

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE



"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin

VOL. 2 NO. 2

JANUARY 15, 1975

DONATION 10¢

JANUARY 17, 1975

ANGRY WORKERS CONFRONT DETROIT COMMON COUNCIL

Angry, hungry workers will confront the Detroit Common Council (City Council) on January 17, 1975, with the demand for jobs. A march on Washington is being planned by the U.A.W. and all unemployed workers for February 5.

Such is the reaction of the working class to the growing economic crisis. Every worker in the U.S.N.A. has been affected by the capitalist crisis of overproduction. This experience can only teach them that their strength lies in organization.

In Detroit, unemployment councils are cropping up everywhere. The massive lay-offs in the auto industry have made the city a virtual disaster area. Workers there are not only demanding that the City Council use allocated CETA funds in order to provide jobs, but also that Mayor Coleman Young ask President Ford to declare Detroit a national disaster area, which would allow the granting of federal funds to provide supplemental food stamp programs and re-financing of cars and houses lost due to the massive cut-backs in production which led to the layoffs.

In San Francisco, where there are at least 50,000 unemployed workers,

only 800 jobs have been allocated through CETA funds. On the first day jobs were made available, 1400 people lined up at the unemployment office to apply for the first 200 jobs. Only one out of every seven people got a job. As one worker said, "it's just a drop in the bucket-- not enough to get wet."

The statistics go on and on. Unemployment lines get longer and longer. But the bourgeoisie is not only hitting us in our stomachs; they attack us from every angle. In their press they have been whipping up the most vulgar chauvinism, directed against all undocumented workers in this country. In Boston they have used the busing issue to further the antagonisms between Anglo-American and Negro national minority workers. They have blamed the current crisis on the Arab peoples for allegedly causing the "energy crisis."

All of these tactics are designed to splinter the working class. Each time we turn around, the president has secured more power in his hands and we have lost another of our democratic rights. As the crisis deepens, more and more workers are thrown out of jobs while the imperialists prepare for fascism and war.

(Cont. on p. 4)

THE POPULAR UPRISING IN ETHIOPIA -- PART 1

(An article submitted by two Ethiopian friends of the People's Tribune. It represents only the viewpoint of the authors, and not of any organization.)

The year 1974 has been a year of great political significance to the peoples of Ethiopia. It was a year of political awakening; a year in which the Ethiopian peoples joined the revolutionary struggles of the peoples of the world against imperialism.

A mass popular upsurge at a scale never seen before in the country's history developed. All sectors of the society were involved in the struggle. Furthermore, the struggle embraced the whole of the country. The popular uprising which included from the working class of the cities to the nomadic peoples in the border areas; from the peasantry to the shop-keepers and the intellectuals and from the priests to the soliders, forced the resignation of the Prime Minister, who had been leading the government for more than ten years, at first, and later the ouster of the King who had been head of

state for more than 50 years.

The main characteristics of the struggle that distinguish it from any of the preceding ones are:

- 1) Previous uprisings of the peasantry took place in different regions at different times and hence the government was able to suppress them easily. This time, the uprisings in the different places came at the same time.
- 2) Different sections of the society struggled in different ways in the past, but now the struggles of the working people re-inforced each other.
- 3) Demands that were put forth were not only economical but also political.
- 4) The working class, for the first time in its history, had a general strike.
- 5) The popular masses achieved many victories.

What then were the causes of the upsurge?

(Cont. on p. 4)

CRISIS

WAR IS NO SOLUTION

The newspapers of January 3 carried banner headlines announcing the national unemployment rate had reached 7.1%. But very little coverage was given of the military battles raging in South Vietnam and Cambodia. Nothing was said about the USS Enterprise, the world's largest warship, as she and 11 other naval attack vessels steamed out of Manila toward Saigon.

When Phuoc Binh, the capital of Phuoc Long Province, was liberated by the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the gunboats of U.S. diplomacy were well into the South China Sea. The Ford-Rockefeller administration demanded that Congress double the money sent to the Thieu puppet government and Schlesinger, of the Defense Department, hinted that the U.S. may have to intervene. While the Cambodian fascists were shooting-off 340 tons of ammunition a day, Jerry Ford personally pleaded with Congress for more money and more arms. While the Pentagon denies its continuing involvement in Vietnam, the entire world is looking very seriously at the increasing danger of war.

