are also conflicting interests among the bourgeoisie.

The New York Times, in a Feb. 10 editorial titled, "No Guns, No Nothing," argued that increasing the military budget without tax increases will incur such huge deficits — at least \$100 billion — that economic survival is the question, not military superiority.

The Times, of course, rallies to the "supply-side" economics of Reagan's tax policies — give the rich a lot and the



INSIDE

In preparation for observance of International Women's Day, progressive and women's organizations are coming together to say "We won't go back" to the short time ago when the fight for even minimal equality was paramount, and fight for the same gains all over again. page 9

Amsterdam News' writer says 1982 will be year of people's counter-attack: our New Year's Resolution should be "Make Revolution!" page 10

Every day more tenants are winning the fight against co-op conversion and lack of services. Tenants in Jersey City won the latest round. page 4

S.F. Hilton suspends editors of shop newsletter for refusing to name names, but workers don't take no for an answer. page 5

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WORKERS VIEWPOINT

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poor will get a little — but differs only on how much and where federal revenues should be spent.

A big part of Reagan's military budget is set aside for maintaining the volunteer armed forces through relatively high wages. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger says that the Soviet Union maintains a larger military force than the U.S. at half the cost; therefore, the U.S. can't be stingy with its military budget. Reagan would be at a great political disadvantage if he tried to reinstate the draft. So, political expediency tells him to pump money into the

military along with serving the interests of the bourgeoisie who control military arms and hardware production.

Although public opinion still tends to be fluid on many social and political issues, the deteriorating economic picture commands the most attention among Americans today. The demand for jobs, for survival is the basic issue that no politician, labor leader or community organizer can ignore or run from. The message from Iowa, Indiana, Minnesota — heartland, U.S.A. anywhere — there's no hiding place down there. □

LETTERS

Child Abuse in America

Dear WV,

Let me tell you all about Detroit's very sad condition. We have layoffs, housing shortages, suicides. Every social service agency has been cut to the bare bone, and if you watch the news you have probably seen Detroit's already outrageous crime and murder rate soar. We also have a child abuse case pop up at least once a month. According to the case, some hit the front page, some don't.

Let me point out the injustice involved. A case hit the front page for several days about two or three months ago. A Hispanic woman, Caroline Ortiz, was arrested when it was discovered that six of her 14 children were malnourished. The youngest, a three-year-old named Raphaela, was the worst off. She was kept in a dirty room, she never saw sunlight, and she is unable to speak. There is no denying the facts, it was a case of child abuse. This occurred on the city's southwest side. (For those of you who have heard Journey's latest hit about a boy who was born and raised on the south side of Detroit, there is no south side. The south side is the Detroit river! It is still a good song regardless.)

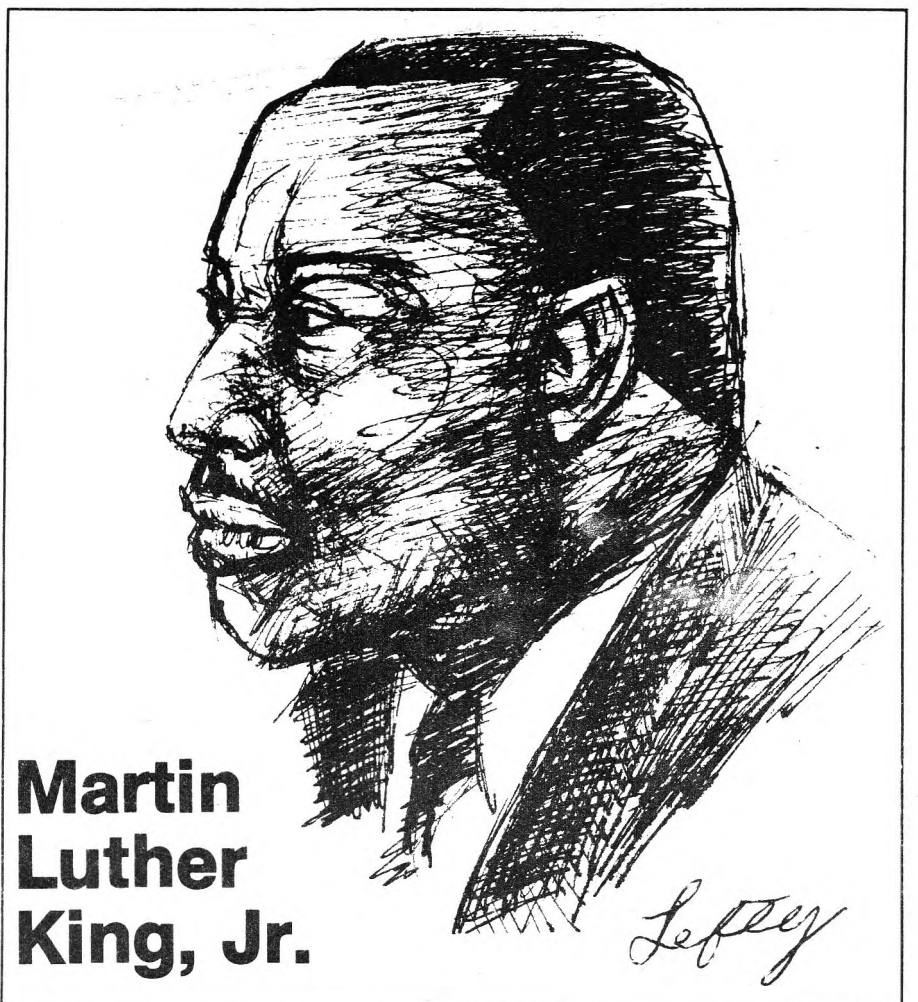
Outside of the city now, we have a place known to very few of us in the city. This is a petty bourgeois and bourgeois suburb that goes by the name of West Bloomfield Township. Classy, huh?

Here we have another horrible case of child abuse that *never* hit the front page. As a matter of fact I found the small, two-paragraph article buried on page 5A. The only reason it was in the paper at all was the couple in question had the charges against them dropped. Not only were the charges dropped but the couple, William and Caroline (even the name is the same) Durfin were awarded \$281,000 for their trouble. Their "trouble" was a night in jail and humiliation and embarrassment.

The cases were a lot alike. An older daughter, married and out of the house, turned her parents, or parent, in. In the Durfin's case, their older daughter called the police to report her parents' continual beating of her 14-year-old sister. They in turn were able to hire an expensive lawyer and speak out for themselves. On the other hand Caroline Ortiz was poor and could speak no English.

Any form of child abuse is horrible and cannot be condoned. But the injustices are so clear in these cases it's like a slap in the face, and that's one slap I don't need! I know the name of their game is money. Why, though, don't they ever have to face the consequences of their crimes?

Monique Daniels



Martin Luther King, Jr.

NATIONAL VIEWPOINT

Rohatyn: Reagan Deficits 'Very Scary'

MAD SLASHER STRIKES AGAIN

William Nishimura

The Reagan ax fell again on the backs of the American people when the President unsheathed his 1983 budget on February 6.

"Shunning retreat," Reagan called for another round of cutbacks in government services and benefits desperately needed by many Americans — over \$27 billion worth. Nearly \$13 billion of this will be slashed from the entitlement programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, federal retirement funds, welfare, child nutrition and the supplemental security income program for the elderly and the disabled. The White House also wants to cut \$14 billion from areas like education, vocational training, transportation, and energy and natural resources.

For example, what's left of the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program would be consolidated into a block grant and total funding reduced by \$1.6 billion. Under Reagan's 1983 budget, aid to the handicapped would be slashed, and funds for mass transit cut by 38 percent. All federal housing subsidies to the poor would be eliminated in favor of a system where federal vouchers are issued to help cover the cost of rent in the private housing market. And, contrary to the President's repeated claim that his cutbacks only reduce the rate of growth in federal spending, Reagan's 1983 plan chops funding for education by 14.9 percent in *absolute* terms.

Meanwhile, Reagan would boost military spending by \$43.7 billion. Military expenditures would total \$258 billion in 1983, 29 percent of the entire national budget. By 1986, if Reagan has his way, the Pentagon's share of the budget would balloon to 37 percent.

With record budget deficits looming, there have been rumbles in Congress in favor of holding back the Reagan tax cuts and trimming the military budget. In a letter to Republican Congressmen, the President reaffirmed his position that there would be no retreat when it comes to tax cuts or the military. However, Reagan offered Congress all the "running room" it wants to decide how much more to cut the budget to lower the deficit. In his State of the Union speech last month, Reagan tried

to pin the blame for the cuts on the states with his "new federalism". Now Reagan is trying to shift the heat of popular anger over the cuts to Congress.

Ominous Budget Deficits

But the aspect of the 1983 budget which is causing the most controversy among the bourgeoisie is not cuts in services and benefits for the people. This they all agree on. Nor is there much direct concern over massive military spending. What worries the bourgeoisie most is the Reagan deficits — \$98.6 billion in 1982, \$91.5 billion the year after, and \$82.9 billion by 1984.

Even if the administration's own figures are believed, the deficits would break the record of \$66 billion set in 1976. More ominous for the ruling class, there is every indication that federal deficits will be far higher than Reagan has dared admit.

Looking at 1983 alone, the White House's planned \$91.5 billion deficit does not include regular "off-budget" expenses such as funding for the Federal Financing Bank, the Rural Electrification and Telephone revolving fund, the Rural Telephone Bank, the Postal Service Fund and Strategic Petroleum Reserve purchases. Furthermore, Reagan's \$91.5 billion target figure is based on the assumption that all his proposed budget cuts pass Congress and that the government can generate over \$20 billion in new revenue through closing tax loopholes and imposing user fees on harbors and highways.

More important, even if Reagan gets everything he wants from Congress, there is still no guarantee that he can hold the 1983 deficit below \$100 billion, much less reduce the deficit in the following years. When computing its future deficits, the administration used an economic model that assumes the success of the supply-side policies. Gross National Product (GNP) is supposed to grow 3 percent by 1982 and up to 5.2 percent by 1983, while unemployment drops. Inflation is supposed to fall to 5.5 percent by 1983 and interest rates on Treasury bills drop to 10.5 percent by the same year. In short, Reagan is gambling that business will use the

money saved by his tax cuts to invest in productive industry, get the economy going and create jobs — all without higher inflation. This way, Reagan hopes government tax revenues will expand enough to make up for the estimated \$836 billion loss in revenues due to the supply-side tax cuts over the next five years.

With the social safety-net programs hacked away, the purchasing power of the working class will be further cut, and the economy will continue to stagnate. Without new sources of revenue, the federal deficit will soar, inevitably pressuring inflation higher. As the government tries to cover the deficits by borrowing more in the credit markets, interest rates will stay high.

A Vicious Cycle

High interest rates means the federal government will have to pay even more interest on the money it borrows, and thus, will have to allocate more of the budget just to pay off this debt service. As Reagan admitted in his budget message to Congress, "This year's interest payment of \$83 billion exceeds the size of the entire Federal budget as recently as 1958." Debt service is the third largest expense in the national budget after benefit payments and the military, and it drains 13 percent of the 1983 budget.

Furthermore, the government's tight money policies will prevent small businesses from borrowing even at high interest, and more bankruptcies will occur. This means greater unemployment since small business accounts for over half the jobs in the country. And as Reagan himself pointed out in his January State of the Union address, "A change in only one percentage point in unemployment can alter a deficit up or down by some \$25 billion," because of the combined loss of tax revenue and in unemployment insurance the government has to pay out.

