

Bulletin

NOW
TWICE A
WEEK!

Twice-Weekly Organ of the Central Committee of the Workers League

VOLUME TEN NUMBER THIRTY TWO 368

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 1974

FIFTEEN CENTS

LABOR MUST ACT

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE TERROR



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Prices Rising By 14.1%

BY DAVID NORTH
Economic statistics released Friday confirm the fact that American workers are bearing the brunt of the most vicious assault on living standards since the period of World War Two.

The latest round of price increases in March raised the annual rate of inflation for the first three months to a record 14.1 percent. Since March 1973, food prices have soared 17.3 percent.

The cost of gas and electricity is up 32.2 percent. Fuel and oil prices are up 64.1 percent. Health and recreation costs are

divided into six police combat zones for a massive police manhunt which is to continue until the police find the killer.

For the moment, the dragnet has been concentrated in the Fillmore district which contains the largest number of projects

up 5.3 percent. Housing costs are up 9.4 percent.

These increases have meant an actual decline in wages of 4 percent during 1973-74 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. But even these wild price increases are merely a prelude to the explosion in prices that is being predicted when the government lifts the last controls at the end of April.

This assault on the living standards of millions of workers requires immediate action by the trade union movement. The AFL-CIO and UAW must call immediately for a Congress of Labor to take action to force Nixon out, demand new elections, and prepare the alternative to this criminal big business government by building a labor party pledged to socialist

and Black people in the city.

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(Continued On Page 12)

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(Continued On Page 12)

Building The Bulletin

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The Detroit branch has sold 391 subscriptions already, going way over their quota of 200. This is an important achievement by a single branch, where practically every person bought a subscription on the streets that the trailblazers campaigned.

538 Young Socialist subs have been sold, over our 500 goal, during campaigns to build the May 4-5 National Conference. We need 1242 more Bulletin subs sold by the branches by May 1 in addition to 1000 from trailblazing, starting in the Bronx.

In The Weekend Edition

• “Revivals and Utopias,” Part Two of a two-part series by Tim Wohlforth on the emergence of mystical and utopian trends in 19th century America.

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Nixon Answers The SWP Lawsuit

The response of the Nixon government to the Socialist Workers Party's \$27 million suit over violations of its democratic rights reveals both the continuing movement of this government toward dictatorship and the bankruptcy of the revisionists' illusions about bourgeois democracy.

From the start, the legal suit filed by the SWP has been a vehicle for cultivating opportunist relations with liberals and Democratic Party politicians, based on the conception that the Nixon conspiracies have been stopped by the public exposure of the Watergate crimes.

**What
We
Think**

Incapable of exposing the source of Watergate and government repression as rooted in the economic crisis and the need of the capitalist class to crush

the workers' movement, the SWP strips away all the fundamental class issues posed by Watergate and sees its suit as a means of strengthening "democracy." In this way, the revisionists join hands with the liberals who consciously seek to deceive and disarm workers by proclaiming that Watergate shows not the breakdown of bourgeois democracy but the "strength" of the system which uncovered Watergate "in time" and stopped Nixon.

The most crushing refutation of these dangerous illusions is the manner in which the government has answered the SWP's suit. In a series of interrogatories submitted by the government to the SWP, the govern-

ment suddenly has taken the offensive by demanding that the SWP prove why it should not be investigated and repressed.

Nixon has turned the tables on the SWP's suit. The accused has become the accuser and the SWP becomes the defendant.

The government asks "Are the SWP and YSA and individual plaintiffs preparing themselves to use violence to achieve revolution...?" Another question asks "Are plaintiffs preparing to attain their revolutionary ends by all methods at their disposal including armed rising and, if required, by terrorism?"

The fact that the government responds to the SWP suit by openly preparing a new witch-hunt and further repression shows that neither the exposure of Watergate in the press nor the SWP lawsuit has halted the preparations of this government for dictatorship or "strengthened" bourgeois democracy.

The government's answer is a statement by the capitalist class. In effect, the interrogatories are declaring that the government has a perfect right to use violence and repression against those who oppose the capitalist system.

Thus, in the very midst of the continuing exposure of Nixon, the government continues to prepare for dictatorship because its actions are based not on the corruption of Nixon but on the crisis of the capitalist system which can be defended only by violence against the working class.

It is the collision of classes which leads to the collapse of democratic forms; the weakness of the capitalist class in the face of the working class which fights to defend its wages, jobs and democratic rights.

The SWP answers the government interrogatories by seeking to show its own moderation and by protesting

that the government has no right to act as prosecutor in a lawsuit filed by the SWP.

The SWP is trapped by its own faith in the indestructibility of bourgeois democracy. The revisionists cannot see beyond the forms of bourgeois democracy, and do not warn the working class of the tremendous dangers of dictatorship that exist in this country and in every capitalist country.

The capitalists carefully maintain the form of bourgeois democracy as they feverishly prepare through conspiracy to overthrow this form.

In Chile, the form of bourgeois democracy was maintained for more than 100 years, and during the three years of his presidency, Salvador Allende expressed his conviction that this form would be maintained regardless of the struggle of classes. But last September, this 100-year-old form was broken up in eight hours and replaced by dictatorship.

In England today, the form of bourgeois democracy is preserved under Harold Wilson while the military and Scotland Yard continue to work quite independently of the government to step up its preparations for dictatorship.

These dangers pose the necessity of building a movement that will mobilize the tremendous power of the American working class and youth politically against this government by calling a Congress of Labor to establish a labor party pledged to socialist policies.

This fight must be taken forward by the building of the Workers League and the Young Socialists as the revolutionary leadership of the working class. The Second National Conference of the Young Socialists on May 4-5 will be an historic advance in building this leadership. We call on every youth and trade unionist to make plans now to attend this conference.

Scotland Yard Brings Bombings To Britain

BY JEFF SEBASTIAN
Scotland Yard is directly involved in setting up IRA type operations in Britain, Ulster, and the Irish Republic through the use of agents provocateur.

The evidence for this is contained in a seventeen page statement to the National Council for Civil Liberties by Kenneth Lennon, a thirty year old Irishman found shot to death in England last weekend.

Lennon went to the NCCL three days before his murder and told them: "I have got nowhere to go. I am frightened." He told an NCCL lawyer that he believed that the Special Branch of Scotland Yard intended to murder him and make it look like an IRA job.

In recruiting Lennon, the Special Branch attempted to bribe him, then threatened him with deportation to Ireland to stand on charges stemming from a civil rights march in 1969. They also threatened to act on charges against his sister.

Lennon was directed to infiltrate groups in Britain sympathetic to the IRA and persuade them to commit crimes.

According to Lennon, "I was told to get in on everything they were up to. I cannot remember the exact words they used, but one of them said that I should egg them on."

With the full knowledge of Scotland Yard, Lennon helped built up a weapons arsenal and materials for making bombs, planned an abortive robbery to raise money to buy arms, planned another robbery in which three men were ambushed by police in a prearranged trap and sentenced to ten years in jail, drew up plans for a plot to spring them from jail and to frame up those participating.

Lennon and another Irishman were caught reconnoitering outside the prison. The other man was convicted and Lennon was released. In one of his last meetings with the Special Branch he was told, "We had a terrible lot of trouble arranging all this.

Everyone was in on it. It had to go to the highest authority."

Lennon also identified the officers who directed his activities and Scotland Yard has now confirmed that all the names mentioned by Lennon are correct, proving that Lennon was quite familiar with the Special Branch.



Lennon

This is the second case in which these Special Branch operations have been uncovered. In 1971 a Special Branch agent infiltrated a London group and helped to lead an arms theft. When the case came to court the then Tory Attorney-General

dropped the case and released those framed rather than allow the truth to be made public.

Lennon's execution is more than likely the work of the Special Branch which has considerable experience in designing operations which appear to be the work of the IRA and which clearly had no further use for a panicked agent who was threatening to expose the entire conspiracy.

The Littlejohn case has already exposed that the former Tory Defense Minister, his military assistant and a member of the British aristocracy hired a man wanted for bank robbery to carry out robberies, assassinations, bombings, and plans for kidnappings in Ireland.

These revelations demonstrate that a gigantic network of espionage and conspiracy involving an extraparliamentary force of the Tories, the secret police and the military is rapidly being constructed in Britain.

It has now been disclosed that Special Branch operatives have

also been engaging in espionage work against workers sitting in at the Strachans Engineering plant to defend their closure-threatened jobs.

Precisely as this is going on the Wilson government is not only continuing the Tory policies against the working class but is now mired in a capitalist scandal itself.

A former Wilson aide and Wilson's own secretary are implicated in a land speculation scandal which involves forgeries of the Prime Minister's signature.

The Tories are being handed the time and opportunity to deepen their police state preparations. The Labor Party leadership, by refusing to nationalize capitalist industry and finance and repeal the anti-working class Tory laws, is repeating the role of the Allende government in Chile which paved the way for a military takeover.

Only the Workers Revolutionary Party has been cam-

paigned to prepare the working class in this dangerous situation by demanding a full disclosure of the police conspiracy and the scandal in the Wilson administration.

The WRP is demanding a workers investigation into the Labor Party scandal and the convening of an emergency Labor Party conference to answer Wilson's betrayals with socialist policies mandating the party to repeal the Tory anti-labor laws and proceed with policies of nationalization under workers control.

The Tory conspiracies are the product of the desperate weakness of the ruling class which fears the power of the working class. The working class has not only driven the Tories from office, but is refusing to sacrifice for the bankruptcy of British capitalism. The conditions for the construction of the WRP as a mass revolutionary party are rapidly developing.

Syria Launches New Air Offensive

BY A CORRESPONDENT
For the first time since the October war, Syrian military forces have brought aircraft into the battle against the Israeli Army. Syrian planes launched from Damascus inflicted heavy casualties on Israeli ground troops on the Golan Heights and at the base of Mount Hermon. Syrian sources report having downed 17 Israeli planes with their ground-to-air missiles on Saturday. The fighting has been continuous now for 38 days.

Around-the-clock tank and artillery duels on the Golan Heights are now in their second week, with Syria maintaining the upper hand.

Israel's ability to mount a military offensive is being severely undermined by the internal crisis in Israel.

Demonstrations are taking place all over the country against the unemployment, prices and housing shortage. After the Palestinian raid on



Tel Aviv: Soldier tries to stop attack on Arab laborers. In another attack, a grenade was thrown at Arab workers.

Qiryat Shemona, 200 Israeli workers marched to the Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem demanding to know why they had been settled there and demanding better hospitals, housing and school facilities.

Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat has recently announced that he is stopping all shipments of Soviet Union weaponry into

Egypt, and that the 18 years that Egypt has been dependent on military aid from Russia is now at an end. He stated that there will now be an "open door" policy for foreign investment in Egypt including military aid.

Last Saturday, Israeli defense Minister Moshe Dayan said on nationwide Israeli radio that the possibility of a "major conflict"

developing with Arab countries in the near future, cannot be excluded.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger plans another trip to the Middle East within ten days. This new trip will once again be unable to resolve anything as the threat of a full-scale re-opening of the war in the Middle East becomes greater.



Posters on the walls of Paris for socialist candidate Francois Mitterrand.

Gaullist Split In French Campaign

BY MELODY FARROW

The split that has emerged within the French Gaullist coalition since the death of President George Pompidou has come out in the open with the approach of the May 5 elections.

Led by Minister of the Interior Jacques Chirac, four Gaullist Ministers and 29 deputies in the ruling Gaullist party UDR have issued a public appeal for a single common candidate.

The latest opinion polls show that Francois Mitterrand, the candidate of the Popular Union, a coalition of the Socialist Party, Communist Party, and sections of the Radical Party, leading with 41 percent.

Jean Chaban Delmas, representing the UDR has only 25 percent and Valery D'Estaing, an Independent Republican, the present Minister of Finance, who also claims to represent the Gaullists, has only 25 percent.

A third candidate, Jean Royer, Mayor of Tour and the Minister of Communications under Pompidou, has just entered the presidential race, further splitting the Gaullist vote.

The group of Gaullists around Chirac, while they have indicated their preference for D'Estaing, are also divided among themselves with some urging Prime Minister Pierre Messmer to present himself as the Gaullist candidate.

"D'Estaing was the architect of an austerity program announced shortly before Pompidou's death that ruled out any improvements in workers' buying power and slashed government spending.

The Stalinists of the French Communist Party are deliber-

ately staying in the background of the election campaign because in the words of General Secretary George Marchais: "It is clear that the conditions do not exist today in which a majority of Frenchmen would favor election of a communist to the presidency of the Republic."

At a time when the French ruling class is preparing behind the scenes army and police forces to settle accounts with the working class in civil war, the Stalinists and the Socialist Party are building a Popular Front to preserve the capitalist state and give the capitalists a smoke-screen to prepare their attacks.

The most urgent task in France is the construction of a revolutionary party, as part of the International Committee of the Fourth International to build the alternative to the Stalinists and reformists.

10% Cut At Navy Yard

BY A REPORTER

NEW YORK—The threat of mass unemployment is facing thousands of workers at Seatrain's Brooklyn Navy Yard. Recently, the company carried out an across the board layoff of 10 percent in every department.

Seatrain has pursued a continuous policy of layoffs of new workers to prevent them from building up seniority, but the latest measures cut into senior men as well.

Many men in the yard expect that much sharper cuts are being prepared with as many as 1500 men slated to go. With warmer weather allowing for a more consistent operation and a much faster pace of work, there is no question that the company will be attempting to speed up the

Tapes Due May 2: Nixon Rallies DAR

BY DAVID NORTH
United States District Court Judge John Sirica has backed up the request by Leon Jaworski, Special Watergate Prosecutor, for tapes and documents of 64 White House conversations by issuing a subpoena demanding that the material be delivered by May 2.

However, Nixon has not stated that he will accept the subpoena. A White House spokesman declared that Nixon merely "is considering" the court order.

In a development related to Watergate, testimony at the Mitchell-Stans trial in New York indicated that the \$200,000 donated by the fugitive speculator, Robert Vesco, was used by Nixon's chief money raiser, Maurice Stans, to finance the Watergate break-in.