The last two weeks revealed a rapidly deteriorating political situation throughout the world with many factors increasing the possibility of war. Kissinger and Ford are using the tactics of "bullying" through this crisis. In the January 13, 1975 edition of Business Week, Kissinger admitted that U.S. troops would invade the Middle-East to preserve USNA industrial strength. One day later Ford issued a statement completely agreeing with Kissinger.

Within days the governments of the Soviet Union, China, Mexico and other countries issued statements speaking of the imminent danger of war. At the same time as the world's diplomats continue their maneuvering, make pacts, visit each other and sign trade agreements, the governments of the world are building up their armies.

Clearly, the political situation in the world today is not determined by the individual whim of Brezhnev or Kissinger. The unstable, volatile world

(Cont. on p. 4)

What's Inside

Labor Column.....	P. 2
Latin America.....	P. 2
CIA Exposed.....	P. 3

Labor Column

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE MINES

The following is the conclusion of a three-part series discussing health and safety in the mines. This article deals with the Workmen's Compensation system.

In their drive for maximum profits, the U.S.N.A. imperialists must oppose, defend and defeat any threat to their fundamental interests. They oppose any further extension of workers' benefits and therefore must defend the present health and safety institutions in order to defeat any further gains by the working class. The key to this apparently contradictory situation is that the Workmen's Compensation system is controlled by the insurance monopolies whose interests are fundamentally opposed to the interests of the working class.

If prevention of disabilities is too effective, insurance premiums (based on past losses) are reduced, thus reducing the total revenues and profits of the insurance monopolies. Thus, the insurance monopolies lose money when they make workplaces safer and healthier. Consequently, prevention efforts by the major insurance monopolies amount to only 1.2% of the total Workmen's Compensation expenditures.

The primary concern of the Workmen's Compensation system is compensation for "injuries" rather than for "occupational diseases." Compensation for "occupational diseases" has always been difficult, if not impossible, to obtain because of the difficulty in proving legally that a disease is job-related. Insurance lobbyists, servants of the imperialists in state capitals, are almost unopposed in their attempts to ensure the mechanical application of legal definitions at the expense of the disabled workers. The mine-owning imperialists' basic economic interests are best served by limiting the legal definition of the occupational diseases associated with coal mining to protect themselves from liability for certain diseases. Rather than paying for increased health and safety benefits and for the prevention of disease through the improvement of working conditions in the mines, the mine-owners, in conjunction with the insurance monopolies, influence legislation and use the power of the state to enact and enforce health and safety laws which best serve their own interests at the expense of the working class.

The effect of this imperialist policy nationally has been to keep occupational disease claims well under one per cent of all compensation payments, although occupational diseases may in fact be responsible for as many, if not more, deaths and disabilities than accidents.

The Workmen's Compensation system is an imperialist controlled, interlocking private-public bureaucracy composed of the compensation insurance companies; the service and lobbying organizations under their control, such as the National Council on Compensation Insurance, the American Insurance Assoc-

(Cont. on p. 3)

ROCKEFELLER

FOREMOST IMPERIALIST IN LATIN AMERICA

The appointment of Nelson Rockefeller to the Vice-Presidency of the United States of North America is an historic event. Although many times we have seen the big imperialists hold positions in government, at no other time in our history have we seen the biggest of them all hold such an important public office.

When one thinks of riches, one thinks of Rockefeller. When one thinks of power, one thinks of Rockefeller. When one thinks of bloodthirstiness and rapaciousness, one thinks of Rockefeller. The Rockefeller family has, probably, one of the largest fortunes in the entire world, as well as an equally long history of imperialist plunder throughout the world, particularly in Latin America.

What is the economic and political situation of the U.S.N.A. affecting the USNA proletariat since the time of Rockefeller's appointment? Rapid inflation, rising cost of living, increasing unemployment, and the rapid loss of political rights are the lot of the U.S.N.A. proletariat, and it is in this context that the appointment of this rapacious imperialist must be seen.