"Rosy Scenario is the most influential woman in the Reagan administration," one financial analyst cynically joked. A rosy scenario is what most economists believe the far-fetched Reagan deficit projections are based on. Though forecasts of how big the deficit will ac-

tually be over the next three years vary, most analysts tend towards the figures released by the Congressional Budget Office. Their study predicts minimum deficits of \$109 billion in 1982, \$157 billion the year after, and \$188 billion in 1984.

Stock, Bond Markets Tumble

"The deficit is a big disappointment to everyone," said Donald B. Marron, president and chairman of Paine Webber, Inc. "I think these projections may be optimistic — which is the scariest part of all." Marron was commenting on why the stock market plummeted on Feb. 8, the first day Wall Street opened for business after Reagan's budget was announced. The Dow Jones industrial average fell over 17 points, dropping below the 840 mark which has been the floor level on market fluctuations recently. Traders fear the market could sink into the low 800s and then further still into the 780 to 750 range. Among the hardest hit stocks were those in energy and high technology, the glamour stocks of 1978-1980 over which there has been much fanfare and investment hype.

The bond market also slipped. Lack of buyers for the newly-issued, 30-year Treasury bill due to mature in 2011 forced interest rates on these bonds up to 14.7 percent, and buying is still light. Even the short-term, 3- and 6-month Treasury bills averaged 14 and 13 percent last week, and the trend is upward.

Despite the drop, overall trading was light in both markets and there was no stampede to sell. This was because the big banks, insurance companies and the pension funds held the line. How long they will or even can prevent a massive collapse remains to be seen. "High deficits will push interest rates higher until the economy really goes into a nose dive," warned Felix Rohatyn, a partner with the investment house of Lazard Freres and Company, on Feb. 8. "The economy is already very weak and a few more months of this could get very scary. Then all the bets are off, and we will be facing some very, very different issues, like how to cope with a half dozen very large business entities on the edge of insolvency... this budget might very well be the last roll of the dice." □

Reaganomics Threatened by Congressional Stampede

Ronald Reagan's much-heralded bipartisan coalition in Congress which enabled him to ram through his first round of budget cuts is coming apart at the seams. The President's 1983 budget plan immediately stirred up a Congressional stampede.

Senator Alan Cranston of California, the Democratic whip, called the budget "unfair, unwise, unworkable, and unrealistic." "The deficits are going to be larger than the President predicts," he warned. Speaker of the House Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. called it a "Beverly Hills budget," and Senate minority leader Robert Byrd simply asked the President to withdraw his budget proposal.

Nor was the clamor limited to Democrats. With Congressional elections coming up this year, the outcry over the projected deficits crossed party and bourgeois ideological lines. Republican Senator Pete Domenici of New Mexico, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee and the man who nursed the first Reagan budget through Congress, has yet to comment on the latest plan. "The Republicans I've talked with are frightened about the deficit," said Senator Bob Dole of Kansas, chairman of the Finance Committee. There's "a growing consensus among Republicans that defense is not off limits." Republican Senator William Armstrong of Colorado said, "When hawks like me are talking about cutting military spending you know something is in the wind."

Even two of Reagan's most ardent supporters — Republicans Governor Kean of New Jersey and Senator D'Amato of New York — appear to be trying to put some distance between themselves and the White House. D'Amato predicted a deficit "well over \$100 billion in 1983," and said of the budget, "no comptroller in my town who came in with this document would have been permitted to work for me."

D'Amato complained about Reagan's "nickel and dime cuts in social programs," and called for "across the board" cuts in the cost-of-living adjustment clauses in Social Security and government pensions. Apparently, D'Amato has no problem with "nickel and dime" cuts in military spending. "We can do

reasonable cuts in defense — \$5 to \$8 billion," he said. This approach, also favored by Senate majority leader Howard Baker, would use token reductions in the military budget to justify greater butchering of the social safety-net. D'Amato, along with Representative Kent Hance among others, wants to delay the scheduled 1983 income tax cut. Hance is the Texas Democrat who voted with Reagan on the first budget package and who co-sponsored the tax measure.

Another counter-budget proposal being talked about is that of Senator Ernest Hollings, South Carolina Democrat. Hollings would freeze Social Security, defense and other major programs at their present levels and also eliminate the next round of tax cuts.

Perhaps the most blatant example of the hypocrisy rampant in Congress today is that of Senator John Danforth, the Missouri Republican. Danforth told Treasury Secretary Donald Regan, "Last year, I was on your ship and I was very happy to be on your ship. But this year, I'm on the dock waving bon voyage."

Two groups which were instrumental in helping Reagan to push through his cuts last year — the National Governor's Association and the National Conference of State Legislators — have also criticized the 1983 budget, and particularly the President's "new federalism." In addition, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, representing local officials in 840 cities, have also voiced their opposition.

Internationally, the finance ministers and heads of the central banks of several Western European countries have expressed their anger over the Reagan deficits, which they see as helping to keep interest rates high and thus draining their economies of needed investment. Among these countries are Britain, France, Belgium and West Germany.

Even within the Reagan administration itself cracks are emerging. Secretary of Health and Human Services Richard Schweiker, members of his staff, and Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis have expressed doubts about the President's new federalism program.

In 1982, the Oval Office cowboy may find calf-roping on a Hollywood set a lot easier than trying to corral a stampede of Congressmen up for reelection. □

Heatless Tenants Put Heat on City Mayor

Daniel Diaz

Jersey City, New Jersey — The only heat in all the apartments comes from the gas ranges and stoves. For eight months now the tenants of 212, 214 and 216 Ninth Street, Jersey City, have been waging a consistent fight against the city and present landlord Egbert Cross for heat and hot water. The winter is already half over and there is no sign of getting what they so desperately need. The majority of the residents of these three dilapidated, four-story buildings are children. Besides lacking these vital services, several apartments have no running water at all. A green garden hose attached to a neighbor's kitchen faucet runs up the fire escape behind the building to provide water for the apartments. Yolanda, a tenant with a small baby at 214, said, "Water is provided by nature; nevertheless they are denying it to us. They think that we are animals, but we are not. We are poor but decent people."

But some tenants get too much water. You just have to walk into the kitchen and bathroom of different apartments and you will see gaping holes above. Through some of these holes there is a steady stream of cold water from a leaking pipe somewhere. Some tenants have fashioned tents of shower curtains above their bathtubs to keep out the water.

All along the city's response has been to stall and threaten eviction. The tenants also complain about a "pattern of harassment" by landlord Cross and his workers (goons). Rosalia, a 60-year-old woman, said that the landlord sent some workers to fix her apartment and when they finished she was without toilet or sink, which she had paid a private plumber to fix before. As a result she has been staying with her daughter in Hoboken.

This was after the landlord was fined \$90,000 per day for the dwellings, by the State Bureau of Housing Inspections. This state agency was finally forced to inspect the buildings, finding over 500 health-endangering violations.

Nightmare Not Over Yet

It was Thanksgiving eve, 1981, and the tenants were just waiting to be thrown out. But the lawyer of some eighteen families, Ramon Irizarry, went to Hudson County Superior Court and successfully stopped the eviction order. Then after Thanksgiving Mayor McCann showed up at the buildings, promising to move people out in six weeks. Around that time the tenants went down to City Hall and they were given applications to be filled out. Maria Martinez, a mother of three children who has been living in the downtown area close to 30 years, told them that she didn't need papers; what she needed was an apartment. She said to this reporter, "I have been filling out applications for the last ten years or so and I have not gotten anything. In fact, I got number seventeen in the lottery that they use for assigning apartments at the Montgomery Gateway and people that had higher numbers than me already were given apartments and I am still here."

Another tenant said, "If you don't have a godfather who does something for you, forget it."

Some people have moved out, but there is no way that most of these people can pay the rent that they are asking for a decent place.

On Thursday morning, Feb. 11, they were waiting once again for the marshals with another eviction order. This time the lawyer and people's support were able to get the judge from the Appellate Division to give a temporary stay until Feb. 17 when they will review the case. Days before, the judge from the lower court rejected any ruling for further stays.

Meanwhile, the tenants continue



Jersey City tenants, through community pressure on the city, won a temporary stay of eviction against landlord Egbert Cross, who has failed to provide heat and hot water for the last eight months, and tried to intimidate tenants with goons.

fighting for their rights to be assisted and relocated by the city. They have held a few militant demonstrations in front of City Hall and even took over a City Hall office (where several people, including priests, were arrested) to drive home the gravity of the situation. But the rent is so high and housing so scarce that their hope of getting low-income housing might turn into a prolonged nightmare.

Reagan's "New Federalism" Would Aggravate the Housing Crisis

The plight of these tenants at the three buildings is a clear manifestation of the critical crisis in the housing industry all over the United States. Not even the condominiums, the only new construction around, are selling. In Florida there is a surplus of condominiums. Because there are no jobs around the purchasing power of the American people is not there.

But instead of a plan for building low-income housing, the Reagan administration has designed as part of his "new federalism" scheme a federal housing-voucher program. It would eliminate all other federal housing-aid programs for the poor, and the small funds that would likely be allotted to the voucher program would result in a net loss of federal housing aid available on a limited basis to the poor and working people. It would also mean a big loss in housing investment and jobs.

New York City alone will lose about 7,000 jobs. Moreover, it would further

restrict those eligible for benefits to only the very poor, and it would require that the few eligible contribute more of their income for their rent. Nothing is said about the severe housing problems of working people, of larger poor families and poor families from national minorities, who have to spend almost half of their income for rent. Furthermore, in his 1983 budget message to Congress two weeks ago, Reagan mentioned briefly a proposal for a housing program over the next 30 years. This proposal, if approved by Congress, would remove \$368 million in financing this fiscal year for about 50,000 housing units under the section 8 program for the construction and rehabilitation of low- and moderate-income housing.

This vicious plan is part of the Reagan urban philosophy, that is, the wholesale abandonment and decline of poor urban neighborhoods, especially in the decaying industrial centers of the Midwest and Northeastern parts of the country. In places like New York, the voucher program would allocate between \$150-200 a month to those very people that live in old buildings, to find housing in the private market totally on their own. But can poor and working people find apartments in the private market when the only construction around is condominiums and co-ops? And many landlords don't accept children? Where will people go?

The problems of the homeless in inner cities as well as in rural areas point to

this trend. For example, in N.Y.C., there are as reported in the press over 36,000 homeless, living in doorways and sleeping in subway cars. Right now there is a legal battle going on to force the city to provide shelters to the homeless. Over 300 people have frozen to death this winter and there is no let-up. On February 11, Rebecca Smith, a 60-year-old woman, was found frozen to death in a cardboard hut. The city knew about it and didn't do anything. Also there are other people living in cars having to run the engine and use the heat to keep warm. Imagine how critical the situation is! There have been and are cases where people refuse to go to city shelters because they are awakened at 4:00 am. This practice by the city has been condemned by some judges. Some shelters have a reputation for lice.

