

Socialist Worker

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AFGANISTAN see pages 12 & 13

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ISO FUND APPEAL: WILL YOU HELP?

We are making a special appeal to all Socialist Worker readers. Please help us make the ISO fund drive a success.

We are attempting to raise an extra \$4,000 this winter—money which is urgently needed to cover the costs of Socialist Worker and our other publications.

SUSTAIN

And money which is needed to sustain the many other activities of the ISO—activities including anti-draft work, helping build this year's occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power plant, organizing celebrations of International Women's day, supporting the Youngstown steelworkers.

We believe that we can play an important part in the effort to build a real socialist alternative in the United States—at a time when that alternative is desperately needed. We face a renewed cold war, the draft, a recession, and a heightening of the attacks on women and minorities.

SUCCESS

But we cannot be successful without your help. Every aspect of our work costs money, and inflation, unfortunately, hits us too. So please be generous.

You can make your donation to your local ISO branch, or you can send it directly here to Socialist Worker. Send us anything from \$100 to \$5. Every bit helps.



Make your checks payable to the ISO, Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.



WORKERS OCCUPY U.S. STEEL



On January 28, 500 steelworkers took a big step in the fight to stop the U.S. Steel closings in Youngstown, Ohio.

The workers and their supporters marched from their union headquarters to the district headquarters of the giant steel maker.

DOORS

They smashed down the doors of the building, and then occupied the top floor—a floor normally reserved for relaxation and recrea-

tion of the executives—putting, pool, exercising.

TASTE

The occupation lasted only one morning and an afternoon—not long enough by far to win a battle with the country's largest steel corporation. But long enough to give the workers a taste of their power—an idea of what can be done, if they are united and determined.

U.S. Steel Occupied!

More on Youngstown PAGES 8 & 9

Battered women: "We are your mothers, your sisters..."

by
BEATRICE
KERN



Meribeth at Bloomington shelter

Meribeth: "I had to find a place where I could hide..."

My father and mother both are dead.

We all got split up and I got put away. They put me in this mental institution cause I wouldn't talk to any of my family. I was 10.

Then I stayed with my sister for a while. Then foster homes, drug homes.

I met this guy and lived with him. I got pregnant and he left me. I was 15. I put my kid in a foster home til I could get back on my feet. But when I went to get him they wouldn't let me have him. I lost that baby.

WORK

I worked for a while—in bars, with telephones, all that. When I was 21 I met Richard. I wasn't real serious about him, but he moved in with me.

Two days later I went out with this other dude. That's the first time Richard beat me. He beat the hell out of me.

At that point I felt I'd deserved it, cause I lied to him. That's where I was wrong!

Then he got me to lose my job. From then on it's been downhill. The beatings started getting regular and more regular. At least every two weeks . . . badly. Black eyes, broken noses, broken ribs.

Every time I'd split, I'd get, well, "la, la, la, I love you, it won't happen again." He'd beg and plead, and I'd end up feeling sorry for him. One time he beat me so badly my face was all messed up. I guess he dragged me, I don't know, I blacked out.

I woke up and he was crying on my chest. He thought I was dead.

Another time I ended up in the hospital. I almost had a nervous breakdown.

I didn't go back to him for three months. Then we decided to move to Maine and try again. I got pregnant in Maine.

When I was 8 months pregnant, he beat me up, and a week later I had little Richard. The first night I was back from the hospital he beat the hell out of me. He had a knife to my throat, and I had the baby in my arms.

Someone in the bar had told him the baby wasn't his. He knew I hadn't been with anybody else.

I got on the plane and came out to Indiana. He was out here within two weeks. He came home one day real drunk.

He only did these things when he was drunk.

BROKE

He took the baby in his arms and broke my cheekbone. He got me in the bedroom and started stabbing me with this spear.

Then my sister walked in. She got me to the shelter.

I knew all along, but I had to find a place where I could hide and tell him to leave me alone without getting killed.

I'm a human being. I'm a woman and there's nobody gonna tell me otherwise. I don't know what it's gonna take to change it.

God didn't say man rule woman or rich rule poor or white rule black. If I knew how to change it I would.

Battered women are your mothers, sisters and neighbors. They are abused verbally, physically and sexually.

Conservative estimates say that over half of all women in the U.S. are abused by a lover or husband.

When they seek help they soon find out that social institutions won't help them. The fact that wives and children are abused shows that there is something very wrong with the "Great American Family."

Clergymen tell them to be more patient. Doctors will give them tranquilizers. The police don't like to interfere in "private affairs."

BLAME

Battered women often blame themselves. Society has taught women that we are only worthwhile as wives and mothers, not as persons. So battered women feel like failures, and many are terribly ashamed.

They are emotionally and economically tied to husbands or lovers who often won't let them have friends or work.

Shelters are the only option for many women. They provide safe housing, counselling and, most of all, warmth.

The women can start to put back together the

bits and pieces of their self-confidence, which is no small task.

What then? They most often are left to lousy jobs with the full responsibility of their children and a life-supply of loneliness.

Changing laws to provide for the security of these women is important. Demanding funding for more shelters is also important. They have saved many lives. They are also part of the women's movement, where women learn to fight together.

But neither laws nor shelters can stop the cause of abuse, because the battering men are also victims of this crazy social system.

It is no accident that wife-beating increased right along with unemployment. But the central reason for men's abuse of women is the inferior position of women in this society. Men will beat women out of jealousy, or simply to feel powerful and important.

The abuse of women will only stop when women win an equal position to men—under socialism.

Here is the story of two women, Mary Jo and Meribeth, from the Bloomington Shelter for Abused Women in Indiana, as told to Beatrice Kern.

Mary Jo: "My girl knew what was going on. She'd seen him hit me..."

I was only 16 when I first got married.

He was kind of stupid and I was too young, but that's what you were supposed to do back then, that's the way I was raised.

Then I met this other man and thought I fell in love.

REASON

He was o.k. in the beginning. He just started drinking and running the streets.

Then it got from bad to worse. He hurt me physically, some, a few times. There were no arguments. You didn't argue with him.

I left him so many times, I don't remember. He would find us and a day or two later I'd move just to be rid of him. He would take my girl out of school so I would have to go back to him.

This went on for about 5 years. I was working for the mental health, and he almost got me fired. He called me there constantly. I got another job, but I had to quit that one too.

My girl knew what was going on. She'd seen him hit me and heard all the things that he said. He was always accusing me of seeing someone else which I wasn't, but I should have.

She'd get nervous and wouldn't eat. She had pains. The doctor said it was all in her head.

I had friends, but when he started acting so bad, they just quit coming. I knew there were other women going through the same thing but never thought much about it. I didn't have time.

I had to leave that town. Af-

ter so many times I got tired of moving. Everybody knows me there.

I'm going to stay here for awhile. But I'll eventually want to go back. Lord, I lived there for 21 years. Now there is no way I can go back there and be safe.

Those damn cops up there. You call them and they might come and they might not. Most times they don't.

ARREST

I had him arrested one time—seven times in one day—for assault and battery, three of them on a cop.

If he found me now, I don't know what I'd do. That man would kill me. He would.

That's why I can't let you print my real name. I hope my baby is never in this mess.

"A SCAB IS A SCAB"

SEATTLE, WA—Analog Corporation, publishers of a book called "Making Unions Unnecessary" and the firm which has helped IBM and Texas Instruments keep unions out of their production plants, tried to offer its services to Seattle area employers January 10 and 11.

Local 8 of the Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Employees and Bartenders decided Seattle didn't need that kind of help. Picket lines set up at the seminars forced the union-busters to move three times before calling it quits.

A month ago, the same local set up picket lines at an airport hotel where another team of "labor relations consultants" were plying their scabby trade. That bunch was eventually escorted to the airport and put on a plane out of town.

by
MARY DEATON

Steve Keeley, president of Analog, said the January 10th seminars were forced to relocate because management at the hotels they were meeting in feared the union pickets might destroy property. However, University Towers management trusted the pickets enough to let them put up their line inside the building, out of the falling snow.

CHOICE

Keeley's second choice for the meeting was a restaurant where all the union employees were thrown out of work when the Port of Seattle sold the facility to a private owner.

Local 8 has suffered heavy losses in organizing drives in the last two years. The loss of the Windjammer, now called Quinn's, and three other eating places sold by the Port was the last straw. Union officials decided they would confront the union-busters on their own turf.

"The odd thing is the unions do not know what we're talking about," Keeley whined. "This is not an anti-union seminar. We're interested in good management to the point that a union is irrelevant."

Gertrude Stein always said, "A rose is a rose is a rose . . ." Local 8 says, "A scab is a scab is a scab . . ." Keeley can call it anything he wants, but it smells rotten. Good riddance, Analog. □

The enemy is at home

The Afghani guerrillas at war with the Russian army, have suddenly become "proud freedom fighters," "deeply religious men," defending a "proud and ancient heritage." (Wall Street Journal)

But across Afghanistan's borders, the Muslims who have rebelled against American domination of Iran are "Islamic fanatics," "frenzied lunatics," backward looking men who would "carry their country back into the eighth century."

APPLAUD

People who don't even support women's liberation in this country are outraged that the Ayatollah insists women wear the veil. These same people applaud the anti-communism of the Afghanis, though surely there are few

places where women are more oppressed than in Afghanistan.

A whole host of Islamic regimes, many of them actually feudal, all of them headed by tyrants, are to become the beneficiaries of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan—from Zia's in Pakistan to the king's of Oman.

And so on. Surely hypocrisy has hardly ever been more rampant than it is now, here in the United States. And to complicate things even more, Carter has announced his intention to arm Islamic Iran to the teeth, if they will just please release the hostages. And just when the Ayatollah dart-board business was beginning to boom...

We have argued from the beginning that all the talk about the threat of the "Islamic revolution" was little more than cover for U.S. insistence on controlling the vast oil reserves of the Middle East, and surely now this must be clear.

We have also argued that the rulers of this country—the Carter's, Kissinger's, and Brzezinski's—care nothing for the hostages, despite all their anguish. They want the oil.

Perhaps all this might accidentally help the desperately poor people of Afghanistan? Unlikely. And perhaps it will spur the Russian workers to

stand up and protest their government. We would be wildly enthusiastic if it did.

GAMES

But in the meantime, we must oppose Carter and his war games. We can have nothing to do with all the "poor little Afghanistan talk," not when it is a cover for every right-wing dictator in the world—and a step in the direction of nuclear war.

Our enemy is here at home. We have nothing to gain in the Persian Gulf. The executives and owners of Exxon, Texaco, Mobil and Gulf may. So let them fight the next war. □

Socialist Worker

WHAT WE THINK

ABORTION: A VICTORY IN COURT

In January, U.S. Judge John F. Dooling in New York, declared that the Hyde amendment is unconstitutional.

This amendment, introduced by Republican Henry

Hyde of Illinois in 1976, cut off Medicaid funding for abortion. This decision now goes to the Supreme Court, but Reproductive Rights activists, including those who brought the case to court, have hailed

it as a landmark decision.

Rhonda Copelon, a reproductive rights activist and lawyer for the Center for Constitutional Rights, said the decision would help all women and especially the poor.

According to Copelon, it is important for two reasons. The ruling "documents the concrete pervasive health impact upon poor women of forcing them to carry a pregnancy to term.

"It is the first time we've had a legal record as thorough as this, and I think it is pretty impossible for those opposed to the right of abortion to claim that abortion is a trivial matter.

HEALTH

"What we sought to demonstrate was the life long health consequences of denying abortions."

Copelon went on to say that Judge Dooling "recognized that the right to decide to have an abortion was a matter of conscience. It is the ultimate kind of decision that people

make and it is entitled to the most rigorous protection against legislative interference.

"The legislatures should act to protect a decision of conscience whether it is to have a child or to have an abortion."

Prior to this decision, the Hyde amendment drastically reduced the number of Medicaid abortions from 250,000 to 3,000 affecting mainly poor, Black, and Hispanic women.

