

THE WORKER

Special National Edition for July 4th

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We've Carried The Rich For 200 Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!

Philadelphia July 1-4—The demonstrations now taking place in Philadelphia are an important step in the struggle of the masses of American people. At the very time we are supposed to be celebrating, thousands of workers, employed and unemployed, veterans, students and youth are marching in the streets of Philadelphia proclaiming, "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!" We are confronting the rulers of the country, gathered in Philadelphia to trumpet the virtues of their system, with two important demands of the working class: Jobs or Income Now! and We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!

These demonstrations are taking place despite the fact that for the last five months Philadelphia city authorities, acting on behalf of the ruling class of this country, have used every trick, lie and maneuver to try to gut the heart out of the actions or to stop them altogether.

First they gave the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition the runaround about getting permits for the planned activities. Then, when in the face of this the Coalition went full-steam ahead, passing out thousands of leaflets and organizing thousands of people to come, Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo started spreading stories that Philly streets were going to be filled with terrorists and wierdos and demanded 15,000 federal troops to protect their celebration from "disruption."

But the Senate Internal Security Committee (an agency of the U.S. Senate that is the fitting successor to Joe McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee) made it clear what type of "disruption" the high and mighty really fear. The problem with workers, veterans, students and youth demonstrating, according to the Committee's statement, is that "a well-planned demonstration could steal the spotlight from official events featuring President Ford and other national figures in Philadelphia."

For all their big plans, they fear that the mask on their show will be torn off by a few thousand demonstrators. The capitalists have designed the Bicentennial bash to strengthen the illusion that they are the "natural" leaders of the country, to promote the myth that capitalism is the highest form of human society and will last forever, and that the American people are happy and contented to live under the rule of the billionaire bankers and corporation owners.

Happy Slaves?

But there is no such thing as slaves happy in their slavery. The bosses know full well that the thousands in Philadelphia reflect the feelings of millions more. The last thing they want is for the festival of their rule to be used as an opportunity to confront their talk about the "unity of all Americans" with the real struggles and interests of the working class.

The last thing the bosses want is that veterans march through the streets proclaiming "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War" at the very time they are trying to make the American people swell with pride over the previous wars our leaders have dragged us into, and when they are telling us it's our duty to go to war any time the needs of their profits demand it. They fear the sight of young people and students, who they eye as potential cannon fodder, demonstrating their opposition to the future the bosses plan for them.

They are repulsed by the thought of a Workers History Pavilion, nestled among the exhibits of the monopolies, existing not to sell products wrapped in the red, white and blue or to disseminate the lies of the capitalists, but to bring out the real history of two hundred years of class struggle in this country. Even plans for an evening of working class culture

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Proclamation of the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition

1976—Millions walking the streets looking for jobs and still more shoved out the door while plants close down. Those still at work, worked to death, chained to the bosses' machinery. Our cities falling apart. Our schools, hospitals, and firehouses shut down. Half finished construction sites standing next to burned out tenements and the drums of another war beating louder. All this amidst lies of recovery and the fireworks of celebration.

No! This is not what we worked so hard for. No, this is not the future we want for our children. One thousand outrages slap us in the face: No, we can't live like this. And we won't.

Our class, the working class, men and women of all nationalities—we build and we produce. But their class, the capitalist class, takes it all. They own what they have never built—the mills, mines and banks. Owning all, they take all we produce. And for us, only enough to keep us alive so we can slave for them some more.

They take our hard work and twist it. We work together. They steal, each as much for himself as he can, and try to keep us apart. Everything has a price for them. Their uncontrollable drive for profit makes this whole society run like it does. Crisis after crisis, war after war, injustice upon injustice. Ten generations of profits bled out of ten generations of our lives.

Our whole history proves this. We have fought for all that is worthwhile in this country. We are not animals but that's how they would have us live. No! Not in 1776, 1876 or 1976. Our history is filled with storms of resistance, battling back and standing tall. We are men and women. We will not be slaves. We are the backbone of the whole country, millions strong. They are a handful of murderers and slavedrivers, rotting even as they claw to grab more.

1976. These thieves call all of us to celebrate with them. National unity . . . all together and many happy returns. No! We shall not celebrate their rule. Despite all their sickening lies and broken-record hoopla, we have nothing in common with them. For them—200 years of plunder. For us—200 years of slavery and oppression. All they have they took from us. All we need we have wrenched from them through bitter battle. It is they and their never-satisfied thirst for profit that stand between us and our fight for a better life and a brighter future for our children.

Fellow workers! Today as before our class battles every last abuse—on picketlines and shop floors, in neighborhoods and communities and everywhere throughout society. Our fight is a just fight, our demands are just demands. In building this struggle on July 4th in Philadelphia, we will proclaim especially our demand for "Jobs or Income Now!" and our determination that "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!"

We have the strength to mobilize. We have the ability to unite all the battles, all the people, all the anger at the way we have to live. The future belongs to us. We are the only ones who can push things forward, and we are determined to break through.

Now is the time to pull it together. All our forces. All our battles. As we have always fought them we will fight them on the day they choose to celebrate their bloodsoaked rule. We will come together, thousands strong, to expose their crimes and build our movement, on that day and for the great battles ahead.

On to Philadelphia!

We've carried the rich for 200 years, let's get them off our backs!

The Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition. Initiated by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee, Revolutionary Communist Party and Revolutionary Student Brigade.

"We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!"

"We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War" is one of the main slogans of the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition. This is because the danger of war, including world war, is very great in this period. Not much more than a year after the hated U.S. war in Vietnam, economic crisis drags on in this country and the stench of impending war grows stronger. What unemployed worker hasn't seen the army's "jobs" offers decorating the walls of unemployment offices? And for youth, military recruiters hang around the high schools like vultures offering "a future" and "the only job around."

There are still more direct signs of the growing war danger. Six-gun Ronnie Reagan gives speeches stirring up public opinion about riding cowboy-style into Panama. "Peace-through-strength" Jerry Ford unleashes the CIA to send guns and mercenaries into Angola to fight a war by proxy against the USSR and then cries that Congress wouldn't give him enough money. In the wake of Angola, the "doves" of Congress race to approve a record military budget of \$100 billion, saying in effect, "we didn't want to back a loser, but the Soviets won't catch us with our pants down next time." And as the Soviets and the U.S. government race to outdo each other in armaments spending, you have to ask yourself, "What are they going to do with all those weapons except use them one day?"

Beating the War Drums

Try as they might to hide it, the threat of war is growing again today, only this time war threatens to be on a far vaster scale than Vietnam. A fight between the ruling classes of the U.S. and the USSR, the two biggest international gangsters, is heating up.