The U.S.N.A. working class is faced with both a President and Vice-President they did not elect. The historic right to vote has in essence been co-opted by the bourgeoisie. Not only have the imperialists co-opted the right to vote, but have placed an arch-fascist in power as Vice-President. The bourgeoisie is definitely telling the working class that they intend to do what-

ever is necessary to save their skins (and their vast fortunes) at the expense of every worker in the U.S.N.A.

The drive towards fascism in Anglo-America is increasing daily. The bourgeoisie is fanning the flames of national hatred and chauvinism, turning Anglo-American against Negro, against Mexican, Puerto Rican and all other national minorities. Our class is splintered and thus unable to resist the bourgeois drive towards fascism. Rockefeller's appointment can only mean further attacks against the working class.

But it is not only the U.S.N.A. working class that is affected by the appointment of Rockefeller. The Rockefeller family has large oil holdings in Venezuela, Peru, and Bolivia while the Rockefeller-owned Chase Manhattan Bank has a whole network of financial entanglements which exercise a stranglehold over Latin America's economy. The words Rockefeller and Latin America are synonymous when we consider the largest financial power that exists in the Americas. Although the family has large financial holdings throughout the world, they extract their greatest profits from Latin America.

Rockefeller is the foremost representative of imperialist aggression in Latin America. His appointment can only mean a move by the imperialists to strengthen their control over Latin America. As Vice-President, Rockefeller will provide enormous support to the Latin American fascists, facilitating the death and torture of progressive and revolutionary forces in Latin America.

Rockefeller's appointment presents the communists and all progressive-minded people with the need to wage a real campaign to unite the working classes of the U.S.N.A. and Latin America. The Communist Labor Party's position has always been that revolution in North America is impossible without revolution in all the Americas. We must do everything necessary to achieve unity with the toilers of all the Americas. The issue of Rockefeller's appointment and the fight against it is an important point of unity. We can use this issue as a jumping off point in a United Front Against Imperialism with the colonial world. The C.L.P. understands that the greatest internationalist action we can undertake is the revolutionary overthrow of our own bourgeoisie; but the situation in the Americas is one in which we are so bound by the imperialists' domination over Latin America that our struggles must be united.

We in the U.S.N.A. must prove to the U.S.N.A. working class that their interests do not lie in the imperialist aggression in Latin America. We must make it clear that the working classes of all nations are objectively united by the sale of their labor-power and that we must unite with them as a class.

As communists we must show the working class that it is against their interests to continue to allow the U.S.N.A. imperialists to plunder at will. The wealth the imperialists make

(Cont. on p. 3)

Comrades and Friends,

The Communist Labor Party is now publishing a new newspaper, the Western Worker, that addresses itself to the special needs and demands of the class struggle in the West and the Southwest. We urge you to support our new paper. For further information on the Western Worker, please write to:

PO Box 72306
Watts Station
Los Angeles, California

MARXIST-LENINIST LITERATURE

NOW AVAILABLE FROM

PROLETARIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. BOX 3774
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654

For more information about the Communist Labor Party USNA or about the People's Tribune write:

P.O. BOX 3774
CHICAGO, ILL. 60654

P.O. BOX 72306
WATTS STATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

P.O. BOX 170
BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11217

P.O. BOX 24241
BAYVIEW STATION
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

CIA EXPOSED

The recent disclosures of CIA domestic spying show once again the lengths the Rockefellers and Morgans are willing to go to stifle opposition to their profit hungry policies both home and abroad.

Not only do organizations like the F.B.I., CIA, army intelligence etc. spy on people in the USNA and infiltrate political organizations in order to bust them up, they spend billions of dollars interfering in other governments whose policies go counter to the interests of the big USNA banks and corporations. It should come as no surprise to a people, who for the last 30 years allowed the CIA to run rampant throughout the world in the name of anti-communism, assassinating politicians, overthrowing governments and financing wars, that such an organization would be used against us too.

It is a sad commentary on the political life of this country, that time after time when it was proven that the CIA had killed elected officials, overthrown legal governments (Guatemala and Iran), launched invasions against other countries (Cuba and Laos), financed mass murder campaigns (Operation Phoenix in South Vietnam) and used George Meany and the AFL-CIO to infiltrate and subvert trade unions throughout the world, hardly a peep was heard from the news media or our elected officials. Now when it is disclosed that the CIA is spying at home, a howl of protest is heard across the whole country.