Mayor McCann: Landlord's Flunky; Scapegoats the People

Soon after he came to office, Mayor McCann pushed through the Vacancy Decontrol Law. People in Jersey City immediately slapped the mayor with a petition campaign in support of a referendum to repeal it. Eight hundred and sixty one signatures are needed to force a referendum. A few organizations, including the Concerned Citizens Committee, collected 15,402 signatures, 18 times more than what was needed. The referendum will most likely come up for a public vote in a special election or in the November general election ballot, according to City Clerk Thomas F.X. Smith (Jersey Journal, 1/30/82). The ordinance, which is suspended until people vote on it, would give landlords and real estate speculators a green light to harass, threaten and kick poor people out of their old low-income buildings for them to build condominiums and co-ops. Jersey City started an auction not long ago, in which big landlords and developers get all the buildings they want at cheap prices.

After speaking recently against plans, to give each of the families in the buildings \$4,500 in relocation monies to help them move, Mayor McCann pointed out that "He had to assume the tenants contributed to the run-down conditions at the three buildings and he did not think the city should 'reward' them by giving them relocation monies.

"City officials assisted in finding them alternative housing with rent subsidies," he said of the families. "But they were not interested in moving. They seem to be more interested in the \$4,500 relocation monies." To this Mrs. Martinez responded, "What the tenants want is low-income apartments, even though we are entitled to the assistance too."

Mayor Uses Different Tactics, Whips Press Into Line

In the main some reporters have been pretty much sympathetic with the plight of these people. The Ninth St. tenants have been making the front page of the local newspapers quite regularly. But as recently as the picket of Feb. 11 one reporter from the Jersey Journal could not put her story in. She told a tenant she was facing a lot of pressure from the editor of the paper to stop filing sympathetic reportage about the Ninth St. tenants.

The city also has been using different tactics to throw the tenants onto the streets. First, it sold the buildings to Egbert Cross. Second, it said that some tenants (seven families) are not eligible for relocation benefits, most of whom have been living there for 5-6 years. Then there are nine families that won a stay against the landlord until March, when they have to have about \$1,000 each, or be thrown into the street.

So it is clear that the less tenants there the better for the city, if it is forced to

Continued on page 9

LABOR VIEWPOINT

Rainbow's End: Shop Newsletter Under Attack

Thomas Robertson

Berkeley, CA — Kathy Bibby and Steve Robbins, Local 2 activists and CWP supporters, were suspended for 60 days last week. At issue is an article written by "the Hilton Pup" in *Rainbow's End*, a shopfloor newsletter which the two edit. The article explained how workers were caught in the crossfire between Hilton manager Werner Lewin and corporate troubleshooter John Berta. Berta was amused by the article; Lewin, pressured by corporate headquarters, became enraged. He got Personnel Director James Donlin to act. Bibby and Robbins were suspended, at first without cause. Subsequently, management claimed that because Bibby and Robbins refused to reveal the Pup's identity, the two were "insubordinate."

"Bring it back when you finish"

Rainbow's End is extremely popular with Hilton employees. Workers actually grab up new issues to distribute throughout the hotel. One employee commented: "This is the only way I can find out what's happening." The cashier in the employee's cafeteria keeps a copy near her checkstand. You can read it while you eat but you have to bring it back when you finish. Now that the storm has broken, the workers demand that *Rainbow's End* come out weekly and they've been giving money to pay for publication.

Responding to a new company newsletter called *Hiltopics*, the lead article in the first *Rainbow's End*, in June, '81, observed that: "[in] Mr. Berta's brief time at the S.F. Hilton, he has managed to destroy already low moral in the kitchen, drastically reduce the quality of food, personally insult and humiliate many cooks..." One worker was so inspired by *RE* that the Hilton Pup was born.

At first only his face appeared — in ashtrays and on the wall of the service elevator. But soon, cartoon style, the Pup began to expose management abuse.

For Donlin and Lewin, the stakes in the suspensions have become uncomfortably high. Berta's visit seems an attempt by corporate headquarters to break the grip of local strongmen like Lewin who operate through friendship and old-boy ties, and replace them with tighter, "business-like" corporate control. A great many of Lewin's cronies have already been replaced by younger execs willing to jump to Berta's tune. The speculation exists that unless he can change his management style, Lewin, too, may get a transfer to some corporate never-never land. Berta also wants Bibby and Robbins fired. But the clumsiness which Lewin and Donlin have displayed may give Berta just the

opportunity he needs to terminate the local bosses.

Three Years of Struggle

In the one-and-a-half years since Local 2's strike, management has violated the contract with impunity. The 1980 strike, the first in over 20 years, was a spontaneous event which Local 2 leadership would not lead. It left the union badly weakened and management emboldened. Spurred by the economic crisis, management has stepped up union-busting across the board. The workers' anger, unable to find a positive, unifying outlet, turned to infighting. But the attack on *Rainbow's End* has changed that.

The workers' now sense management's basic weakness. Months of pent-up anger and resentment have bubbled to the surface unleashing a wave of support among Hilton workers. Kathy recalls that one Friday she was agitating as the workers were going home. In the background, she heard someone yelling. Stopping, she heard, "Right on, sister! Give 'em hell!" Workers consistently smile broadly and cheer, waving the clenched fist salute.

Steve and Kathy are proven fighters. For three years they have struggled on the shop floor and in the union to build a united, democratic Local 2. They have a feel for the workers' sentiment. That's one reason why *RE* is the most popular rank and file newsletter in the San Francisco hotel industry.

RE doesn't just give the juicy gossip. Guided by its editors, workers submit articles which help others understand how management's activity is linked to the economic crisis. As one-time Lewinites were replaced, *Rainbow's End* linked the comings and goings to the struggle between Berta and Lewin. As workers with twenty years' seniority just disappeared from the job, *RE* explained that Berta and Lewin are competing to show who can save more money by eliminating jobs and cutting workers.

Industry's Worst

In the past, the Hilton chain, part of Trans World Corporation (TWA, Century 21, Canteen, Spartan Food), has been the most oppressive in a brutally oppressive industry. As the crisis deepens, Hilton clearly intends to lead the industry attacks on workers.

When the local capitalists, in an effort to make San Francisco more attractive to conventions, negotiated a sweetheart agreement with Local 2 for its new Moscone Center, Hilton demanded the same treatment. The Local 2 leadership had signed a contract with the American Restaurant Association, the food concessionaire for Moscone Center, allowing American to bypass the union's traditional seniority hiring hall pro-

cedure and establish its own list of 200 on-call banquet waiters separate from Local 2's list. Hilton immediately demanded the same giveaway, even though it has nothing in particular to do with Moscone Center or conventions.

The local bosses, responding to base pressure to do something about the gentrification of San Francisco's Tenderloin area, home of many low-income and elderly, got Ramada Inns and Holiday Inn to give money for low-cost senior citizen housing. Hilton refused, even though its new proposed tower will make it San Francisco's largest hotel, doubling the size of the present building. Lewin admitted to local columnist Herb Caen that Hilton was, "in effect, turning our back on the Tenderloin."

Indeed, Hilton's overall approach to the city seems to be maximum exploitation with minimum investment. While maids at other hotels do 16 rooms a day, maids at the Hilton do 20. In November, six maids returning from a layoff were informed that they had called in to quit — they were no longer Hilton employees. One bellman, employed for 14 years, was fired for being on the wrong floor. After failing to find Donlin or Lewin at the hotel, he shot his wife and a number of co-workers.

United Rubber Workers Say "No Concessions"

Dave Young

At a time when there is a "knee-jerk" acceptance of takebacks by most union leaders, United Rubber Workers President Mike Stone said "No" to contract concessions. As Stone put it, the URW does not intend to "bargain downward." This strong position for negotiations slated to begin on March 8 was taken at the union's recent convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Instead of opening contract talks early, as the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters have done, in tacit agreement with the corporations' demands for severe cuts in wages and work rule changes, the URW has decided to put its proposals out on the table.

Stone said he will ask for a "meaningful general wage increase" on top of the union's present cost-of-living allowance (COLA). He hopes this will help rubber workers keep pace with inflation outside of the COLA adjustments. The URW's COLA, one of the best in the U.S. today, gives workers one cent an hour for every 0.26 percent increase in the consumer price index. This COLA was won after a bitter 47-day strike in 1976 and is considered sacred by most URW members. "We walked four and a half months to get it and we'd walk another four and a half months to keep it," said Pete Sennett, president of Local 186 at Firestone's Memphis truck tire plant. "We'll let the grass grow up high enough that you couldn't see the plant." At a news conference, Stone warned that any company pressure to weaken the present COLA formula could produce a strike call.

Among economic issues, the URW wants to establish contract language that would "prohibit the institution of seven-day continuous operations" at plants covered by master contracts and would "encourage the removal of such language" at plants where URW locals have given in on this. The URW also wants to focus on measures to relieve the pain of plant closings and layoffs. Included are retirement benefits at double the normal benefit rate for any laid-off worker, regardless of age, who has five or more years of service; a lump sum severance award in lieu of a vested pen-

"A Rare Breed"

The struggle for *Rainbow's End* is not simply a question of whether workers can write what they want. Kathy Bibby said, "It's that communist broadness. We're broad enough to understand the need for unity in the '80s. In something like Local 2, with every kind of activist, you have to kick them in the ass to get them to unite. The anger [among the workers] has always been there. But the attack has really polarized the situation." Through a group of writers in hotels throughout the city, *RE* is bound to become a real voice of San Francisco's Local 2 rank and file. In this period, *RE* will give workers a way to express their concerns and views while building unity.

Kathy and Steve have ensured the staunch character of *Rainbow's End*, not only by their determination over the last three years, but in particular by refusing to rat on the Hilton Pup. This is a fine beginning. The Pup wrote, "People like Steve and Kathy are a rare breed. They do all of us a service just by being here. Because they believe that they have rights and because they refuse to be intimidated into giving those rights up, we all benefit."

Thomas Robertson is an occasional contributor to *Workers Viewpoint*.

sion for any worker who has five or more years of service; company-sponsored programs to help workers who lost their jobs; and contract language prohibiting outside contractors from coming into URW plants or contracting out work that should be done by URW bargaining unit workers.

URW Unswayed by Company Threats

From the convention resolutions, it does not seem as if the URW is being swayed by the standard corporate threats that a "costly" contract would give an edge to foreign competition or lead to more plant closings.

"If we have another labor contract like the last one," said a corporation labor expert, "we won't be selling tires to Detroit. The auto makers will get tires elsewhere, either overseas or in non-union plants in the U.S. Michelin is already here, and Bridgestone has made it known that they want to come into this market with plants." Michelin Tire Corporation, a French company, and Bridgestone Tire and Rubber Company, a Japanese company, are the two largest foreign tire makers. Michelin, which makes tires for Sears and Roebuck, and Ford, has 10 percent of the U.S. market for replacement passenger tires and about 8 percent of the tires on 1982 car models. The URW is not ready to swallow this and run scared. Rather, it plans to counter this with more organizing at the four nonunion Michelin plants in the U.S. which make half of these tires. "I'm not satisfied to let Michelin set the pattern for our rubber workers," said Stone to thunderous applause at the union convention. URW officials say that either Michelin will have to raise its own workers' pay and benefits to the level of the Big Four tire companies, or the URW will organize Michelin's 400 workers.