Because of this, the rulers of this country are stepping up their efforts to line up the American people behind them to try to create the climate of public opinion that will give them a freer hand to deal with the Soviets. They talk about how the workers have to get behind "protecting the national interest" which in plain language means wars and military adventures to protect the profits of the big monopolies and banks against their Soviet competitors and, of course, real liberation struggles.

Just what these "national interests" are became clearer to millions during the course of the Vietnam war. Especially as the war dragged on, as many veterans brought home their stories, the lies of the government about "defending democracy" and "stopping aggression" wore thin. Millions came to oppose the U.S. war effort, and a growing number of these came to understand that by "defending the free world" the U.S.

government means the freedom of the giant corporations to set up shop in Indochina and discourage further rebellions against their plunder.

Profit Drive

This profit drive of the big capitalists, their need to hold onto and expand their worldwide empires, lies at the bottom of the growing danger of war today. The profit empires of the giant monopolies like Standard Oil, IBM, Chase Manhattan Bank and others extend to every corner of the world that has not been closed off to them by revolution. As these monopolies and whole capitalist countries drive to expand their plunder, they run headlong into others driven by the same law. This is behind today's growing conflict behind the U.S. and the USSR which since the late 1950s ceased to be a socialist country run by the working class and is now an imperialist country driven by the same profit drive as the U.S.

So today they clash both openly and indirectly in many corners of the world. Each seeks to grab for themselves the Middle East, with its strategic oil reserves. And the crucial showdown is shaping up over Europe, with its vast economic, military and political power that each superpower seeks to control.

Knowing no principle but the pursuit of profit, the imperialists of the U.S. and the USSR are on a collision course heading toward war. And for the sake of their almighty god—profit—they seek to gear up the people of this country and the Soviet Union to fight it out for them. They aim to have us battle it out in a war caused by the same drive for profit that causes the daily exploitation and oppression we face in the capitalists' factories, mines and mills and throughout society.

How could the workers of this country have any interest in supporting such a war, an armed conflict for profit between the Rockefellers, Duponts, Mellons and other billionaires in the U.S. and the new Tsars in the Soviet Union to decide who will be the biggest robber barons and exploiters of the world's people?

The slogan "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War" sums this up by pointing to the source of their current war preparations and the working class' answer to it. It draws a line of demarcation by saying our fight is not together *with* these rich bastards but *against* them and their bloody wars for profits.

This is the basic meaning of the slogan, the stand around which thousands are uniting in the July 4th demonstration.

Communist Stand on War

But this basic stand does not answer all the questions people have about war. The Revolutionary Communist Party unites with the sentiment "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War," helping to take this out to the people; at the same time, communists have their own ideas beyond this on how the workers must view a war of capitalist plunder, and their own program for advancing the struggle of the working class in the midst of such a war.

Today the rulers of the country are playing on the real differences that exist between the war in Vietnam and the war they are now preparing. Now that another big time imperialist like themselves, the Soviet Union, is fast becoming the biggest immediate threat to U.S. corporate profits and investments around the world, the U.S. ruling class is hoping that its flag waving and calls for patriotism will get over better with the American people.

They point to the Soviets' aggressiveness and domination of other nations and talk fine words about the U.S. opposing Soviet imperialism and defending freedom. The draft platform of the Democratic Party, for example, condemns "the continued USSR military occupation of many Eastern European countries" as "a monument to their oppression of the peoples of those nations, an oppression we do not accept and are committed to oppose."

Of course the U.S. rulers oppose imperialism—the imperialism of *others* which stands in the way of their *own* international profit grabbing. Even if Eastern Europe were freed from the Soviets by U.S. action, it could only mean the enslavement of these people to U.S. monopoly capital instead of Soviet capital. When they speak of defending freedom they can only mean defending their freedom to exploit—defending their empire.

When the rulers speak of the need for the workers



Banners of Vietnam Veterans Against the War hang from the crown of the Statue of Liberty.

Vets On The Move

On June 8 members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War seized the Statue of Liberty in New York City Harbor. The VVAW action dramatized the anger and opposition of veterans to the increased attack on their benefits and publicized the July 4th demonstration in Philadelphia sponsored by the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition.

The veterans unfurled two giant banners from the top of the statue which proclaimed "Extend and Expand the GI Bill" and "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!"

Vets everywhere have had their bellyful of being "used once and thrown away." But this is exactly what those people who run this country are trying to do. Their latest move is the May 30th axing of the GI Bill that made 3.7 million vets discharged between 1954 and 1966 ineligible for education benefits. Now they are talking about cutting the number of years of eligibility for Vietnam era vets from 10 to 8 years.

At the time of the seizure, the VVAW released a statement to the press that said, "While the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars have approved of these cuts, while the newspapers have tried to maintain a wall of silence around this outrage, we will not remain the silent victims of those who attack us. Just as we fought against their bloodsucking war in Indochina, we are now fighting these attacks on our very lives."

American GIs who were showered with propaganda about fighting for "democracy" and "freedom" in Korea and Vietnam returned to face low-paying jobs or unemployment and inadequate benefits that are now being slashed. Many have learned through bitter experience that they were being called on to be nothing but cannon fodder in an imperialist war against the workers and peasants in those countries. As one vet said, "When I was in Vietnam, I was fighting for the rich, but when I came home I found that I was fighting against them all the time. It's clear to me now that vet's got to fight them tooth and nail."

And fight them they are! In Los Angeles recently, 100 vets marched against the cuts in the GI Bill and in Buffalo 200 vets picketed the offices of the Regional Director of the Veterans Administration. VVAW is building a fighting movement of veterans all over the country.

VVAW made clear this fight is not just for an increase in veterans benefits. It is a battle against the whole class of rich parasites who stand in the way of the millions of people of this country leading a decent life. As part of this battle, VVAW has joined with the other groups of the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition to proclaim that "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!" Vets are tired of unemployment and are tired of war and tired of having to scratch and claw and fight for every damn thing they need. VVAW is in Philly on July 4th to help build the struggle and to advance the fight to get rid of the rich parasites who have been riding our backs—once and for all!



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"Jobs or Income Now!"

A militant contingent of unemployed workers is here in Philadelphia, led by the Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC), to march in the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition actions. They come from all over the country, carrying 250,000 signatures on a petition demanding Jobs or Income Now!, and represent the needs and demands of the ten million workers in this country who have been thrown out of work.

Unemployed workers are refusing to keep quiet and lay low while the rich parasites who run this country scream the virtues of the system that lays off millions and forces millions more to scratch just to barely get by. The bosses don't want UWOC in Philadelphia now. Unemployment is an indictment of their system. Unemployed workers are saying: We Won't Starve! We will not join in the fireworks of celebration while we are cast from the factories and mills our labor has created.