That most of this official protest

is one-sided and hypocritical is obvious to all. After expressing surprise at the CIA having 10,000 files on U.S. citizens, President Ford proceeded to appoint a "blue ribbon" commission, composed of the most notorious CIA supporters in the country, to "investigate" the CIA. Nelson Rockefeller who heads the commission, not only for years has sat on the policy board of the CIA, but has had personal business and political relationships with every CIA director past and present. Retired General Livingston, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Commander of SHAPE headquarters in Europe also sits on the commission. Joseph Kirkland, Secretary Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, whose organization has been proven to be a front for tens of millions of CIA money is also included among the commission's members. And so on, to just name a few of these "blue ribbon" CIA agents.

Secondly, Ford and most of the "outraged" politicians have narrowed the issue to the legal point of the CIA spying in the U.S. Most of these people are even saying that when it comes to domestic spying, only the FBI is allowed to do that! But the real issue is how long are we going to allow the imperialists to continue to carry out their spying and subversion either at home or abroad, whether by the FBI, CIA or anyone else.

This activity is another direct attack on our democratic rights and is the basis of broad attacks on trade unions and other organizations. If we allow this to continue, soon all but fascist organizations will be illegal. This proven illegality directly links Ford and Rockefeller with the corruption of Watergate. Ford and Rockefeller must resign and a new government elected.



JOBS! NOT PROFITS!

LATIN AMERICA

(Cont. from p. 2)

in Latin America strengthens their hold over the U.S.N.A. workers.

As long as the toilers of the Americas are divided, the imperialists will come out ahead. An old but appropriate example is the example of strikes-- if the copper miners in the U.S.N.A. decide to strike and stop production, the imperialists need simply step up production in Chile. The same holds true for Ford. General

Motors, etc. This must be made clear to the U.S.N.A. proletariat so that they see their interests aren't with the imperialists, but with the worldwide proletariat, particularly in Latin America.

The small steps towards unity that the Marxist-Leninist parties of the Americas can accomplish today will lay the basis for greater unity in the future. The unity of the proletariat and toiling masses of all the Americas digs the grave of U.S.N.A. imperialism.

FORD-ROCKEFELLER RESIGN!
NEW ELECTIONS!

LABOR COLUMN

(Cont. from p. 2)

iation, and the American Mutual Alliance (with its state affiliates); state insurance commissions (which have legal authority to set rates); state Divisions of Workmen's Compensation (which hear cases and administer the public part of the system); and the committees in the state legislatures which are primarily responsible for holding hearings to legislate benefit levels and operating regulations for Workmen's Compensation.

Thus, Workmen's Compensation, woven into the machinery of the state, is clearly "stacked" in favor of the insurance companies and self-insured employers.

An injured worker's first contact with compensation law is through a doctor. The doctor's report opens the official file, and is the basis for initial decisions about cash benefits, if any, that are to be paid. The doctor is usually chosen and paid by the major beneficiaries of Workmen's Compensation, the insurance carriers and their lawyers.

The injured worker is usually totally ignorant of his rights under the Workmen's Compensation system, and therefore finds it difficult to beat the system, while the insurance representatives, doctors and lawyers, are the workers' full-time adversaries, trained to manipulate and defend the system. Therefore, the official medical records and hence the "official" facts reflect the interests of the imperialists at the expense of the worker. The usual result is that no action is taken on the worker's behalf.

Thus, on the distorted material basis of the facts provided by inadequate x-ray and spirometric tests (discussed in Part 2), cases are built against disabled miners in favor of the imperialist mine-owners and insurance monopolies. Lawyers, state officials, and legislators all the way to Congress are subject to the influence of the monopolies and help to strengthen the imperialists' "stacked" system.