The URW's offensive position is not based on illusions of a better economy. The upcoming negotiations will be tough, said Stone, because "we will be bargaining in the midst of a recession." Nor is the URW accepting the companies' claims of more job security if they agree to concessions. Based on their

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The Hilton Menagerie



The Hilton Menagerie (from left to right) Sally Bissrat, Assistant General Manager; John Berta, General Manager — Hilton, S.F.; Henrietta La Borde, Head Housekeeper; and Werner Lewin, General Manager of West Coast Hiltons and member of the Hilton Corp. Board of Directors. Bibby and Robbins' refusal to identify the author of this article was the company's excuse for suspending the two activists.

A European's View of the Peace Movement

An Interview with Anti-Nuke Leader Jens Scheer — Part II

WV: Please explain the phenomenon of left-nationalism.

JS: Traditionally the topic of self-determination and independence of the German people has been a domain of the right, with a few exceptions. Only in the later years of the Weimar Republic had the old Communist Party under the leadership of the great comrade Ernst Thaelmann (who was later murdered by the Nazis) put emphasis on these topics from a progressive point of view.

And in the first years after the Second World War again it was the Communists and to some extent the social democrats under Schumacher that were opposed to the formation of the West German state by the western allies. As usual the social democrats immediately adjusted to the "realities" once they were formed; and the communists were alone protesting the formation of the separatist federal republic, which was a clear violation of the agreements of Yalta and Potsdam between the western allies and the USSR. As late as 1952 Comrade Stalin attempted to pave the way for a united democratic Germany, but was rebuffed by the western allies and the reactionary Adenauer regime in the FRG; and the SPD no longer paid any attention to this initiative.

Then after Comrade Stalin's death in 1953 and even worse after Khrushchev's coming to power the line of the German Democratic Republic with reference to German unity slowly and then more and more rapidly changed, and now they are maintaining the theory of "two German nations." This has, by the way, the absurd consequence that the national anthem of the GDR, which has words referring to a united Germany, may no longer be sung, but only be played by orchestra, probably quite a unique situation.

Since the mid-Fifties, then, it remained to the right to maintain the idea of German unity, of course under extremely reactionary and anti-communist auspices. In turn for practically all progressive people the question of German unity became a taboo. It remained to the KPD (Communist Party of Germany, founded 1970, resolved 1980), after the correction of their line in 1975, to put the danger of war and the question of German self-determination and liberation from both superpowers on the agenda, both as a question of utmost importance for the people, and as a means to approach revolution. As they envisaged the contradictions between the superpowers to be so strong, that as they put it, in central Europe the factors of war are increasing more rapidly than the factors of revolution. Hence, the necessity, so the conclusion, to make this question a productive force for revolution.

No wonder they were most isolated within the left, which was furthered by certain rightist mistakes in their theory (concerning alleviating the struggle against their own bourgeoisie), though not really in practice. On the other hand, they did not get much acceptance with the masses, because the social democratic ideology was very widely spread. This referred to detente as a means of making good business with the east and thereby leaving things as they are, and this conspiracy of the SPD with the GDR's leadership maintains until the present day, and on the other hand using the repression of freedom plus economic mess (caused largely by the exploitation of East Germany by the USSR) to promote a strong anti-communism among the masses.

It is ironic, that nowadays, when most comrades had decided to resolve the party because of ten years' failure, the essentials of their line became apparent, and there is a certain, though not very strong trend, to demand the right of self-determination for the German people as a whole, and even use this desire as a major factor to get the political situation in Europe out of its present ossification.

It is no coincidence that the "Alternative List," a political organization in West Berlin related to the Green Party, developed a political line with respect to Germany as a whole, which was influenced by former KPD comrades working in this organization.

After all in West Berlin the German question appears to be more urgent in day-to-day life than in the rest of West Germany. There is a certain lack of interest in Germany as a whole that can be observed, while on the other hand in East Germany it is still very strong (which to large extent is not concomitant with a desire to return to western capitalism).

WV: What is neutralism all about? How widespread is it? Please explain why the U.S. hates it so much. What role did Soviet attention to this question play in developing neutralist sentiment?

JS: I think the idea of getting rid of both superpowers as a desirable aim is fairly widely spread. On the other hand there is also very widely spread the fear that the USSR would slowly take over a neutral Germany, and therefore at least most people in West Germany would probably prefer to stay within the western alliance. The criticism of the deployment of theater nuclear weapons to West Germany is certainly much more widely spread than a criticism of NATO as such, and the idea of resolving both blocks, together with an independent defense, based on armament of the people, is not yet very widely spread at all.

The U.S. hates this beginning neutralist sentiment of course, because it would mean a weakening of their imperialist world order. Exactly the same would be true if the leaving of East Germany from the Warsaw Pact would be a real issue. There is, however, a growing pacifist sentiment in E. Germany, mainly among Christians.

So far the USSR, when talking about neutralism, only refers to West Germany, while East Germany as her own occupied territory, of course shall remain under her tight control.

This clearly illustrates the fundamental difference of the politics of the present Soviet leadership and Comrade Stalin, who was willing to let the German people in both states decide themselves, how their future should be. (While on the other hand in certain periods he did not always adhere to this principle.)

A truly neutralist sentiment, therefore, is not at all in the Soviet interest, and they or their puppets in East Berlin and in the DKP did nothing for, but everything against, such a feeling.

WV: Do you have an opinion or any advice for the American peace and disarmament movement?

JS: From what I have heard and read, the degree of knowledge about details of nuclear war is widely spread among intellectuals, and the initiatives of the Union of Concerned Scientists and the Federation of American Scientists are most impressive, and we don't have a similar thing yet.

On the other hand a strong popular movement does not yet exist, which of course has to do with the fact that for more than a hundred years you have not had a war on your own soil.

If I may give some advice: I have the impression that most people on the left are so occupied with the struggle against your own imperialist bourgeoisie, that they tend to belittle the danger that is arising from the other superpower. Things are no longer so simple as they were in the Fifties, when the USSR in fact was essentially defensive. Today we are facing two superpowers struggling for hegemony. Consequently the sentiments of the masses, which rightly are afraid of the USSR's aggression, must be taken care of, by developing the idea of people's defense and thereby widening the movement beyond traditional pacifist ideology. This I feel is still very strong here, which will hinder the movement in becoming a force that really is able to change things.

I was very much impressed by the quiet confidence of people in China, Yugoslavia and Albania (but also, in a way, for example, in Switzerland or Austria or Sweden), to be armed against any aggressor, wherever he might come from.

The spreading of such ideas will certainly also further the idea of socialism.

WV: How is the world-wide economic crisis affecting Germany? How does the U.S.' attempt to export the economic crisis affect the average German? Is there a move to establish trade barriers against the U.S.? How do you assess this and what effects would such a move have?

JS: The economic crisis of course affects both parts of Germany.

In the East they are practically a Soviet colony, tied to the Soviet economy, and therefore suffering correspondingly. On the other hand, they can take advantage of the special relationships, concerning lack of important trade barriers between the two German states, which allows East Germany access to the whole European Economic Community under much better conditions than the other East European countries.

By the same token West Germany profits very much from its East trade, which is the principal reason for the West German government's shamefully low-keyed reaction to the suppression of the Polish people.

I don't think there are serious plans to establish trade barriers against the U.S.; I don't think the federal republic could afford a major economic war against the U.S.

The farthest that could go as I recall was the fierce competition between West Germany and the U.S. with respect to selling nuclear power plants to Brazil. In this situation Nixon's threat to withhold delivery of enriched uranium to Germany in retaliation showed, very clearly, what might happen if Germany would make such a move in more general terms. It also shows how hard a fight for independence might be, and how safely the West German Republic is still tied in to the present alliance, notwithstanding the recent developments.

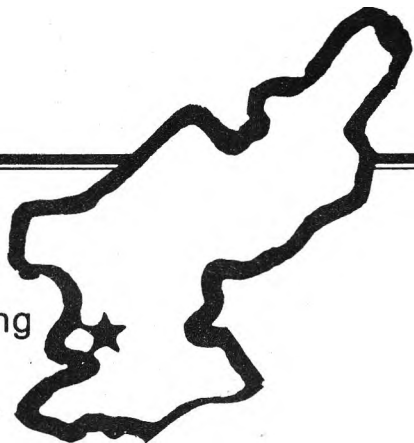
It will take bold concepts of independence and people's self-defense to eventually alter this situation.

Jens Scheer
Professor of Physics
University of Bremen
West Germany



(Top) Demonstrators gather outside the U.S. Embassy to protest nuclear weapons and the neutron bomb. (Left) Police carry away civil disobedience demonstrators protesting the production of nuclear weapons in Rockefeller Center, N.Y. (Right) In communities across the country, families are organizing against nuclear arms build-up.

Pyongyang



Towards Peaceful Reunification of Korea



The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland issued a call on February 10 for the convening of a joint conference of politicians representing the Korean people from the north, south and those communities living abroad. The conference would act as a consultative body to further the process of reunifying the country. The Committee's statement reads:

The tragedy of the national split which started in the 1940s is still continuing today in the 1980s. The barrier bisecting one territory into the north and the south remains as ever, the sufferings of the nation caused by the division have not been removed and the misfortunes of no separated family have been alleviated. On the contrary, the demarcation which had been a mere line between the north and the south is more tightly blocked than a boundary line with a concrete wall and the mistrust and antagonism between the north and south have assumed such a grave phase that even the disasters of a fratricide may be caused.

Contrary to the desire of our nation for reunification, the danger of permanent split and the disaster of a new war is impending. This is the stark reality we are faced with. To prevent the pressing national disaster and open up a new phase of national reunification is the most urgent problem whose solution is desired by the entire fellow countrymen and demanded by the times.

We, deeply concerned about the future of the nation from the first days of the country's division, have all along made every possible effort to realize the reunification of the country. We have sought all possible ways for national reunification and repeatedly advanced reasonable proposals and taken all measures which would be helpful to reunification and alleviate the sufferings of the fellow countrymen.

As far back as March 1948, respected President Kim Il Sung, at a meeting of the Central Committee of the North Korean Democratic United National Front, proposed to elect an all-Korean supreme legislative organ on a democratic principle to endorse a constitution and set up a democratic government. At the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the August 15 liberation in August 1955, he proposed to realize free travel of personages between the north and the south and interchange between them in economy, culture, science and art, and, at the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of the August 15 liberation in August 1960, he advanced a proposal on holding general elections throughout Korea and, at the same time, instituting a north-south confederation as a transitional step to the reunification of the country. Early in the 1970s when the north-south dialogue started, respected President Kim Il Sung laid down the historic three principles and five-point policy of national reunification.

In particular, at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea in October, 1980, he put forward the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo and its ten-point policy as a most realistic proposal for national reunification. Besides, respected President Kim Il Sung repeatedly advanced reasonable proposals for national reunification on every opportunity, indicating the road to be followed by the nation.

Embodying these nation-saving proposals, the Supreme People's Assembly and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and political parties and public organizations in the DPRK advanced numerous concrete proposals to accelerate national unity and reunification. These important proposals advanced by us encompassed all problems of realizing collaboration and exchange between the north and the south, along with the ways to realize the reunification of the country.

They contained all problems, big and small, of fully opening the north and the south to each other in all realms of socio-political life and realizing all-round collaboration and interchange, from the humanitarian problem of alleviating the sufferings of separated families and relatives to economic, cultural, military and political problems.

We have not only put forward realistic proposals to accelerate the reunification of the country but also repeatedly proposed to hold north-south negotiations and dialogue for their realization and, proceeding from the sole desire to realize reunification, showed broadmindedness in sitting face to face with the south Korean authorities who put up anti-communism as a "state policy" and doggedly opposed us.