Can't be Covered Up

Mayor Rizzo and other two-bit representatives of the capitalists have tried to block the demonstration. Along with their efforts to stop the activities of the Coalition they have made a special point of trying to stop the Tent City of the unemployed, organized by UWOC and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War, to dramatize the demands of the unemployed and expose the capitalists' nonsense that we are living in the best of all possible worlds.

It's no wonder! The last thing they want is the reality of unemployment, which runs like an ugly sore in their system, exposed in a forceful and militant way as they celebrate the perfections and great accomplishments of their rule.

Unemployment is going down they tell us. A great recovery is underway. But it's still there and massive, sometimes in a more hidden way. Millions of young people know they have no chance of finding a job, and the ranks of workers who have been out of work for years with no prospect of finding a job continue to swell. And when you are permanently unemployed their statistics say you are not out of work—you are just out of their charts!

On the other hand, they know that people can see that unemployment is still very high, even if plant closings and layoffs slow down for a while and a few

get called back. So they tell us to be realistic. "We just can't employ everybody. You will just have to accept an unemployment rate of 7% or 8% or 10%."

Well workers can't accept it and they won't. Each rise of 1% in their statistics means a million workers out of work. No way is that acceptable. People are not going to go without work, scratch to feed their families, so the capitalists can protect their profit margins.

Workers pushed up against the wall will fight, like Tom Bornson in Portland who was forced to watch his family brought to the edge of starvation because he couldn't find work. He took over a food stamp office to protest the situation that he and many others face. The ruling class has thrown him in jail for 9 years, to make an example out of him to other workers. But the example workers are taking from this is that they have to fight and build up unity. As Tom Bornson said at a May Day rally in Portland: "Our strength lies in unity, in that ability to mass and say we will no longer go it alone against the system."

In mid-June unemployed workers in Trenton, New Jersey set up a small tent city in front of the State

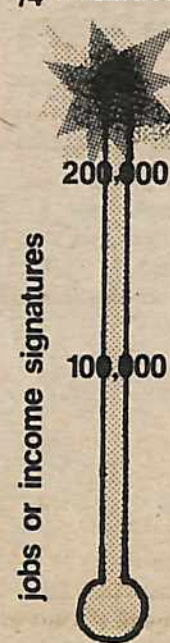
House, as part of a demonstration against that state's Hoffman Bill, a measure to cut people off unemployment if they refuse to take a job at the minimum wage. This is one of many legislative efforts the capitalists are making to offer up unemployed workers on a silver platter. Supposedly broken and without hope, they want to harness us to the machines and workbenches for as little as they can get away with.

Won't Be Crushed

But workers are not helpless, and will not be crushed. We are beginning to see through their tricks—like their saying in unionized manufacturing states like New Jersey that workers have to "save jobs" by out-competing workers in other states—in a wage-cutting race. Banners unfurled over the Trenton Tent City said "Smash the Hoffman Bill" and "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!"

That demonstration and many like it around the country have helped to build for this week's demonstrations in Philadelphia. But just as important, the ongoing organization of the unemployed has grown in the course of building for Philadelphia. UWOC has been strengthened in city after city, developed its ability to lead struggle and is recognized by more and more people as the growing, nationwide, fighting organization of the unemployed. ■

1/4 MILLION!!!



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And now it is the turn of the working class to overthrow the capitalist system and build a completely new kind of society.

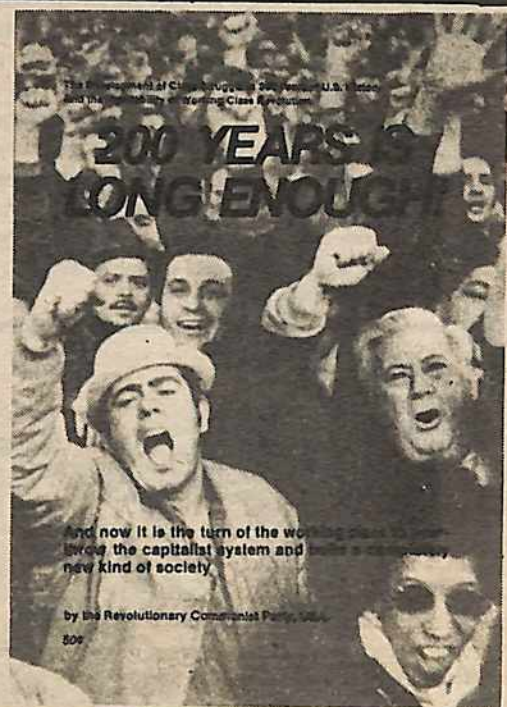
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Strike Enters 10th Week

High Stakes in Rubber Showdown

1500 members of the United Rubber Workers Union gathered outside the Goodrich local on June 18. From there they marched, banners and picket signs in hand, through downtown Akron, Ohio. Drivers in passing cars honked their horns in support of the strikers. As the marchers streamed past the huge Goodrich plant they shouted at the scabs they saw working. It was a powerful display of the strikers' determination. That determination would soon be felt on the other side of town.

The next night 250 pickets from the struck companies appeared outside the General Tire plant, where people had been working for over a month without a contract. In short order the plant was shut down. The strike of rubber workers was now 1300 men stronger. This was not the first nor would it be the last militant episode of this bitterly fought strike.

The strike of 68,000 rubber workers in cities across the country is well into its third month. The strikers are still hanging tough. If anything, the arrogant refusal of the companies to give ground on any of the workers' demands has only stiffened their determination. As one worker explained, "Look, we knew what we were getting into when we went out. If we'd thought they would settle early we would have lost already. But we know who we're fighting and what they want to do to us. And we're not going back—not after all this, with nothing to show for it."

This strike is important to all workers. It represents the biggest confrontation yet this year between workers and the bosses over a major contract. It comes on the heels of the Teamster strike and just before upcoming contracts in the electrical industry and auto. What happens in rubber will have a big effect on auto, especially. Already the government has expressed alarm about this strike, spreading hogwash that if it continues it will ignite inflation and stall "recovery." What they really fear is that rubber workers will ruin their hope to make 1976 a year of "labor peace"—a year for workers to take it on the chin. The government's chief labor "mediator" has been brought in to give the rubber companies a hand.

Why have the workers stayed out so long, with strike benefits exhausted, with many going deep into the hole financially and when it will take a good long time back on the job to make up for the losses? Why have the companies jeopardized sales and production which could have already paid for the strikers' cost of living demand? It's because what is at stake here is not just contract language but a trial of strength. Both the strikers and the companies are locked in a battle with a lot at stake, that will influence the ability of each side to take on the other in the future.

From the very beginning sharp lines have been drawn in this battle. The companies want to break the backs of the workers. For years they have engaged in a cost cutting, profit recovering program and this has accelerated with the current economic crisis. They're looking to boost their profits; looking to get a contract that will allow them to combine and eliminate even more jobs and keep wages and pensions at their same sorry level. So far, the companies have been holding out, even lowering their original offer, trying to starve the strikers into submission.