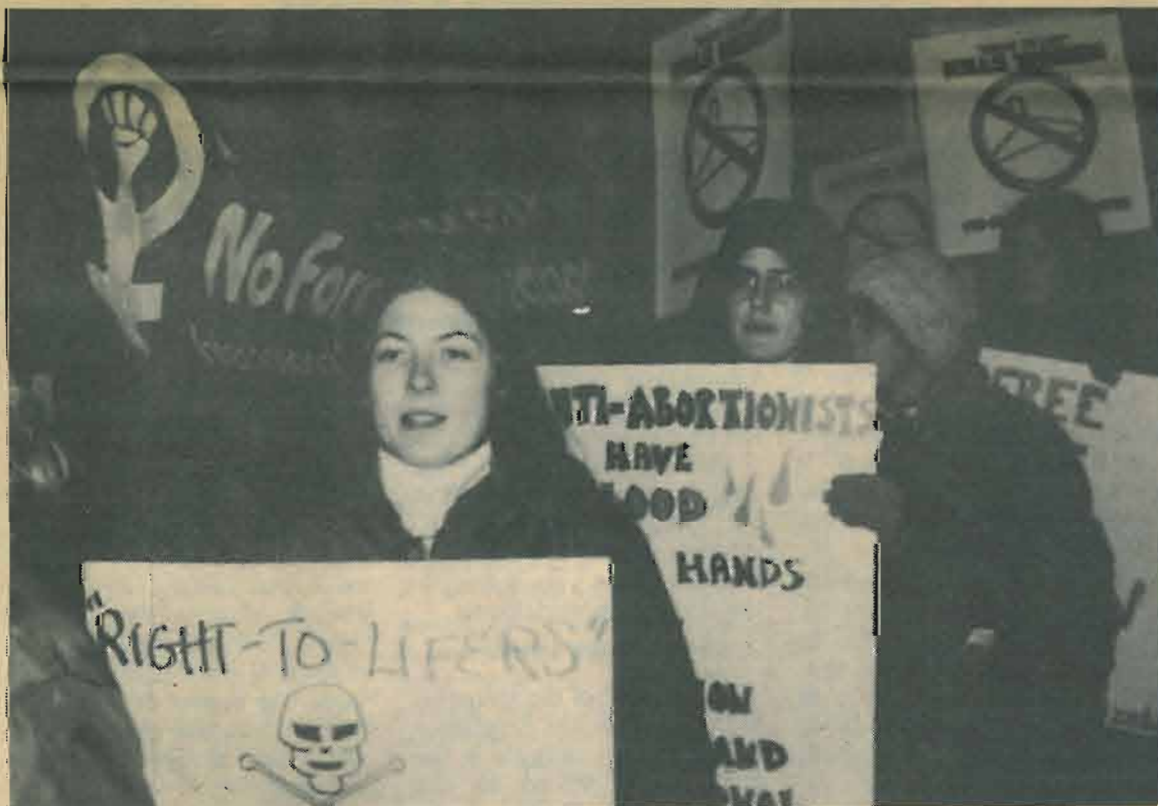
There are at least six known cases of women who have died as a result of the restrictions on abortion. A number of states passed even more draconian anti-abortion laws in the hopes to make abortion impossible.

While women have won a victory, however, we cannot rest on this decision. Copelon warned, "Although it is a landmark it is only winning a battle in a long war.

"We can expect the 'Right-to-Life' to step up its efforts to restrict abortion and to rebuild its political base."

DEFEAT

This means that reproductive rights activists must step up efforts to defeat the anti-abortionists both in the so-called "Right-to-Life Movement," as well as the anti-abortionists who reside in the courts, Congress and the government. □



CLEVELAND, OH—On January 22nd, reproductive rights activists organized a militant demonstration against the anti-abortionists in

the so-called "Right to Life Movement." The demonstration was organized by the Cleveland Pro-Choice Action Committee. □

In defense of democracy . . .

Ali Hydu Shah, a Pakistani student, has been sentenced to death by a military court.

His crime? He organized a protest by Sind University students against the raping of a woman medical student by the

local martial law administrator in Nawabshah in the province of Sind.

The protest led to serious clashes with the police. Hundreds were arrested and

Hyder was sentenced to death!

Pakistan's leader, General Zia, is soon to receive \$1 billion in military aid from the U.S. and other pro-Western regimes. □



Rhonda Copelon at June, 1979 Cincinnati pro-abortion demo

DAVID HOWE, FRIEND AND COMRADE

David Howe was a friend and comrade of many of us. He died January 21, after a long struggle with Hodgkins disease.

David was a dedicated socialist, a student activist, then a union militant in the Teamsters and a member of Teamsters for a Democratic Union.

He was a founding member of the Portland, Oregon, International Socialists, and a comrade we all depended on. He continued his political work to the best of his ability through his long illness.

We will miss him but will feel his presence beside us in the coming struggles. □

FIGHTING WORDS

The great historic lesson is that the one and only effective guarantee of peace and the one and only bulwark against war is the vigorous will of the proletariat pursuing an unwavering class policy and loyally upholding its international solidarity throughout all the storms of imperialism . . .

—Rosa Luxemburg, August 1914

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Harvester strike in fourth month

FT. WAYNE, IN—35,000 workers are now in the fourth month of a nationwide strike against International Harvester Corporation, the nation's second largest producer of agricultural implements.

MEET

The strike began November 1, and today the United Auto Workers, which represents the workers, and International

Harvester are not even meeting.

The main issue at stake is overtime. The company wants the right to force workers to work overtime, and the workers are determined to keep overtime voluntary.

Also at stake is the seniority system. Harvester would like to be able to divide its plants with separate seniority lists, with restrictions on rights to

transfer from one department to another.

When the picket lines were set up in November, a long strike was expected, but not this long. Caterpillar settled quickly, and John Deere, the other major producer was out for only three weeks.

Harvester has reported losses because of the strike, but the company reports that the losses can be absorbed.

The agricultural implement business is booming, and all the major corporations all recorded record profits in 1978.

Harvester management, led by Archie McCardell, the company's new chairman, whose specialty is slashing back the workforce, hopes to use the strike to set the stage for a new productivity drive.

But as a worker at Harves-

ter's massive complex here in Ft. Wayne, told Socialist Worker, "I don't think McCardell thought we were this strong. Everybody's morale is still high. This strike drove us together, instead of apart."

WIN

"We'll keep it together and win—we'll stay out till hell freezes over. We're not accepting forced overtime." □

BLACK POLITICS IN AMERICA BY TONY BOGUES

The decade of the 70's is gone. The American ruling class and its magazines and propaganda tells Blacks that the days of racial discrimination are gone. Jim Crow does not exist anymore.

Look, the propagandists say, how many Blacks are in college. There is a growth in Blacks who are 'professional' and who reside in suburbia. True, there are problems but 'you have come a long way Baby.'

DREAM

But let the propagandists chase their illusory dream. For not only the reality of economic hardships, unemployment and continued racial harassment as evidenced by the growth of the dreaded Klan.

The end of the decade is an opportunity to take stock politically of the success and failures of our struggles—not only in the U.S.A. but on a world scale.

Because you cannot divide the world up in tiny sections. The present economic crisis indicates this. Its effects are worldwide.

So we will use this article to look at the struggles of the oppressed Black masses in the U.S.A., U.K., Caribbean and Africa.

The early 70's saw the downturn of the Black movement in the U.S.

In 1971, George Jackson was murdered. Jackson symbolized the best in the tradition left by Malcolm X.

In the same period the League of Revolutionary Black workers split. They never recovered and soon dwindled into insignificance.

WAR

By the middle of the decade, the Black Panther Party, crippled by the tremendous war launched against it by the American ruling class, paralysed by continuous political differences which sometimes spilled over into gun fights in the streets and hindered by an inconsistent political outlook—a hodge-podge of Maoism and revolutionary nation-

alism, was entering its final throes of impact.

Both the Panthers and the League represented the high point of the Black Liberation Movement.

The activists of the 60's, the Black Power Movement—all the best elements in our struggle culminated in these two organizations.

Remembering the 60's many Black revolutionaries waited for the big crash and when it did not materialize, then rhetoric took over from political action. The demise of the Panthers and the League was not only a result of splits or political outlook.

PEAK

There were two other reasons: first, no movement can operate at a peak all the time. Oppressed people are objectively revolutionary. However, they become subjectively revolutionary and active when they see the hope for the transformation of their oppression.

By the mid-70's that spark of hope had dwindled. The giant beast—the U.S. ruling class had destroyed, co-opted, and beaten some. due to courageous and militant struggle. Second, that struggle was based upon the

THE END OF THE DECADE



Second, given the nature of American society and the dual nature of racial oppression—to have sustained success, it was necessary to have the support of the advanced section of white workers.

Not to say that Blacks must wait on white workers. But the nature of racism is such, its basis is on the capitalist system, and only the activity of those both exploited and those oppressed can deal the death blow to the system.

But there were lessons to be learnt. First, any success was mass of the Black population.

third, those who struggled

consistently arrived at the conclusion that socialism was the only answer.

This insight raised the old question of the relationship of the Black struggle to the struggle of entire humanity to free itself from wage slavery—the struggle for socialism.

CONNECTION

One feature of the struggles of the 70's was the perception that the Black struggle in the U.S.A. was linked to the struggles of Blacks everywhere.

The inter-connection of those struggles is based on the

integral nature of the capitalist system and the historical relationship of Africa and its people to the development of the system.

Because of the historical relationship—slavery, colonialism and racism—there has always been a Pan-African trend in our struggles.

Even if not openly articulated, the impact of struggles of Blacks in any part of the world has always been felt elsewhere.

For example, there is no denying the impact of Soweto '76 to the confidence of Blacks everywhere. □

Part two of this article will appear next month.





Exporting genocide

HOW THE DRUG
COMPANIES PROFIT FROM
POPULATION CONTROL

For the past twenty-five years, the drug industry has been consistently one of the most profitable in the American economy, many companies achieving up to 40% profit after taxes.

"Population control" is one big reason that the drug companies do so well. And the poor people of the underdeveloped nations are often the targets of this business—and its victims.

The population control agencies argue that their purpose is the prevention of hunger and hardship, and they attribute these to unchecked population growth.

CONTROL

So they have been "controlling population" with a vengeance. It is estimated that 90 million couples have undergone surgical sterilization, 30 million of those in the last three years alone.

Sterilization has now become internationally the number one method of birth control, surpassing even the use of birth control pills.

Funding for international population control programs began in the fifties—the creation of private organizations like the Population Council, founded by John D. Rockefeller III, and heavily funded by the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations.

But by the late sixties, the U.S. government had taken over the major share of population control, through the Agency for International Development (AID). It now underwrites a vast network, including the United Nations Fund for Population.

The means of operation of

by JEAN MAUNDER

AID-funded population control programs are many, but research and development of the procedure for outpatient female sterilization has been the critical element.

AID monies, for example, have covered the round-trip expenses and room and board for over 500 doctors from Chile, Columbia, Guatemala, India, South Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, pre-revolutionary Iran, and Thailand.

After completion of the short course, taught through Johns Hopkins University, each doctor is returned home with a \$5,000 labroscope, the instrument used for performing female sterilizations. The labroscopes too are paid for by AID.

REINFORCE

Although sterilization is the major tool of U.S.-funded population control programs, it is reinforced by the provision of temporary contraceptive methods as well. Among them are birth control pills, IUD's, and hormone injections.

The original testing of birth control pills was carried out in Puerto Rico. Women there participated in studies involving many different formulations of the pill. Unknown to many participants, some studies even included placebos, tablets made of inactive ingredients with no ability to prevent pregnancy.

In 1970, the Food and Drug Administration issued a notice to physicians in the U.S.

advising prescription of only those birth control pills with the lowest dose of estrogen, a hormone component.

Women taking estrogen for uses other than contraception had proved to have an abnormally high occurrence of cancer of the uterus.

In response to a sag in sales of the high estrogen pills on the home market, AID purchased billions-worth of the pills at a cut-rate price for unloading in its programs abroad.