Stans insisted on the witness

stand that the contribution was kept secret out of concern for Vesco's constitutional rights. However, it appears that the real reason for secrecy was the need to raise vast sums of money to finance Nixon's conspiratorial moves against the democratic rights of the working class.

IMPEACHMENT

As the impeachment inquiry drags on endlessly, Nixon has continued to travel around the country, speaking to right-wing audiences in order to find a base on which he can remain in power.

His latest engagement was before a crowd of 4,000 members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Nixon told the DAR members that the United States, like Greece and Rome, now faces the danger of collapse.

"You find that those civilizations came down not because they were poor and not when they were poor, but when they were very rich, not because they were weak materially."

DANGER

Nixon said that there is a "danger of going downward because it is rich, of becoming weak because it is rich, of tearing itself apart with internal strife because of its wealth."

Nixon's right-wing demagoguery about uniting the nation and ending internal strife comes at a time when millions of workers face reduction of their living standards and must fight to survive. Nixon's patriotic speeches are designed to inflame the right-wing elements and sections of the middle class against the movement of the working class against his government.

DISDAIN

Nixon's disdain for the congressional inquiry and the various court subpoenas reveals the persistent trend toward dictatorship that is the product of the enormous economic crisis.

The trade unions must mobilize to meet this danger by calling a Congress of Labor and charting a drive to force Nixon out while proceeding with the construction of the labor party.

Free Jose Ballón! Drop All Charges!

Jose Carlos Ballón, the Peruvian Trotskyist leader, is still being held in prison without trial by the military dictatorship of General Juan Velasco Alvarado.

Ballón was arrested in November last year with other comrades of the Liga Comunista, the Peruvian Trotskyist movement, while selling copies of the bi-weekly paper *Comunismo* to fishing industry workers.

He has been savagely tortured by the military, who have been specially trained in the techniques of inflicting pain by United States advisers.

The charges against Ballón are completely absurd: he is accused of "insulting the symbols of the nation" and similar offenses. But there can be no doubt of the dangers that face him.

In order to frame Ballón the junta interrogators have inserted a number of documents attacking the government into his dossier. Yet the only document found in his possession was the copy of *Comunismo* which he was selling.

TERRORIZE

The aim, clearly, is to try and create a legal amalgam against Ballón in order to whip up anti-Trotskyist hatred and to terrorize the workers' movement into submission.

It is no accident that the at-

tack on the Trotskyists comes at a time when the fishermen of Peru face mass unemployment and falling living standards as a direct result of the reckless capitalist exploitation of the fishing grounds.

The anti-Trotskyist witch-hunt by the Velasco regime is fully supported by the Stalinists, who have repeatedly praised the junta as a "progressive" formation. In reality the regime is a Bonapartist dictatorship which has spearheaded huge attacks on the Peruvian workers.


Under the Velasco regime workers have been robbed of their most basic democratic and trade union rights. The fishermen's union, for example, is completely dominated by a Mafia of criminals with close connection in the regime.

RELEASE

The defense of Jose Ballón is an urgent and unpostponable task of the entire international movement: The Workers League demands his immediate and unconditional release and the dropping of all charges against him.

We declare our full support for the struggle of the Peruvian Trotskyists for their basic democratic rights against the military junta. We denounce the criminal connivance of the Stalinists who are consciously preparing the way for Peru to become another Chile.

THE REVOLUTION BETRAYED



Speaker: Tim Wohlforth, Nat'l. Secretary, Workers League

WASHINGTON DC
All Soul's Church
16th & Harvard NW
SAT. APRIL 27
7:30 p.m.

BOSTON
Roxbury YMCA
Warren St.
THURS., APRIL 25
7:30 p.m.

Speculators Block Bust Boston

BY BILL VANN
BOSTON—The Legislative hearings held last week on the future of the Massachusetts Rent Control laws brought out the critical housing situation which the workers of Boston now face.

The hearings on bills which ranged from the repeal of all rent control to the strengthening of present controls began with the 800-seat State House Auditorium filled to overflowing.

Behind the anger of the tenants and the maneuvering of the landlords is a crisis which threatens to deprive thousands of workers and their families of the basic right to decent and reasonably priced housing.

Many of the city's three story homes, once predominantly owner occupied, have been bought up by real estate speculators and absentee landlords who have brought on a rapid deterioration of whole neighborhoods like Mattapan, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, and Brighton-Allston.

These speculators have used racism to break up these neighborhoods, drive the residents out, and turn a quick and lucrative profit in the process. Block-busting, a tactic widely used in the late sixties, now threatens to take on a new dimension as the speculators seek to profit from the conflicts generated by the reactionary anti-busing campaign.



Dorchester housing is abandoned and allowed to deteriorate while landlords push up rents to area residents.

Abandoned housing, either gutted by fire or in a complete state of shambles after long periods of vacancy, give Dorchester's streets the appearance of a bombarded city.

The buildings are maintained in this condition either by speculators who are waiting for property values to rise or by small landlords unable to cover the costs of rehabilitation.

BARE

On other streets, one sees the empty windows and bare brick frames of a government subsidized housing project which is never to be completed because of lack of funds.

Some have made fortunes off of the deterioration of the housing situation. Through well-organized campaigns of leafletting, phone calls, and with the

cooperation of appraisers, the realty speculators created panic in while neighborhoods to pressure many owners to sell at low prices.

These speculators even engineered programs with local banks using federal money to provide low interest mortgages to Black families. They would then mount an even more vigorous drive to manipulate racial fears in the neighborhoods and get families to sell them again at inflated prices to Black families.

One of the most successful of the real estate speculators was Michael F. Kenealy who managed to carry out block-busting in large sections of Mattapan.

In other areas, such as Brighton-Allston and Cambridge, absentee landlords have sought to

drive out workers and their families in order to increase rents to students from nearby universities. With the opening of the new University of Massachusetts campus, speculators and landlords have been eyeing the prospective profits from the influx of students into the Columbia-Savin Hill section of Dorchester.

The Fenway area of Boston was an area dominated in the past by families and elderly. Last fall, a section of rents was boosted an average of \$50 to \$60 on renovations that did not come close to the \$6300 per unit claim made by Levenson and Simons, a large realty corporation in the area.

The landlords' aim is to drive out the remainder of these senior citizens, workers, and their families to replace them with students and middle class professionals who can afford the exorbitant rent increase.

Mrs. Lombard, a 52-year-old Fenway tenant, was served an eviction notice two weeks ago personally by Levenson. She has lived there 15 years and estimates that she has put close to \$1500 into her one-bedroom apartment. She goes to court April 16 to fight Levenson's charges that she was late on her rent.

"As far as I'm concerned, even this court fight constitutes

harassment," Mrs. Lombard's sister told the Bulletin.

"If you ask me, it's the landlords, not the politicians who are running everything around here."

Tenant organizer Ernest Garneau told the Bulletin: "These repairs are merely cosmetic. They're talking about wall carpeting, suspended ceilings, new bathroom fixtures, nothing more."

"And it's all nonunion contracting. These people are dinosaurs. The people are against the wall with no place to go."

Although the speculators themselves run a rather shady operation, behind them stand powerful and respected banking interests. Levron Properties Management Corporation, the parent corporation which is seeking the evictions on the Fenway, was granted a \$3.2 million loan from the New York Chemical Bank for its rehabilitation scheme.

The state's Consumer Protection Division described the Levron firm as "totally insolvent," owing \$160,000 to "trade creditors," (a category which includes the oil company which recently turned off heat and hot water in several buildings for Levron's delinquency in payments), a reported \$114,416 in back taxes on 15 of their buildings and \$24,275 in security deposits.

While the speculators disrupt communities, squeeze every bit of profit out of properties and then abandon them in a shambles, rent increases are now threatened. Public housing, in most cases, is in an even greater state of decay and virtually no new low income housing, either public or private, is under construction.

The fight of the tenants against these conditions can only be taken forward through a political fight to remove the Nixon government and replace it with a labor party pledged to socialist policies.

Such a party would have as its immediate tasks the nationalization of land, the banks and of the construction industry, and the elimination of the parasitical speculators.

Drugs Excuse For Campus Raid

BY A REPORTER
COLLEGE PARK, Md.—"This is the most horrible thing I ever heard of. The university has become a police state—anyone can just walk in and arrest students."

On April 10, at 5:30 p.m., 21 raiding teams of police came onto the University of Maryland campus at College Park and arrested 65 students suspected of being involved in a drug ring.

Only 11 of those arrested were students at the University of Maryland. Bonds were set from \$1000 to \$100,000.

The raid was carried out by Maryland state police from as far away as Annapolis, Virginia State police, University of Maryland campus police, District of Columbia police, Prince Georges county, Maryland police, and Calvert county police. The team also included personnel from the

state attorney's offices of Prince Georges and Calvert counties in Maryland.

The arrested were charged with possession of marijuana, LSD, and PCP, an animal tranquilizer.

Soon after the arrests, many students were afraid to speak out because they feared retaliation from the authorities.

Dan Dobry, a student, said: "The troopers knocked so hard on the door that the door shook. My roommate was handcuffed despite the fact that she wore a leg brace and needed a cane to walk."

Another stated: "It's guilt by association. I know 20 of the people on that list of those arrested, and only two or three were big dealers. The rest were just their friends."

According to Maryland state police spokesman Bill Clark, the raids resulted from a continuing investigation in which 15

students were busted during the last Christmas recess. Members of the Maryland state police began infiltrating the "drug ring" on the campus, posing as students.

BOOTHS

Last semester, the university closed all but four of 13 gates and placed police booths at each one under the pretext of stopping a series of rapes and robberies on the campus.

Last week, demonstrations were held against the arrests and 11 students were brutally beaten up by campus cops when they sat in the administration building.

The drug issue is a cover to increase police presence on the campus at a time when student opposition is growing to budget cuts, a \$100 tuition hike, and the elimination of grants, loans, and cutbacks in the work study program.

Beame Slashes 12,600 City Jobs

BY AN SSEU-371 MEMBER
NEW YORK, NY—The intention of Nixon and the Democrats to break the trade unions through mass unemployment is becoming clearer to New York City workers and especially the Social Service Employees Union-371.

Mayor Beame has announced the layoffs of up to 2600 provisional city employees and the elimination of 10,000 vacant city civil service job slots. SSEU has several thousand workers in HRA titles who have never had the chance to take a civil service exam because the city has not given any in the last five years.

Beame now wants to use this to lay these workers off, increase the already staggering workloads of Civil Service workers, and prepare for layoffs by forcing rotten contracts onto the city unions.

The unions will also have no chance to relieve the tremen-

dous overwork instituted in previous drives for productivity, with Beame's elimination of the 10,000 empty job slots.

The bankruptcy of leaders like Victor Gotbaum and the city AFL-CIO leadership stands completely exposed. They endorsed Beame as a Democrat and "friend of labor" and thus let Beame get into office to carry out his present attacks.

SSEU-371 can play a leading role in the fight for a decent contract because SSEU is now negotiating for a new contract and, as Gotbaum is forced to admit, this contract will set the pattern for all city contracts. The leadership in SSEU, Pat Knight, who is running for re-election, as well as his opponent, are silent about the fact that there is no job security clause in the contract to protect workers against fiscal layoffs. If Beame can bust SSEU-371, it will pave the way for the same attack on every city union.

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BY CYNTHIA BLAKE
and DOV LANDAU

The growing social and political crisis and the recent resignation of Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir is the direct result of the destruction of the myth of "Invincibility" on which the Zionist state has been built.

The myth, based on military power and the artificial economy built up by the imperialists, was destroyed by the victory of the Arab armies in the war last October.

This defeat, which is now continuing in the battles on the Golan Heights, have brought to a head the tremendous social conflicts in Israel and have exposed the myth of a "classless" Israeli state.

The break-up of the world inflationary boom, which financed Israel, and the immense burden of the military preparations necessary to defend Israel lie behind the recent upsurge in class struggles within Israel.

When the Labor Party drew up its most recent budget, its balance of payments deficit, its trade debt, to other nations, totalled \$3.3 billion. This is three times the figure for 1972.

Inflation

The staggering increase is due in part to the 27 percent inflation in Israel which cut into the amount of exports ordered. In addition, prices for most items imported into Israel, motor vehicles, electrical appliances, etc. rose tremendously.

In 1974, Israel will pay about \$600 million for the crude oil it needs, while last year it spent just over \$100 million. Wheat imports, mostly from the United States, will cost about five times what was paid a few years ago, and the same is true of many other foodstuffs and raw materials.

Arms and defense imports for 1974 are expected to total \$1.8 billion, as opposed to \$600 million spent in 1972. Defense, in fact, accounts for 42 percent of the Israeli budget, or about \$3.5 billion.

Burden

This new budget is to be paid for by an increased burden on the Israeli worker. Taxes already the highest in the world, will be increased to pay the new defense expense. The cost of living went up 25 percent last year, and now the abandonment of government subsidies will bring an immediate 25 percent rise in the cost of basic foods.

In addition, there are continuing shortages of many consumer items because of production lost during war. A leading Israeli economist has warned that there will now be a "sharp drop" in living standards.

Upsurge

Under these conditions, a massive upsurge has begun among Israeli workers and youth, traditionally bound to the Zionist government by the nationalist-religious myths. It is the class struggle of Israeli workers and youth against the Israeli government over the issues of prices, jobs and housing that lies behind the present political crisis.

Mass demonstrations of kibbutz workers have demanded changes in government economic policy. Soldiers, workers and students are demanding substantial increases in pay, plus

War, Inflation Break Up Zionist Myths, Stability



Above: Israeli troops west of Suez. Below: Angry residents of Qiryat Shemona confronting Israeli police during demonstration outside of Parliament, where debate on internal security was in progress.

free housing and free schools.

A recent conference of shop stewards in Tel-Aviv declared that Histadrut, the state-controlled trade union organization, is responsible for slashes in workers' wages under the skyrocketing inflation.

In opposition to Histadrut's policies, the conference put forward demands for 25 percent wage increases with a 100 percent escalator clause to be figured every three months. They called for a nationwide shop stewards' meeting to plan action to win these demands.

A national students' group has called on these stewards to lead strikes in solidarity with demonstrations they are planning in Jerusalem.