But the strikers have a bitter legacy, especially the last seven years. They have seen that whenever their union leadership has yielded to the companies it has made things worse, not better. The 1973 contract fight saw the International leadership of the union drop its cost of living demand in response to government and company calls to "moderate inflationary demands." The result? Rubber workers lost \$1.20 an hour in their earning power. The union-company "Hey Mac" program to boost "productivity" was supposed to save the jobs of rubber workers in Akron. It didn't. Jobs continued to leave Akron and the companies increased speedup. What experience has shown is that being "reasonable" and helping the companies out of a pinch has served to disarm the workers and pave the way for stepped-up attacks.

As a result of this experience the rubber workers have waged a very determined fight. The strike has been marked by tremendous rank and file activity and pressure, both direct and indirect, on the union offi-

cial: "If Bommarito [president of the URW] hadn't pulled us out he would have been killed," is how one worker put it! For the first time in the union's recent history all four of the rubber companies were struck at once. There have been mass pickets in many areas of the country organized in defiance of court-ordered injunctions. This was something the rank and file pushed and organized for and finally got the union leaders to go along with. These picket lines and simultaneously striking the Big Four have provided the real muscle of the strike.

There have been important advances in breaking the stranglehold of the union officials both at the local and International level. But the grip of these union officials is still there and this has severely weakened the strike. For instance, while the International was forced to strike all four companies, their control over the union has still been strong enough to prevent workers from spreading the strike to subsidiaries of the Big Four, like Mohawk and Kelly Springfield, and to General Tire.

The local officials have signed special agreements with these companies saying they will continue working until an overall settlement is reached, even though 97% of the membership of General Tire voted to strike. This continued production in non-struck URW plants, combined with non-unionized rubber plants and scab production in struck plants, has meant that 40-50% of the nation's tires are still being produced despite the strike. This has been crucial in allowing the auto companies to make it through the current model year, thus weakening the strike's effect.

Spread the Strike!

The URW officials, like other union leaders, portray this or any strike as a waiting game, a contest of stamina, in which things stay basically the same except that at some point either the companies or the workers give in. But more and more rubber workers see that the strike has to spread to the non-struck plants and

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Calendar of Events

Over the last few days before July 4th there will be a big push by the bosses and their media mouthpieces to call on people to celebrate the Bicentennial. Going against this blitz will be hundreds of unemployed workers, veterans and youth coming first to Washington, D.C. and then Philadelphia. Planned are a series of demonstrations and activities to attack the bosses around key issues confronting the working class—particularly unemployment and war. These are sending out the message of "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years, Let's Get Them Off Our Backs" to millions of our fellow workers around the country, and continuing to call on working people in Philadelphia and all around the country to come to the July 4th rally. The following are the main points of the calendar of events scheduled for June 30 through July 4th.

June 30. Buses come into D.C. from all around the country arriving near the Washington monument.

Noon—The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee will lead a march around Jobs or Income from the monument to the Labor Department and then the Capitol Building. There will be speeches and songs.

Mid-afternoon—A car and bus caravan will leave from the Capitol to Philadelphia to the staging grounds for the four days of activities.

July 1. Morning—Unemployed workers will fan out to eight or ten unemployment centers throughout the city. Veterans will go to the V.A. and other concentrated sites of veterans. Youth will go into the communities. Here we will be calling on fellow working people to join us in activities and come to a major "Jobs or Income" rally that afternoon.

Afternoon—We will all converge on the unemployment center at Lehigh and Broad for a disciplined picket line and rally.

This will be followed by a march through the community where the staging area is located—building up support for activities and the July 4th demonstration.

Evening—Opening ceremonies. Jobs or Income petitions will be pooled together. Political discussion on unemployment—its source, its meaning to the working class, how we should fight it, etc. Day's events will be summed up and plans made for next day's activities.

July 2. Morning—Building action to take the word about the July 4th demonstrations out to the people of Philadelphia.

Afternoon—All will converge on the Philadelphia General Hospital (PGH). PGH is the only public hospital in Philadelphia and is being closed down by city cutbacks in the coming year. Demands will be raised and we will speak to our fellow workers about jobs and layoffs, city crisis and cutbacks in social services.

Afternoon—Plans are for plant gate rallies for the second shift change.

Night—There will be presentations and political discussion on what war means to the working class, followed by sum up of day's events and plans for the next day's activities.

July 3. 10 am—Rally demanding "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War" at Admiral Dewey's Flag Ship in Philly Harbor. This was the ship that led the U.S. takeover of the Philippines and is pumped up by the city rulers as a big tourist site. Speeches bringing out how the working class interest is in

fighting against the owners and not fellow workers.

Evening—Coalition members in Philly will greet fellow workers arriving from all over the country in trains. A brief march and rally will be held, followed by a *Workers' Cultural Event*—featuring Prairie Fire and the Chainbreakers—working class singing groups from the Bay Area and Houston. Also poems will be read and a short speech on culture and how it can be a weapon for our struggle against the bosses.

July 4. Thousands of us gather at 10:00 am. Workers from the mines, mills and sweatshops all across this land . . . all standing to fight together on this day . . . in contingents of unemployed, vets, employed, youth and students. (All veterans whether in VVAW or not asked to bring their fatigues please.) March led by forklifts carrying a quarter million signatures on Jobs or Income petitions.

After the march a major rally will be held, speaking to why we are marching together on this day.

Visit the Workers History Pavilion

Open through all days of the demonstrations,
10 am to 9 pm at Norris Square Park, Hancock and Diamond.

What is The Worker?

This issue of *The Worker* is a specially prepared national edition for the Bicentennial demonstrations in Philadelphia and elsewhere. There are 20 local editions of *The Worker* put out in nearly every major industrial area of the U.S., sold at factory gates, unemployment centers and in working class communities.

The Worker exists to build the struggle of the working class against the capitalist system of exploitation and oppression. It puts forward the political stand of the Revolutionary Communist Party, USA on the major questions and struggles facing workers.

Throughout the U.S. workers and others are fighting against this system and its effects. *The Worker* in every area aims to be a tool to assist in building the many struggles that break out constantly in countless factories and communities. By doing this and combining it with centrally distributed articles which tie together the 20 papers all over the country, *The Worker* seeks to broaden these struggles and rally support. More than that, it is a tool in developing key battles of workers and other sections of the people into campaigns of the working class on a local and national

scale in order to help build the strength and unity of our class in the struggle against the source of our oppression, the rule of the capitalist class.

The Worker also plays a role in helping to sum up the results of these battles and in spreading the lessons. To change the way we live, workers must understand the class and social forces at work in the world, the lessons of our victories and defeats. We must learn in the course of the fight, and to fight better we must learn still more about the nature of the struggle. To this end, *The Worker* helps to sum up and analyze the meaning to our class of events around the country and in the world.