In Bangladesh, a target of AID pill supplies, more than 90% of women accepting the drug were breastfeeding. Studies conducted by International Planned Parenthood Federation itself demonstrated that babies nursed by mothers taking birth control pills grew at a rate only 2/3 that of babies nursed by mothers not on the pill.

KNOWN

The dangers of Dalkon Shield IUD's also were known well before AID began purchasing them for export. By 1974, the deaths of 17 women in the U.S. had been attributed to the device.

But, desperate to unload its inventory, the Dalkon Shield's manufacturer, A.H. Robins, sold AID its remaining supplies at a 48 percent discount. U.S. sales of the IUD's had been in individual sterilized packages, each with its own inserter.

The AID dump, however, was of bulk packages, unsterilized, with one inserter

for each ten IUD's, immeasurably increasing the risk of infection in the recipients.

The Upjohn Company, an American drug firm, manufactures the hormone injection called Depo-Provera. Recent reports of its testing can be found in the South African Medical Journal, where the results of its use as a contraceptive on black Zimbabwean and South African women are presented.

The FDA has refused Upjohn licensure of Depo-Provera because of increased occurrences of cancer of the breast and the uterus in laboratory animals receiving it. In women, a partial list of known side effects includes increased blood pressure, very heavy or completely absent menstrual bleeding, and decreased breast milk secretion.

But again, it also is promoted and provided covertly by AID through its agency covers. Entitled "Operations Research Projects," it is supplied to a total of 378,000 women in Mexico, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh.

REACTION

There has been reaction from the people who are the focus of these abuses, most notably in India, where compulsory sterilization, primarily for men, has been in effect in some areas.

Government employees were told that they would not

receive their paychecks unless they produced a certain monthly quota of candidates for sterilizations.

There were protest demonstrations in response. In Delhi in 1976, a group of Muslims known for their political opposition to the government were told that their homes would be bulldozed, and that they would be relocated to new homes only if they agreed to be sterilized. In the demonstrations that ensued, eight people were killed.

U.S. government population control funding abroad is an issue that exposes the bare bones, the essential framework of capitalism and imperialism.

It is nothing less than a war against the poor of the world—a form of genocide. As such it is an issue which should encourage us to make ties between many movements. The gay liberation and Southern African solidarity movements both have much to contribute to and gain from a struggle against Depo-Provera.

Likewise all of the movements against racial and sexual oppression. The ties are necessary for our success in building an international workers' movement which has a clear conception of our common enemy and the ability to defeat it. □

"MAINTAINING U.S. COMMERCIAL INTERESTS"

AID (Agency for International Development) pays a lot of attention to its "public relations" work, and claims to be concerned with "women's human right to say no to child bearing."

But AID's basic belief is that poverty is caused by large family size. In the words of Dr. Ray Ravenholdt, recently the head of the Office of Population of AID. "Resources divided by population equals well-being. We're trying to lower the denominator in that equation."

INTERESTS

In case you're wondering why the government is in favor of "lowering the denominator," instead of doing a better job of division, listen to what else Dr. Ravenholdt has to say: "population control is needed to maintain the normal operation of U.S. commercial interests around the world...Without our trying to help these countries with their economic and social development, the world would rebel against strong U.S. commercial presence...Population explosions, unless stopped, would lead to revolutions."

By KADI SPRENGLE

Pamphlets from Hera on women

REVOLUTIONARY FEMINISM

A SHORT HISTORY OF
WOMEN'S LIBERATION
BY BARBARA WINSLOW

75 pages \$1.50

Womens VOICE

Monthly from Britain \$1.00

Jean Smith

WOMEN AND THE FAMILY

10 pages 50¢

available from Hera Press, Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

Graffiti

by Patricia Goldsmith

Anything for a buck...

China has a new plan to earn hard currency and gain access to the higher technology of the industrial world.

They plan to begin the exportation of their own workers to work under contract in countries from Europe to Saudi Arabia.

The Chinese laborers will build highways, railroads and airfields throughout the world. Italian and French contractors alone will take up to 400,000 workers.

The first batch of workers were signed by Fujita Corporation, a Japanese construction company, for a highway in Iran.

The Chinese rulers are worried about the image of new "coolies," but they are more anxious to skim off part of the workers wages—80%. □

Keeping the world safe for democracy (II)...

It has now been revealed that the CIA conducted open-air tests of whooping-cough bacteria in Florida in the mid-1950's, when state medical records show a whooping-cough outbreak killed 12 persons.

The CIA conducted at least one such test along Florida's Gulf Coast in 1955. State records show that the number of whooping-cough cases in Florida jumped from 339 and one death in 1954 to 1,080 and twelve deaths in 1955. □

And get a gold card to boot...

If you deposit \$35,000 you can have a checking account at the Newport Harbor National Bank in Newport Beach, California.

The bank will have two entrances: one for those who will make an initial deposit of \$500. The other for those who deposit the \$35,000.

In addition to the special interest, these depositors will have the use of a chauffeured limosine, a gourmet dining room, a social secretary, and gold alloy cards that allow them to make purchases at selected stores. □

Not this year...

Traditionally, the first baby born in Litchfield, Illinois, receives gifts from the town's merchants.

Not this year, however, because the first baby's parents aren't married.

The contest's sponsors thought that it was "inappropriate for the New Year's baby to be born out of wedlock," though there were no provisions against it.

WHITE HUNTERS KILL BLACK MAN

OROVILLE, CA—Two white men who boasted that they had killed a Black man because they failed to find any animals to shoot on a hunting trip now face life imprisonment after pleading guilty to murder.

ADMIT

James McCarter, 20, and Melvin Noor, 19, admitted to

killing Jimmy Lee Campbell, 20 years old.

Campbell, a deaf man who worked in a sheltered workshop, was walking along a railroad track on January 13, 1979, when he was shot with a .30-caliber rifle. The bullet passed through his shoulder and heart.

McCarter and Noor were arrested the next day.

"If they had kept their mouths shut, we never would have found them," said district attorney Will Matley. "But they went home and bragged to friends and neighbors."

The men said they had gone hunting near Oroville, northwest of San Francisco, but were unable to find deer.

They then decided to shoot

a cow but could not find one.

They were driving when they saw Campbell. Matley said there was "evidence that Noor had a dislike for Blacks."

ESCAPE

The killers escaped the death penalty by agreeing to plead guilty. □

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

But aren't people naturally just lazy?

Many people today say that socialism would never work because people are naturally lazy. Why would anyone work if they didn't have a boss standing over them?

The argument continues: the only reason people produce anything is to get a paycheck. Without the threat of poverty, most people wouldn't lift a finger and society would fall apart.

People on welfare and unemployment insurance are given as living proof that it's against human nature to work willingly. Of course, the people who make this argument usually don't admit to being lazy themselves—but everyone else is.

In the first place, the argument glosses over evidence that everyone can see. Working people know that we're the ones who produce everything, who keep the wheels of society turning. If we're so slothful, where did all this stuff come from?

And anyone who's ever survived on welfare or unemployment knows that just staying alive amounted to a full-time job.

FREE

But there's even better evidence against human "laziness" in the tremendous amount of labor people give freely to activities that are outside the money economy—fixing up the house, for example, or working in the garden, repairing the car, sports of all kinds—even organizing for socialism!

Like most reactionary ideas, the belief in human laziness surrounds a core of truth. The majority of people hate their jobs, hate clocking in every morning, and feel that life only starts when they clock out. The mistake is in seeing this fact in terms of inherent laziness.

To make a convincing argument against such a dim view of human nature, we need to think about the conditions of work in this society and about what's meant by "human nature." These are issues socialists have been addressing for more than a century, and the argument will go on as long as capitalism does.

OUR NORMAN



Karl Marx defined human nature in a very specific way. Human beings "can be distinguished from animals by consciousness, by religion, or anything else you like. They themselves begin to distinguish themselves from animals as soon as they begin to produce their means of subsistence."

Thus we are human because we create the means of our own survival. By organizing this productive activity, human beings have built cultures, technologies, ideologies, and everything else we experience as human society.

Marx stressed that conscious activity is the specifically human element in our struggle to survive, as individuals, as groups, and as a species. The way other animals survive is determined by their inherited biological makeup.

For example, the wolf survives because its instinct is to kill and eat other animals. It keeps warm in winter because it inherited a thick fur

coat. It brings up its cubs according to inherited patterns of behavior.

But human beings consciously make their own means of survival. To put it another way, *human nature creates itself*, within the historical and physical limits operating at any given time.

RANGE

Now those limits are very important. They determine the possible range of human creativity in every historical period. And if we accept the historical limits imposed on us by capitalism, "laziness" is inevitable.

It's the result of what Marx called "alienated labor," in which workers are separated from their own productive activity, from the goods they produce, from each other, and from themselves.

Since most people work for the boss and not for themselves or for the "intrinsic" value of the product, it's in their material interest to invest the minimum amount of

energy possible and still get paid. Some people work harder than others, and some take it easy.

But work *itself* is dehumanized, and not just when a particular boss is greedy and ruthless. What's wrong is the whole system of producing things for someone else to sell, who then returns a portion of the profit to the producers and keeps the rest for himself.

Marx called work in these conditions *alienated* because it is fundamentally involuntary: "It is coerced; it is *forced labor*. It is therefore not the satisfaction of a need, but merely a means to satisfy needs external to it. Its alien character emerges clearly in the fact that as soon as no physical or other compulsion exists, labor is shunned like the plague."

That's how capitalism produces "laziness"—absenteeism, tardiness, "low worker productivity," etc. Then to explain the problem, the capitalists put out the idea that we were just born lazy.

What will work be like when workers run society? We can begin to imagine the answer by looking around us at people engaged in freely chosen, conscious, creative activity—what's called "play" in this society.

We can put more of the pieces in by seeing how strikes organized by the rank and file are run. They use the best energy and ideas of every striker. They break down the whole dichotomy between "bosses" and "idlers."

COMMON

And maybe the rest comes from watching people work together for a common goal. This doesn't happen often under capitalism, and it doesn't happen easily.

But every natural disaster brings out hundreds of people who work voluntarily to aid the victims and repair the damage. If you look in these places, you won't see much laziness.

The possibilities for real human activity, for using our collective energy, are all around us. We have to end capitalism and set these possibilities free. □

British steelworkers: fighting for their lives

150,000 workers in the nationalized British steel industry are in the fifth week of their first strike in over fifty years.

It is a strike of tremendous political significance—for Government and the entire British labor movement.

Margaret Thatcher—the darling of the lunatic right at home and abroad—has been in office for nine months. Her government has made a record number of extremely reactionary policy statements.

They mostly stem from a fanatical attachment to bizarre monetarist theories until recently thought to be merely the demented outpourings of campus ideologues like Milton Friedman.

They have included towering interest rates and the end of state aid to industry with a steeply climbing unemployment rate.

The progressive demolition of the Welfare State, a promise to introduce 'Taft-Hartley style' restrictions on Trade Unions, severe repressive treatment of immigrants and young offenders and a move to make abortion inaccessible to working class women.

And all of this is taking place against a background of a 20% and rising inflation rate, the very situation which monetarist economic policies are claimed to eliminate!

DECISIVE

Even before the Tories returned to office some of their less diplomatic spokespersons were making explicit what they all believed in private.

The drive to the right could only be decisive after a major ideological and organizational defeat for the trade unions. One of Thatcher's more loathsome minions, country landowner, Nicholas Ridley, was commissioned to prepare a report on the vulnerability of the unions—especially in the state sector.

After wisely rejecting a battle with miners or power workers, both of whom had savaged previous Tory administrations, his evil eye alighted on the steel unions and especially the largest, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC).

PASSIVE

The ISTC had a long and very passive record.

It was a union long dominated by a very conservative leadership. It held virtually no conventions, no local meetings, had no local rank and file officials and no elections.

AN EYEWITNESS REPORT ON THE STEEL STRIKE FROM JOHN CHARLTON IN LEEDS, ENGLAND

Its leadership had also presided over the decimation of jobs in the industry, and the linking of all pay awards to useless productivity deals. Ridley concluded that the ISTC was the ideal case!