In order for the Communist Labor Party to gain strength and build a United Front of the Working Class in a real way, we must make a concrete analysis and expose this corrupt and predatory system which preys on the life and blood of the coal miners. It must be made clear that workers who are disabled by various occupational diseases, particularly coal miners, inevitably find themselves unemployed and unable to get other jobs because of their medical histories, while they are unable to get benefits because of the imperialists' stranglehold on the health and safety institutions of which Workmen's Compensation is the primary example. In fact, over half of the presently unemployed coal miners are jobless as a result, not only of mechanization, but equally as a result of the economically exploitative, legally and politically oppressive medical-insurance monopoly which is bound to the interests of the imperialist class. Our unemployment campaigns, and in particular our Fight for Jobs, can only be strengthened by the root exposure of this imperialist controlled system; such exposures will aid in raising the class-consciousness of all workers who find themselves in similar situations. Thus, we will influence our class and mobilize them to unite around common class interests and build a United Front based upon unity of action, economic and political, against our class enemy, the U.S.N.A. imperialists.

ETHIOPIA

(Cont. from p. 1)

The fundamental causes of the struggle of the people are the feudal and neo-colonial status of the country; and the immediate causes are:

- 1) The famine that is rampaging the country.
- 2) The complete corruption of the state bureaucracy.
- 3) The intensification of the general crisis of capitalism.

Since 1965, certain areas of the country were being affected by draught. By 1971 the Northern part of the country started being affected by famine. In 1972, the government predicted serious harvest failure in Wollo and Tigre provinces. In 1973, the situation came to a head. Millions of people were faced with the grim prospect of starvation. The famine area extended to the southern provinces where its effect became more devastating. Western papers estimate that 14-19% of the 25 million people have been affected by the famine. Reporters put the rate of death at several thousand per month; by early 1974 a conservative estimate of the death toll was 375,000 people. The human suffering that the famine caused is staggeringly extensive. Thousands of peasant families have been shattered; towns have been wiped out; some oppressed nationalities are on the verge of extinction. In a society where famine is a common occurrence a great toll in death and human suffering is to be expected, however, the present famine is without parallel in recent history. In six months in two provinces of Ethiopia more people have died than had died in all West-African countries over several years (New York Times, March 23, 1974). Such as been the magnitude of the famine in Ethiopia.

The policy of the government throughout has been a complete denial of the existence of the famine. It was forced to admit the existence of the famine only after students went on demonstrations demanding relief for the victims and 17 of them were killed by the police. Even after admitting the existence of the famine its relief work was minimal. Further than that, the bureaucrats did not let the opportunity slip by without fattening their pockets relief donations that were given by different donors were being sold to the destitute population. That which claimed the lives of the peasantry along with the famine has been the widespread of epidemic diseases. The government afraid that it might lose its revenues from tourism, unconcerned about the lot of the peasantry and afraid it might mar its OAU meeting, denied the existence of Cholera which had already reached epidemic proportions; but when medicine was obtained from international aid it was only too glad to charge the destitute peasantry \$2.00 per head for an injection.

The landlords, the state church and big merchants have been benefitting from the misery of the people. The peasantry in a number of places were evicted from their land since they were not able to pay back the loans that they had taken from the landlords or the church. Merchants have been hoarding grain for future sale at higher prices. Thus, these too had helped aggravate the situation.

On the other hand, the cost of living was soaring due to a number of factors. The population in the cities was increasing at a much higher rate than employment. Moreover, the economy had stagnated since 1972. Life in the cities was becoming unbearable. This became particularly acute when the USNA imperialists, due to a persistent economic crisis since 1970, took dras-

tic measures to pass the crisis on the colonies and other capitalist countries to "cure" their ailing economy. The USNA imperialists first imposed an import surcharge of 10% and a number of complementary actions such as price and wage freeze. Then they devalued the dollar forcing the rest of the capitalist world to revalue their currencies. Thus, Ethiopia that exports 45% of its total export to the USNA and that imports most of its essential capital goods from West European countries and Japan was led into a deep economic and political mire.

(Part 2 will appear in the next issue of The People's Tribune)

WAR

(Cont. from p. 1)

political situation reflects the deepening economic crisis gripping the capitalist world. Dozens of governments are on the verge of toppling, not merely because of their corruption, for corruption never mattered when the profits and crumbs were rolling in, but because the capitalists' solutions to the problems of capitalism are not working. Meanwhile, each day compounds the problems. As literally hundreds of thousands of children starve before their parents' eyes, the U.S.N.A. government is spending a million dollars a day to store surplus grain.