Reflected in all our efforts are our noble desire and unshakable will to overcome the difficulties lying in the way of reunification and open up the door of reunification by all means and build a developing and prospering, reunified country by us Koreans themselves, not to be victimized again by others. Over the past 37 years the south Korean people and patriotic figures have consistently demanded the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, deploring the national tragedy of division and persistently struggled for reunification and national salvation. When the nation faced with the great danger of its division being fixed under the bayonet of the U.S. military government, they decisively rejected the plot to

KOREA HONORS A HERO

Pyongyang, Feb. 15 (KCNA) — A decree of the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on awarding the title of Hero of the DPRK to Comrade Kim Jong Il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on the occasion of his 40th birthday, was made public here today.

The decree reads in full:

Comrade Kim Jong Il was born in a secret camp of Paekdu in the days of the bloody anti-Japanese struggle, grew up experiencing the grim trials of the revolution and started revolutionary activities in his early age with a great will to carry out the revolutionary cause of Juche to the end, making imperishable exploits for the party and the revolution, for the country and the people.

Comrade Kim Jong Il energetically conducted ideological and theoretical activities to thoroughly defend and uphold, develop and enrich the revolutionary ideas of the respected leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, gave profound answers to the theoretical and practical problems arising in all domains of the revolution and construction including the party upbuilding, and thereby made brilliant achievements in the development of the Juche idea and the Juche-based revolutionary theory.

He put forward a unique literary and art policy embodying the Juche-based literary and art idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, and energetically guided work in this domain and thus brought about a revolutionary turn in this domain, greatly contributing to the development of culture by creating many masterpieces of world level.

As a faithful son of the party and people, Comrade Kim Jong Il has been devoting his all solely to the cause of freedom and happiness of the people and conducting energetic activities to make the entire people enjoy a more bountiful and cultured life.

Thanks to his energetic activities to carry into effect the revolutionary line of the great comrade Kim Il Sung, today the authority of our party has risen high as never before and its dignity and honour are shining still further.

Comrade Kim Jong Il is an outstanding leader of our party who is skillfully leading the struggle of our party and our

people to complete the revolutionary cause started by the respected leader comrade Kim Il Sung.

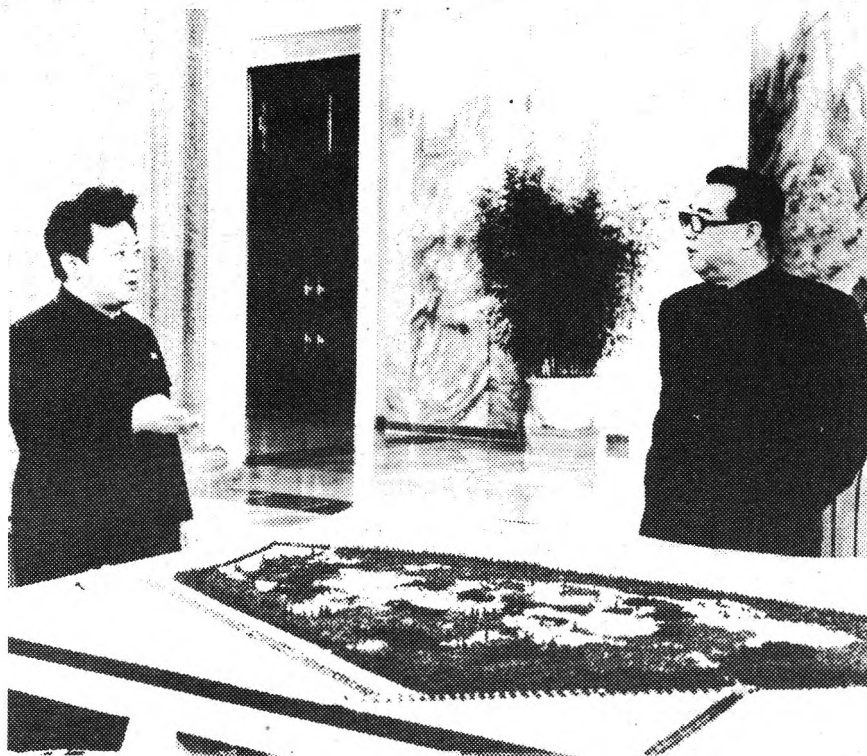
Comrade Kim Jong Il has thoroughly established the monolithic ideological system within the party, further cemented the unity and cohesion of the party ranks based on the Juche idea and extraordinarily enhanced the militancy of the party, thus making it possible to further develop and strengthen our party into a revolutionary party and powerfully accelerate the revolutionary cause of Juche.

Comrade Kim Jong Il has firmly armed the workers, peasants and all other working masses with the Juche idea, closely united them around the party and the leader to further cement our revolutionary ranks and correctly led the struggle of our party and people for socialist construction, registering shining successes in all domains, political, economic, cultural and military.

Comrade Kim Jong Il has strengthened the party's leadership of economic work and actively roused the revolutionary zeal and creative ingenuity of the masses to lead socialist economic construction to continued upsurge, and made an outstanding contribution to the construction of many great monumental edifices adorning the era of the Workers' Party with his bold revolutionary sweep.

Comrade Kim Jong Il enjoys the boundless respect of the whole party and the entire people for his distinguished exploits in the struggle to develop and strengthen our party and accelerate the revolutionary cause.

On the occasion of his 40th birthday, the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea confers the title of Hero of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, together with the Gold Star medal and the Order of National Flag First Class, upon Comrade Kim Jong Il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, who is boundlessly faithful to the party and revolution, the country and the people and has conducted energetic activities to perform great exploits in the glorious struggle for accomplishing the revolutionary cause of Juche. □



Korea's President Kim Il Sung, leader of the Workers' Party of Korea (right), with Comrade Kim Jong Il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, and Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Comrade Kim Jong Il has been awarded the title of Hero of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea for his selfless, lifelong work in advancing the Korean revolution.

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Support for Council of Resistance Grows Solidarity With Iran

Louise Fallone

New York, N.Y. — On Saturday, Feb. 13, the Moslem Student Society, USA, supporters of the Peoples Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI) sponsored a program to commemorate the third anniversary of the people's revolution to overthrow the Shah. The program was also intended to build support for the continuing struggle to establish a free, independent and democratic Iran.

The auditorium at P.S. 41 in New York City's Greenwich Village was draped with banners calling for support of the people's struggle and for the recently established National Council of Resistance led by Mojahed Brother Mas'ud Rajavi, head of Mojahedin, and Mr. Abol-Hassan Bani Sadr. The NCR is calling for the overthrow of the Khomeini regime and for the establishment of the Democratic Islamic Republic of Iran. This strong united front has already rallied the support of many of the revolutionary and progressive forces in Iran and is working to build international support. With the establishment of the NCR Khomeini's future is dim. Rajavi is calling the year 1982 Khomeini's last and says it will be the year of the Democratic Islamic Republic of Iran.

Other banners hung at the program were portraits of the recent martyrs,

most notably the great Mojahed Mousa Khyabani. Khyabani was murdered on February 8, 1982 with his wife, Azar Rezaii, the fifth martyr of the Rezaii family, and Mas'ud Rajavi's wife, Ashraf, who had previously been sentenced to death by the Shah. The death of these comrades is a loss to the whole people.

In addition to the announcement of the deaths of these comrades and a short silence in their honor, the program consisted of the featured speaker Don Luce, a well known human rights activist, performances by an Iranian Chorus, and the Spirit of Life Ensemble, the political analysis of the situation in Iran and a short message of solidarity from the Communist Workers Party.

Programs such as this have been planned nationally as well as internationally. It was announced at the program that a demonstration in Paris attracted 400 supporters and in San Francisco there were 500. A demonstration of more than 500 people took place Tuesday, Feb. 16, at Washington Square Park in New York. The participants marched several miles to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza opposite the United Nations. Many people along the march route expressed their solidarity with clenched fists, joining in the chants, and some joined the marchers. □

The following are the statements issued by Mas'ud Rajavi of the National Council of Resistance and head of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran and by Abol-Hassan Bani Sadr, the President of Iran in exile, on the February 8 assassinations perpetrated by the Khomeini regime — ed.

The martyrdom of Great Mojahed Mousa Khyabani is certainly a great loss to the entire people and to the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran; however, Mojahedin have endured many such losses throughout their 17 years of just struggle against the Shah and Khomeini. In 1972 the Shah executed nine out of ten members of the Central Committee of our organization including the three founders of this organization. Despite all losses, however, the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran was able to continue its just struggle for democracy and independence, and obliteration of any kind of exploitation. Although the Great Mojahed Mousa Khyabani was sentenced to death by the Shah, it was Khomeini who finished off the Shah's unaccomplished mission by killing him.

Of course, today Khomeini is content, but his contentment will not last long. Even though he killed such a great Mojahed as Mousa Khyabani and his wife, Azar Rezaii, the fifth martyr of the

Rezaii family, and several other Mojaheds such as my heroic wife, Ashraf, who had also been sentenced to death during the Shah's time, the resistance of the Iranian people and the just and popular struggle of the People's Mojahedin of Iran will continue firmly and unhampered until the downfall of Khomeini.

The dawn of victory in Iran is near and all this sacrificed blood is the sign of victory over dictatorship and reaction, and no such strike is able to destroy our organization. Thus, all governments throughout the world should notice this inevitable fact that the Iranian people and their Mojahed offsprings will never tolerate Khomeini and after the sacrifice of all these blood and martyrs, Iran will not accept anything other than our democratic alternative.

The successor to the Great Mojahed Mousa Khyabani has already been selected and is now in charge of carrying out all my responsibilities inside Iran.

Mas'ud Rajavi
Feb. 9, 1982

To Mojahed Brother Mas'ud Rajavi, in charge of the National Council of Resistance:

In the midst of the ongoing honorable struggle of the popular resistance forces against the dependent ruling dictatorship, ten of the most noble offspring of this nation are martyred for defending Islam, Freedom and Independence everyday. The People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran is entrusted with an enormous responsibility in this unparalleled historical resistance and its distinguished children are nourishing this "corpulent tree" of independence and freedom.

The martyrdoms of the valiant Mojahedin, Brother Mousa Khyabani, his wife, your courageous wife and other brothers and sisters who have been martyred alongside them, are outstanding examples of self-sacrifice and devotion

of this nation's children. This will, undoubtedly, open a new chapter for nurturing Islam, and future independence and freedom of Iran.

I, as the elected president of Iranian people, honor the audacity and sacrifice of your brothers and sisters.

These martyrdoms, are valued before God (the exalted!) and will soon rouse the people's anger which will trifle those who betrayed the revolution. I am confident that, contrary to the propaganda by the dictators, their downfall is imminent.

The People's Elected President
Abol-Hassan Bani Sadr
Feb. 9, 1982

Reunification

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"hold separate elections and establish a separate government" and determinedly turned out to a just struggle for establishing a democratic unified government.

They have unyieldingly conducted a valiant movement for peaceful reunification even under the harsh fascist rule which harshly penalized even the discourse of reunification. The democratic personages who exiled themselves abroad, opposing the fascist rule and the policy of national division have joined the nation-wide movement for democracy and reunification, overcoming the difficult conditions in alien lands.