The Tories seemed to be vindicated in the autumn when the leadership of the union accepted the loss of a further 50,000 jobs over the coming year, with hardly a murmur from the rank and file.

MISCALCULATION

Then came the Tories first miscalculation. They decided on total humiliation and offered a 2% pay increase for 1980.

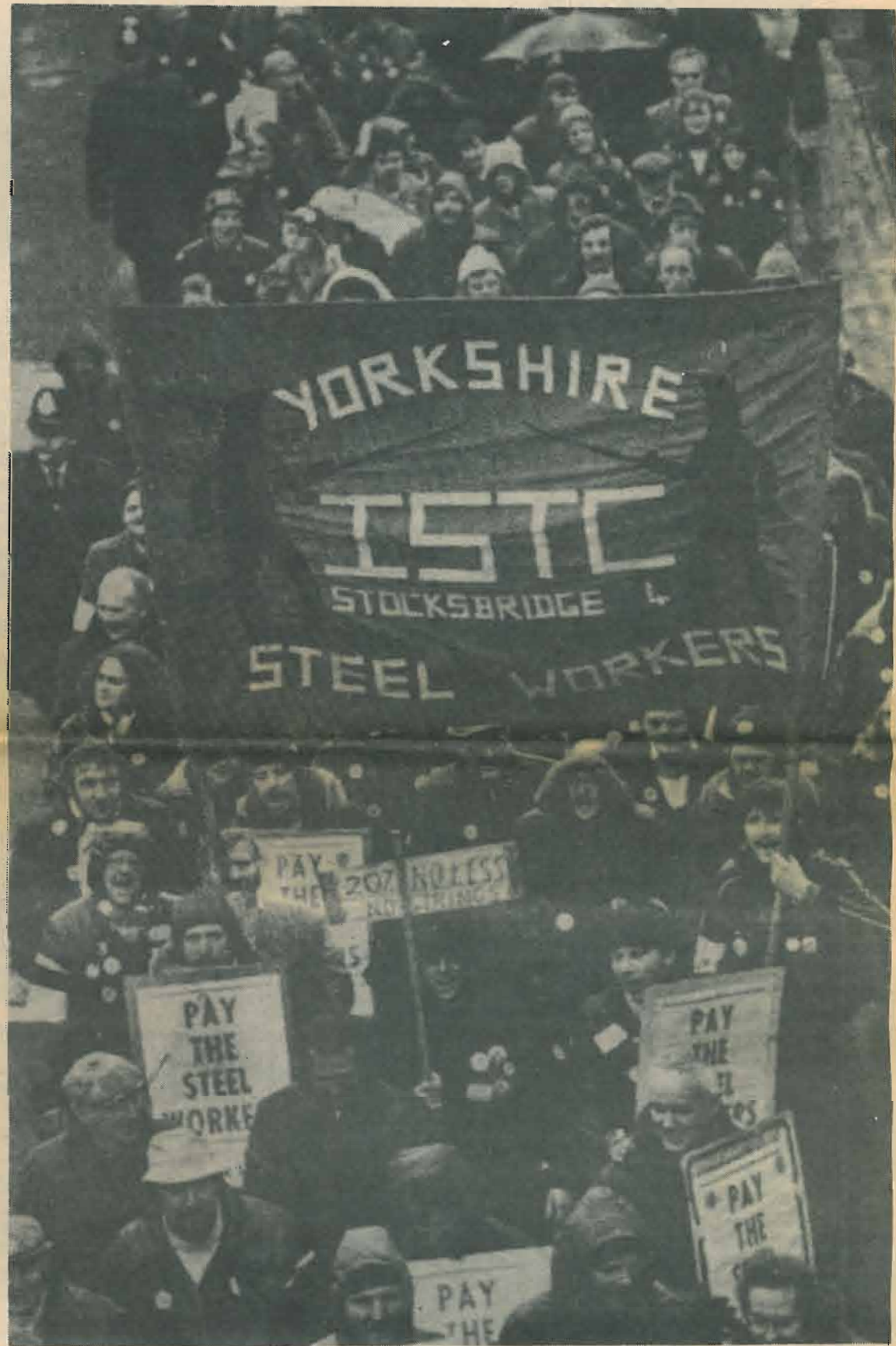
The miners had just accepted 20% and other public sector workers 15%. It was the straw that broke the proverbial camels back.

Mounting pressure from the rank and file forced the leadership to call a strike. The mills did not open after Christmas vacation.

Each of the strike headquarters in the steel towns were inundated with angry pickets. More than any strike in recent British history this one is being organized and run by the rank and file. By and large full time officials have stayed away.

The pickets have blockaded hundreds of stock yards crippling the movement of steel. They have travelled hundreds of miles to seal off ports, 20% of steel being imported.

And the biggest battles



British steelworkers on the march

have been outside private steel works—where the police have been pretty rough—anticipating the outlawing of secondary picketing pending legislation.

The support of other groups of workers is growing daily. A free kick at Thatcher is not to be missed! Left to themselves the rank and file could win, hopefully they will.

But with a treacherous and craven leadership such as they have, anything can happen.

There are some really exciting days ahead! □

ZIMBABWE: "FREE ELECTIONS"

In January, Robert Mugabe, one of the co-leaders of the Patriotic Front, returned to Zimbabwe. A crowd of 250,000 supporters came out to greet him. Only the week before, Joshua Nkomo returned to Zimbabwe to be met by a crowd of 150,000.

Elections are to be held later this month. But although the popularity of the Patriotic Front is obvious, their efforts have been systematically sabotaged.

There are still 5,000 people detained without trial under martial law regulations. An-

other 6,000 'convicted' prisoners—who had been found guilty by special courts established under martial law—are still in prison.

And South African troops are still in the country in case "something goes wrong."

UPDATE: COURTS HIT STRIKERS

On January 28, the Trade Union Congress of Wales led a one-day general strike of Welsh workers against unemployment and plant closings, particularly in steel and in the coal mines, where Wales is hard hit.

At the same time, a British high court issued an injunction against picketing the private steel companies, and the national leadership of the ISTC agreed to limit pickets. This action, of course, will drastically weaken the effectiveness of the strike.

As we go to press, it remains to be seen whether or not the rank and file will follow the orders of the court and their leadership. Militants are arguing to continue the all-out strike. □



WORLD IN STRUGGLE

THE OLYMPIC BOYCOTT: JIMMY CARTER SHOULD GET . . .

The gold medal for hypocrisy

The call to boycott the 1980 Olympics, initiated by Carter and backed by Congress, the U.S. Olympic Committee, and now a growing number of reactionaries is nothing less than an extension of the new Cold War into the "sacred domain of sports."

It is part of the program to revamp the U.S. military, and it is also a plank in Jimmy Carter's 1980 presidential campaign.

Certainly it will do nothing to help the people of Afghanistan, nor will it spark resistance within Russia itself.

OPPOSE

It is hypocrisy, pure and simple, and as such should in no way be supported by socialists, no matter how much we oppose the Russian invasion of Afghanistan.

But let's have a look at the Olympics—and the issue of sports and politics—just for the record. We can begin with the 1936 Olympics, held in Nazi Germany. Jews and others called for a boycott of these Olympics—held as they were in the shadows of the gas chambers.

But the U.S. government (Roosevelt was then president) did not agree. More, Ernest Jahkne, the U.S. representative to the International Olympic Committee, was relieved of his position because he was critical of U.S. policy. At the same time, to appease Hitler, two Jews were suspended from the track team.

WARN

Avery Brundage, the man who replaced Jahkne, summed up his attitude about the Berlin Olympics this way: "We can learn much from Germany. We too, if we wish to preserve our institutions, must stamp out communism. We too must take steps to arrest the decline of patriotism."

The U.S. did not boycott the 1956 Olympics, when the Russians were putting the Hungarian Revolution against the wall. And needless to say, there was no boycott of the 1968 or 1972 Olympics—when the U.S. was ravaging Vietnam, in a war that still makes the Russian expedition into Afghanistan seem half-hearted.

Mohammed Ali, however, was stripped of his world heavy weight boxing title, when he refused to fight in Vietnam.

When Black athletes called for a boycott of the 1968 Olympics, there was a rage of protest. Tommy Smith and John Carlos were robbed of their amateur status because they stood with clenched fists, while accepting their medals.

Harry Edwards, the Black athlete who organized the attempted 1968 protest, told Socialist Worker that "there is certainly an evil Russian bear in Afghanistan, but there is an evil U.S. snake here. The hypocrisy of this new Olympic boycott will not be lost on the

AN EXTENSION OF WAR BY OTHER MEANS

hundreds of Black athletes who supported our action only to be lectured, 'don't mix sports with politics.'

CLEAN

"I am against the Russian invasion of Afghanistan but I believe we have to clean up our own house first."

1968, by the way, was also the year that the Mexican government gunned down 300 students, and jailed thousands of others. Their crime: they protested that the Mexican government was using the Olympics to gloss over a barbarous regime. There was no boycott.

The United States has steadfastly refused to support the exclusion of racist South Africa from international sporting events, once again because 'sports and politics don't mix.' "It's all well and good to say that the Olympics are sacred and that no one should tamper with them," said Lee Evans, a former U.S. Black athlete, now Nigeria's Olympic's coach. "But life is sacred too, and when you think of the 176 people killed in the recent South African riots, maybe you can appreciate why we feel we strongly."

"There seems to be a tendency in the world to shrug it off when Blacks are killed. But we're people and we think that

human life is more important than winning medals."

Of course the U.S. opposed action against South Africa, as it did when we protested the appearance of south African tennis team at the 1978 Davis Cup matches in Nashville. And when we protested the visit to the U.S. Callie Knoetze, the white South African boxer and former policeman—a man dismissed from the police for shooting down a young Black boy, unarmed and innocent of any crime.

DEATH

Carter may well succeed in killing the Olympics, but no one should be happy. The death will benefit only the right—in this country, and in any number of other reactionary countries—from Saudi Arabia to Chile.

There are many circumstances in which we would support the boycott of such a vile institution—for the games have always been an extension of war by other means, with winning a matter of national pride and a time for flag waving.

But to do so now would in reality be to support a far more dangerous contest—Carter's new war games. □

by B.W.



Tommy Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Olympics: suspended by the U.S. Olympic Committee for their protest

"We w the jo

On the morning of January 28, 800 steelworkers, members of their families and supporters, jammed the action.

Action to stop the United States Steel Corporation from Youngstown district. Action to save nearly 5,000 jobs.

They waited impatiently while a procession of speakers, mostly local politicians, promised support in Washington D.C., and Columbus.

ROAR

And then they roared with approval when Ed Mann, the president of nearby USW Local 1462, proposed that they march down to U.S. Steel's district headquarters—and stay there until something was done to save their jobs.

The workers marched out of the hall, then down the hill to U.S. Steel, less than a block away. They kicked down the

plate glass doors, and minutes occupied the floors of the building.

Banners were unfurled the windows and the "Save our Valley," the Ohio Works Open," us the plant." Then about the demonstrators down on the top floor to while the other half m in support outside.

The occupation of U.S. Steel's announced that its decision to the Youngstown mill final—that there would further negotiations with local union or with the



Arthur Vines, 9 years with U.S. Steel, USW Local 1330

"Of all the evil and bad things that I associate with me put U.S. Steel at the top of the list. They're the worst, the pits. Anobody who can take 3,500 jobs from people don't care whether they are financially secure or at least another job, they don't have a heart. Their heart is green. All they care about is making money."

"They got their use out of here. They got their use people here so now they don't need them no more. U.S. the perfect example of an imperialist power. They don't one little plant, two little plants in Ohio. If they close down, we should seize the mill. The workers seize it leave, just keep producing."

"If this don't work we'll go from here. We're going with the conditions as they arise. If the condition says accomplish what we set out to do here today, or a week today or two weeks from today, then we can settle with not we'll have to take more strong and drastic measures got to, you know, we got to let them know we are j They're taking our bread and butter away and we're not to sit back and watch it."

ant
S"

United Steelworkers Local 1330,
union hall to hear a plan for
down it's last two mills in the

munity group, the "Save Our
Jobs Committee," which has
been proposing a worker/com-
munity takeover of the mills.