Opposition

For the first time in history, the Israeli soldiers are playing an active role in this opposition to the government. As the Israeli government is forced to move against the working class, it becomes clear that Israel was not set up as a refuge for homeless Jewish workers of Europe, but was a trap set up by the American imperialists to assure cannon fodder and a base of attack against the Arab people in order to defend their oil interests.

Youth

The youth who are forced to serve in Israel's army have never known a day of peace in their life. They are forced to leave their jobs or schools for several months of each year, and at any emergency alert. Now they find that the reward for risking their lives is unemployment and poor housing.

This is what lies behind the re-

action of the youth who live in Qiryat Shemona, a border town where Palestinian guerillas staged a raid that killed 18 people. At the state funeral for the victims, the youth attacked the Zionist officials and demanded to know why the government was "forcing them to live this way."

Knesset

Last week, 200 of these youth stormed a session of the Knesset (parliament) to demand better security plus a hospital, better schools and housing for the young couples and overcrowded families in the area.

One student leader declared "Look, 250 high school graduates from North Tel-Aviv asked in a discussion evening in which I participated 'Is it worth it for us to live in such a country?'"

"These students will be drafted shortly; they will have to defend us. How can they defend us when they are not satisfied with the purposes of the country?"

In this situation there has been a break-up of the traditional political parties, especially the Labor Party which has governed Israel since it was founded in 1948. The right wing has grown extremely rapidly.

The real concern of the Zionists is the possibility of independent political action by the working class. One expert recently wrote that the danger is when a government changes and becomes a "burden on the people's shoulders, comes the thought that political parties can't hold the situation and parliament's discussions don't answer the needs.

"Then it might come to the situation that responsible people will despise parliamentary actions and will be dragged to extra-parliamentary actions and will try to take the matters into their hands.

"They (the soldiers and youth) shook the whole political system in the country. The Labor Party is falling apart ... and the right party Likud is not united any more."

This is why the ruling Labor Party fears to hold new elections, and has decided instead to appoint a replacement for Meir and attempt to piece together another cabinet.

The new offensive by Syria will intensify the financial crisis of Zionism and increase the burden on the working class. At the same time, the international financiers who have been backing Israel will be increasingly reluctant to do so if the perspective is one of ultimate defeat anyway.

The danger now is the strengthening of the right-wing inside Israel, who will appeal to the imperialists with the aim of setting off an international war in the Mid-East on any pretext.

Revolutionary

The conditions have never been more urgent, and more favorable, for the development of the revolutionary leadership, an Israeli section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

There is no way forward except a complete break with the fraudulent "Labor Party" of Meir and Dayan, the establishment of trade unions independent of the Zionist state and a political party based on those unions.

This party must fight for socialist policies to answer the crushing economic crisis, and prepare the Israeli working class to take power and unite with workers throughout the Middle East to build a united federation of Socialist republics.

The interest of Israeli workers lies not with their capitalist rulers but in common struggle with Arab workers against imperialism and its capitalist agents in the Middle East.



Part 1: Revivals

Engels wrote to the German-American Marxist F.A. Sorge in the 1880s: "For good historical reasons, the Americans are worlds behind in all theoretical things, and while they did not bring over any medieval institutions, they did bring over masses of medieval traditions, religion, English common (feudal) law, superstition, spiritualism, in short every kind of imbecility that was not directly harmful to business and which is now very serviceable for making the masses stupid."

This is, if anything, understating the case, at least for the early part of the nineteenth century. In the period from the 1820s to 1850s, America was like a nation seized, as if the entire people had gone mad, shaking

very much the progressive side of the American Revolution.

The revolution was, however, very limited. As Engels notes, it was not a revolution against medieval institutions within America, but rather the rebellion of a bourgeois class against subordination to a bourgeois class abroad. Thus the struggle against medieval religion and superstition was here a matter of the adaptation of views from abroad, not an understanding developed in the course of a struggle at home.

The United States, throughout the late eighteenth and most of the nineteenth century, was an agricultural country. At the time of the American Revolution, some 90 percent of the population lived on the farms and most of the remaining 10 percent lived off of agriculture indirectly—transporting it, selling it, selling to the farmer, etc. While there was, throughout the nineteenth century, a slow growth of industry, it was not until almost the close of the century that

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The mass of the farmers were extremely poor. They produced commodities for a market completely out of their control. These commodities were produced almost entirely by human labor of the entire family with minimal mechanization and fertilization until the period after the Civil War. Each farmer was forced to compete against each other farmer here and internationally, driving down the price of his goods as low as possible.

From this mass of small family farmers, as well as from the slave labor of the South, America's wealth originated. This wealth returned as little to the farmer as it did to the slave. In fact, some farmer families lived under conditions economically inferior to the slaves, for at least the slave plantations had the economic advantage of large scale agricultural production. This wealth was accumulated along the seaboard by the traders, the shipping compan-

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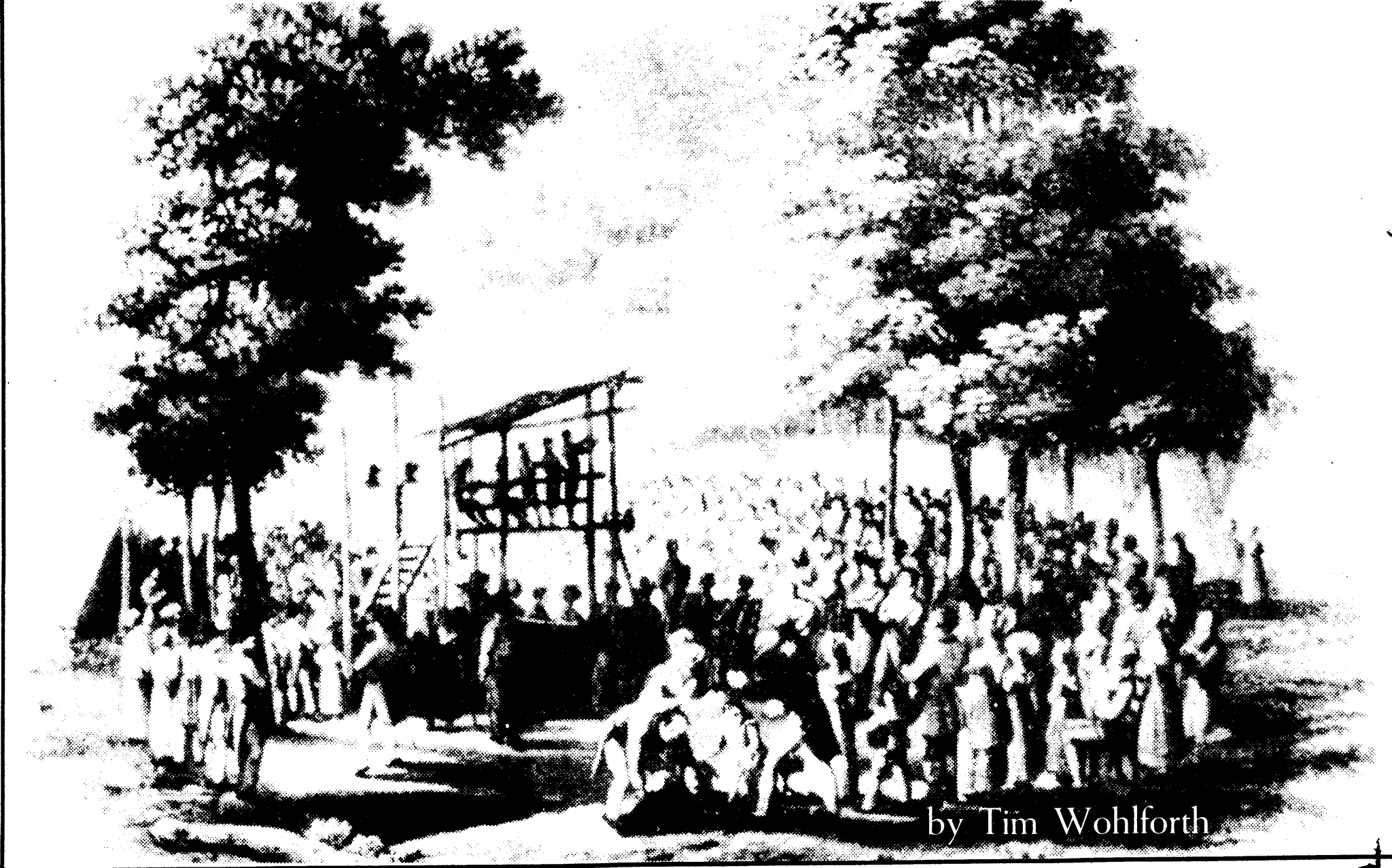
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Revivals And Utopias

Idealism In America



by Tim Wohlforth

their limbs, communicating with the spirits.

This madness swept the educated and intellectuals as well as the pioneers. Nothing was too outlandish or absurd to develop roots in America. Out of this ferment also emerged the first attempts towards socialist and communist society, though cloaked in religion and utopian in character.

The cause of this frenzy, as well as the lessons to be learned from the early experiments in communism must be probed in order to understand the history which has shaped the American working class, which still is part of it today.

The American Revolution was led by the commercial class of the Northeast coast in a bloc with the slaveowners of the South. The theoretical spokesmen for these classes turned to British empiricism and French rationalism and materialism for the justification of their course of action. Tom Paine, a recent immigrant from England, was the most effective in popularizing this outlook among masses of Americans.

There was great interest in science and a definite tendency towards materialism. Most of the leaders of the period were either Deists, who saw God as a first cause and after that most removed from the doings of man and nature, or agnostics, who at least questioned the existence of God. This was

this overwhelming dominance of agriculture began to be challenged by the development of industry.

Agriculture in America was not the idyllic life pictured in the schools. Only a minute portion of the farmers were subsistence farmers, that is, grew just enough to feed their families and were therefore not dependent upon or part of the capitalist market economy. These were primarily the extremely thin layer of pioneers at the very edge of the constantly changing frontier.

These pioneers had a measure of equality, but it was the equality of extreme primitiveness, hunger, and poverty. Women on the frontier were lucky to reach the age of 35 and most children died in birth or within a year or two of birth. These pioneers lived in a stage of development somewhere between savagery and barbarism, living off of the woods and small plots carved out of the wilderness.

The mass of farmers lived by producing agricultural products for the world market. The food products of the Northeast and later of the Northwest fed the industrial workers of Europe, while it was the cotton from the great slave plantations of the South which produced the raw materials for the mills. In all farm areas, including right at the edge of the frontier itself, there existed great dif-

ferences among the farmers in wealth.

Out of these conditions, one of the world's greatest religious ferments developed. Masses of impoverished farmers, cut off from any real education or cultural tradition, rebelling against the very logic of the market economy which continuously transformed their individual labors into nothing, and still striving very much as individuals to achieve some measure of success in capitalist society, turned to unreal, idealist solutions in a massive way, and at a fever pitch.

Early man created religion in order to try to magically control nature which he could not yet control in a material way. Religion however, persisted in more advanced society as the masses of the ruled found society itself out of their control.

Communism, in a religious form, was born out of this. So the early Christians sought to build their own communist society within Roman slave society, while they prayed for Jesus to return with an army of angels to help them massacre the slave rulers of Rome and establish a communist society on earth. They sought, therefore, to do in both a utopian and mystical way, what the productive forces did not yet allow for them to do materially.

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ment of productive forces from the days of Rome to the early part of the nineteenth century, the mass of the farmers were still in this position. The nature of capitalist development required that the small capitalist be ruined so that big capital could develop. The farmer was a small capitalist. He could not avoid ruination as a class. He could only fight it magically, mystically and seek in a utopian way to withdraw from it.

Only after the triumph of large capital through the ruination of small capital, would an industrial base and a mass working class emerge which would make communism something which could be achieved materially.

Revivalism in America was continuously generated from out of the near frontier area. This area, close to the edge of the frontier, was populated by a mass of the poorest farmers. Its central region was a

large belt beginning in the northern parts of New England in the East, sweeping through the vast extent of Western New York State and penetrating as far as the frontier went into Ohio and West. So frequent were revivals in this area that it became known as the "burnt" district.

This area was populated almost exclusively by descendents of the original English settlers of the New England coast who migrated farther and farther from the coast until they penetrated the whole of what became known as the Northwest territories. This layer contributed so much to the distinctive traits of American culture, that the immigrants of other lands had to melt into their Anglo-Saxon pot.

The revival itself expressed very much the individualism necessary to capitalist development. It was thus an escape in an ideal way from the effect of capitalist development as well as a contributing factor to this development.

Its elements were essentially pragmatic. The relation of man to God was individual and direct. This relationship took the form of conversion. Conversion was seen as a moment, an act, in which an actual change took place in the individual. This change was supposed to lead to an actual change in the practice of the converted. It was im-

mediate, individual, and practical. The revivals were fantastic events of mass hysteria involving thousands of people gathered out in the open air sometimes going without food and shelter for days on end. James Finley, a famous backwoods preacher, described one of the first great revivals held in Cane Ridge, Kentucky: "The noise was like the roar of Niagara. The vast sea of human beings seemed to be agitated as if by a storm. I counted seven ministers all preaching at once, some on stumps, others in wagons, and one was standing on a tree trunk which had, in falling, lodged against another. Some of the people were singing, others praying, some crying for mercy in the most piteous accents, while others were shouting most vociferously. "At one time I saw at least five hundred swept down in a moment, as if a battery of a thousand guns had been opened upon them, and then immediately followed shrieks and

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Transcendentalism

At the same time, the intellectual elite of the Boston area, with their close connections with the very commercial interests whose wealth came from the poverty of the farmers, turned to transcendentalism.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the most influential writer and thinker of nineteenth century America, was the leading light of this school, itself an offshoot of the Unitarian liberal reform of the Congregational Church.

The transcendentalists were opponents of materialism. They insisted that there ex-

isted only a general "over-soul." The material world was a reflection or expression of this over-soul. One's individual soul was only a part of this great whole.

Millennialism

Millennialism holds that there will be a "Second Coming" of Jesus. When Jesus returns to the earth, he will either gather together his followers and take them all back into heaven with him, or together with his followers conquer the earth establishing a heaven on earth or perhaps a combination of both.