The Worker helps point to the final aim and goal of our struggle—socialist revolution and a society without exploitation and oppression.

Most of the local editions of *The Worker* come out monthly. They are sold for 25 cents per copy. We urge readers of this special edition to read, use and take up these papers as the weapons of the working class that they are, in order to help continue to build our movement. ■

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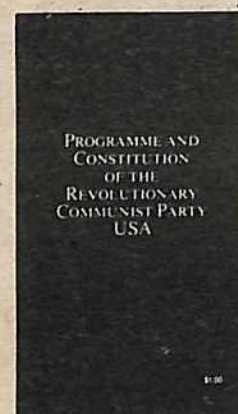
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Programme and Constitution of the RCP, USA

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The Programme of the RCP summarizes the present situation facing the working class in its struggle and points the road forward. It is a concentration of the Party's basic aims, strategy and tasks as the Party of the working class. It sets forth to the working class the goal of its struggle—revolution, socialism and ultimately communism—and the means to achieve this historic goal. It is a guide to action.

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Dead End Demo Spreads Confusion

In addition to the marches and demonstrations being carried out in Philadelphia by the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition, which includes the Revolutionary Communist Party that guides this newspaper, there is at least one other group which is holding its own rally against the Bicentennial celebration. Some people ask, since we all want to protest, why can't there be a single, united action?

An awful lot of people don't like what our rulers are trying to do with the Bicentennial, and many people want to do something about it. These actions we are carrying out in Philadelphia and other cities are only the tip of an iceberg of anger that millions of working people feel about how things are going in this country and the whole set-up we live under. But we aren't interested in protesting just for the sake of protesting. We want to expose and hit at the source of our problems. We want to develop a movement, uniting millions, to take on the rich capitalist class.

In other words, the question is not just unity, but unity for what purpose. The program, slogans and stand of the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition can move things forward, building the struggle against the rich and powerful. Some other groups which are holding their own actions around the Bicentennial are really trying to move things backwards by putting out a political line and program which would cripple the struggle. For this reason, they are playing right into the hands of the high and mighty rulers of this country.

As part of their misleadership and attempts to further their own narrow interests, some of their leading representatives have even lined up with Philly's Mayor Rizzo in the court hearing against us, and joined in the chorus of policemen, politicians and other ruling class authorities in denouncing the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition as a bunch of wild disrupters.

As much as they've dared, the arrogant ruling class has done its best to try to keep our demonstration from happening at all. But because the masses of people and especially our fellow workers won't let them get away with that, these capitalists who own the newspapers and TV and nearly everything else, have used all the means at their command to try to cover us with mud and keep what we stand for from reaching even broader numbers of people.

One main way they've done this is to try to lump together everyone who is demonstrating around the Bicentennial as one big unsavory mess of chronic complainers, spoiled middle-class brats and weirdos, all very alien to the masses of people. This job has been made a little easier for them because in fact some of the groups demonstrating around the Bicentennial are just putting on a one-shot publicity gimmick. Instead of getting to the bottom of questions that affect working people in their millions, they're trying to pull together everyone who has a complaint to throw all their complaints together in an indiscriminate heap, which includes some real basic objections to the way things are and a lot of nonsense like the slogan "Equal Rights for Gay People."

The main outfit which is trying to do things in this way is the July 4th Coalition, led by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the misnamed Communist Party which long ago made peace with the capitalists, and supporters of the Weatherman "underground" group. The leaders of these groups call themselves "revolutionary" and some people who really want to change things have rallied around their demonstration. Some of these groups have been painted as being very "radical," and the capitalists' newspapers, TV, etc., have tried to use this to scare people away from demonstrating in Philadelphia at all.

But more often the capitalists have pictured them as more "reasonable" than the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition, and there's a reason for that. The truth is that for all that these people carry on about what's wrong with this country, the demonstration they are leading doesn't point its finger at the cause of our problems, nor does it contribute to uniting people to build the kind of movement that will deal with it.

What they say, basically, is that the Bicentennial is a time for people to complain because things in this country aren't the way they're "supposed" to be according to what we're told at high school graduations, pre-

sidential inaugurations and occasions like the Bicentennial.

For instance, one of their main slogans is "For Jobs and a Decent Standard of Living." The way to bring this about, they say, is to demand "an end to the irrational squandering of our resources on weapons of war and the pursuit of profits. We have to demand that this government meet the real and pressing needs of all our people."

An end to war, unemployment and all the daily horrors we face is something the overwhelming majority of people yearn for. That's why nearly every politician promises us these things during every election. The question people want answered is why do we have to live like this, and what can be done about it?

It's just starting out in the wrong direction to say that war, unemployment and all the rest is "irrational" and leave it at that. To the working class and many others, this situation is definitely a tremendous waste—and more, it's hell. But for the class of big businessmen and the government that represents them, the only "rational" thing is to squeeze every dollar they can out of the working people here and millions more like us around the globe. They can't act differently or they'd end up being swallowed by their competitors and have to work for a living instead of being rich capitalist parasites. That's the cause of unemployment, war and all the rest.

That's why waiting around for "this government" to meet "the real and pressing needs of all our people" is worse than a waste of time—it's a crime. Yet this is what these groups are asking us to do. In order to build our fight to deal with this situation we have to understand that the workers and others kept down by this system are the vast majority, while the parasites who live off us are only a tiny handful. We have to understand who are our friends and who are our enemies and what direction things have to go.

This is the basic problem with these groups—they put out a lot of talk about "all the people" and cover up the fact that this country is divided into classes, into rulers and ruled. Like the capitalists themselves, they're full of contempt for the workers. They try to get the workers to support them with a few demands for things working people need, but they don't believe that workers can or even want to rise up and struggle against this system which holds them as little more than slaves.

Imperialism No Mistake

This is clearer in what they're trying to do with their other main slogan, "For a Bicentennial Without Colonies." In an ad in the daily papers, the Puerto

Rican Socialist Party explained that in asking for independence for Puerto Rico "the rights we claim are the rights which Americans have jealously guarded for 200 years."

This is like saying that everyone in this country has had it great since the beginning and the problem is that we don't let other countries have what we have. This is an insult to the working people of the U.S., who since it began have won what little we have fighting tooth and nail against our employers and the whole damn ruling class.

The problem isn't the workers, neither is it some "inconsistency" in the way our rulers apply "American principles." Our "founding fathers" didn't revolt against the British because they were loyal to some abstract principle of independence, but because they wanted to be free to make maximum profits. Although that revolution was a step forward at that time, it gave birth to the capitalist system where the working class of this country slaves away for their benefit and whole nations are subjected to their plunder. This is the only "right" they've ever jealously guarded.