The U.S. Steel closings will
virtually finish the Youngs-
town area as a steel producing
center. U.S. Steel closed two
mills in 1978, and Jones and
Laughlin closed major mills in
1979.

The occupation was not
planned as a "do or die" ven-
ture, but rather as an attempt
to capture the imagination of
workers in Youngstown and
other steel centers for a longer
fight to keep the mills open in
the months ahead.

Unfortunately, it was not
successful. While the very fact
that the building was occupied
is a big step forward for steel-
workers, the occupation was
called off before it could
achieve even its limited pur-
pose.

FAILURE

Bob Vasquez, the president
of Local 1330, a man recently
elected on a reform slate,
deserves much of the credit
for the failure. He vacillated
from the very beginning, and
then ordered the demonstra-
tors from the building on the
mere promise that the plant
manager—not even top
management from Pitts-
burgh—would meet with him.

A majority of the demon-
strators were bitterly disap-
pointed—and there was even
fighting in the union hall in a
meeting following.

Still, the struggle is far from



Steelworkers control U.S. Steel headquarters

finished. The occupation
has shown that action can be
taken, that steelworkers do
have power on their own, that
they do not have to passively
accept "being thrown on the
junk pile," in the words of
Ken Doran, a steelworker
from J & L, who helped orga-
nize the occupation.

FORWARD

Can it go forward? Can the
rank and file workers take
advantage of the occupation?
They must, for the alternative
is 5,000 people out of work,
many of them with no hope of
every getting a decent job
again. Others forced to leave
friends and family behind.

It won't be easy, but it can
be done, if the rank and file
workers who took the building
in the first place refuse to lay
down and die. There is no
doubt that they have the cou-
rage and the capacity to go
forward. That was shown on
the 28th. The question now is
organization—and will. □

**Why we need rank
and file organization**

The failure of the occupa-
tion at U.S. Steel's Youngs-
town District Headquarters
was due to one simple prob-
lem—a problem faced by all
militants and union activists.

Not only are the unions
weak and timid today, but the
rank and file is weaker—in
terms of organization and self-
confidence.

OFF

When Bob Vasquez, the
president of USW Local 1330,
announced that he had de-
cided to call off the occupation
there was no organized way
for the workers who disagreed
to oppose him.

There was no elected
occupation committee, there
was not even the opportunity
for open debate. Vasquez,
obviously frightened by the
situation, simply decided to
call it off. And it is unlikely
that he will call for a similar
action in the future.

But a decision affecting
5,000 families cannot be left to
one man, whether or not he is
the elected leader of a union.
Whether or not he is a "re-
former."

A union is not the pro-
perty of one single indi-
vidual.

NATURE

And that is the whole point
of rank and file organization.
It is in the very nature of
things that the trade union
leaders will vacillate between
the rank and file and the
bosses, that they will be as

afraid of action as they are of
the companies.

And that is why we must
always fight for real rank and
file organizations and for

complete democracy—even
when there is leadership from
the union—which in Youngs-
town on January 28 was
clearly not the case. □



Cathy Centofanti, Alliance, Ohio, Save Our Jobs Committee

"My husband used to work at the Youngstown Sheet and Tube
when they shut down two and a half years ago, and he got a
small job at a foundry out of town. We had to move away from
the family and everything. I just feel that this movement is real
important for the Youngstown area, because steel was the
backbone of Youngstown and when it leaves it's going to be like
a ghost town really.

"I'm on the Save Our Jobs Committee. It's a support group to
support the steelworkers whose jobs are being threatened by
the shutdown." □



WHERE WE STAND



• Workers' Control

Workers create all the wealth under capitalism. A socialist society can only be built when workers collectively seize control of that wealth and democratically plan its production and distribution according to human needs instead of profit.

The working class is the key to the fight for socialism. Freedom and liberation will only be achieved through the struggles of workers themselves, organizing and fighting for real workers' power.

• Revolution Not Reform

The capitalist system cannot be patched up or reformed as some union leaders and liberal politicians say. Capitalism is based on the exploitation of workers. No reforms can do away with this exploitation. The only way workers can come to control society and create a system based on freedom and a decent life for all is by overthrowing capitalism and replacing it with revolutionary, democratic socialism.

• A Workers' Government

The present state apparatus (federal and state governments, the courts, army and police) was developed to maintain the capitalist system. This apparatus cannot be taken over as it stands and converted to serve workers. The working class needs an entirely different kind of state based upon mass democratic councils of workers' delegates.

Supporting the present state apparatus is a vast network of propaganda — newspapers, radio, television, movies, the education system. Workers are bombarded daily from all directions with capitalism's point of view. The working class needs its own sources of information. To help meet this need, we are dedicated to building a newspaper that the working class can trust and use in the fight against the present system.

• Fight Oppression

Capitalism divides the working class — pitting men against women, whites against blacks. Capitalism fosters and uses these divisions to block the unity necessary for its destruction. As capitalism moves into crisis, oppressed groups — blacks, women, latins, Native Americans, gays, youth — suffer most. We support the struggles of these oppressed groups.

We oppose racism in all its forms. We fight segregation in the schools and housing, and against racist firings and harassment. We demand freedom for all political prisoners.

We fight for women's liberation, supporting equal pay for all women workers. We fight for free abortion and an end to forced sterilization. There should be free quality child care for all who need it. We fight for equal hiring opportunities for women and an end to sexual harassment and hirings. Discrimination and harassment of sexual minorities must be fought.

We support the independent organization and struggles of oppressed people to strengthen the working class struggle for socialism.

• Rank and File Organization

The unions today are largely business machines that long ago stopped truly fighting for the interests of the working class. Business union leaders act either as brakes on workers' struggles, or as cops, delivering workers into the hands of the bosses. We fight in the unions to put an end to this.

To make the unions fight for workers' interests, workers must organize their power on the shop floor. This can only happen if the rank and file organize themselves independently of the union bureaucrats. We work to build rank and file organizations in unions and companies wherever we are employed.

• Internationalism

The working class has no nation. Capitalism is international, so the struggle for socialism must be world-wide. A socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation.

We champion workers' struggles in all countries, from Portugal and Spain to Chile and Puerto Rico — from Palestine and Eastern Europe to China and India. We support all genuine national liberation struggles. We call for victory of the black freedom fighters in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We oppose all forms of imperialism and oppose sending U.S. troops anywhere in the world to impose U.S. interests.

Russia, China, Cuba and Eastern Europe are not socialist countries. They are state capitalist and part of one world capitalist system. We support the struggles of workers in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

• Revolutionary Party

The activity of the ISO is directed at taking the initial steps toward building a revolutionary party in a working class fragmented and cut off from socialist ideas. Revolutionaries must be involved in the daily struggles of workers and oppressed groups at the workplace, in the unions and in the communities. We build every struggle that strengthens the self-confidence, organization and socialist consciousness of workers and the oppressed.

As the working class movement gathers strength, the need for revolutionary leadership becomes crucial. We are part of the long process of building a democratic revolutionary party rooted in the working class. Those who agree with our stand and are prepared to help us build toward revolutionary socialism are urged to join us now.

Join the International Socialist Organization

For more information about the International Socialist Organization (ISO), please write to Box 18037, Cleveland, Ohio 44118.

ISO NEWS

What's ON

BALTIMORE

Cal Winslow on **Youngstown and the Crisis in the Steel Industry**. Monday, February 4, 7:30 p.m. Call 235-963 for details.

Barbara Winslow on **Revolutionary Feminism**. Saturday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.

BLOOMINGTON

Socialism and War. University of Indiana, Wednesday, February 13. Call 332-8272 for details.

BOSTON

Day School, **Socialist Perspective for the Eighties**. Saturday, February 16, beginning 12 noon. \$2.00. Speakers include: Barbara Winslow, Kathy McCaughin, Ahmed Shawki. 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge. Child care with advance notice.

Milt Fisk on **Why You Should Be a Socialist**. Thursday, February 28, 2:30 p.m., U-Mass Harbor Campus.

CHICAGO

Ahmed Shawki on **Iran, Afghanistan: the Crisis of Imperialism**. Meetings at:

Kent Law School, February 7, 12:00 p.m.; Roosevelt University, February 7, 4:00 p.m.; University of Chicago, February 7, 7:30 p.m.

I.S.O. Educational Series: "Rank and file organizing in the I.B.T.," February 14; "Politics of Health Care," February 21; "Crisis at Cook County Hospital," February 28. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Call 477-7363 for more information.

CINCINNATI

The Draft: Exxon Wants You. Friday, February 1, Lebanon, Ohio.

Cal Winslow on **Prospects for the 1980's**. Saturday, February 9, 7:30 p.m. Call 871-1371 for location.

Barbara Winslow on **The Contributions of Trotsky**. Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 p.m. Call 871-1371 for details.

Iran: the Unfinished Revolution. Featuring slides of the revolution presented by Iranian students. Saturday, February 23, 7:30 p.m. University of Cincinnati.

Bill Roberts on **Russia: State Capitalist, or Socialist?** Friday, February 29, 7:30 p.m. Call 871-1371 for location.

CLEVELAND

Glenn Perusek on **Rosa Luxemburg**. Friday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. Call 932-6191 for details.

KENT

Ahmed Shawki on **Iran, Afghanistan: the Crisis of Imperialism**. Thursday, January 31, 8:00 p.m., Room 315, Kent Student Center.

Glenn Perusek and Greg Rambo on **The Failure of the Russian Revolution**. Thursday, February 7, 6:00 p.m.

I.S.O. Study Series:

"The I.S.O. and the 1980's," Thursday, February 14, 6:00 p.m.; "Issues of the American Labor Movement," Thursday, February 21, 6:00 p.m.; "Marxism and the Party," Part I, Thursday, February 28, 6:00 p.m.

NEW YORK

Neil Smith on **Why the Working Class**. Sunday, February 10, 8:30 p.m., 150 Thompson, NYC.

Ahmed Shawki on **National Liberation and Socialism**. Sunday, February 17, 8:30 p.m. 150 Thompson, NYC.

NORTHAMPTON

Ahmed Shawki on **Iran, Afghanistan: the Crisis of Imperialism**. Meetings at: Hampshire College, East Lecture Hall, Monday, February 11, 8:00 p.m.; U. Mass., Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.; Mount Holyoke College, Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 p.m.

Ahmed Shawki on **The Palestinians**. Tuesday, February 12, 4:00 p.m. Hampshire College, East Lecture Hall. Call 773-5334 for details.

SEATTLE

Paul Buhle on **Surrealism**. Friday, February 22, 12:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., University of Washington Hub, East Ballroom, Socialist Action. Call 634-0779 for details.

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"The philosophers have merely interpreted the world. The point is to change it."

— Karl Marx

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ISO National Office, P.O. Box 18037, Cleveland, OH 44118

"no power greater"

by BARBARA WINSLOW



Twenty years ago — the Civil Rights Movement was born

They didn't want brotherhood,

just coffee sitting down



It was a common occurrence in the South. Joseph McNeil, a young Black man, wanted to get a bite to eat. When he went to the lunch counter in the Greensboro, North Carolina bus station he was told, "We don't serve Negroes."

Eighteen year old McNeil reported this incident to three friends, all freshmen at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College.

All four men had been reading *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*, and were asking the questions on the minds of thousands of young Blacks. "What can we do?" Pausing for a moment, McNeil answered his own question, "Let's have a boycott."

On Monday, February 1, 1960, Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain and David Richmond entered the local Woolworth Five and Dime. They purchased several small articles.

Then they took seats at the local lunch counter and asked for coffee. "We don't serve colored in here," announced the waitress.

Blair answered, "I beg to disagree with you. You just finished serving me at the counter only two feet from here." The waitress stormed off, but the students continued to sit on their chairs.

The police were called in and as described by Blair, "They stared at us and walked up and down the aisle, but said nothing to us. We figured it was an effort on their part to frighten us away, but we stayed until 5:30 when the store closed."