On this lofty patriotic road noted statesmen such as peakbom Mr. Kim Gu, mongyang Mr. Ryo Un Hyong, chuksan Mr. Cho Bong Am and comrade Kim Jong Tae and many other patriots, democratic figures and hot-blooded youth shed their precious blood. Even at this moment, numerous personages who called for national reunification are undergoing all sorts of sufferings in prison. The tragedy of national division is continuing till today despite all these indefatigable efforts to realize the aspiration of the entire fellow countrymen for national reunification. This is due to a handful of south Korean rulers who, indifferent to the destiny of the nation, have plotted to perpetuate the division of the country, following outside forces.

In history the south Korean rulers have sacrificed the national interests for the aggressive aim of outside forces, while keeping the foreign troops, the basic obstacle to reunification, in the country and pursued the purpose of maintaining their political power in return for this. To this end, they refused to accept all our fair and aboveboard proposals for the country's reunification and have constantly incited confrontation and antagonism between the north and south and ruthlessly suppressed the righteous movement of the people for

reunification, arresting and murdering those who called for it in south Korea.

Originally, the Syngman Rhee "regime," a product of the "May 10 separate elections," came into being with the aim to fix the division of the nation and the Pak Jung Hi "regime," an offspring of the "May 16 coup d'etat," also made its appearance to block the road of the country's reunification which was entering a new phase. The Chon Du Hwan "regime," a bastard of the "December 12 coup d'etat," also came into being in an attempt to stem the powerful tide of democracy and reunification rapidly rising in south Korea and seek to perpetuate the division of the country into "two Koreas."

Recently the south Korean rulers came out with the so-called "proposal," clamouring about "general elections," "example work" and so on.

But it is clear that a genuine proposal for reunification can not be made by the rulers who brutally massacred people and students who demanded democracy and reunification and seized power at the point of the bayonet. In fact, the "proposal for general elections" brought forward by them belatedly is an empty theory copied from a textbook on politics and a "provisional agreement on basic relations between the north and south" is a proposal for permanent division of the country into "two states" modelling after other's example.

The 20-point "example work" elaborating on this is not a new thing. Most of its contents are nothing but a very small part of the proposals already advanced by us through a historic period for realizing collaboration and interchange between the north and the south. The south Korean rulers proposed to realize only a few limited problems as an "example," turning away from many possibilities of collaboration and interchange. This itself tells that they have no intention to accelerate the reunification with the door between the north and south flung open, but seek to keep the division creating an impression that they opened the door.

Historic facts show that those who seized power under the patronage of outside forces and seek the national split

are a very dangerous existence in the solution of the reunification question. Today when not a step forward has been taken on the road to contact between the north and the south and reunification and huge tasks have been left unfinished since the division of the country, we must find a way to overcome the present difficulties at all costs.

What is a pressing question in this is to properly solve the question of negotiation between the north and the south. It should be on all accounts a negotiation not for division but for reunification. Negotiation for division aimed at maintaining and fixing the status quo passing away time is of no use for the reunification but is beneficial only to those who plot for division.

Negotiation with those who sacrifice the interests of the nation without hesitation for the interests of a small group can bring about no affirmative result.

This is the serious historic lesson of the north-south dialogue in the past days.

In view of this lesson, the present south Korean rulers have lost, in fact, their political and moral rights and capacity to turn out to the table of negotiation.

In the negotiation there is no place for the murderer who emerged as a wicked strangulator of the movement for democracy and reunification growing fast after the "October 26 incident" in

south Korea and slaughtered a large number of fellow countrymen in cold blood.

It is an insult to the sacred national cause of the country's reunification and a betrayal to the south Korean people fighting for democracy and reunification to sit with none other than the murderer whose hands are stained with the blood of fellow countrymen. But, out of the desire for unity and reunification we showed in our January 26 talk the leniency of giving him an opportunity to atone for his crimes and take the road of patriotism. But to our regret, there has been no affirmative response so far. He is now kicking up the row of anti-communism and confrontation against us and aggravating the situation by staging such large-scale war exercises as "Team Spirt-82" with the U.S. imperialist aggression troops. This action and "peaceful unification" on his lips are incompatible with each other.

No one in south Korea should be a disgraceful companion of the present authorities in the anti-national policy of split. As long as political parties and organizations of south Korea play a marionette show of the present authorities, they, too, cannot be a party to the sacred negotiation for reunification.

The possible way of genuine negotiation for reunification for us at least under the present political situation of

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Women Hold Up Half the Sky

Women Fight Back We Won't Go Back

Sally Avery Bermanzohn

"Women fight back — we won't go back!" is the theme of the International Women's Day march planned for Saturday, March 6, in New York City. The march will culminate a week of activities sponsored by a broad coalition of women's and progressive organizations.

The seeds of International Women's Day germinated over 70 years ago in the United States. In 1909 the Socialist Par-

In the early years International Women's Day in America was linked to women's suffrage, an end to child labor, unionization, and anti-war demands. In 1911 fire swept through the Triangle Shirt Waist Factory killing 147 women. Avenging the lives of their sisters, women organized IWD in 1912 to support the Lawrence Mills textile strike in Massachusetts. In 1916 and 1917, the March events protested World War I.

International Women's Day: 1982

ty organized the first "Women's Day" to demand the vote for women. In the same year 25,000 women garment workers swarmed the streets of New York's Lower East Side protesting their wages and working conditions. The following year at the Second International Congress of Women Socialists, Clara Zetkin proposed that International Women's Day be celebrated yearly on March 8.

In the early 1970s, the surging women's liberation movement revived International Women's Day. Each year since then, the celebration has reflected

the demands and vitality of the movement. 1982's IWD will be the biggest and broadest in recent years. This year's coalition includes CARASA (Committee for Reproductive Rights and Against Sterilization Abuse), Women's Pen-

tagon Action, NOW, CISPE, (Committee Support of the People of El Salvador), Black United Front, Coalition of Concerned Black Women, National Black Independent Political Party, Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, Organization of Asian Women, Asian Women United, United Tradeswomen, Women Office Workers, Dykes Against Racism Everywhere, New York Women Against Rape, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Womanews.

"More and more people see the need for unity," explained Jane Ransom of CARASA, "for building a working relationship on a variety of issues. It's because of Reagan's increasing attacks on women and his foreign policy in particular."

The week of festivities begins on Sunday, Feb. 28, with an international cultural program. Black and white feminist poets will be joined by women from Haitian, Irish, Salvadoran, Puerto Rican and Native American resistance movements. The following days feature programs by different organizations highlighting the struggles of women in the U.S. and abroad.

On Saturday, March 6, people will

take to the streets to protest Reagan's budget cuts. At the site of the Triangle Shirt Waist Factory, women will mark the spot where 147 women lost their lives to fire in 1911. As the march stops at a welfare office, hospital and child care center, women will serve notice that they refuse to lose their rights to economic survival in the '80s. Demands include: stop the cuts, defend the right to abortions and medicaid abortions, no forced sterilizations, defend gay rights, decent childcare, U.S. out of El Salvador, and liberate Puerto Rico.

Finally on Monday, March 8, the program "Black Women and International Women's Day" will be hosted by Coalition of Concerned Black Women and National Black Independent Political Party's Women's Commission. "31 percent of all black families live in poverty," said Nzinga Ashford, chair of NBIPP's Women's Commission. "And 60 percent of those families are headed by women. Black women are stepping forward today because we need to just to survive." □

With this story, Sally Bermanzohn makes her debut as a regular contributor to the Workers Viewpoint.

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south Korea is to arrange a joint conference participated in by those noted statesmen in the north, south and abroad who have national conscience. Although politics has been degraded by the present authorities of south Korea and the sham statesmen availing themselves of the situation are riding roughshod in the political world, we see the conscience of the nation still alive in south Korea and know well that there are many patriotic figures who are true to the constancy of the nation.

Abroad, too, there are patriots who are devoting themselves to democracy and reunification, concerned about the future of the country and the nation. We must now pull together this conscience and will of the nation which is dispersed. Herein lies the way of arranging a real negotiation for reunification, not a false "dialogue" for division. From this point of view we hold that a joint conference of politicians in the north, south and abroad should be held as a consultative body for national reunification at present.

It will be good that the joint conference will be participated in by individual politicians who are concerned about reunification and national salvation irrespective of their past doings and the number be set at 100, 50 from the north and 50 from the south, including overseas personages.

This 100-men joint conference shall not be a bilateral talk between the north and the south but be a multilateral round-table talk at which all personages will discuss the question of reunification transcending the north and south, irrespective of their residence and organizational affiliation. At this joint conference all possible proposals for reunification including the proposal to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo well known to the world should be discussed openly and heartedly.

The joint conference should also discuss the problems of realizing collaboration and exchange between the north and south in combination with the proposals for reunification. From the nature and mission of the joint con-

ference we sincerely propose to those persons noted in the supplement to this statement as well-known political figures in the north and the south and abroad to attend the 100-men joint conference. The joint conference of 100 politicians in the north and south and abroad will be, under the present condition, a democratic negotiation for reunification which may successfully reflect the nation's desire for reunification and a splendid forum of great national unity which may pull together our strength and resources on the basis of the national idea.

We are convinced that the joint conference of politicians in the north and south and abroad will undoubtedly make a positive contribution to opening the road of national reunification at the present stage. It is an inviolable, sacred right and an irrefutable national demand for political personages of south Korea and overseas to participate in the joint conference of politicians in the north and the south and abroad which will discuss the question of the country's reunification. The south Korean rulers should not prevent the politicians from attending the conference but set free Kim Dae Jung and other political figures now in prison, restore freedom of all politicians in their political activity and ensure all the necessary conditions for their participation in the conference. We consider that to do this will be helpful to atoning for their crimes.

We fully understand the present difficult position of south Korean politicians.

But, if the south Korean politicians, keenly aware of their mission they assume for the nation, fight on in the self-sacrificing spirit of the pioneer in hewing out the road ahead of the nation, a grand conference for reunification which the nation aspires after will certainly be realized. The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland ardently appeals to the 100 politicians to bravely come out to the sacred road of reunification and national salvation for realizing the earnest desire of the entire fellow countrymen.

Rubber Continued from page 5

own experiences in having granted concessions in the past, particularly on the local plant level such as giving Uniroyal up to \$18.3 million a year in wages and benefits, they realize that these concessions provide no guarantees for job security. The master contract which today covers 39,000 workers at Goodyear, Firestone, B.F. Goodrich and Uniroyal, covered 55,000 workers three years ago. "Since 1973, 23 plants have shut their doors," said Stone. He feels there are no assurances that the tire companies are "through cutting."

Going Against Tide

While concession-bent negotiations like the UAW and the Teamsters invariably got front-page headlines in the last two months, the URW has received scant attention in the press. The bourgeoisie is deeply worried about the upcoming fight with the URW, knowing that it could become an important spark in motivating workers to mount militant challenges to their economic attacks. Revealing fears that the bourgeoisie's concession steamroller may get derailed, Gary Shilling, a New York economist, said, "The cooperation of labor unions

has been overplayed. It will take a huge jolt to convince labor unions that the game is over." He raised the possibility of some long strikes.