These "rights" which the American ruling class defends are directly opposite to everything the working class and the masses of people have fought for, both here and everywhere else where our rulers have set up shop.

While they like to talk about *their* independence day, they themselves are modern-day imperialists far more than England's old King George. In order to free ourselves and our fellow workers and others oppressed by them in other countries, we can't waste any time trying to shame them by appealing to what they're "supposed" to stand for according to the lies they've told us—we have to build a movement that fights for our interests and fights against all their exploitation and aggression on every front.

This is made even more important to understand because what's increasingly staring us in the face is the danger of world war between the rulers of this country and the capitalists now ruling the Soviet Union behind a "socialist" mask. This kind of war could only be a war between bands of thieves over protecting and extending their robbery of people all over the world. That's why we have to expose this crime and the system behind it in order to mobilize people to fight against it. On this front, too, the leaders of the July 4th Coalition stay silent, letting our rulers and those of the Soviet Union off the hook and trying to spread sleeping powder in people's eyes in the face of a real and growing danger.

Although our rulers would certainly prefer that no one said anything against them on their birthday, they know that people are getting very mad about

Continued on Page 9



Hawaii, April 12, 1976—Youth United to Fight Back July 4th set up a lively picket line outside Honolulu's State Employment Office demanding summer jobs for youth.

Youth Organize to Fight Back

Like most of us, youth don't have too much to celebrate this Bicentennial year. Unemployment is sky high and government jobs for the summer are being cut, like in Philadelphia, where the number of federally funded jobs for youth went from 17,000 last year to 8,500. Cops and pushers cruise the streets, lying in wait. For millions of youth the only future this system has to offer is more unemployment, working at jobs at or below minimum wage, or joining the service to fight in one of their wars.

Over the past two months youth around the country in cities like Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago have been getting together and refusing to accept the conditions they are forced to live with. Organizations like Youth in Action in Philadelphia and Youth United to Fight Back July 4th (shown above) are uniting young people in their neighborhoods and high schools to start fighting against the attacks the system brings

down on them, and to unite the struggle of youth with the fight of the whole working class.

Building for the demonstration July 4th is an important step in bringing the strength and spirit of youth to the struggle. On the 4th hundreds will be marching in the youth contingent, marching side by side with working people around the country. Young people, who a few weeks ago were just hanging out, have been getting involved and going all out to their friends, leafletting their schools and taking up the work of the Rich Off Our Backs Coalition.

Young people coming to the 4th are fired up because they see there is another choice. That they don't have to stomach the system and try to get by. That people can get together and fight back. Now plans are being made to keep on building that kind of youth movement after July 4th and for forming a nationwide revolutionary youth organization in the near future. ■

We Have Fed You All For a Thousand Years

*We have fed you all for a thousand years
And here we are still unfed.
But there's never a dollar of all your wealth
That doesn't mark the workers dead.
We have given our best to give you rest
And you lie on crimson wool.
But if blood be the price of all your wealth,
Then Good God we have paid in full.*

*There is never a mine blown skyward now
But we're buried alive for you.
There is never a wreck drifts shoreward now
But we are its ghastly crew.
Go reckon our dead by the forges red
And the factories where we spin
If blood be the price of your cursed wealth
Good God! We have paid it in.*

*We have fed you all for a thousand years—
For that was our doom, you know,
From the days when you chained us in your fields
To the strike a week ago
You have taken our lives, and our babies and wives,
And we're told it's your legal share;
But if blood be the price of your lawful wealth
Good God! We have bought it fair!*

"We Have Fed You All For a Thousand Years" first appeared in an IWW publication as a poem attributed to an "unknown proletarian." It has since been set to music.

This song was written for the July 4th demonstrations by Prairie Fire, a working class couple in the San Francisco Bay Area which sings and composes songs that help advance the revolutionary struggle of the working class. Prairie Fire is one of many working class singing groups that have developed in recent years.

Let's Get 'Em Off Our Backs

(200 YEARS IS LONG ENOUGH!)

*When I get home from work each day
It feels like I just worked 200 years.
When I see all the bills I gotta pay
Seems like it'll take 200 years.
Now we hear: "Let us celebrate!"
The latest bosses game.
But who they callin' "us"
When everyday we're fightin' them!*

Chorus:
*200 years this bicentennial is for.
The rich want us to slave for them 200 more.
200 years these parasites have sucked our blood.
Let's get 'em off our backs, 200 years is long enough!*

*That musta been some party dumped
That British tea back then 200 years.
And musta been some struggle dumpin'
British tyranny back 200 years.
But sendin' King George packin'
Made the rich here free
To build their own empire
And chain us in wage slavery!*

Chorus

*Our class built this country, we have
Labored we have slaved 200 years.
They're the class that runs it, stealin'
All the wealth we've made 200 years.
Their rule has brought us misery,
Unemployment, crime, and war.
And every decent thing we have
Our class has fought 'em for!*

Chorus

*They've hired the "finest minds" to find out
How their system's gonna last 200 years.
And they're workin' overtime to cover up the past
200 years.
And they promise peace and plenty
As they plan another war.
But they've got this little problem
We're not takin' any more!*

Chorus

*To our class belongs the future, and it
Isn't gonna wait 200 years.
The rich man's time is up and he's
Gonna get the gate in a few more years.
With their system in museums
With the relics of the past,
We'll build that bright future
When the workers rule at last!*

Chorus

*We'll bring them down, their time is up
200 years is long enough!*

Chorus

...the Early Days

*Where'er a government is found
Two classes are by all confess'd
The wealthy and the poor.
And here another truth I'll name
Before I further go:
The poor could live without the rich
As every man may know;
But none that labor for their bread,
Could by the rich be spared,
For 'tis to them they owe their wealth
As oft it's been declared...*

An excerpt of a poem that first appeared in an 1829 issue of the *Mechanic*, an early working class newspaper. The poem is typical of the first stirrings of the U.S. working class, seeing all government as the tool of the rich which, at that time before working class revolutions, all were.

From the Depths



From the Depths was a popular illustration among workers at the turn of the century. It is full of the spirit of the working class rising up against its oppressors.

Our History of Struggle



This poster crystallized the feelings of millions toward the shootings of students at Kent State, Ohio and Jackson State, Mississippi during the massive upheaval of students against the invasion of Cambodia in May, 1970.