GOAL

The next day a dozen more students joined the sit-in. By the third day, twenty students were involved, and shifts were arranged to carry on the sit-in. The four freshmen who started the sit-ins had a specific goal. "We don't want brotherhood. We just want a cup of coffee sitting down."

The Greensboro sit-ins sparked off a wave of massive sit-ins, demonstrations and other forms of confrontation that ultimately toppled



Sitting down at Woolworths

public segregation in public accommodation.

Segregation in the South was not purely "southern" nor was it some irrational way of separating Blacks from whites.

Segregation was legalized by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1896, supported by both political parties, as well as by the AFL-CIO bureaucracy.

Blacks in the South could not vote, could not sit on juries, suffered legal as well as illegal lynchings, with no protection from the federal government.

Segregation was much more than bathrooms which said "white ladies" and "colored women."

Segregation existed to maintain and enforce the degradation of Black people—to keep Blacks in poverty, ignorance and always humiliated by whites. "Nothing is quite as humiliating, so mur-

derously angering, as to know that because you are Black, you may have to walk a mile farther than whites to urinate; that because you are Black you have to receive your food through a window in the back of a restaurant or sit in a garbage littered yard to eat," wrote one sit-in activist, John Williams.

VIOLENCE

The Greensboro sit-in and the wave of sit-ins which followed were a fantastic step forward in the resistance to the tyranny of racism. The students were reviled with every ugly racial epithet, splattered with plates of food, kicked and frequently beaten.

In jail they were tortured with electric cattle prods and "wrist breakers." But the violence of the Southern racists only strengthened the resolve of the students. The movement continued to grow.

One week after Greensboro, student sit-ins were underway in six other North Carolina towns. Within a month students expanded their confrontations to the streets.

A thousand demonstrated in the streets of Orangeburg, South Carolina, with 800 arrested. Another 1000 marched through Tallahassee, Florida. 750 marched in Marshall, Texas, where they were assaulted with firehoses.

SIT-IN

Students started chanting "fill the jails!" and the next step was the "jail-in" reminiscent of the tactics used by the Wobblies (Industrial Workers of the World—IWW) during their free speech fights in the 1910's. The sit-ins expanded to segregated swimming pools, movie theaters, municipal libraries, beaches and bingo halls.

In 1960 twenty states were affected by sit-in demonstrations. Over one hundred cities in the South had sit-ins or other forms of direct action. An estimated 3,600 students were arrested, 70,000 Blacks and whites actively participated in the struggle against segregation and thousands of others supported the movement through financial contributions, and other means of moral support.

BACK

It was the sit-in movement which broke the back of segregation in the South—not any laws or court decisions. Nashville integrated lunch counters in May 1960. The Hot Shoppes in Virginia followed in June. The Knoxville and Greensboro stores in July, and finally

Miami and Atlanta in early 1961. By the spring of 1961 lunch counters and restaurants in 140 cities had surrendered to the sit-in campaign.

Rather than lose momentum, the student activists expanded their resistance to segregation with the freedom rides. Black and white activists would ride into the deep South by bus, openly breaking state laws on segregated eating, restrooms and restaurants.

They defied racist mobs who attacked the demonstrators, and set fire and turned over busses. The freedom riders had no support or protection from the federal government. But they carried on and within a year, the "whites only" signs disappeared from Greyhound and Trailways.

The students in 1960 were successful because they relied on their strength in numbers, their courage and determination. They didn't look to the courts, to Congress, or to (then presidential aspirant) John Kennedy.

They knew they would have to battle the KKK, the white Citizens Councils and other racist mobs on their own. And they did. And they won.

REBUILD

Today, twenty years later in Greensboro, the Klan can openly gun down anti-racist and union activists. Now, more than ever, we must rebuild a movement, based upon the power of workers, Black and white. We must rekindle the flames of the Black rebellion which was born at the Woolworth's lunch counter twenty years ago. □

The deployment of a new generation of nuclear missiles with increased fire-power throughout Western Europe, the announcement by Carter in December of a five per cent increase in the U.S. arms budget, the maneuvers of the U.S. fleet off the Gulf, the open Russian takeover in Afghanistan, the freeze on grain shipments from the U.S. to Russia, the rushing of arms from the U.S. and China to Zia's military despotism in Pakistan, the postponement by Carter of the ratification of the SALT arms limitation agreement, a further upping of arms expenditure East and West—the world is suddenly a more unstable and dangerous place.

SIGNS

All the signs are that the "detente" of the 1960's and 1970's is breaking down into a new version of the Cold War of the 1950's. Then, a minor incident in any one of a dozen flashpoints throughout the globe would send nuclear shivers down a billion spines.

With the slide back into super-power confrontation, comes the attempt to reactivate all the old ideological stances. In the West, that means portraying the breakdown of detente as a result of "Russian aggressiveness," or

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even, in Carter's words, "atheistic Communism."

The Kabul coup then becomes an excuse for Western militarism in the same way that the Prague coup was back in 1948. We are told there is no choice but to increase arms spending so as to ward off the threat from men in the Kremlin who see the world balance of forces tilting in their favor.

The question is asked: "Are you for the Russians in Afghanistan?" and if you answer in the negative, then you are expected to accept the denial of food shipments to feed Russian workers, the enlarged contracts for the

arms profiteers, the rushing of weapons to the self-professed hangman in Pakistan.

It is an obscene logic that socialists have to combat. The takeover of Afghanistan by the Russians is a sordid maneuver that can be of no possible benefit to the various peoples who inhabit that land. But it cannot be considered in isolation from the long chain of cause and effects, originating in the West as well as the East, that has produced a new aggressiveness on both sides.

FLEET

You cannot talk about Russian troops in Kabul with-

out also talking about the U.S. fleet in the Gulf. In the West, to say "Russians out of Afghanistan" without, at the same time, saying "U.S. hands off Iran," risks simply echoing the cries of our own cold warriors at a time when they are raising their voices to a crescendo.

The winding down of the cold war in the 1960's and 1970's was based on the mutual acceptance by Washington and Moscow that the balance of forces that emerged from the Second World War was frozen into a fixed form by the military alliances of the late 1940's. But already, even 15 or 20 years ago, the

balance was beginning to crack.

Sizeable chunks of the West's old colonial empires declared themselves "neutral." Egypt moved from the Western to the Eastern camp. China moved into hostility to the Russians. Europe was unwilling to bear the burden of maintaining U.S. hegemony in Vietnam. Rumania fell out with Moscow and prepared its troops to repel any Czechoslovak-type invasion.

The Portuguese empire collapsed and that meant that Southern Africa was a new area of instability for the U.S. Egypt's rulers reacted against Russia pressures by swinging right back into the Western camp. The U.S. showed its power by imposing an Israeli-Egyptian peace. The Iranian revolution suddenly pulled the plug out of the network of U.S. allies on Russia's southern borders.

UNCLEAR

The cumulative effect of these changes was not, as facile pro-Western commentators claim, to shift the world balance of forces in a Russian direction. Rather, what they did was to make it very unclear what the balance ex-



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Compiled by Jane Morrison

What was the nature of the regime in Afghanistan when the Russian troops moved in?

The people brought to power by the military coup of April 1978 were essentially from the urban middle class. Taraki, the leader of the first revolutionary government, made up of the Popular Democratic Party, admitted that most members of his Khalq faction were teachers.

What happened has quite rightly been described as "the seizure of power by a radical section in the state machine, led by civilians and aided by army officers."

Parcham, the other faction (which initially shared power, was ousted and has now been brought back by the Russian troops) controlled important sections of the armed forces under the pre-revolutionary Daud government.

What was the motivation of the revolution?

There was increased dissatisfaction in certain parts of the army and among the

middle class intelligentsia. The Daud government's increasing conservatism frustrated the intelligentsia's aspirations, and the Soviet trained officers found they had little chance of promotion.

Abdel Khedir, who had led Daud's own coup in 1973, was disillusioned with Daud's drift away from the Soviet Union and his failure to solve the country's economic problems.

There had been widespread discontent before Daud took power—as early as 1968 there were student demonstrations and strikes among Afghanistan's small working class (150,000 construction and factory workers out of total population of 15-20 million).

Then, early in 1978 the Daud government highlighted its own authoritarianism by the assassination of a PDPA leader, Akbar Khyber, and the arrest of Taraki and five other PDPA leaders.

A coup brought Khalq and Parcham to power. Coming from the middle classes, they attempted basically to push through reforms that would modernize the country—a land distribution reform, the institution of primary education for every child in its own tongue, abolition of the worst forms of patriarchal oppression of women. The modernization took for granted the already existing nationalization of industry and the alliance with Russia.

Why did the new rulers begin to face revolt in the countryside and to fall out among themselves?

The urban population upon which the regime was based was tiny. The vast majority of the country's population is involved in agriculture—the main exports are dried fruits and nuts.

Ethnically the population is divided into various groups.

The biggest and most powerful are the Pushtuns (Parthians) who have tended to dominate the Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkomans in the north, the Hazaris (descendants of the Mongols who are Shia Muslims) and the Baluchis in the south. In addition there are about two million nomads for whom international frontiers do not exist.

Politically, the different groups are not noted for their loyalty to central governments.

Economically, the land was farmed by share-croppers. Taraki's government attempted land reforms that aimed to get rid of this system. Early on the government claimed to have redistributed 600,000 acres of land out of 3 million acres expropriated.

But the reform failed disastrously. Because of the share-cropping system the farmers relied on the owners for their seeds, fertilizer and farm

implements which of course were not provided once expropriation had taken place. The government could not help because the tax levied on land was obviously not being collected. As a result, a lot of land remained uncultivated with disastrous consequences for food supply.

Ideologically the government claimed to be pro-Islam, but opposition was inevitable because the basic reform, that of the land, was considered to be anti-Islamic.

Faced with the resistance to its measures, the government found its own base too narrow to impose them without the crudest repression. Before the Russians deposed him, Amin published a list of 12,000 people killed in the 18 months since the revolution. It was not surprising that the new rulers fell out among themselves over the question of whether to make concessions to the backwardness of the countryside, or to proceed with their modernizing



Afghani rebels: united only in their hatred of the government

CHRONOLOGY

Before 1973. Monarchy founded by Durrani confederation of Pushtun tribes in eighteenth century, and dominated by Durranti elite practically ever since. Occasional periods of unsuccessful attempts by monarchy at modernization. Brief intervals of liberalization. Russian influence always strong (1953 to 73 Russian aid 1,500 million dollars compared with U.S.'s 500 million.) Important wave of strikes by tiny working class in 1968.

PDPA (Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan) founded 1965. Biggest social group in it teachers. 1967 splits into Khalq (People) faction led by Taraki and Parcham (Flag) faction led by Karmal. Differences obscure: Khalq if anything more pro-Russian. Parcham perhaps more flexible.

1973. July. Army coup overthrows monarch and establishes republic under Mohammed Daud. Daud was a cousin of the former king and had been royal prime minister 1953 to 63. Parcham actively involved in coup and represented in government, but ditched after a few months. Daud government initially appears reforming and more pro-Russian. But does little to break the power of the old elite. Under pressure from U.S. and Iran shifts away from Russian orientation (Russian advisers decline from 1000 in 1972 to 200 in 1976). Daud government increasingly un-

1978. April. Army coup overthrows Daud and brings PDPA (both Khalq and Parcham factions) to power. Taraki new president, and prime minister. Karmal is vice president. Coup apparently unexpected by Russians follows move by Daud against PDPA and anti-Daud demonstrations by students and civil servants.

New regime purges old royal elite from state, and announces program of land reform, etc. U.S. cuts off aid, Russia rapidly increases it (by May 1976 Russian advisers up to 3000).

1978. Summer. Parcham faction ditched. Karmal sent to be ambassador to Czechoslovakia. Parcham supporters tried and purged. Karmal recalled to face same fate, but stays on in Eastern Europe.