The upcoming URW contract fight will show in microcosm the dangers and opportunities of the '80s. In and of itself there is nothing radical about the URW position. As Stone says, "I don't think there will be anything innovative coming to the table in 1982." But the URW stand is based on the gut understanding that to give up a little means losing everything won in the past 50 years. In the labor picture of 1982, anyone who takes a stand to fight is going against the tide. Because of the bankrupt leadership of the AFL-CIO bureaucrats, these stands are few and far in between. However, they represent the true sentiments of the vast majority of workers who are fed up with taking concessions. In fact, anyone who is willing and able to mount a fight against concessions will speak for many more than his own membership. Having taken this stand, the URW makes deadweights like the UAW's Fraser and the Teamsters' Roy Williams look bad and will sharpen the contradiction within their unions. □

Tenants

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relocate them. Mr. Irizarry, lawyer for the tenants, said, "The city wants as many of the tenants as possible thrown out on the streets so that they have fewer people to deal with on relocation benefits." The city is holding strong because it knows that if they gave in easily they would have to relocate people on a large scale given the crisis in housing in Jersey City.

But despite all the harassment, fear of fires and uncertainty the tenants are holding even stronger than the city. Their unity and determination to fight is a model and a rallying point for poor and working people in Jersey City and beyond, to unite and fight back. There is no other alternative but to take on the ci-

ty and big landlords as the fight of these tenants shows. People in Jersey City and friends should mobilize support for this struggle. Already tenants' associations, individuals, and community organizations such as the Puerto Ricans Associated for Community Organization (PACO), and Brothers and Sisters from the two neighborhood parishes are fighting alongside with the Ninth St. building's tenants' association.

"This is the beginning of an effort to pull people together in a tenants' union for Jersey City," Irizarry said. "The real issue is that poor people cannot find housing here. The state has allowed the city to get away with not building low-income housing." □

REPRINT

The following article appeared in the January 16 edition of the New York Amsterdam News.

Elombe Brath

The concept of New Year's Day originated out of the imperialist culture of ancient Rome, and January, the first month of our calendar year, draws its name from Janus, the Roman deity that was supposed to be the protector of the gateway to heaven. Janus was depicted as having two faces — one looking forward, the other looking backward — and great sacrifices were expected to be offered to him.

And so it is with Reagan.

In reassessing the impact that the Reagan administration has had in only one year, with its protection of the havens of the rich, its double standards on issues of social justice, its demands for greater sacrifices by the poor, it is becoming increasingly clear that Reaganomics and its subsequent foreign policies are Afrophobic. Both domestically and internationally Reagan's programs seem designed to hurt the best interests of Black people wherever they reside. This charge can be substantiated despite Reagan's coterie of conservative Negro socioeconomic apologists arguing to the contrary.

Thus, as we entered the New Year we have only to ask ourselves if the traditional greeting of "Happy New Year," ostensibly a greeting of hope, has any real meaning when we think of what last year has wrought Africans in the U.S., the Caribbean and Africa itself, resulting from the policies of the Reaganites. The hypocrisy of the intended meaning of New Year's Day and the objective reality of our current plight has been a constant contradiction for the past 178 years.

"Both domestically and internationally Reagan's programs seem designed to hurt the best interests of Black people wherever they reside."

Jan 1, New Year's Day has been a symbolic date for reviewing the measure of our freedom, independence, liberation, etc. in the trilateral points of the Pan-African world — the Caribbean, the U.S. and Africa — for almost as long as Africans have been under the government of the American Republic. One only has to look at three examples that were given to us by the late Carlos A. Cooks, in three different historical epochs and geographical locations, to understand the contradiction. For instance . . .

On Jan. 1, 1804, Jean-Jacques Dessalines was able to proudly proclaim Haiti as the first Black Republic in the world after defeating the mightiest imperialist power of the day: the army of Napoleon Bonaparte of France. Dessalines, along with Henri Christophe and Clervaux, had earlier issued a declaration of independence of St. Dominique (as Haiti was then called), with words far more profound and meaningful for African people than the U.S. document of 1776. They wrote in part:

"We have sworn not to listen with clemency to any who would dare to speak to us of slavery. We will be inexorable, perhaps even cruel, towards all troops who, themselves forgetting the object for which they have not ceased fighting since 1780, should come from Europe to bring among us death and servitude. No sacrifice is too costly and all means are lawful to men from whom is wished to wrest the first of all blessings. Were they to cause streams and torrents of blood to flow; were they in order to

maintain their liberty, to fire seven-eighths of the globe, they are innocent before the tribunal of Providence, which never created men to groan under so harsh and shameful a servitude."

These were the thoughts and character of the people who brought independence to Haiti, people who never thought of forcing oppression on another people and would not tolerate the idea of other people trying to impose an oppressive rule upon them. Even before they were strong enough to liberate themselves the Haitians had sent volunteers to help bring about the independence of the 13 colonies on the North American continent.

Fought with Americans

In 1779, during the so-called American Revolutionary War, 861 Haitian volunteers fought side by side with American colonists rebelling against British imperialism at the Battle of Savannah. Thirty-four Haitians gave up their lives at this engagement. At Pensacola, Fla. 438 Haitians fought, 14 of whom were killed in the process of trying to bring "democracy" and "freedom" to those colonized and enslaved in

this country. Yet the United States would not recognize Haiti's independence until 1862.

But the Haitian spirit of supporting freedom struggles was not motivated by a quid pro quo, and did not stop after their own victory nor in North America. In 1815, the Haitian president gave Simon Bolivar the necessary muskets, ammunition, ships and financial aid needed to enable the "Great Liberator" to successfully carry out his struggle against Spanish imperialism in South America. Yet Bolivar, while freeing many slaves in South America, was not able to get the rest of the Latin American states to accept Haiti as a sister republic at the Congress of Panama in 1826.

Today, after a century and three-quarters, what are the conditions of Haiti and the Haitian people? They are as isolated in the Americas as a leper colony. Their freedom has been repressed, their independence made a mockery. U.S. imperialism and local reactionary collaborators have reduced a once proud people and a beautiful island into a much pitied Caribbean bantustan that provides an idyllic retreat for decadent western bourgeois vacationers, quickie divorces, baseballs for disinterested millionaire sportsmen to pitch and knock around, a replacement for the Bowery for the poor to literally sell their precious blood in vain, and a ready supply of cadavers for medical research in U.S. laboratories.

On Jan. 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln, the "Great Emancipator," issued his

Emancipation Proclamation — a document that ostensibly gave "freedom" to the slaves although neither Lincoln nor the Union Army was in a position to back it up. In reality, it wasn't until Lincoln put aside his own racism — for a moment — and finally let Black men join the battle that our people were able to utilize the armed struggle to, relatively speaking, free themselves — and then only two years later! But this was in spite of Lincoln, not because of him.

Lincoln and Slaves

Lincoln's objective was to save the Union, not free the slaves. The Northern industrialists had concluded that slavery had outlived its usefulness. European immigrants would soon have to be employed — as wage slaves. Thus, as Rev. William Jones pointed out, Lincoln "fired the slaves" rather than freed them!

It was after the abolition of slavery and the betrayal of the Reconstruction Era that unemployment became a major factor in undermining the socioeconomic advancement of the African people in the U.S. Blocked out of competing with whites in the capitalist "free market" economy for the most part, Black business efforts were constrained to segregated service trades, to be separate and not equal. On the job market, Black men and women were to become the axiomatic "last hired, first fired," and their neighborhoods were designed to be both urban and rural reservations to keep ready an available work force for manual labor.

Today, 119 years after Lincoln's proclamation, despite the fact that our people spend over \$140 billion a year as consumers (a sum that would make us, if an independent political entity, handle about the equivalent of possibly the 10th largest GNP in the world), in the U.S. economy the majority of our people are among the poorest. The cumulative value of our top enterprises merged into one single conglomerate would only rate about 254th on the Fortune 500 list. (On their list we would find General Motors, the maker of Cadillacs; on our list, we would find a Cadillac franchise salesman!)

Recent cutbacks for social programs are already impacting with more disruption in our communities than most others. In health services, our people are fast becoming the major victims of diseases that once seemingly were exclusively or primarily associated with white folks, while our communities are the most poorly served regarding health care delivery. More of our people are unemployed now than the time of the great March on Washington for "jobs and freedom" in 1963. Segregated

schools, 28 years after the Supreme Court ordered their integration (for whatever that is worth) "with all deliberate speed," are as racially isolated as they were before. As the old saying goes, the more things change, the more they seem to stay the same. Correction: the situation for Black people in the United States is getting worse now; with the advent of Reaganomics, there is not even the liberal pretensions of trying to subsidize the more misfortunate.

And then there is Africa. In turmoil from north to south, from east to west.

Sudan was first

On Jan. 1, 1956, the Sudan, Africa's largest country, became the first Black colonized territory on the continent to regain its independence from British imperialism. At the time most of us didn't realize this because, since the Sudan was the successor to Nubia, the predecessor of Ancient Egypt and Nile Valley High Culture, colonial authorities sold the world that the Sudan was more an Arab than an African country. This was done in spite of the obvious fact that the Arabs had named the country in honor of its indigenous population **Bilad es-Sudan** (the land of the Blacks).

As a result, until this very day, most people still state emphatically that Ghana, which received its independence on March 6, 1957, was the "first Black African country to get its independence" after the Second World War. The Sudan, a strategic and historic country, where it is said "the Middle East ends and Africa begins," (again for obvious reasons) was programmed out of the Pan-African world by devious geopolitical scientists with futuristic ulterior motives.

What is the situation in the Sudan today, and what does its current status forebode for the rest of Africa? The Sudan of Gen. Jaafar al-Nimeiri is that of a puppet of a puppet. A ward of Egypt which had become a surrogate of the United States. Neither of these two African countries reflect the promise that Gamal Abdel Nasser and Ismael al-Azari, their respective earlier leaders, had earlier given the rest of the continent, particularly as a bridge from the Arab and African worlds.

The Sudan, three and a half times the size of Texas, with contiguous borders with eight other African countries and touching the Red Sea, holds a geostrategic position in western imperialist schemes. Its location was utilized after its first coup brought in a military group that previously served western monopoly capitalist interests against the forces of Patrice Lumumba who was assassinated 21 years ago this coming Jan. 17.

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Our New Year's Resolution

We Must Make Revolution!

"1982 is the year of the People's Counter-Attack, and looking forward we must make but one New Year's resolution: Make Revolution!"



The View From \$204 a Week

MY TURN/VICKI WILLIAMS

I consider myself the classic "poor overburdened taxpayer" that you hear so much about these days. I work for an electronics company and make \$6.58 an hour which translates into \$204 per week after deductions, \$30.21 of which are Federal withholding taxes. I have a husband, laid off, whose unemployment compensation has run out, and a 13-year-old son who thinks he should have a leather coat, a P.K. Ripper motocross bike, a Pioneer stereo and an Asteroids game. It bothers me a lot that I can't afford to buy him any of these things. It also bothers me that I'm not sure how we're going to fill up the fuel tank often enough to stay warm this winter.

There is something else that bothers me, though not to the same extent as my son's unfulfilled desires or the ever-hungry fuel tank, and that is that every single politician and editorialist is positive he knows exactly what I think. Everyone seems to be wildly anxious to be my spokesman. Yet these people don't know a damn thing about how the "poor overburdened taxpayer" thinks or lives. I imagine it's been quite some time since most politicians or well-known journalists lived on \$204 per week, though I've read plenty of complaints from congressmen about their meager salaries. One even said he had to sleep in his office because he couldn't afford to buy a house. Do you know how much pity I can spare for a senator who can't live on \$60,000 a year?