The great appeal of millennialism among masses of the poor lies in its promise of a better existence and retribution against the rich and powerful as an event to be realized in people's own lifetimes and not in some vague future.

This was undoubtedly the appeal of early Christianity to masses of slaves and the proletariat of Rome during the period of the decay of the Roman empire. That millennialism would develop such great strength in the America of the 1830s only goes to prove that the rural masses in that period lived in anything but a paradise and sought relief from the reality of capitalist development.

William Miller, the chief exponent of millennialism in this period, was brought up in a log cabin in upper Vermont, the child of an old New England family. His father had served in the Revolutionary Army. Miller made a detailed study of the Bible, and through a series of complicated calculations, became absolutely convinced that Christ would return during the year of 1843.

As the fateful year approached perhaps as many as a million people supported Miller, who built a huge millennial tabernacle in Boston. Farmers stopped plowing their fields, businessmen neglected their business, so convinced were masses that nothing would proceed beyond the year 1843.

As the appointed day arrived, thousands of little boys in Boston sat on fences, trees, and roof tops, because they were convinced the roof of the millennial tabernacle would sail away and the entire Millerite following, in flowing white robes, would ascend to Heaven. Millerites camped out on hill tops in tents to make the trip to heaven a little shorter. One climbed a tree and sought to fly away, succeeding in breaking his neck. Another used the occasion as a good excuse to poison his nonbelieving wife.

But Christ did not turn up. After much new calculations another day and another were suggested. But in time, the followers drifted away. Modern day adherents to such beliefs, such as the highly prosperous Jehovah's Witnesses, are a little more cagy about dates than their Millerite descendants.

Once again, we see the immediate practical results demanded of religion, combined with the great desire to somehow escape the grinding logic of capitalist development.

Spiritualism

Spiritualism was, like so much of America's thinking, an import from abroad. Just as transcendentalism borrowed heavily from neo-Platonism popular in Europe and from Kant, so Spiritualism came from the Swedish mystic Swedenborg as well as from British cults.

Its basic belief was that a spirit world existed parallel to the material world and that through the various techniques of physically gifted individuals, one could communicate directly with it. Attempts were made to give this mumbo-jumbo a pseudo-scientific cover with all sort of empirically verified "unexplainable" events. The modern descendants of this is today's parapsychology and ESP.

Spiritualism never became a sizable church on its own, but it had great popularity in this period and various spiritualistic happenings became intertwined with other religious hysteria in various sects.

The most popular spiritualists of this period were the Fox sisters. They came from the "burnt" district having been brought up on a poor farm near Rochester, New York. One day, the parents overheard the children talking to a mysterious "Mr. Splitfoot." Every time the children would rap, Mr. Splitfoot would respond with the same number of raps.

The parents were quick to realize the importance of this and its exploitability. Soon, a whole worked out code was developed for communicating to Mr. Splitfoot through rapping. In this way, all kinds of information could be passed on from the spirit world to the material world, healing accomplished, etc. The Fox sisters toured the nation performing everywhere for admission.

Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune attested to their integrity. Judge Edmons of

the New York Supreme Court endorsed them and became their advocate along with ex-Governor Talmadge of Wisconsin, a wealthy New Yorker named Partidge, and an elderly scientist by the name of Professor Hare.

Later on, the Fox sisters admitted the entire operation had been a complete fraud. The sisters produced the mysterious rappings because they had learned how to crack the joints of their toes like one does one's knuckles. Hence the name "Mr. Splitfoot."

Needless to say, the mediums continued in business. There was always an element of fraud in much of the religious movements of that day. In fact they were a confused mixture of mass hysteria, self-delusion, occasional conscious deluding, with the practical side of matters never neglected.

Mormonism

Perhaps the biggest fraud of them all was Mormonism. In the field of religion—never known for its concern with credibility or logic—Mormonism stands out as perhaps the most preposterous of religious sects.

Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, was also a product of the "burnt" district. He was born in Vermont of poor parents who were failures at everything they attempted. The family was old New England stock which had always been poor from its origins. After meandering around ten different towns, the family ended up in Palmyra, New York, where all of Joseph's basic mystical discoveries took place.

Joseph started out using a forked stick to find buried treasures. He then graduated to the use of a "peek stone," a stone local people felt allowed one to find things and do other magic. Through the use of this stone, he "found" the famous plates left by the Angel Moroni. These plates were supposed to have engraved upon them the "Book of Mormon," the new religious teachings.

Of course, there never was produced any reliable evidence to the existence of these plates. The contents of this new mixture of all kinds of things Smith had picked up here and there. Tales of a lost tribe of Israel, which ended up as the American Indians and even bits of free masonry and modern republicanism.

What in the long run proved to be the strength of the Mormons lay in Smith's determination to pull together his followers into a compact group and to base the church's economic well being on an important slice of the earnings of all its members. Smith, together with a small group, dominated all church supporters through constant "revelations" including the one which established polygamy. His efforts were towards constructing an actual theocratic state within a state.

He first attempted this in earnest in Kirtland, Ohio where the Mormons were nearly destroyed through Smith's wildcat banking schemes. He next constructed a whole city on the Mississippi in Nauvoo, Illinois. The town, which had its own private army, grew to 15,000 before conflicts with neighbors forced the Mormons to move on.

Finally, they established a virtual independent state of Deseret in Salt Lake City, Utah. Based on agriculture, using polygamy to provide cheap female labor for agriculture, tightly controlling every aspect of the life of the believers through a church state, the Mormons built their city to a population of 200,000 and developed fantastic wealth for the church. This wealth today is in the hundreds of millions.

With Mormonism, we have all the elements of religion in that period brought together. The followers of the Mormons were consciously recruited from among the poorest farmers stirred up by the revivals of the period. The religion was a complete hodgepodge of the religious and social beliefs of the day, thrown together in no order, and justified through revelation and mysticism. The Mormons fused the elements of self-delusion and conscious deluding, with successful business and agriculture which brought to the leading families of the church great power and wealth. To this day, the region around Utah is dominated by the descendants of the original families who migrated from the burnt district.

Idealist rebellion from the logic of capitalist development produced in the Mormons only another form of capitalist development. The masses of farmers remained as they were before the fires of revivalism swept them up. Rather than the second coming of the Lord, there was the irresistible forward march of large capital. Out of dreams and illusions, only charlatans gained, reaping harvest in their own way as did the large commercial and banking interests of the Northeast in their way.

TO BE CONTINUED



Left: A western camp meeting. Above top: The Fox sisters, spirit rappers who later confessed to fraud. Directly above: A "Last Day Token" of the Millennialists whose basic beliefs are still held by today's Jehovah's Witnesses.

shouts that rent the very heavens." During these revivals people were seized by what were known as "exercises." The one described above was the slain exercise. Almost as common was the jerking exercise. In one incident, a sinner said he would drink the jerks to death only to have his arms jerk so violently that the whiskey bottle fell to the ground. Then he started cursing only to jerk his head so violently that he actually broke his own neck. Other exercises included the barking exercise where men would fall on all fours and run around in packs barking. Occasionally, they would all gather around a tree in an exercise called "treeing the devil." The "Holy Laugh" was also prevalent as well as speaking in tongues which is now still common among pentacostals. Dancing was also quite common.

As wild as this all may seem, it only expressed more graphically, more emotionally, trends in idealist thinking dominating the most conservative layers of intellectual and commercial interests as well. While religious revivalism continuously swept through the "burnt" district and from there into the metropolitan areas, but always most powerfully based among the poorest layers of farmers, new winds also swept through the most proper parlors of Boston.

This transcendental outlook was, like revivalism, intensely individualistic and practical, if not as emotional. One participated in this over-soul individually. As the material world was but an expression of the over-soul or God, one came closer to God through one's participation in the material world. Therefore, hard work was seen as a great virtue, a form of Godliness.

Transcendentalism was a religion or philosophy which while completely idealist and mystical in the way it saw the relationship between the "soul," actually a product of thought, and the material world, was nonetheless exceedingly practical. The practice of the hard-working, competitive individual was encouraged, while it was at the same time separated out from any overall materialist understanding of the world and how it changes. This is the central characteristic of the pragmatic outlook.

We will now look at three important religious trends which grew out of revivalism: millennialism, spiritualism, and Mormonism, all very much products of the "burnt"

Part 1: Revivals

Engels wrote to the German-American Marxist F.A. Sorge in the 1880s: "For good historical reasons, the Americans are worlds behind in all theoretical things, and while they did not bring over any medieval institutions, they did bring over masses of medieval traditions, religion, English common (feudal) law, superstition, spiritualism, in short every kind of imbecility that was not directly harmful to business and which is now very serviceable for making the masses stupid."

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Bulletin

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The great appeal of millennialism among masses of the poor lies in its promise of a better existence and retribution against the rich and powerful as an event to be realized in people's own lifetimes and not in some vague future.

This was undoubtedly the appeal of early Christianity to masses of slaves and the proletariat of Rome during the period of the decay of the Roman empire. That millennialism would develop such great strength in the America of the 1830s only goes to prove that the rural masses in that period lived in anything but a paradise and sought relief from the reality of capitalist development.

William Miller, the chief exponent of millennialism in this period, was brought up in a log cabin in upper Vermont, the child of an old New England family. His father had served in the Revolutionary Army. Miller made a detailed study of the Bible, and through a series of complicated calculations, became absolutely convinced that Christ would return during the year of 1843.

As the fateful year approached perhaps as many as a million people supported Miller, who built a huge millennial tabernacle in Boston. Farmers stopped plowing their fields, businessmen neglected their business, so convinced were masses that nothing would proceed beyond the year 1843.

As the appointed day arrived, thousands of little boys in Boston sat on fences, trees, and roof tops, because they were convinced the roof of the millennial tabernacle would sail away and the entire Millerite following, in flowing white robes, would ascend to Heaven. Millerites camped out on hill tops in tents to make the trip to heaven a little shorter. One climbed a tree and sought to fly away, succeeding in breaking his neck. Another used the occasion as a good excuse to poison his nonbelieving wife.

But Christ did not turn up. After much new calculations another day and another were suggested. But in time, the followers drifted away. Modern day adherents to such beliefs, such as the highly prosperous Jehovah's Witnesses, are a little more cagy about dates than their Millerite descendants.

Once again, we see the immediate practical results demanded of religion, combined with the great desire to somehow escape the grinding logic of capitalist development.

Spiritualism

Spiritualism was, like so much of America's thinking, an import from abroad. Just as transcendentalism borrowed heavily from neo-Platonism popular in Europe and from Kant, so Spiritualism came from the Swedish mystic Swedenborg as well as from British cults.

Its basic belief was that a spirit world existed parallel to the material world and that through the various techniques of physically gifted individuals, one could communicate directly with it. Attempts were made to give this mumbo-jumbo a pseudo-scientific cover with all sort of empirically verified "unexplainable" events. The modern descendants of this is today's parapsychology and ESP.

Spiritualism never became a sizable church on its own, but it had great popularity in this period and various spiritualistic happenings became intertwined with other religious hysteria in various sects.

The most popular spiritualists of this period were the Fox sisters. They came from the "burnt" district having been brought up on a poor farm near Rochester, New York. One day, the parents overheard the children talking to a mysterious "Mr. Splitfoot." Every time the children would rap, Mr. Splitfoot would respond with the same number of raps.

The parents were quick to realize the importance of this and its exploitability. Soon, a whole worked out code was developed for communicating to Mr. Splitfoot through rapping. In this way, all kinds of information could be passed on from the spirit world to the material world, healing accomplished, etc. The Fox sisters toured the nation performing everywhere for admission.

Horace Greeley of the New York Tribune attested to their integrity. Judge Edmons of

the New York Supreme Court endorsed them and became their advocate along with ex-Governor Talmadge of Wisconsin, a wealthy New Yorker named Partidge, and an elderly scientist by the name of Professor Hare.

Later on, the Fox sisters admitted the entire operation had been a complete fraud. The sisters produced the mysterious rappings because they had learned how to crack the joints of their toes like one does one's knuckles. Hence the name "Mr. Splitfoot."

Needless to say, the mediums continued in business. There was always an element of fraud in much of the religious movements of that day. In fact they were a confused mixture of mass hysteria, self-delusion, occasional conscious deluding, with the practical side of matters never neglected.

Mormonism

Perhaps the biggest fraud of them all was Mormonism. In the field of religion—never known for its concern with credibility or logic—Mormonism stands out as perhaps the most preposterous of religious sects.

Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, was also a product of the "burnt" district. He was born in Vermont of poor parents who were failures at everything they attempted. The family was old New England stock which had always been poor from its origins. After meandering around ten different towns, the family ended up in Palmyra, New York, where all of Joseph's basic mystical discoveries took place.

Joseph started out using a forked stick to find buried treasures. He then graduated to the use of a "peek stone," a stone local people felt allowed one to find things and do other magic. Through the use of this stone, he "found" the famous plates left by the Angel Moroni. These plates were supposed to have engraved upon them the "Book of Mormon," the new religious teachings.

Of course, there never was produced any reliable evidence to the existence of these plates. The contents of this new mixture of all kinds of things Smith had picked up here and there. Tales of a lost tribe of Israel, which ended up as the American Indians and even bits of free masonry and modern republicanism.

What in the long run proved to be the strength of the Mormons lay in Smith's determination to pull together his followers into a compact group and to base the church's economic well being on an important slice of the earnings of all its members. Smith, together with a small group, dominated all church supporters through constant "revelations" including the one which established polygamy. His efforts were towards constructing an actual theocratic state within a state.

He first attempted this in earnest in Kirtland, Ohio where the Mormons were nearly destroyed through Smith's wildcat banking schemes. He next constructed a whole city on the Mississippi in Nauvoo, Illinois. The town, which had its own private army, grew to 15,000 before conflicts with neighbors forced the Mormons to move on.

Finally, they established a virtual independent state of Deseret in Salt Lake City, Utah. Based on agriculture, using polygamy to provide cheap female labor for agriculture, tightly controlling every aspect of the life of the believers through a church state, the Mormons built their city to a population of 200,000 and developed fantastic wealth for the church. This wealth today is in the hundreds of millions.