1979. March. Amin becomes prime minister, thus replacing Taraki as top of the Khalq hierarchy, though Taraki remains president. Amin takes tough line against rebels, but despite big Russian military aid, war goes badly.

1979. September. Taraki killed, apparently in botched attempt to oust Amin. This attempt had apparently been backed by the Russians concerned at the worsening position in the war. Amin becomes president.

1979. December. Russian invasion. Amin killed. Karmal installed as president.

actly was. (How do you weigh the loss of Iran and Angola to the U.S. against the gain of the alliance with China? How do you measure the advance of Russia in Afghanistan or Ethiopia against its losses in Egypt or Somalia?)

The uncertainty itself is a destabilizing factor, feeding illusions to those on both sides who think there is something to gain from quick military maneuvers.

This might not have mattered, were it not for the way in which, since 1973, the regimes of both West and East

have stumbled into repeated economic crisis they don't understand and cannot begin to cope with.

CRISIS

Economic crisis bring political instability to new areas of the world. The 1973 recession spelt the end of the regimes in Ethiopia and Portugal and spilt over into rioting Egypt and Poland. The present round of crisis has already seen upheavals in Central America and certain Caribbean islands, together with Iran. It is producing prognoses of discontent in

some of Russia's European satellites which point to a malaise that probably stretches into Russia itself.

The instinctive response of all ruling classes in such situations is to reach for the guns. In the U.S., the military establishment exaggerates the threat to U.S. dominance and draws the attention to key sectors of capital to the way that they will be protected from the recession by a new burst of arms spending. In Russia crucial chunks of the bureaucracy based in heavy industry and the military identify their

own power with displays of armed might.

This alone, they argue, will make people in Poland and Hungary—and perhaps Russia itself—put up with declining living standards. The U.S. in turn might in Afghanistan in order to make the Iranians see sense and to persuade U.S. interests to accept an enlarged arms budget and the reduced market for grain.

Rulers everywhere see it all as a welcome way to divert attention from the burdens of the advancing recession. □

ABOUT AFGHANISTAN

measures and isolate themselves even further.

After all, this is not the first time that a modernizing group from the urban middle class has taken control of a country with basically state capitalist intentions, found itself overwhelmed by the problems it has faced, and ended up with its members slaughtering each other. Look, for instance at the record of Ethiopia over the last four years.

What is the character of the forces in revolt against the regime?

Opposition is based on the countryside, where most of the population lives, but which is fairly inaccessible for government troops and party administrators. Fighting is organized around traditional tribal ties—therefore a tribal leader, invariably a landowner, would be in command. There are disparate groups, all of which claim to control the majority of the mujahiddin (fighters). Ideologically, the groups are

united only in their hatred for the central government. There is no distinct political program, although the leader of one group, the Afghani National Liberation Front, says the government would be replaced by a moderate Islamic republic, not totally against modernism but strongly respecting ancient traditions.

The army's support for the



Karmal: Moscow's new man in Kabul

government is shaky. There have been two mutinies in the past six months—one in Bela Hissar barracks in Kabul—and frequent purges of "non-revolutionary" soldiers have not improved morale. Many soldiers have deserted and gone over to the rebels.

In the towns an organized opposition movement has been virtually impossible with curfews, surprise night arrests, imprisonment and re-education camps.

Why did the Russians intervene?

They found themselves in a situation in some ways similar to the U.S. in Vietnam in the early 1960's. They were committed to a regime which was losing control of the country. If they did not move in their troops on a large scale, they risked a serious rebuff which would hurt their international prestige and their ability to keep other client regimes in order. At the same time, again like the U.S.—

when they organized the overthrow of the dictator Diem in 1963—they felt they had to change the government in order to put in someone who might get a wider base of support.

What has all this got to do with socialism?

Nothing. The revolutionary governments in Afghanistan have had the goal of modernization, but have not in any sense been based upon the working class. It was precisely because they were intent on implementing reforms from above that they were forced into wholesale repression, and, its logical sequel, the wholesale murder of one another. It is time for the left internationally to recognize this, otherwise, the specter of one "socialist" ruler murdering his "socialist" predecessor and in turn being murdered by a successor imposed by "socialist" Russian tanks can only discredit the whole notion of socialism. □



"Pass it by, it's a lie"

NEW YORK—Friday night, January 18, in the pouring rain, 400 people gathered in New York in front of one of the theaters where the film "Windows" was opening, forty picketed the other theater. It was the first of a series of demonstrations against the anti-lesbian film.

"It's important for us to protest every time something affects us. Hollywood and the film industry is making money off our oppression. "Windows" is a continuation of a very negative presentation of people in our community," said Joe Smenyak, a member of the Responsive Gay Collective, and one of the organizers of the demonstration.

The plot features a psychotic lesbian killer who hires a

man to rape her "best friend" with whom she is secretly in love, kills a cat, an elderly neighbor, and then rapes her "best friend." As Pat Lichty, a member of the Responsive Gay Collective, said, "I still haven't recovered. What kind of sick, perverted mind could think this up."

DISTORTS

"Windows" equates lesbianism with psychotic violence, distorts lesbian love, raises fears of lesbianism and lies about the cause of rape. It would be cynical to argue that this film portrays only "one sick individual" and not all lesbians, for the fact remains that other contrasting images

of lesbians do not exist in Hollywood films.

As the demonstrators stood in the rain chanting, "Gay, straight, black, white, same struggle, same fight," "Close windows, open closets," "Don't go in, come out," and "Pass it by, it's a lie," a few people went into the film, but many didn't.

It's important that "Windows" be opposed wherever it opens, that the film industry finds out it cannot make money on anti-gay propaganda. As Joe said, "If we don't stand up for our selves, then our oppressors will just continue their oppression. They won't stop until we force them to." □

by ALLYSON SMITH



Protesting "Windows"

BRIEFS

PITTSBURGH, PA—Consolidation Coal Company, the nation's second leading coal producer, is considering rejoining the BCOA (Bituminous coal Operators Association), the coal industry bargaining group.

Consol would rejoin the group, under a plan that would give both Consol and the steel companies a greater say in the national bargaining with the United Mine Workers union.

It would effectively strengthen those forces in the industry who are demanding a tougher attitude toward the union and the rank and file coal miners. □

CAMBRIDGE, MA—Rank and file taxi drivers here have won another round in their fight with Arthur Goldberg and the Cambridge Yellow Cab Company.

Goldberg, who owns the company, wanted to force his drivers to by their own gas, but the City Council, which regulates taxis, turned him down after more than sixty taxi drivers turned out to protest the plan.

FORCE

Cambridge taxi drivers have also been fighting off Goldberg's plans to force them to lease their taxis, and thus be responsible for gas, insurance, etc. No one here thinks the battle is over, but the rank and file is still ahead on points. □

DENVER, CO—The nationwide strike of oil refinery workers is now going into its second month.

The strike began January 8, and no end is in sight. Robert goss, the president of the OCAW, told reporters that "nobody is talking to me," and that he "couldn't even guess when the strike might end."

HEALTH

the key issue in the strike is the union's demand for a uniform, fully paid health program.

The OCAW represents 60,000 workers, which operate about 70% of the nation's refining capacity.

DETROIT, MI—Now big rubber is following the steel and auto industries with major plant closings.

Uniroyal has announced plans to shut down production at plants here in Detroit and in Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts. The company says the plants are too old, and wants to take advantage of this recession to trim down production.

Uniroyal's announcement followed U.S. Steel's announcement that it would close 16 facilities, and Chrysler's decision to close down Dodge Main.

TALKIN' UNION BY JOHN ANDERSON

THE UAW: ONE PARTY RULE

The *Detroit News*, a voice of the auto barons, has given its stamp of approval to the candidates to be elected at the June UAW convention. Emil Mazey, International Secretary Treasurer since 1947 is retiring, as is Irving Bluestone, Director of the General Motors Department, along with Ken Bannon, Ford Director. Replacements were supposed to have been elected at the June convention in Anaheim, California.

STAMP

That the elections of the new officers will be no more than a rubber stamp as in other matters coming before the convention is indicated by the story in the *News* of January 8th. The *News* reports the board would meet on Friday the 11th to select a slate of candidates the board would support for the vacant offices. It says, "Candidates backed by the board on Friday are as good as elected...In a way the board is a club," 'suggests one high-ranking unionist,' when it comes down to it the club sticks together. Board members aren't going outside the board if they can help it... On Saturday the board will make its recommendations to a meeting of the 250 administration caucus steering committee."

The candidates selected by the board on Friday were Owen Bieber 50, Regional board member from Grand Rapids since 1974; Donald Ephin 54, Regional Director from New England and Stephen Lokich 44, from Region 1 on Detroit's East side. They will replace Bluestone, Bannon and Great-

house as vice-presidents. Ray Majerus 55, from Milwaukee will be the candidate for Mazey's office.

UNANIMOUS

That these candidates are as good as elected as indicated earlier by the *News* was confirmed on Saturday when the 250 member one-party steering committee met at the Ramada Inn near Metropolitan airport. The IEB slate of candidates was unanimously endorsed by the steering committee.

The *News* on Sunday January 13th quotes one company official as saying, "Each of these guys is top-drawer, in the philosophical mold of a Reuther or Fraser." They believe in capitalism.

The IEB appoints all the convention committees. They are little more than rubber stamps approving the decisions on resolutions, convention rules and on a speakers list. The top officers chair the convention and so determine who will be allowed to speak from the floor. Dissenters have little or no chance of getting the floor.

With few dissenters elected as delegates the convention is a cut and dried affair. Instead of dealing with the problems of the workers most of the time of the convention will be taken up by politicians. Senator Kennedy, Governor Brown of California and President Carter will be there to make their campaign promises—only to ignore them once they are elected.

It is not likely that such issues as



John Anderson is a lifelong militant and socialist. He was formerly president of UAW local 15 in Detroit.

a labor party, the 30 hour week with 40 hours pay or limiting the duration of contracts to two years will get the attention of the delegates. The UAW at more than one convention from 1936 to 1951 adopted a resolution in support of or gave serious thought to the formation of a labor party. The '57 convention passed a resolution putting the 30 hour week with 40 hours pay as the number one demand in 58 negotiations. At the '62 bargaining convention a resolution was adopted limiting contracts to a period of two years.

ORDER

In this period of a declining industry such demands must be made the order of the day. Can this leadership, with the "philosophical mold of a Reuther or a Fraser" solve the problems of the workers?

Having put their stamp of approval on the candidates and policies of the leadership the rubber stamp delegates will go on trips to Las Vegas, Mexico and even Hawaii. The serious delegates, who know the bankruptcy of the present leadership, and want to do something about it must form their own caucus. They should meet and draw up a program to bring back to their Locals. They must sell their program to the membership. □



RALLIES BACK WESCO STRIKE

GREENFIELD, MA—Over 100 people rallied at the Wesco electronics plant on January 25th in support of the workers who have been on strike for twenty weeks. Scabs were turned back without even getting near the plant.

The striking workers, mostly women, are members of United Electrical Workers (UE) Local 274, the amalgamated union that represents workers in most major shops in the Greenfield area. Workers from nearby UE shops, students from area colleges, and community supporters aided the striking workers to shut Wesco down.

CONTRACT

The strike began on September 24, 1979, because Wesco owner Robert Kugell refused to bargain with the union on their first contract. Instead, he tried to bust the union. He's been trying since December 1976, when the workers voted for UE in a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) supervised election.

With the aid of anti-union law firm Skoler & Abbott, the Wesco management used 'group leaders' to campaign and vote against the union. When the NLRB ruled they were supervisory personnel and couldn't vote, they stalled by appealing to Federal Court. The court upheld the NLRB ruling and in February 1979 ordered the company to recognize and negotiate with UE for a first contract.

After almost seven months of Kugell's stalling and continued refusal to bargain, the workers walked out on strike. Although the union has made several concessions, Kugell has refused to give in to even the most minimal demands, the most important being a union security clause.

The slave-labor conditions at Wesco initially sparked the workers to organize. The majority are women and most do piecework. Many have been working there for over 10 years for wages that range from \$2.90 to \$4.20 an hour.