Tired: I know I'm not as articulate as the people who write the editorials for newspapers and the speeches for politicians, but just once I'd like to have on the record the thoughts of an average taxpayer. I'm tired of these people putting their words in my mouth and their thoughts in my head.

One of the statements I read and hear most often is how fed up I'm supposed to be with the amount of my taxes that goes toward welfare, food stamps, programs for the elderly, subsidized school lunches and other supportive social services. Wrong! What the people "up there" don't understand is that I identify with the beneficiaries of these programs much more than I do with the politicians and the media people. "There, but for the grace of God, go I." So far, I have never had to rely on welfare, free lunches or Medicaid, but I very well might someday. When I was divorced, I could

have qualified for welfare. Fortunately, I had parents who were in a position to help, but if I hadn't, you can believe I would have swallowed my pride rather than watch my son go hungry. People like me, who live only a hairbreadth from economic disaster, are glad those programs are out there, though we pray we'll never have to use them. We feel sympathy for the ones who do.

In 1977 my sister-in-law was abandoned by her husband. Her health did not permit her to work full time, so she drew \$194 per month from the welfare department to support herself and her child. I doubt that anyone can think she lived extravagantly on \$194 per month.

I think it's possible that at least one of the

*People like me
are supposed to be
fed up with paying
high taxes
for welfare. Wrong!*

very same politicians who are now complaining about welfare recipients might have taken a political junket during one of the months that my sister-in-law and her son lived on \$194. Believe me, I resent that junket at my expense much, much more than I resent helping an ADC mother, or buying eyeglasses for an elderly person or free lunches for a ghetto child.

To me, Reaganomics is cruel and self-serving. Reagan seems to be telling us that the United States is a sinking ship and that if we harden our hearts and throw a few people overboard, we can lighten the load. Then, possibly, the Ship of State can sail back to shore. I don't see my country quite that way. The philosophy behind the original structure of the United States is that we are a people who sink or swim together. We don't make human sacrifices.

If there is even one child in this country who is hungry or one old person who needs medical care, then I want my \$1,570.92 in taxes to go toward helping that child or that old person. I think this country is based on the philosophy that when that \$1,570.92 is

gone, we will find more to take its place, as long as the need is there.

I know about the cheaters. There are always cheaters. They are a part of life as surely as death and taxes. Certainly, if they are caught, they should be punished and denied aid, but I know we'll always support some cheaters along with the "truly needy." If we have to give a free lunch to one child whose parents could afford to pay in order to give free lunches to nine children who genuinely deserve them, so be it.

Benefits: The much-touted tax cut doesn't make sense to me. Perhaps there's a complicated economic formula that explains the logic of a tax cut at the same time we're slashing Federal programs because of lack of funds, but if so, I missed it. I pay \$30.21 per week to the Federal government. As I understand it, when all the tax cuts are in effect, I will only pay \$22.66, giving me \$7.55 extra to save or spend. Well, I could do a few things with \$7.55 a week but, had I been consulted, I would have just as soon paid it and kept the food-stamp program or veterans' benefits intact. I suspect that the government will give it to me with one hand and take it away with the other.

You see, I really believe that most politicians and media people think that those of us out here in America who work in the factories and offices are ignorant. I believe that they think we will never catch on to their sleights of hand. I believe that they think they can tell us the grass is black one day and white the next and we'll never trust ourselves enough to look down and say, "Why, that grass isn't black or white—it's green!" Well, we know the grass is green. We just don't know what to do about it.

We don't really believe that 56 oil companies recorded 98 percent of the increase in all corporate profits from 1978 through 1980 for our benefit. We don't believe the tobacco subsidy is for our benefit. We don't believe that congressmen who were violently anti-AWACS magically changed their minds for our benefit. We know it's always us who pay the bills that result from the politicians' machinations.

I wish a politician would come along who'd tell me that the grass is green.

Vicki Williams is a factory worker in Huntington, Ind.

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Revolution Continued from page 10

Nimeiri and capitalists

Nimeiri, who came to power by a coup in 1969, has survived anywhere from three to more than a half a dozen coup attempts. One, in 1971, ironically, he was saved by the intervention of none other than the Libyan leader Mu'ammarr Qadhafi — today mutually bitter enemies. At the time Nimeiri blamed "communists" for the coup attempt and launched a vicious campaign that killed scores of Sudanese and jailed even more who were suspected of having had "left" or progressive leanings. It is this character of the Nimeiri regime which reached its apex with the severing of its relationship with the Soviet Union, that attracts the Reaganites — although the Sudan professes to be "socialist."

Thus Nimeiri, a despot who is probably responsible for more deaths than those attributed to Qadhafi, and who recently dissolved Parliament and rounded up 17,600 people, is portrayed as a social "democrat," making his regime eligible for an increase from \$30 million to \$100 million in military credits from an administration that is cutting back on every social service entitlement from day care centers and head start programs to social security, Medicaid and Medicare. Reagan, who has stingily refused to aid a country like Mozambi-

que for political and ideological reasons and tried to block IMF aid to Grenada (as Carter did to Manley in Jamaica), is promoting an IMF emergency loan of \$237 million to help offset the Sudan's balance-of-payment problems.

The Sudan, alleged to be the world's 17th poorest country, is already strung out on \$3 billion in foreign debt (\$450 million of which is in arrears to western banks). The country has vast agricultural and mineral development potential; oil is presumed under its desert sands. It is a country that once fed its inhabitants but today is dependent upon food imports, although it has the capacity to feed the whole of Africa. Indeed, this potential is now being underwritten by the Saudis in order to make the Sudan "the breadbasket of the Arab world."

America's great statesmen

It is such shortsighted and myopic, reactionary leaders like the Nimeiris, the kleptocratic Mobutus, and other rhetorical and active anti-communist spokespersons that the Reagan administration hopes to cultivate current and future relations with. Leaders like Qadhafi, who has raised the per capita income of his people from \$1,700 to an unheard of \$9,000 in Africa (granted his

oil revenues and the Libya's small population), built 200,000 homes, planted 400 million trees in the desert (considered a major achievement when done on a lesser scale in Israel), become "madmen" and terrorists.

Leaders like Anwar al-Sadat, who dismantled most of the popular important social development programs put into place by Nasser, returned the major means of production back to the landlords and private profiteers, and created a situation where a teeming Cairo has over a million of its homeless denizens sleeping in its graveyards at night, are viewed by the U.S. as "great statesmen."

The racist regime of South Africa becomes "an old friend and ally," traitors like Jonas Savimbi become "freedom fighters," the African National Congress, at 70 years old the oldest liberation movement in the world, founded in 1912 — five years before the forming of the U.S.S.R., is projected as being spawned by Moscow. SWAPO, the authentic representatives of the people of Namibia — a people upon whom German fascist colonialism first practiced the genocidal tactics they would later perfect on the Jews in Europe — instead of being perceived as an indigenous majority of 900,000 Africans being forced

to fight from a heroic minority position against the 4 million whites in South Africa who represent the continent's most formidable military force, is presented by Washington and Pretoria as "terrorists!"

Jerry Rawlings becomes the bad guy in Ghana instead of the long line of political hacks and gangsters who have been running that country since the CIA, under the Johnson administration, overthrew the legitimate government of Osagyefo Dr. Kwame Nkrumah — a great Pan-Africanist and revolutionary leader that recognized the danger of neo-colonialism.

When one views all of those contradictory and hypocritical positions that Reagan and his cronies have exhibited, it is safe to say that old Janus wouldn't have any monopoly on two-facedness if he was around today. Reagan, however, prefers to look backward more than forward. The broad masses are expected to make even more sacrifices while the Reaganites continue to try to block the path of social justice. But like the mythical Janus, they too will pass away. 1982 is the year of the People's Counter-Attack, and looking forward we must make but one New Year's resolution: Make Revolution! □

Reagan's Friend: APARTHEID



Robert Harris

The Reagan administration is unequivocally on the side of racist, apartheid South Africa. In a national television interview with Walter Cronkite last year, Reagan stated that South Africa is a "friendly nation." South Africa's P. W. Botha was the first South African foreign minister to visit the Reagan White House. On this occasion (May 14, 1981), Secretary of State Alexander Haig proclaimed: "The Reagan administration welcomes the opportunity to improve relations between the United States and South Africa . . . Let us then build on the shared interests and let us talk as friends of the differences between us. Most importantly, let this be the new beginning of mutual trust and confidence between the United States and South Africa, old friends, like Minister Botha, who are getting together again."

Defying the international outcry against South Africa's murderous invasion of sovereign Angola, the United States vetoed (13-1) the United Nations Security Council condemnation in August, 1981. Sensing Reagan's open arms for racist South Africa, the U.S. Senate has voted to repeal the Clark

Amendment. If the Clark Amendment is defeated, it will aid Pretoria's attempts to destabilize Angola and the entire southern Africa region.

In 1978, South Africa agreed in principle to a West-sponsored plan for United Nations' supervised elections in Namibia. The month Ronald Reagan was inaugurated, apartheid Pretoria stated that the plan was "premature." Clearly the Botha regime senses they have a friend in the White House who will bless their fascist control over Namibia.

Breaking a 20-year policy forbidding any meetings with South African military, UN Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick entertained the top South African military attaches. She excused herself by saying she did not know who they were until after the meeting. Breaking the international boycott of sports with South Africa, the Reagan government granted visas to South Africa's rugby team, the Springboks, the Ambassadors of Apartheid.

U.S./South Africa Nuclear Bomb Alliance

The United States has consistently aided fascist South Africa in developing

nuclear technology and training. As a result, Pretoria has the capability to make and deliver nuclear weapons. In fact, it already possesses a research reactor fueled with weapons-grade uranium. It is very likely that it has produced small nuclear bombs which would explain its refusal to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Dr. A.J.A. Roux, president, South African Atomic Energy Board, has stated: "We ascribe our degree of advancement today, in large measure, to the training and assistance so willingly provided by the U.S.A during the early years of our nuclear program." The peace and stability of the entire southern Africa region is threatened as long as South Africa refuses to disarm. Setting forth Pretoria's policy of aggression, Dr. A. Visser, of the South African Atomic Energy Board, stated in 1965, "The atomic bomb might be used against 'loudmouth' Afro-Asian states."

Reagan Condones Apartheid Crackdown

Reagan's silence on recent crackdowns in South Africa is an act of condoning apartheid, Hitlerite repres-

ion. In November, Tshifhiwa Muofke, former leader of the Black People's Convention, died two weeks after being detained by South African police. On Nov. 27, 1981, 18 student leaders, labor experts, trade unionists and other activists were detained without trial. At the beginning of January, David Johnson, chairman of the Black Students Society at Witwatersrand University, was banned by the apartheid government. Around this time, the police also searched the home of Beyers Naude, former director of the Christian Institute, as well as the homes of other leading church figures. Dr. Neil Aggett was found hanged in his cell at the beginning of this month. He was Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers Union, which is a black union. Dr. Aggett, who is white, was held under the Terrorism Act — indefinite incarceration without trial. Relatives and friends testified that he was not unstable psychologically and never had suicidal tendencies. More recently, four Lutheran pastors were tortured by the South African authorities, for suspected support of "subversives." The crimes of apartheid are the crimes of the Reagan administration. □