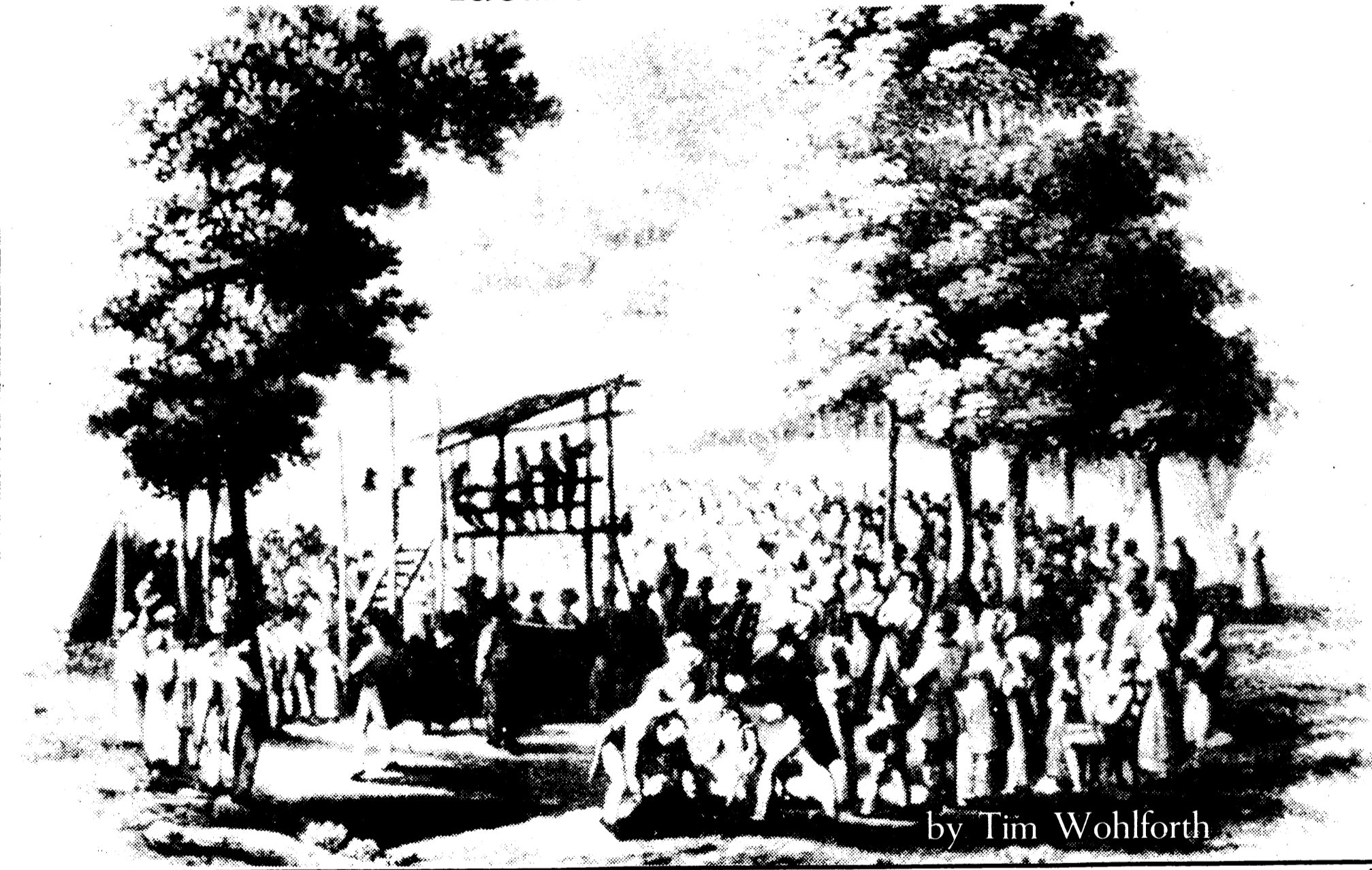
With Mormonism, we have all the elements of religion in that period brought together. The followers of the Mormons were consciously recruited from among the poorest farmers stirred up by the revivals of the period. The religion was a complete hodgepodge of the religious and social beliefs of the day, thrown together in no order, and justified through revelation and mysticism. The Mormons fused the elements of self-delusion and conscious deluding, with successful business and agriculture which brought to the leading families of the church great power and wealth. To this day, the region around Utah is dominated by the descendants of the original families who migrated from the burnt district.

Idealist rebellion from the logic of capitalist development produced in the Mormons only another form of capitalist development. The masses of farmers remained as they were before the fires of revivalism swept them up. Rather than the second coming of the Lord, there was the irresistible forward march of large capital. Out of dreams and illusions, only charlatans gained, reaping harvest in their own way as did the large commercial and banking interests of the Northeast in their way.

TO BE CONTINUED

Revivals And Utopias

Idealism In America



by Tim Wohlforth

their limbs, communicating with the spirits. This madness swept the educated and intellectuals as well as the pioneers. Nothing was too outlandish or absurd to develop roots in America. Out of this ferment also emerged the first attempts towards socialist and communist society, though cloaked in religion and utopian in character.

The cause of this frenzy, as well as the lessons to be learned from the early experiments in communism must be probed in order to understand the history which has shaped the American working class, which still is part of it today.

The American Revolution was led by the commercial class of the Northeast coast in a bloc with the slaveowners of the South. The theoretical spokesmen for these classes turned to British empiricism and French rationalism and materialism for the justification of their course of action. Tom Paine, a recent immigrant from England, was the most effective in popularizing this outlook among masses of Americans.

There was great interest in science and a definite tendency towards materialism. Most of the leaders of the period were either Deists, who saw God as a first cause and after that most removed from the doings of man and nature, or agnostics, who at least questioned the existence of God. This was

this overwhelming dominance of agriculture began to be challenged by the development of industry.

Agriculture in America was not the idyllic life pictured in the schools. Only a minute portion of the farmers were subsistence farmers, that is, grew just enough to feed their families and were therefore not dependent upon or part of the capitalist market economy. These were primarily the extremely thin layer of pioneers at the very edge of the constantly changing frontier.

These pioneers had a measure of equality, but it was the equality of extreme primitiveness, hunger, and poverty. Women on the frontier were lucky to reach the age of 35 and most children died in birth or within a year or two of birth. These pioneers lived in a stage of development somewhere between savagery and barbarism, living off of the woods and small plots carved out of the wilderness.

The mass of farmers lived by producing agricultural products for the world market. The food products of the Northeast and later of the Northwest fed the industrial workers of Europe, while it was the cotton from the great slave plantations of the South which produced the raw materials for the mills. In all farm areas, including right at the edge of the frontier itself, there existed great dif-

ferences among the farmers in wealth.

Out of these conditions, one of the world's greatest religious ferments developed. Masses of impoverished farmers, cut off from any real education or cultural tradition, rebelling against the very logic of the market economy which continuously transformed their individual labors into nothing, and still striving very much as individuals to achieve some measure of success in capitalist society, turned to unreal, idealist solutions in a massive way, and at a fever pitch.

Early man created religion in order to try to magically control nature which he could not yet control in a material way. Religion however, persisted in more advanced society as the masses of the ruled found society itself out of their control.

Communism, in a religious form, was born out of this. So the early Christians sought to build their own communist society within Roman slave society, while they prayed for Jesus to return with an army of angels to help them massacre the slave rulers of Rome and establish a communist society on earth. They sought, therefore, to do in both a utopian and mystical way, what the productive forces did not yet allow for them to do materially.

While there had been a great develop-

ment of productive forces in the northern parts of New England in the East, sweeping through the vast extent of Western New York State and penetrating as far as the frontier went into Ohio and West. So frequent were revivals in this area that it became known as the "burnt" district.

This area was populated almost exclusively by descendants of the original English settlers of the New England coast who migrated farther and farther from the coast until they penetrated the whole of what became known as the Northwest territories. This layer contributed so much to the distinctive traits of American culture, that the immigrants of other lands had to melt into their Anglo-Saxon pot.

The revival itself expressed very much the individualism necessary to capitalist development. It was thus an escape in an ideal way from the effect of capitalist development as well as a contributing factor to this development.

Its elements were essentially pragmatic. The relation of man to God was individual and direct. This relationship took the form of conversion. Conversion was seen as a moment, an act, in which an actual change took place in the individual. This change was supposed to lead to an actual change in the practice of the converted. It was im-



Left: A western camp meeting. Above top: The Fox sisters, spirit rappers who later confessed to fraud. Directly above: A "Last Day Token" of the Millennialists whose basic beliefs are still held by today's Jehovah's Witnesses.

shouts that rent the very heavens."

During these revivals people were seized by what were known as "exercises." The one described above was the slain exercise. Almost as common was the jerking exercise. In one incident, a sinner said he would drink the jerks to death only to have his arms jerk so violently that the whiskey bottle fell to the ground. Then he started cursing only to jerk his head so violently that he actually broke his own neck.

Other exercises included the barking exercise where men would fall on all fours and run around in packs barking. Occasionally, they would all gather around a tree in an exercise called "treering the devil." The "Holy Laugh" was also prevalent as well as speaking in tongues which is now still common among pentacostals. Dancing was also quite common.

As wild as this all may seem, it only expressed more graphically, more emotionally, trends in idealist thinking dominating the most conservative layers of intellectual and commercial interests as well. While religious revivalism continuously swept through the "burnt" district and from there into the metropolitan areas, but always most powerfully based among the poorest layers of farmers, new winds also swept through the most proper parlors of Boston.

LABOR TODAY

ITU Press Showdown

A struggle which reveals the future facing every trade unionist in the country has now broken out between the publishers of the **Daily News** and **The New York Times** and No. 6 of the International Typographical Union.

The mass unemployment policies of the Nixon administration have been taken up by the **Times** and the **News** in an attack on the jobs and conditions of more than 2000 New York printers that is unparalleled for its arrogance and viciousness.

Both the **Times** and the **News** have already installed automated equipment which would enable them to use electronically generated type from the editorial department, the advertising department, the wire services, and the advertising agencies that would eliminate 90 percent of the work presently performed by the printers.

Both publishers admit to training a scab force to run this equipment.

Negotiations have proceeded for a year and the capitalist courts have continually intervened to prevent the union from taking job or strike action in order to give the publishers time to prepare their onslaught.

The publishers have tabled an offer for a 5.5 percent increase and are seeking an automation clause that would so seriously undermine the jurisdictional rights of the union that acceptance would mean destruction.

The ITU is now conducting a slowdown at the **Daily News**. A showdown may be very close in which the **News** attempts to lock out the union and run its paper with the new automated equipment.

What must be understood is that these are not trade union negotiations as in the past. The union has been told that there is nothing to negotiate but its own elimination.

The ITU fight reveals that relations between the employers and the unions are rapidly reaching the stage in which it is no longer a matter of negotiating, on trade union lines, a compromise which leaves both sides intact, but rather a struggle that takes on from the start the character of civil war.

It is precisely this question which now faces every trade unionist. In the case of the ITU, automation is the bludgeon to be used to smash up the union.

Precisely the same methods are being employed on the docks, where containerization threatens the virtual elimination of the work force, the breakdown of old jurisdictional lines and rights, and the determination of the employers to run the industry under conditions of enormous speedup with a tiny work force.

But every worker in the country faces a similar attack. The deepening economic crisis is leading to open preparations for mass unemployment. The high interest policies of the Federal Reserve Board are designed to bring on a slump in which the power of the unions can be smashed with massive unemployment.

These are fundamental political attacks on the basic right to a job and union wages that threaten the very existence of the unions.

These political attacks cannot be answered with policies of trade unionism. The preparations of the publishers for a lockout reveals that they are more than willing to attempt to starve the unions.

The ITU struggle reveals the necessity for the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the unions which begins with the civil war character of the present situation and bases its defense of jobs and conditions on a political struggle to mobilize the labor movement to force Nixon out.

The defense of the ITU is a matter of life and death for every trade unionist. The **Times** and the **News** are hoping to play on the jurisdictional division between trades in the industry to isolate the printers.

If the printers are forced to call a strike or are confronted with a lockout, they must immediately be supported by every trade with a walkout to prevent the production of a scab paper.

The massive power of the New York trade union movement must be mobilized to guarantee the impossibility of producing and distributing so much as a single issue of a scab daily in New York City.

Such actions pose an all-out confrontation with the courts and police which will be mobilized to defend the publishers.

It is this struggle against the capitalist state which requires a political answer. The fight to defend the ITU must be combined with the political fight to defend the entire labor movement against mass unemployment.

The New York labor movement must take the lead in fighting for a congress of the labor movement to launch the fight to defend living standards, jobs, and the right to have a union through the construction of a labor party committed to driving out Nixon and replacing the Democratic and Republican parties with a government pledged to socialist policies.

by jeff sebastian

Lordstown Ranks Hear TUALP Report

BY FRED MUELLER
YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio,
April 19—The report-back meeting on the Dayton Auto Conference of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party was held here on April 17.

This meeting, to bring the decisions and discussion of the conference back to the Youngstown area, was held at a time of new and more vicious attacks on living standards and democratic rights of the working class. This is expressed especially sharply in the situation facing auto and steel workers in this area.

In the two weeks since the conference, the Lordstown strike at the Fisher Body fabricating plant has been betrayed under the direct instructions of Woodcock and the international UAW leadership. The local agreement, after two mini-strikes, settles absolutely nothing and paves the way for layoffs and the continuation of the speedup drive at the same time as workers' wages are being destroyed by inflation.

At the same time, Steel Workers' president I.W. Abel agreed to a 40-month contract including a ten percent wage increase and a no-strike pledge until at least 1980, in the face of price increases of 15 percent a year, at the current rate, which will probably soar even further.

This contract openly pledges the cooperation of the union leadership in a productivity and speedup drive with no protection against layoffs.

John Austin of UAW Local 696 at Delco-Moraine in Dayton, one of the chairmen at the auto conference and a member of the steering committee set up to continue its work, reported to the Youngstown meeting that the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the unions under these conditions is more urgent than ever.