RELATIVES

One woman worker retired after 15 years at \$4.15 an hour with no pension. Merit raises were given almost entirely to relatives and family friends of Kugell or for 'sexual favors' to supervisory personnel.

Before the strike 12 women filed 6 grievances with the NLRB, charging unnecessary harassment and favoritism by supervisors. Job benefits are equally non-existent: no paid sick days; forced overtime and work on holidays; no accident insurance; five vacation days the first year which is only increased to ten after 5 years.

Wesco's lawyer, Martin Skoler, dismissed these as real problems and instead blamed 'firebrands in the shop, and particularly women who divorce their husbands.'

These are conditions that have made the striking workers keep up their fight and determined to win. They have stood up to freezing weather and defended themselves against police and company violence.

RIOT

On January 10, 400 striking workers and supporters, mainly from other UE shops, battled police in riot gear and scabs to shut the plant down for two days. The rally on January 25 was equally successful.

The women and men on strike at Wesco are fighting for basic human rights. They need your support. Please send money and letters of support to UE Local 274, 1 Osgood St., Greenfield, MA 01301

by WAYNE STANDLEY

Streetsboro teachers vow to stay out

STREETSBORO, OH—On January 19, 200 people rallied in Streetsboro, to show their support for the striking teachers.

Represented were teachers from all over northern Ohio, students, members of the community, and members of other area unions. The cold weather was no deterrent. "It might be cool out here, but we're going to make it hot for them," challenged one teacher.

BREAK

He was speaking of the Streetsboro Board of Education and Superintendent James Sikler. Since the beginning of the strike, on January

2, the Board has gone to great lengths trying to break the teachers' strike.

On the very first day of the strike, the negotiator for the teachers, Richard Schneider, had his arm and hand broken by one of the security guards hired by the Board. The attack was unprovoked.

Teachers have been threatened at their homes and have had their cars vandalized. The thirty private cops hired by the Board daily break picket lines, escorting scab teachers into the five Streetsboro public schools.

The teachers and the Board have come to agreement on the wage items. Of the unresolved non-money issues,

the most important are guaranteed binding arbitration and a "just cause" clause, which would insure that teachers be given written explanation for firings.

But negotiations broke off January 14, and the Board refuses to schedule further negotiations. "The needle is stuck on their record," says Streetsboro Education Association (SEA) head negotiator Janet Mays.

The teachers will not go back to work without a signed contract. They have seen the results of accepting a tentative agreement. Painesville, Ohio, teachers in attendance at the rally urged the Streetsboro teachers to stay out until the contract is signed. A year ago the Painesville teachers accepted a tentative agreement and went back to work. They still do not have a contract.

The Streetsboro teachers do not intend to let this happen to them. "We'll stay out until hell freezes over if that's what it takes to get a contract," promises one teacher.

As the strike wears on, the fact that the schools remain open is becoming an issue of increasing concern for the teachers. Scabs are being paid up to \$100 a day. They are even being brought in from out of state.

Superintendent Sikler says openly that this is a tactic to break the strike. "It has been proven in the history of strikes that if you want to settle quickly, keep the schools open." As long as the schools remain open, the teachers will not be paid for the days they are on strike. Thus, the teachers are demanding that the schools be closed.

STUDENTS

Few parents believe Sikler when he assures them that the students who go to school while the teachers are out are learning in school. Less than 20% of the students report to school, most only to "sign in" and then leave.

Parents are mobilizing support for the teachers, attempting to close the schools during the strike. With continued community support, the teachers can hold out and win their demands.

by GLENN PERUSEK



"Equal Work, Equal Pay—Ratify the ERA" was one of the many chants that the five thousand demonstrators chanted in Richmond, Virginia on January 8th. The march and rally was organized by LERN, Labor for Equal Rights Now, a coalition of Virginia trade unions. Unions represented in the march included the UAW, steelworkers, AFSCME, Boilermakers and Mineworkers and came from New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, Washing-

ton, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Minnesota, and even as far as Dallas, Texas. While the march was the largest ever mobilized by the trade union movement, it is still unlikely that the ERA will be passed.

Two days after the march, the Georgia legislature refused to ratify the ERA. In spite of the defeat, the large mobilization of trade unions for women's rights was a victory in itself.

Bad year for labor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—1979 was another bad year for labor. Work time lost to strikes fell to the lowest since 1973, according to figures just released by the Labor Department.

The number of strikes in 1979 rose to 4,800 from 4,230 in 1978, and the number of strikers rose to 1.7 million from 1.6 million, but the strikes were shorter according to the Labor Department.



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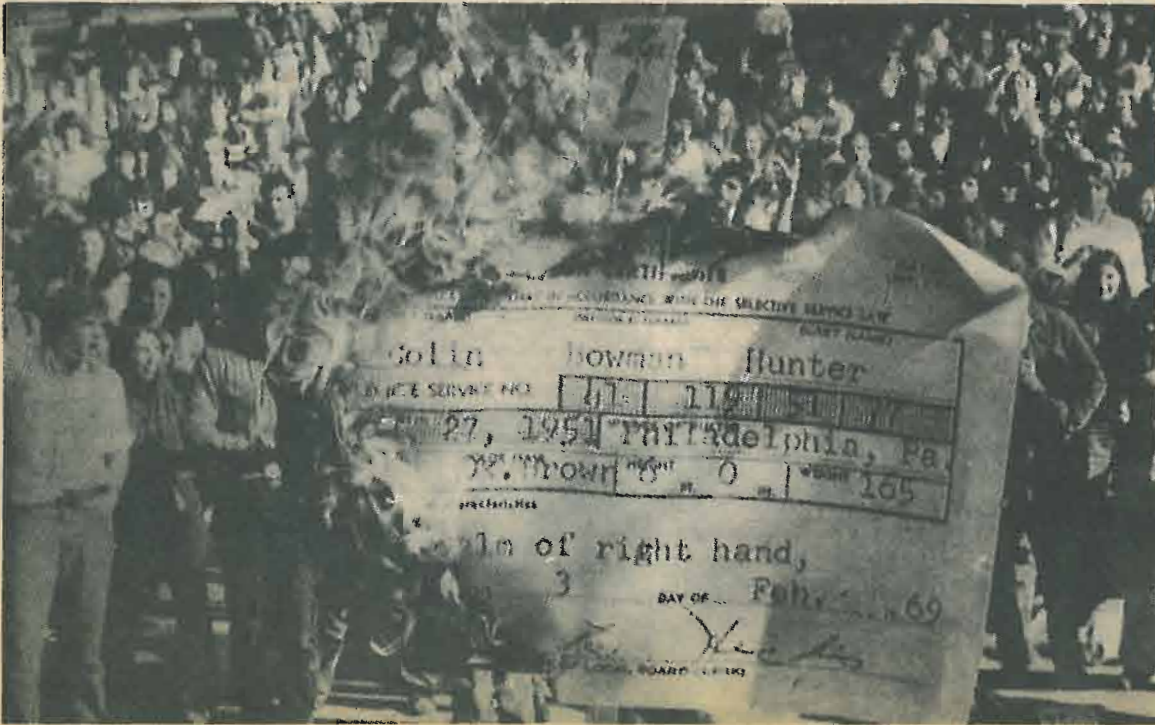
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PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

Don't play Carter's war games

STOP THE DRAFT!



Stanford students protest draft

"Any attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America.

"And such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary," said Carter in his "State of the Union" address.

The arms build-up is fantastic: a 5% increase in the arms budget every year for the next five; a "Rapid Deployment Force" of 150,000 ready to strike anywhere in the world; 3 carrier task forces are already in the Gulf region; Turkey has agreed to renew an agreement on 26 U.S. military bases; Egypt, Somalia, Kenya and Oman are to be armed.

SHARED

\$842.7 million in military aid is to be shared between Saudia Arabia, Morocco, Israel, and Jordan.

This arms build up, we are told, is because of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. This is rubbish. The Russian invasion is only an excuse for what the military has wanted for

by
AHMED SHAWKI

some time—a bigger and more reliable army.

The government, the media, the politicians, are desperately trying to build on the pro-war sentiments. They are trying to bury the memory of Vietnam. They are gearing up for a new war—a war that has nothing to do with "democracy" or "human rights"—in Afghanistan or anywhere else.

Today they hope we have forgotten the napalming of Vietnam, or the arming of the Shah—or countless other dictators. Now they want us to enthusiastically put our shoulders behind their war machine.

The key now to Carter's 'doctrine' is the draft. The Congress is expected to approve his registration plan.

But there is a growing anti-draft movement. Already there have been numerous meetings and demonstrations on university campuses across the country.

Building the anti-draft movement will be central to rolling back the pro-war hysteria. But we must be clear that the draft is not an individual problem, but part of the fight against U.S. imperialism. The draft must be fought in the context of opposition to a new Vietnam.

Women must be equals in the movement—not just 'supporters.' Of course, we oppose women being drafted—just as we oppose the draft for men.

GAMES

We must refuse to play the war games. We must resist attempts to bring back the draft, increase the already enormous arms budget or intervention in the Gulf. Young people, especially young workers, have no interest in a war—fought in the interests of the rich, the multinationals like Exxon and Gulf—in short those who run this world.

We have to say loud and clear: "The enemy is at home." □

Union fights for survival

MADEIRA, OH—On January 12, 236 members of Local 544 Allied Industrial Workers, entered their third month of striking Serv A Portion. This is the company that brings you the packets of mustard, catsup, and mayonnaise when you order a Big Mac

The issues are familiar: a living wage, union controlled seniority, retirement plan, and a shop floor grievance procedure. At this stage negotiations have broken off. The fight is one of survival for the union.

Morale is good among the strikers interviewed by Socialist Worker. Bettie Calhoun, Vice-president of the local told Socialist Worker, "We're going to win this one no matter how long it takes, or how much they throw at us."

And a lot has already been thrown at the AIW strikers. The local is under court injunction limiting picketers to four per shift. In addition, cameras and note taking are reasons for arrest. Four women were arrested for writing down scab's license plates.

The day Socialist Worker visited the strike, Dora Watson was arrested for "blocking" the entrance road. It seems the scab who reported her didn't like her standing on property leased by the union for their pickets. Tex Lawson, told Socialist Worker, "She is a peace-loving person and wouldn't hurt anybody even if she was mad."

STEAL

The words of scabs and management are good enough for the Madeira police. On the say so of the company the strikers are harassed and sometimes arrested. Minor car problems such as a noisy muffler or broken tail light are sure tickets for union members, but scabs are protected as they steal the livelihoods of the strikers.

Serv A Portion is part of the huge Di Giorgio holdings. This California based company helped lead the fight against the Farm Workers.

Di Giorgio also holds part of Travelers Insurance Company. Not surprisingly, Travelers is the health insurance carrier for Serv A Portion employees.

Currently there are 184 scabs in the plant. The com-

by **BILL ROBERTS**

pany wants them to have seniority over union members as part of any settlement. Clearly, Di Giorgio is continuing its practice of union busting. The company also has the overt help of the police and city officials. To underline their intentions, the company has picked the notorious anti-union, Taft law firm to represent them.

KEY

Key to any settlement of the union will be a seniority system. The company currently can move people around at will in the plant. Union activists are special targets of punitive jobs.

Calhoun told Socialist Worker, "The management doesn't even use common sense in running the plant. I could take five strikers and run the place better than they can with all those scabs."

The local is attempting to get a parade permit for a solidarity march. They could use the help of other unions and other individuals and groups sympathetic to the fight. Women's groups should see this as an important fight—70 percent of the strikers are women. The injunction limits the union to four pickets at a time, but it does not limit others from joining in.

It is important to get the word out on this strike. Victory here could help us elsewhere. Let your local Big Mac store know you don't appreciate them using scab products.

LEAFLET

Other outfits that use Serv A Portion products are Burger Chef, Wendy's, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Dairy Inn, and Big Boy restaurants. Perhaps a leaflet using information here would be appreciated by these outlets. Who wants to be a scab customer? Who wants to be a scab catsup?

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