ENT
STATE

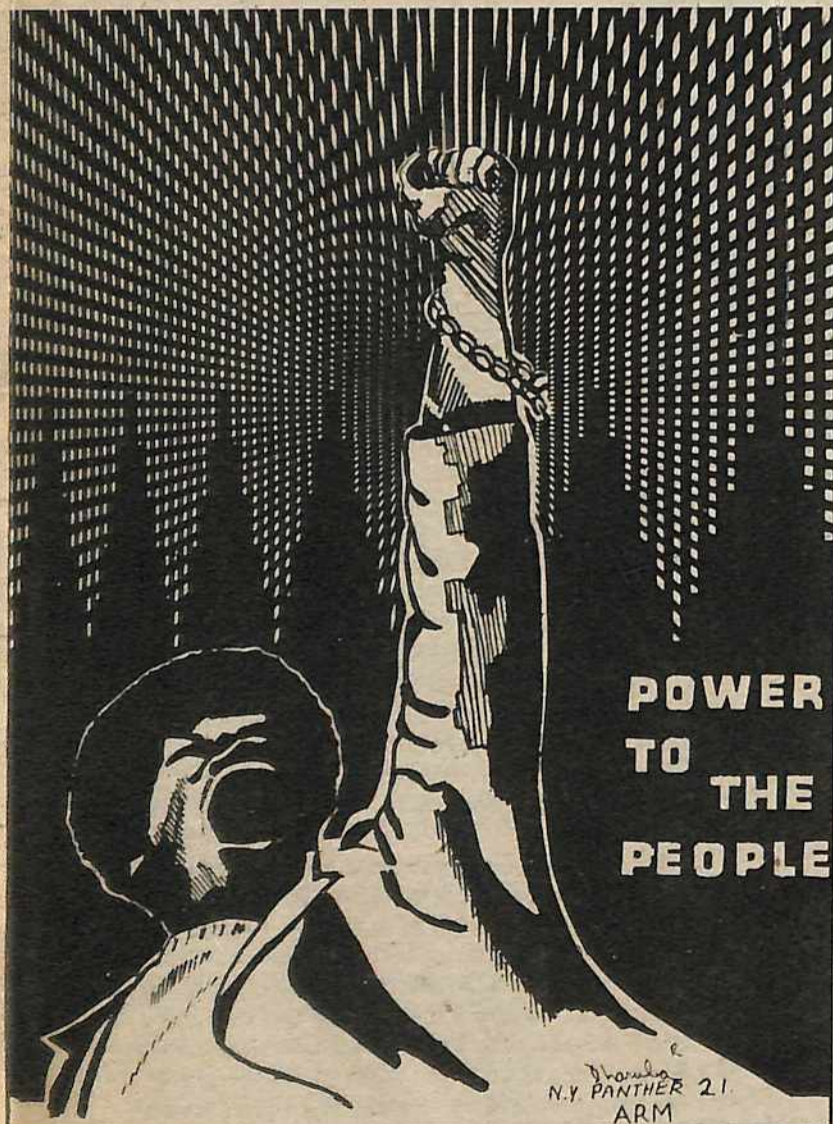
You might be rich as cream,
And drive you a coach and four horse team;
But you can't keep the world from moving around,
And Nat Turner from gaining ground.

You might be reader and writer too,
And wiser than old Solomon the Jew;
But you can't keep the world from moving around,
And Nat Turner from gaining ground.

And your name might be Caesar sure,
And got you cannon can shoot a mile or more;
But you can't keep the world from moving around,
And Nat Turner from gaining ground.

a Slave Song

In 1831, Nat Turner led a revolt of slaves in Virginia. Although the revolt was betrayed and Nat Turner was hung, the rebellion struck fear into the hearts of the slavemasters and greatly inspired the slaves. The following song was written after the rebellion and remained popular among Blacks for many years.



Black Liberation Struggle

Starting with the Civil Rights movement of the '50s Black people's struggle grew to massive proportions, reaching a high point in the late '60s. This revolutionary upsurge produced its culture of struggle, like the poster above.

SHOULD I EVER BE A SOLDIER

"Should I Ever be a Soldier" was written by Joe Hill, a member of the Industrial Workers of the World who was framed up and executed by the authorities in Utah in 1915. The IWW was a revolutionary working class organization in the early 1900s that made important contributions to the struggle, including opposing imperialist war. It fell apart due to political weaknesses but many of their songs, like the popular "Solidarity Forever," remain sharp and to the point today.

We're spending billions every year
for guns and ammunition
"Our Army" and "Our Navy" dear
to keep in good condition
While millions live in misery
And millions die before us
Don't sing "My Country, 'tis of thee,"
But sing this little chorus:
Should I ever be a soldier
'Neath the Red Flag I would fight;
Should the gun I ever shoulder,
It's to crush the tyrants might.
Join the army of the toilers,
Men and women fall in line...

The Big Strike

The following excerpt and poem are from *The Great Strike* by Mike Quin, an outstanding writer for the working class who contributed often to the Communist Party newspaper. The 1934 San Francisco General Strike grew out of a strike on the longshore, after two workers were gunned down by the police.

Stop in your tracks, you passer-by;
Uncover your doubting head.
The workmen are on their way
To bury their murdered dead.

The men who sowed their strength in work,
And reaped a crop of lies
Are marching by. Oppression's doom
Is written in their eyes.

The services began at 12:30 within the ILA hall. They were simple and stark. A spokesman for the ILA began, "We are here to pay the respects of union labor to you, Howard Sperry, and you, Nicholas Bordoise—to bid you farewell."

The harsh clanging of a bell cut in on his words. He paused a moment while everyone listened. It was the ironic clanging of a nearby Belt Line locomotive shunting boxcars with the aid of a scab crew.

The longshoreman continued in a tense voice. He spoke of the supreme sacrifice of the fallen men, the challenge of the Industrial Association, and pledged over the two coffins that the fight would continue until victory.

The coffins were carried down the narrow stairway and placed on trucks. Three additional trucks followed bearing flowers.

A union band struck up the slow cadence of the Beethoven funeral march. The great composer's music was never applied more fittingly to human suffering. Slowly—barely creeping—the trucks moved out into Market Street. With slow, rhythmic steps, the giant procession followed. Faces were hard and serious. Hats were held proudly across chests. Slow—pouring like thick liquid, the great mass flowed out onto Market Street.

Streetcarmen stopped their cars along the line of march and stood silently, holding their uniform caps across their chests, holding their heads high and firm.

Not one smile in the endless blocks of marching men. Crowds on the sidewalk, for the most part, stood with heads erect and hats removed. Others watched the procession with fear and alarm. Here and there well-dressed businessmen from Montgomery Street stood amazed and impressed, but with their hats still on their heads. Sharp voices shot out of the line of march: "Take off your hat!"

The tone of voice was extraordinary. The reaction was immediate. With quick, nervous gestures, the businessmen obeyed.

Hours went by, but still the marchers poured onto Market Street, until the whole length of the street, from the Ferry Building to Valencia, was filled with silent, marching men, women, and children.

Not a policeman was in sight throughout the whole enormous area. Longshoremen wearing blue armbands directed traffic and presided with an air of authority. No police badge or whistle ever received such instant respect and obedience as the calm, authoritative voices of the dock workers.

Labor was burying its own.