"We must fight for the program adopted unanimously at the conference and to bring down the government which stands behind every single attack we face.

INFLATION

"In auto there must be a fight to reopen the contract, to roll back and stop the layoffs and make up for inflation with a national auto strike. Such a strike could only be taken forward with a fight to bring down the Nixon government and launch a labor party fighting for socialist policies of nationalization of industry in order to stop the unemployment, inflation, and other attacks on our basic rights.

"In steel there must be a fight to reject the three percent a year wage brackets and no-strike deal accepted by Abel with no membership ratification whatsoever. And this fight must also be tied to the fight against Nixon.

"One purpose of the steel pact was to set the stage for no-strike compulsory agreements for millions of other workers. Similarly, the Lordstown settlement is designed to pave the way for

tremendous speedup on the model of Lordstown throughout the country.

"Both of these attempts will blow up in the faces of the companies and their allies in the union bureaucracy. We must prepare without delay to lead this fight."

CAMPAIGN

Austin also reported on the campaign of Jim Lawrence and himself for delegates in the upcoming UAW international convention in Los Angeles. Only Lawrence and Austin have raised the issues facing the workers at Delco-Moraine, including the thousands who have already been laid off.

They have received a tremendous response from the ranks who are disgusted with the refusal of both their local and international leaderships to lift a finger against the inflation, layoffs or Nixon.

Discussion at the report-back meeting reflected the anger at the bureaucracy's collaboration with the auto and steel giants and focused on the question of how we can fight back today, on what basis a leadership in the unions can actually be built.

Willie H. of Local 1112 in Lordstown expressed his disgust with the mini-strike policy. "The man wants you to pay your bills when you're on mini-strike. We're missing all this pay but not accomplishing anything. We can't meet these payments but it's all for nothing.

"We have to stay on strike, not just this hit and run business. Woodcock is not worried about our conditions. He's got it made. He doesn't have our problems.

"When the truckers went out, that was the time to bring this government to its knees. The truckers could have done it. They had the power to stop the country quicker than anyone."

Tommy Sprowel from US Steel spoke about the disgust of steel workers with the no-strike pact. Even a week after the settlement, most workers know next to nothing about it. "We don't even have the right to mini-strike. The result is the same.

"They try to keep us in the dark and stop any fight against the company. We must have this labor party. We need it so badly because we have no leadership today.

"This system hasn't worked before and now it's breaking down completely. This fight is long overdue. Let's have it and get it over with."

Juan of the Fisher Body fabricating plant in Lordstown said: "At the very last union meeting before the strike they said from now on we will have 48 hours to study the contract before we vote on it. This was decided at the meeting.

"Then we didn't have even one day. When we started asking questions at the meeting, the voting was already taking place."

Discussion took place on how to take forward the fight against the latest attacks. One worker from the fabricating plant said that the divisions among workers were very difficult to overcome.

"How can we get the unemployed to help us? We've never helped them all these

years."

Another worker raised the question of cooperation between all groups in opposition to the leadership such as the Rank and File Team (RAFT) in the steel union and the United National Caucus (UNC) in auto.

"Why can't the Workers League and TUALP support RAFT and UNC? Why are you turning your backs on these people who are fighting back? Before you fight, you need an army. You should form a coalition with others to build that army."

These questions raised the central issue of what has to be built in the unions today. We propose not just another caucus to fight for militant policies, it was pointed out. All these forces who fight simply on that level are now turning their backs on the workers who are fighting back already and who are seeking leadership.

The centrists and revisionists, working together with so-called "progressives" of the trade union bureaucracy like Woodcock, act as a cover for these forces, channelling the anger of the ranks in a direction which can only lead to failure.

We must begin at all times from the actual situation, from the crisis itself. The crisis means that the democratic rights won over decades of struggle are now being ripped up. It means that trade unionists face the government on every fundamental question, everything that touches their living standards and their whole future.

Among every section of workers there is growing hatred of the government, anger at the conditions they face, and the determination to do something about them.

In support of groups such as RAFT and the UNC stands the Communist Party which consciously fights to keep all the political questions out of the unions in order not to disturb the so-called detente between Nixon and the Soviet bureaucracy.

That is why we must fight to build revolutionary forces in the unions, against these policies. It was stressed that the meeting was being held not to simply report on conditions or to urge a struggle which is absolutely inevitable in any case. It was rather for the preparation of a leadership.

We have to go about the job of immediately training a revolutionary leadership in struggle against these forces. This means a study of previous battles in order to develop our strategy today.

A revolutionary party is constructed as part of these struggles, at the same time in conflict with the limits of trade union thinking.

Lordstown and steel expose most sharply the limits of militancy today. A labor party and a leadership against these attacks can only be built through this revolutionary struggle.

For this reason, the report back meeting ended with the decision to begin a series of classes on Marxism for trade unionists and youth. This fight to train a leadership must go on in the course of the fight to defend our conditions, to carry out our program in the unions and to force Nixon out.

midwest news

Steelworkers Denounce Abel Pact

BY A REPORTER
CHICAGO—Workers at United States Steel South Works were ready to go into detail over the terms of the new contract that has been announced in the newspaper.

"The wages are terrible," one older worker told the Bulletin. "How can we live on this?"

"Sixty cents—that's over three years. That doesn't make up for the way these prices will be going up. We needed something more like a dollar right away."

John Williams told a reporter: "The leaders really sold us out. Last summer, Abel promised he would go until he got a dollar. He went back on his word."

"I don't really know much about the contract. What they print in the newspapers is usually what they want you to hear. Really, I don't think that is enough."

"Twenty-eight cents an hour amounts to \$11.50 a week for me. You spend more than that on food increases alone. And look at the price of gas."

FOREIGN

"They say we have to buckle under because of the foreign competition. It is true these foreign companies, which are really the same companies we have here in this country, are trying to compete."

"The only thing is, people better wake up and get Nixon out. He's the one that messed this country up."

The fierce competition as each country seeks to resolve its balance of payments deficits has meant more than huge profits for US Steel while wages are held in check.

With local contracts now up for negotiation, the sellout engineered with the national steel settlement makes the local agreements crucial.

Al Duran told the Bulletin: "We're slaves for these people. There's got to be a revolution."

"This place is bad. You can't even find a canteen in here. And if you do, then they take all your money. Then you work a hard day and they want overtime."

John Williams said: "Saturday, they still pay straight time. They should pay overtime. And we only get time and a half on Sunday."

"The weekly schedule is another thing. Last week, we were supposed to be finished on Friday. And with only eight hours notice, they told us we would have to work another shift."

"It's reckless inside. The speedup is so bad that it's reckless. It's a mess."

"They definitely should recondition the equipment. It should be so that the public can see what we go through in there."

"On TV they only show the outside of the building and it

looks okay, but inside is another story. The men's locker room that I share with the other guys is unsanitary and antique. The cellars are filthy. If you preach about it, they threaten you.

"The leaders really sold us out. We need some younger leaders. US Steel changes their negotiator every three years, but we maintain the same old horse."

"Abel is so old he doesn't even care anymore. As to a labor party, it's a very good thing, but only as long as it is a fair negotiated thing. This is what I want."

"I don't like bloodshed. In the early days, there was plenty of bloodshed over these contracts. Now, the company really has the upper hand. Somebody's going to have to shed some blood now to really shake them up."

One middle-aged worker expressed the growing realization among steel workers of the ruthlessness of capitalism in this period of crisis.

"I'm for everybody being equal. These companies are making tremendous profit. They're making the poor man poorer and poorer."

"Every time they raise their prices, wages have to go up and they turn against us when we ask for a little more."

Only a revolutionary leadership can prepare steel workers and all workers for the decisive battles that lay ahead. This can be constructed in the fight for rejection of the national contract at the ratification vote and a real fight to get Nixon out.

AIM Dismissal Denied

BY JEAN BRUST

ST. PAUL, Minn.—Federal Judge Fred Nichols refused to dismiss charges against Dennis Banks and Russell Means Thursday, despite overwhelming evidence that proved they could not get a fair trial because of illegal wiretaps and gross government misconduct.

Nichols upheld the defense contention that the government used an illegal wiretap and suppressed all evidence gained from the wiretap.

He also found both the government prosecutors and the FBI guilty of gross negligence in failing to comply with the court order to turn over to the defense any evidence in the possession of the government that would be used in the trial or that could be useful to the defense in preparing its case.

Banks and Means were pleased with the decision because they did not want the trial dismissed before the questions of treaty rights could be brought up.

His lawyer, William Kunstler declared: "This is the strongest statement condemning the actions of the FBI that has ever been issued by a federal judge. It is a good beginning."



Members of Local 2331, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers walked out of the RCA plant in Circleville, Ohio at midnight April 8. They have voted overwhelmingly not to ratify the standard RCA contract allowing a 25 cent per hour raise without cost of living clause.

The standard contract also allows certain benefits for five and ten year employees, but the local plant is only four years old. Most Local 2331 members have three years seniority or less.

The company is prepared for a long strike, with walkie-talkie equipped guards stationed at entrances and doorways, and cameramen on the plant roof.

Floodlights, which are used to light up the building front at night have been turned to light picket lines instead. The only usable outside entrance to the plant grounds is guarded by company men in an auto, who are present constantly, changing shifts around the clock.

Reserve Mining Co. Shuts Silver Bay Plant

BY J. NELSON

The Reserve Mining Company has shut down its plant in Silver Bay, Minnesota throwing 3100 workers onto the unemployment lines, after refusing to comply with Federal pollution standards.

They continued to dump tons of taconite tailings containing asbestos fibers into Lake Superior which endangered the lives of people in five Minnesota cities. They were ordered to close

by Federal Court Judge Miles Lord last Saturday.

In the state court case against the company, Reserve's parent corporations Armco and Republic Steel had been ordered to present all documents and records relating to contributions to political parties, fund raisers, election campaigns, and to officials in the state and federal governments from 1969 to the present.

Judge Lord's order followed State Deputy Attorney Starns's request for subpoenas after having exposed the conspiracy between the corporation and top officials in the Justice Department, including the former

Attorney General John Mitchell, along with Senator Hubert Humphrey to protect Reserve's profits at the expense of the lives of thousands of Northshore residents.

Over the last 18 years, Reserve has dumped 242 million tons of taconite tailings into Lake Superior. The tailings contain an asbestos fiber which goes into the drinking water of all Northshore cities. In Duluth, grocers are selling filtered water to families for 50 cents a gallon.

The document which led to the subpoenas was a copy of an agenda of a Reserve Board of Directors meeting held in Chicago on February 23, 1971. On the agenda is hand written notes made by an as yet unidentified member of the Board.

These notes reveal that Reserve Mining recruited the aid of top government officials to block court action threatened by Minnesota Governor Anderson, who in January 1971 charged Reserve with devising a plan to dispose of its wastes on land.

This note indicates that Senator Humphrey and Representative Blatnik requested Governor Anderson not to appoint Grant Merritt, a Reserve opponent, as head of the state's Pollution Control Agency.

Former Attorney General Mitchell is now suspected of being responsible for blocking a 1972 injunction against Reserve.

At that time C. William Verity, board chairman of Armco, was a top Republican Party fund raiser in the Nixon reelection campaign.

The subpoenaed documents will disclose that in exchange for channeling funds into the Nixon election campaign, Reserve and its parent corporations bought the support of government officials in the highest offices from both political parties.

Reserve, Republic Steel, and Armco have not yet answered the subpoenas. Instead, they have shut down the Silver Bay taconite plant. This means robbing 3100 men of their jobs and transforming Silver Bay into a ghost town.

50 Cops Guilty In Bribes

BY DEBRA WATSON

CHICAGO—In the biggest shake-up in the history of the police force, 60 of the 74 top police officials were placed in new jobs.

This shake-up is a desperate attempt by the new superintendent, James Rochford, to restore credibility in the Chicago police force.

Former Superintendent Conlisk, now chief of the traffic unit, stepped down last October in a wave of federal indictments against police officers.

The indictments have continued with three Austin District policemen sentenced last Tuesday to prison terms.

This brings to 50 the number of present and former Chicago policemen convicted by the Federal government of accepting bribes from tavern owners throughout the city.

When Rochford became super-

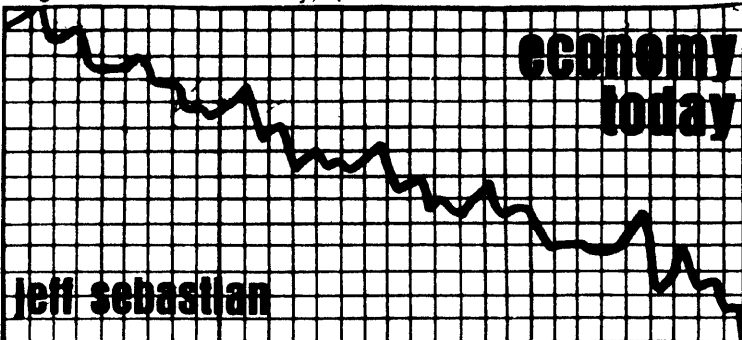
intendent, he instituted lie detector tests and demanded undated resignations from officers taking the tests. Rochford has kept the results of these tests secret, although admitting that top officers failed.

Most of the youth there felt that an innocent verdict would not have any effect on the conditions of Indians on the reservation.

Rochford's shake-up in actuality is a coverup. Any more federal indictments would severely weaken his position, which was jolted on Monday when revised national crime reports showed Chicago with one of the worst crime rates in the country.

The biggest criminals in the country are the police. These men, armed to the teeth and bolstered by increasingly reactionary laws, are turning entire communities into armed camps to terrorize the youth and workers.

A 25-year-old South Side man was severely beaten by police last Saturday when his girlfriend was given a traffic ticket.



The Great Land Boom

A scandal is now swirling around the government of British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, linking a former Wilson aide as well as his personal secretary in a series of land speculation deals that netted them over \$400,000.

But speculation in real estate is no British phenomena. It is rooted in the breakdown of paper money which has led to a frenzied worldwide rush by investors to dump their paper for assets they hope will retain value.

This feverish inflation of land values strikes devastating blows against the conditions of the working class which must pay the price in deteriorating housing, soaring rents and in the cost of virtually every commodity which includes land in its price of production.