If the world situation were simply controlled by the U.S.N.A., as the infantile "Left" proclaims, war would not be such a real possibility. But there are many variables involved in the complex world situation. For instance, even the most naive observer of world politics knows that Israel is a vassal of U.S.N.A. imperialism. Yet how long can the Israeli government, which has to answer to its own people, act against Israeli interests? Likewise, how long can Sadat afford to send the Egyptian army against Egyptian workers marching for food while accepting U.S.N.A. aid?

While King Hussein of Jordan bows to Arab pressure to negotiate with the P.L.O., the #2 man in the P.L.O. has vowed to assassinate Hussein and liberate part of what is now Jordan.

These are just a few of the factors which contradict the policies and interests of both the U.S.N.A. and U.S.S.R. It is clear that the increasing world economic crisis endangers the interests of the bourgeoisie of every nation. Thus, the political result of the present crisis is a marked increase in bourgeois nationalism and national chauvinism throughout the capitalist world.

We must see the question of unemployment in the context of this world economic and political crisis. It would be foolish to make an artificial separation between the danger of war and the fight for jobs. Unemployment in the U.S.N.A. and the danger of war stem from a common source, the cyclical crisis of overproduction and the general crisis of capitalism. Once again the capitalist system has produced too many goods, and once again, caught in the crisis of overproduction, the capitalists try to push the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the world's working class. The result is long unemployment lines and then bloody front lines.

The C.L.P. does not accept the capitalists' solution to unemployment. We will not accept war as an alternative to unemployment. We demand productive jobs. We don't want the government padded or the city council to hire a few more lackies. We don't want jobs making napalm or poison gases. We want jobs that give us sorely needed

food, housing, clothing and all necessities of life.

Many people cannot believe that another war between the imperialists could really materialize. But history has already proven the inevitability of major imperialist wars, wars not limited to the imperialists and the colonies, but between the imperialists themselves!

The U.S.N.A. working class must denounce all imperialist wars! We, the communists, must link the struggle for peace with the struggle for jobs. Every worker today is not only asking "when can I work and for how long?" They are also asking "what does the threat of war mean to me?" It is the duty of communists to explain every aspect of political and economic life and their interconnection.

As the Washington war machine gathers steam, it is up to us, the U.S.N.A. working class, to STOP the invasions of other countries, to STOP the bombing of innocent peoples, to STOP the financing of the fascist puppets. No one else can stop the U.S.N.A. imperialists in their drive toward war.

STOP IMPERIALIST WARS!
FIGHT FOR JOBS!

UNEMPLOYMENT

(Cont. from p. 1)

The battle against unemployment can and must be won! In Detroit the working class has made itself heard in the struggle for adequate food, clothing and shelter. But if we are to win the battle against unemployment, we will have to organize the whole of the working class.

The entire U.S.N.A. working class must demand that the government provide productive jobs for every able-bodied worker. But even that, alone, cannot "cure" the deepening crisis of capitalism. The only real cure is a planned economy in which overproduction and the subsequent stopping of production no longer occur. This would require no more military spending, but rather the use of the country's wealth to create commodities that meet the needs of the working class. This would require not printing valueless money in order to pay off the big corporations at the cost of spiralling inflation. It would mean an economy that creates material well being for the masses, and not untold wealth for a handful of imperialist parasites. It can only mean socialism, organized under the dictatorship of the proletariat, where the working class is the ruling class.

It is for this program that we must fight, for this that we must build a united front to defend our class against the fascist onslaughts of the bourgeoisie and prepare for the offensive against capital. History long ago sounded the death knell of capitalism. It is obvious that the bourgeoisie is no longer capable of managing society. It is up to us, the working class, to take over in the name of all working people.

Presently in Detroit the workers have launched petition campaigns, confronted the Common Council and are now preparing to participate in the march on Washington. Only a united, organized working class can hope to defeat the capitalist system. The February 5th march on Washington will give us the opportunity to assess our strength and organize our forces. Let the capital echo with the sounds of the U.S.N.A. working class marching on Washington to demand a decent life with jobs for all!

PRODUCTIVE JOBS FOR ALL ABLE-BODIED WORKERS!