A small lot near Zurich or Geneva is going for \$100,000 today. In Lyons, France, land values have increased six times since 1962. Tiny apartments in certain sections of London are selling today for \$100,000.

Similar speculation is bidding land prices in the US up to astronomical levels. In Chicago land for industrial development has risen by 12 percent a year for the last ten years. In downtown Atlanta land that went for \$20 a square foot ten years ago when the boom began is now up to \$120. In Southern Florida suburban land which has more than doubled in the last 18 months is now going up so fast that some Florida Real Estate Investment Trusts have been arranging mortgages for more than the purchase price. Not even the optimism generated by the great 1929 bull market ever approached this.

From 1965 to 1966 the value of land in private hands throughout the US rose from over a quarter trillion dollars to more than half a trillion. Since 1966 the rise has been even faster.

The owners of this land did absolutely nothing to develop it but hold it in their possession.

A good idea of the inflation in land values can be obtained by comparing land to consumer prices since 1946 when the post war boom began. While the consumer price index has approximately doubled since then, farm land has gone up by 450 percent and urban land values have risen by more than 700 percent.

Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS) which invest in real estate or in construction and mortgage loans and account for one-fifth of these loans have been paying off dividends as high as 17 percent to their stockholders.

The effect of all of this inflated land value has been to increase the base for the extension of credit by huge proportions. Vast funds can be borrowed with inflated land values as backing.

Many of the largest REITS are today in the position of the small speculator, whose land can only be viewed through a glass bottomed boat or after a day-long trip in a four-wheel jeep.

The inflationary crisis is now threatening them with collapse. With construction plummeting, a number of loans have turned out to be bad investments. The competition for greater and greater profits has induced even the largest of them into extremely shaky investments at highly inflated prices. The fuel crisis has threatened investments in entire areas which involve high transportation expenses for access.

This has combined with the skyrocketing interest rates to leave many of these operations strapped for immediate cash to pay off their bills. Many investors are increasingly reluctant to accept their paper for loans. This forces them to the banks at precisely the point that the Federal Reserve Board is putting a squeeze on credit.

The danger in the situation is that in order to raise cash a number of these trusts could very well be forced to unload some of their assets. A rush to do this threatens a catastrophic fall in real estate values and a marking down of assets that would destroy tens of billions in paper values and lead to a wave of bankruptcies.

For millions of workers these speculative activities mean slum housing or the inability to purchase their own home. Even under the boom, housing in all the cities deteriorated because no working class tenant could afford to compete with the rents paid by businesses for office space while land values spiraled. Hundreds of glass enclosed office buildings went up while huge areas where working people lived decayed.

Today the collapsing boom threatens the destruction of all these paper profits and mass unemployment for the working class. Decent housing can only be fought for through the construction of a labor party pledged to take the profit out of land through the nationalization of land, construction firms, and financial houses.

Fillmore YS Fights SF Police Terror

**BY BARRY GREY
SAN FRANCISCO—**
The Young Socialists is launching a campaign to mobilize the trade unions and workers in this city in defense of Black youth who are being terrorized by the police dragnet set up to find the so-called "Zebra" killer.

The Fillmore branch of the Young Socialists, the area where the police manhunt is concentrated, is stepping up its drive to bring a large contingent of youth to the YS National Conference. The police terror against youth is the preparation for brutal attacks on all workers which can be defeated only by building a revolutionary leadership.

The YS is calling upon the labor movement to call demonstrations against the police terror and convene a Congress of Labor to form a labor party based on socialist policies.

Youth and workers in the Fillmore area spoke to the Bulletin about the police terror.

A young unemployed mother described what the police have been doing. "They've been stopping all Black people—that's

uncalled for. They give you cards. I want the killer caught just as much as anybody else but this is uncalled for.

"The cards have your name, social security number, when and where you were stopped. Then they call down to the computer to see if there are any warrants out for you. Then they cart you off to jail."

The city has established a dragnet by which they can illegally stop and arrest anyone.

not come out again."

Marvin, a young unemployed worker expressed the anger of the youth and the determination to fight. "The police are taking advantage of the people. People are being busted on general principle. I've been stopped once the night before last. The police jumped out and tried to stick their hand in my pocket. I told them nothing doing. I just hit his hand away. His partner jumped out and took out his weapon. He



Plainclothes police search Black youth on the streets of San Francisco.

One worker in the Fillmore told the Bulletin he knew someone whose sixty year old father-in-law was stopped four times by the police.

Donald, a youth, said: "The police stopped me and searched me twice last night. I think they're using it as an excuse to harass us."

Another youth said: "They told me to take my car home and leave it there, to go home and

started to pat me down but I just walked away. I'm not going to let them search me."

Only through the construction of the Young Socialists and the Workers League to prepare the working class to take power can these moves to dictatorship be defeated. This is the purpose of the Young Socialists Conference being held in New York. All youth and trade unionists must attend.

Fitzsimmons Threatens Boycott Supporters

**BY SHEILA BREHM
LOS ANGELES—**
Teamster Union President Frank Fitzsimmons declared that he will split the organized union movement in his drive to crush the United Farm Workers of America.

Fitzsimmons, a loyal supporter of Nixon, has warned that his union would retaliate against any AFL-CIO union which backs the labor federation's boycott of California table grapes and lettuce.

BOYCOTT

Last week, AFL-CIO head George Meany officially agreed to support the boycott of table grapes and lettuce not harvested by members of Cesar Chavez's UFW.

That the AFL-CIO's support for the boycott and its minimal backing of the UFW is met with such hostility is a warning to every union worker in California.

Fitzsimmons' warning to the AFL-CIO in effect, means that Teamster members will be ordered to cross any picket line of striking union members who back the boycott.

The appeal for such a strike-breaking force comes at a time when workers across the country, such as the San Francisco city workers, the truckers, and the miners, have begun to

take the offensive against the skyrocketing inflation and the attacks on their living standards.

Fitzsimmons' latest actions mean only one thing: he is acting as the open servant for Nixon within the labor movement. Teamster officials have announced that they will spend over one million dollars to crush the UFW.

Fitzsimmons has hired Charles Colson for the yearly sum of \$125,000. Colson, former White House counsel, who was indicted last month in the Watergate scandal, attended the Western Regional Conference of Teamsters last year, where Fitzsimmons declared that the UFW would be driven out of the fields.

An official AFL-CIO statement charged that it was Colson who persuaded Fitzsimmons not to sign the "Peace Treaty" with

George Meany concerning the war in the fields, because, "it would have looked bad on television for Fitzsimmons, a strong supporter of Nixon, to be shaking hands with Meany who is a leader in the move to impeach the President."

This week, the UFW lost yet another contract when Coachella Valley grower K.K. Larson signed a sweetheart contract with the Teamsters, leaving the farm workers union with only one table grape contract. Its membership has sunk to 10,000 from a peak of 50,000.

Fitzsimmons' assaults on the UFW and every AFL-CIO union must be repudiated by demanding that Chavez and Meany mobilize the labor movement for the construction of a labor party to drive the hated Nixon government out.

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west coast news

Horn Denies Contract To SF Teachers

BY BARRY GREY
SAN FRANCISCO—
Presiding Superior Court Judge Clayton W. Horn has declared illegal the settlement reached between the city and teachers.

James Ballard, head of the San Francisco Federation of Teachers, told a membership meeting last Wednesday the court order is nothing to worry about. Ballard is spreading complacency in the face of a fundamental challenge to his union and the entire trade union movement.

He intends to rely completely on Victor Van Bourg, the union's lawyer, rather than mount a real campaign in the labor movement in defense of the contract.

Not only is the contract under attack from the courts, but the school board is also repudiating the agreement. The settlement contained assurances that the board would not finance the pay increases by cutting the school budget, but last week, James Porter, the School Board's fiscal officer, said the board would have to cut some items from next year's budget.

Bill Graziani, an English teacher at McAteer High School told the Bulletin: "I think it's ridiculous.

"You sign a contract. If you have any honor about you, you honor the contract you sign.

"We have a strike and we sign a contract and this is another example of bad faith."

Carla Thornton, a public health nurse who works at McAteer, said: "They used to have 27 nursing positions when I started in 1971, now they have 16.

"At one point, it took them nine months to get a replacement. I don't think it should be illegal for public employees to strike. It should be our right."

The judge issued a show-cause order against the teachers last Wednesday, and instructed the Board of Education to "stop any and all action to implement and comply with" the strike settlement terms.

The judge's order was based on a suit by George Bangs, a retired millwright who was an officer of his union for 20 years. Bangs is also suing city workers.

The ruling is an open attack on the right to strike for teachers and public employees. Judge Horn maintains the settlement is illegal because the three week teachers strike was illegal.



The headquarters of the Western Regional Conference of Teamsters was firebombed early Thursday morning.

Attorney General Urges Manhunt For Pat Hearst

BY ANN LORE
SAN FRANCISCO—
Attorney General William Saxbe has denounced Patricia Hearst as a common criminal and has declared, without the existence of any evidence to back him up, that she was not a "reluctant participant" in the recent bank robbery.

Saxbe is urging the FBI to go and gun down Patricia Hearst and the other SLA members, even though the FBI denies they know where she is.

Four more warrants have been issued against persons connected with the Symbionese Liberation Army, bringing the total to nine persons being hunted by the FBI for kidnaping, killing, and bank robbery.

The four new warrants are for three women SLA members and Donald Defreeze, the escaped convict, who calls himself "Cinque."

FREE HAND

Immediately following the robbery, California Attorney General Evelle Younger announced he was giving police a free hand in their search for Patricia Hearst.

He said the "appeasement" of the SLA kidnapers must stop before it leads to "an epidemic of political kidnappings." He said that investigators had made mistakes in the case, "all our timidity has accomplished nothing."

Alioto has called on the Oakland and Berkeley police forces to work with the San Francisco police and the FBI to "wipe out" the SLA. He said this combination is "engaging now in a series of acts that in my opinion will bring these folks—will wipe them out completely—in a six-month period."

BREAK

He cited six months because "it took that period of time to break the Eldridge Cleaver-Black Panther terrorism...The SLA are not legitimate revolutionaries and should be hunted down with all the police force necessary and made to pay for their crimes."

Already, a joint effort of two city police forces and the FBI conducted a raid on a Panther headquarters in Oakland the following morning, arresting 14 people.

Four other warrants were issued on persons charged only with supplying false information to obtain drivers' licenses. These are people who have been linked by the press and the FBI as associates of the SLA.

They are now being linked to

the assassination of Dr. Marcus Foster, kidnaping, and possibly as the lookouts for the robbery. A ninth person is being sought for being a fugitive.

TERROR CAMPAIGN

Right now, there are hundreds of law enforcement officers working on the SLA case. The preparations being made now for a terror campaign against the left are a rehearsal for what is already being planned for the working class as a whole.

Mayor Alioto To Fire City Workers In May

BY A LOCAL 400 MEMBER
SAN FRANCISCO—Mayor Alioto has announced that more than 400 city workers employed under the Emergency Employment Act program would be terminated by May 14.

This slashing of jobs is a deliberate retaliation for the city workers strike last month which paralyzed San Francisco for more than a week.

The mayor's new budget provides for only a one percent total increase in funding, while his office says costs have gone up 10 percent.

A job freeze continues on new hiring. This means a cutback in

all city services and preparations for even greater layoffs.

Yet at a meeting of city workers Local 400 just two days before the layoffs were announced, Local 400 head Gerry Hipps pushed through a motion to donate \$1000 in union funds to Alioto's campaign for governor.

Magee Demands Mistrial On New Kidnapping Charge

BY ALLEN SALTER
SAN JOSE—Frank Katz, the court-appointed lawyer for Ruchell Magee, has subpoenaed 180 members of the Marin County Grand Jury.

Katz is seeking to prove that Marin County Grand Jury members from 1962 to 1970 did not represent a cross section of the people from Marin County and that this represented a "pattern of exclusion on the grand jury panel."

On this basis, Katz will ask that the charge against Magee be dropped. Katz is using a precedent set during the trial of the



Ruchell Magee
San Quentin Six.

In that case, Judge Vernon Stoll threw out the indictments after it was proved that the indicting Grand Jury had been

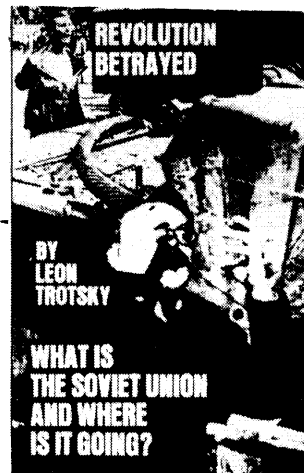
selected by systematically excluding Blacks, Chicanos, poor people, and blue-collar workers.

ACQUITTED

Ruchell Magee was acquitted last year of murder charges resulting from the August 1970 Marin County courthouse escape attempt. He still faces a kidnaping charge after a hung jury in the first trial.

After months of preliminary hearings, Magee will be retried on May 28 for the charge of kidnaping for extortion, which is punishable by life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. This particular charge was chosen by California Attorney General Evelle Younger to ensure that if convicted, Magee would remain behind bars for the rest of his life.

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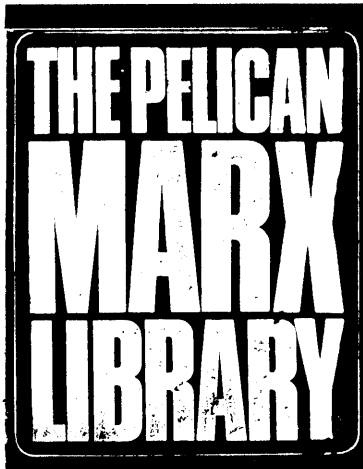
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lucha obrera

lucía rivera

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Durante los años de la década del sesenta, un masivo movimiento de protesta se esparció por todo el país. Estudiantes puertorriqueños, chicanos y afroamericanos llevaron a cabo demostraciones, ocuparon edificios de las universidades, demandando el derecho a una educación superior.

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Este movimiento de los estudiantes fue la primera expresión del poderoso movimiento de la clase obrera, que al presente se manifiesta a través de todo el país. La década del 1960 señaló el fin de la "época de prosperidad capitalista".

Las luchas estudiantiles estaban basadas en protestas y reformas. Procedió con la misma forma de pensar que en la época previa, la cual a través de presiones el gobierno podía ofrecer ciertas reformas.

La FUSP trata de revivir la década de los sesentas, protestas estudiantiles. Esto, en una época donde cada demanda es una amenaza en contra de la existencia del capitalismo. La lucha por los derechos básicos no puede proceder como en el pasado, requiere un entendimiento político de la crisis económica y política del capitalismo.

En la primavera del 1970, la masacre en la Universidad de Kent State, en Ohio, presentó el fin del movimiento de protesta estudiantil. Un año luego Nixon tomó las decisiones de quitarle el valor del oro al dólar.

Estas medidas de Nixon marcaron el principio de los ataques masivos contra los derechos democráticos de la clase obrera. A la misma vez que la Guardia Nacional disparaba en contra de la demostración pacífica de los estudiantes, esa misma Guardia Nacional se utilizó en contra de los "teamsters" que se hallaban en huelga en el estado de Ohio.

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A la misma vez que habla sobre la lucha por el socialismo en los Estados Unidos, le presenta a los jóvenes que, es a través de protestas que los derechos básicos se pueden defender en esta época de crisis capitalista.

La Conferencia Nacional de la Juventud Socialista a celebrarse el 4 y 5 de mayo en la ciudad de Nueva York, le presentará una alternativa a millones de jóvenes y trabajadores que buscan una forma de luchar contra este gobierno. Alternativa que no este basada en el aventurismo, pero una que una a toda la clase obrera y le ponga fin a estos ataques de Nixon.

La lucha por una educación decente solo puede ser defendida por el movimiento político de la clase obrera. Este, basado en un programa de demandas socialistas.

Esta época de crisis capitalista requiere que los trabajadores y la juventud rompan con las políticas de protesta y reformismo del pasado. Requiere la construcción de un nuevo liderato de la clase obrera. La Conferencia de la Juventud Socialista es central en el entrenamiento de este nuevo liderato.

POLICE TERROR..

(Continued From Page 1)

cars, plainclothesmen, and fire trucks blasting their sirens.

Virtually every Black male who dares to go out into the streets is being stopped by police and investigated. Since Wednesday night, many youth have been stopped three, four, and five times, just in the space of a few blocks walking home.

The police have authority to stop vehicles as well. According to the police, "If an officer feels he is in some danger or that the person can be carrying some weapon, the officer can 'pat' search him." The interrogation includes a computer check to see if the man is wanted on anything, such as unpaid traffic warrants.

Police are issuing South African style pass cards which identify the bearer, his address, license number, and social security number and state: "The below named person has been checked out."

Chief of Police Donald Scott has announced that every man in his department is involved in "Operation Zebra" and that the director for the operation has been given "full powers to use any man or piece of equipment in the department."

There must be no illusions about the real purpose of "Operation Zebra." This is a full-fledged military operation designed to whip up racial hysteria, accustom the working class to police occupation, and provide the authorities with experience in carrying out police state measures against the working class.

The special powers assumed by the city in this situation amount to the abolition of democratic rights with the power of life and death turned over to the police who are deliberately seeking a provocation.

Many of the stop and search methods now employed have been described in detail in a California national guard training manual which outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a declaration of martial law. Precisely these methods have been used by British troops in their military occupation of Northern Ireland.

Moves are now underway to establish the basis for right-wing vigilante committees, with the head of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calling for "neighborhood safety committees" tied to the Board and reporting locally to the police on all "strange comings and goings."

"Operation Zebra" is consciously designed to drive a racist wedge into the powerful San Francisco and Bay Area labor movements. It is no accident that it follows by only a few weeks the massive strike of San Francisco city workers which virtually shut down the entire city.

With the US economy heading for a major slump and mass unemployment, these measures represent a preparation for police state operations that will be carried out against the resistance of the entire working class. The capitalist class is well aware that its attacks cannot be imposed by peaceful democratic methods.

Nixon's desperate turn to reliance on right-wing forces such as Wallace and the military, the hysterical racial campaign against busing, the proof now emerging that the Watergate conspiracy was directed against basic democratic rights, and now the police operations in San Francisco are warnings that "Operation Zebra" is being prepared for every city in the country.

The San Francisco labor

movement must take immediate action. Alioto, who has been supported down the line by the labor bureaucracy, is spelling it out loud and clear that he intends to make his bid for the California governorship on the basis of the vicious campaign he has launched in San Francisco.

Every trade unionist must fight for the Labor Council to break with Alioto and call a massive trade union demonstration to unite white and Black workers against Alioto's terror. The San Francisco situation

PRICES. . .

(Continued From Page 1)

mediately demand that every contract, regardless of its provisions, be immediately reopened on the wages issue to make up for the rise in the cost of living.

The urgency of decisive action by the labor movement is made even more urgent by the undeniable outbreak of a major recession that now raises the threat of a rapid growth in unemployment.

The real Gross National Product declined during the first quarter of this year by a staggering 5.8 percent, the worst slump since 1958.

However, unlike 1958 when the government resorted to massive spending and easy credit to end the decline, the banks are now pursuing policies that will deepen the slump and lead to the collapse of broad sections of industry.

Inflation and slump are the simultaneous and contradictory characteristics of this crisis.

underscores the urgency of the labor movement preparing its fight back through the immediate calling of a congress of labor to drive Nixon out and launch a labor party committed to the interests and unity of the working people through socialist policies.

The Second National Conference of the Young Socialists on the weekend of May 4 and 5 is to build the revolutionary leadership to carry out this fight and prepare for the period of civil war ahead. We urge every youth and trade unionist to attend.

The skyrocketing rise in industrial prices forces the manufacturer to borrow heavily to meet his production costs. However, he must borrow at interest rates that are intended to discourage production. Furthermore, such basic industries as auto find themselves producing for a market that is shrinking because workers and middle class people are unable to afford new cars.

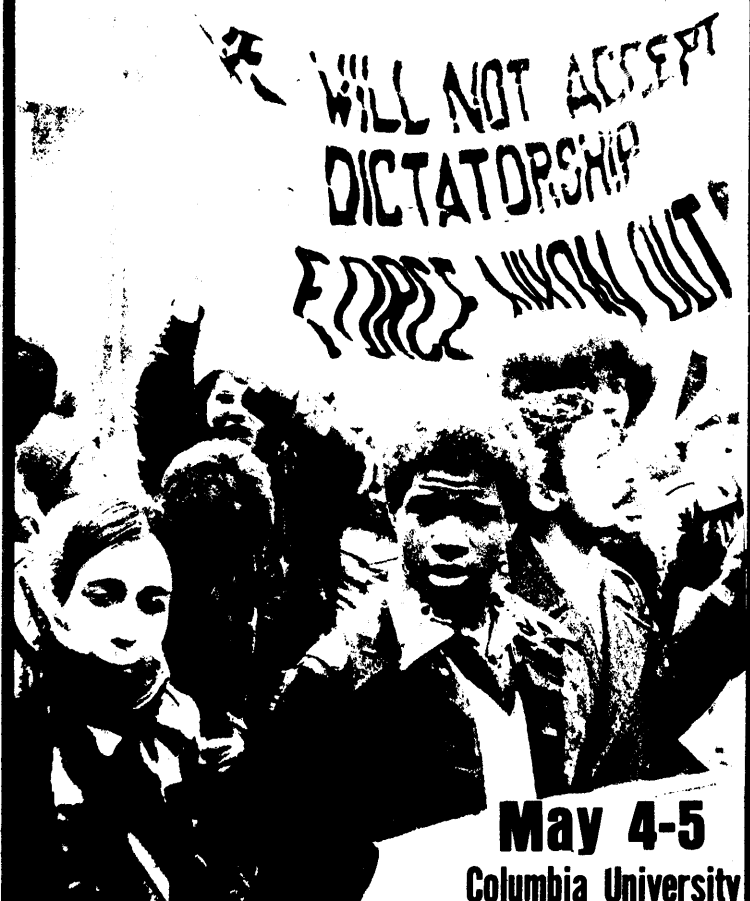
This combination of recession and inflation is being called "slumpflation" by The New York Times.

Nixon and big business seek to solve this crisis through the launching of brutal attacks on the working class. A campaign to slash wages and destroy jobs is well underway.

The fight of millions of workers to defend their rights must be taken forward through the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the trade unions. The rapid development of the crisis requires the building of the Workers League and the Young Socialists.

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La FUSP presenta la lucha por la reforma universitaria como una de las prioridades de la organización. Ve los ataques contra los estudiantes puertorriqueños separada del resto de la clase obrera. Es por esto que no puede presentar ninguna alternativa a los jóvenes, ya que procede en la base del nacionalismo, aceptando las divisiones raciales que impone la clase capitalista.

A la misma vez que habla sobre la lucha por el socialismo en los Estados Unidos, le presenta a los jóvenes que, es a través de protestas que los derechos básicos se pueden defender en esta época de crisis capitalista.

La Conferencia Nacional de la Juventud Socialista a celebrarse el 4 y 5 de mayo en la ciudad de Nueva York, le presentará una alternativa a millones de jóvenes y trabajadores que buscan una forma de luchar contra este gobierno. Alternativa que no este basada en el aventurismo, pero una que una a toda la clase obrera y le ponga fin a estos ataques de Nixon.

La lucha por una educación decente solo puede ser defendida por el movimiento político de la clase obrera. Este, basado en un programa de demandas socialistas.

Esta época de crisis capitalista requiere que los trabajadores y la juventud rompan con las políticas de protesta y reformismo del pasado. Requiere la construcción de un nuevo liderato de la clase obrera. La Conferencia de la Juventud Socialista es central en el entrenamiento de este nuevo liderato.

POLICE TERROR..

(Continued From Page 1)
cars, plainclothesmen, and fire trucks blasting their sirens.

Virtually every Black male who dares to go out into the streets is being stopped by police and investigated. Since Wednesday night, many youth have been stopped three, four, and five times, just in the space of a few blocks walking home.

The police have authority to stop vehicles as well. According to the police, "If an officer feels he is in some danger or that the person can be carrying some weapon, the officer can 'pat' search him." The interrogation includes a computer check to see if the man is wanted on anything, such as unpaid traffic warrants.

Police are issuing South African style pass cards which identify the bearer, his address, license number, and social security number and state: "The below named person has been checked out."

Chief of Police Donald Scott has announced that every man in his department is involved in "Operation Zebra" and that the director for the operation has been given "full powers to use any man or piece of equipment in the department."

There must be no illusions about the real purpose of "Operation Zebra." This is a full-fledged military operation designed to whip up racial hysteria, accustom the working class to police occupation, and provide the authorities with experience in carrying out police state measures against the working class.

The special powers assumed by the city in this situation amount to the abolition of democratic rights with the power of life and death turned over to the police who are deliberately seeking a provocation.

Many of the stop and search methods now employed have been described in detail in a California national guard training manual which outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a declaration of martial law. Precisely these methods have been used by British troops in their military occupation of Northern Ireland.

Moves are now underway to establish the basis for right-wing vigilante committees, with the head of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors calling for "neighborhood safety committees" tied to the Board and reporting locally to the police on all "strange comings and goings."

"Operation Zebra" is consciously designed to drive a racist wedge into the powerful San Francisco and Bay Area labor movements. It is no accident that it follows by only a few weeks the massive strike of San Francisco city workers which virtually shut down the entire city.

With the US economy heading for a major slump and mass unemployment, these measures represent a preparation for police state operations that will be carried out against the resistance of the entire working class. The capitalist class is well aware that its attacks cannot be imposed by peaceful democratic methods.

Nixon's desperate turn to reliance on right-wing forces such as Wallace and the military, the hysterical racial campaign against busing, the proof now emerging that the Watergate conspiracy was directed against basic democratic rights, and now the police operations in San Francisco are warnings that "Operation Zebra" is being prepared for every city in the country.

The San Francisco labor

movement must take immediate action. Alioto, who has been supported down the line by the labor bureaucracy, is spelling it out loud and clear that he intends to make his bid for the California governorship on the basis of the vicious campaign he has launched in San Francisco.

Every trade unionist must fight for the Labor Council to break with Alioto and call a massive trade union demonstration to unite white and Black workers against Alioto's terror. The San Francisco situation

PRICES. . .

(Continued From Page 1)

mediately demand that every contract, regardless of its provisions, be immediately reopened on the wages issue to make up for the rise in the cost of living.

The urgency of decisive action by the labor movement is made even more urgent by the undeniable outbreak of a major recession that now raises the threat of a rapid growth in unemployment.

The real Gross National Product declined during the first quarter of this year by a staggering 5.8 percent, the worst slump since 1958.

However, unlike 1958 when the government resorted to massive spending and easy credit to end the decline, the banks are now pursuing policies that will deepen the slump and lead to the collapse of broad sections of industry.

Inflation and slump are the simultaneous and contradictory characteristics of this crisis.

underscores the urgency of the labor movement preparing its fight back through the immediate calling of a congress of labor to drive Nixon out and launch a labor party committed to the interests and unity of the working people through socialist policies.

The Second National Conference of the Young Socialists on the weekend of May 4 and 5 is to build the revolutionary leadership to carry out this fight and prepare for the period of civil war ahead. We urge every youth and trade unionist to attend.

The skyrocketing rise in industrial prices forces the manufacturer to borrow heavily to meet his production costs. However, he must borrow at interest rates that are intended to discourage production. Furthermore, such basic industries as auto find themselves producing for a market that is shrinking because workers and middle class people are unable to afford new cars.

This combination of recession and inflation is being called "slumpflation" by The New York Times.

Nixon and big business seek to solve this crisis through the launching of brutal attacks on the working class. A campaign to slash wages and destroy jobs is well underway.

The fight of millions of workers to defend their rights must be taken forward through the construction of a revolutionary leadership in the trade unions. The rapid development of the crisis requires the building of the Workers League and the Young Socialists.

Young Socialists National Conference

FORCE NIXON OUT!
Jobs Now! Build A Labor Party!



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