.....
That night across the bay at a meeting of the Alameda County Labor Council a brief and businesslike resolution was passed calling on all unions to take an immediate general strike vote. A committee of seven was appointed, not to "investigate," but to proceed with the organization of "an effective General Strike." ■

Philly Demo...

Continued from Page 1
frightens them.

They can't stand the thought of the demands of the working class for Jobs or Income Now! being raised amidst the speeches about how this country is the land of opportunity. Or that a Tent City of the unemployed would be set up while they proclaim the virtues of their system.

Least of all can the capitalists stomach the idea of the banner "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!" being raised at the very moment when we are to be told that the people rule the country by the will of the majority, rich and poor alike.

As *The Worker* goes to press, on the eve of the demonstrations, the authorities are still trying to hamstring or stifle some of these activities, yet it is clear that the demonstration will take place, the demands will ring out, the presence of the working class will be felt. This itself is a result of the struggle of the people.

Blow for Blow Struggle

From the beginning, the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition resisted every attempt to ban the demonstration, to paint it as a dangerous band of terrorist malcontents, and efforts to set up conditions for a police riot.

By calling for troops and denying permits the City made it clearer what the Bicentennial show was all about. It made it clear how badly they wanted to grab the spotlight for themselves and their own propaganda. It helped explode the very myth of freedom and democracy for all that the Bicentennial hoopla is supposed to spread. After they came under increasing fire for refusing permits and threatening troops, Rizzo and Co. came up with yet another proposal: require the Coalition to put up a \$50,000 bond for each day of demonstrations! What better example than this of democracy "if the price is right?"

The Coalition went to the workers of Philadelphia and took the capitalists' lies head on. They refused to be painted as terrorists or crazies seeking to provoke violence and disruption; at the same time making it clear that the maneuvers were but one more abuse, one more injustice of the capitalists on top of the whole series of other outrages of the rule of the capitalists—another reason to demonstrate in the streets on July 4th.

Mayor Rizzo has tried to establish an image of himself as a John Wayne, the fearless quick gun who protects the upright citizens of Philadelphia from the forces of evil. But when he was on a television show pushing his hogwash, members of the Coalition picketed the studio and a few went inside to repeat in public the Coalition's challenge to Rizzo for a debate. The Mayor scurried off the television with his tail between his legs and sent a flunkey to a courtroom (where a hearing was going on over the permit question) to whine and whimper about the Coalition's "disruption."

All of the controversy around the demonstration created a situation in Philly where the plans for the demonstration were the talk of the town. When Coalition spokesmen appeared on a radio talk show, the demonstration raged as the subject of discussion for 48 hours. The main slogan, "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!" became a frequent topic of conversation and struggle.

Movement Builds

The Unemployed Workers Organizing Committee (UWOC) and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW), two of the groups initiating the Coalition, held demonstrations on May 20 at the Philadelphia City Hall and June 1 at the Germantown unemployment office, actions which brought out the demands of the July 4th demonstration as key fights of the unemployed and veterans, and which brought out how the Bicentennial actions were a key battle facing the working class.

Similarly, a demonstration was held in mid-June in the Trenton, N.J. unemployment office. This demonstration, too, focused attention on the July 4th activities as a way to advance the struggle for Jobs or Income and build it as part of the broader struggle of the whole class.

Despite all attempts to stop the demonstration, momentum kept building. In cities across the country, from Honolulu to Boston, tens of thousands of posters went up, hundreds of thousands of leaflets were distributed, all carrying the same message: On to Philadelphia! Confront the high and mighty with the real struggles and interests of the working class while they are celebrating their rule over us and telling us to join the festivities!

In city after city thousands of workers echoed the sentiments of the Coalition's Manifesto: "No! We will

not celebrate their rule." UWOC's thermometer, measuring the progress in obtaining signatures on their Jobs or Income Now! petition that was brought to the Bicentennial, inched higher toward the 250,000 mark.

In the press and on thousands of street corners the Coalition got the word out. More and more workers expressed support for the actions and outrage at the performance of the capitalists in trying to prevent the demands and growing strength of the working class from being felt at the Bicentennial. In many cities building actions were held to mobilize for the Fourth. VVAW took over the Statue of Liberty to protest cuts in the GI Bill and to call on veterans to join the demonstrations.

In one auto plant near Milwaukee two hundred workers gathered at lunch time to hear about the plans for the demonstration—hundreds more listened out the windows. Only a few days earlier workers at the plant had been refused fans in sweltering heat while the bosses painted the walls red, white and blue!

As this struggle developed, the capitalists began to back off from their plans to ban the demonstration. They were even fighting among themselves about what to do. Daily papers in Philadelphia came out in favor of granting permits, fearing that Rizzo's scheme was backfiring and helping to expose that democracy in the U.S. is for the rich. The Coalition took the city of Philadelphia to court. Officials countered by dragging a low-life police inspired liar to invent tales of violence and disruption. But faced with the sentiments of the people and the momentum building for the demonstration, the judge was forced to come across with some concessions.

A press release from the Coalition said, "The federal courts were forced to recognize our right to a march and rally and a Workers History Pavilion, without the \$50,000 a day price tag the City wanted to put on our right to political expression. This is a partial victory."

But the release pointed out that the court still refused permits for Tent City, the evening of working class culture, and kept the march out of the center of the city. The Coalition called this "a slap in the

face" and vowed to fight it. "People see through this attack on the demonstration that will speak to their needs and aspirations and the mass anger around this will not let it happen."

No sooner had the capitalists been beaten back somewhat on one front when they attacked on another. They again ran out their demand for bond money—this time \$25,000 for the Workers History Pavilion. And they began trotting out more politicians to attack the demonstration.

They have tried to muddy up the waters by lumping the forces of the Coalition with some others who are also demonstrating during the capitalists' Bicentennial, trying to make the whole thing confusing and hard to figure out why working people are demonstrating. They have made the startling revelation that revolutionaries and communists are involved in the demonstrations, when hundreds of thousands around the country who have read any Coalition literature know full well that the Revolutionary Communist Party is one of the sponsoring organizations and is proud to be associated with a demonstration that takes on the capitalists around such an important political event as the Bicentennial.

When all else fails they revert to their original policy of trying to smother it by silence, keeping the reporters away from Coalition press conferences and so on.

The struggle to have the demonstration, and the demonstration itself, have been a fight between the forces of the working class and masses of people in this country on the one side and on the other the handful of exploiters who hold power and squeeze fortunes out of the work of millions. We come up against them constantly, in our strikes, in all our fights on every front where we have to battle to be kept from being pushed into the dirt.

Now, during the Bicentennial, we are aiming our blow not just at one exploiter but their whole rotten class. We are taking an important step, a step that will help us to aim all our fights against this same class of parasites and their rule over us, a step building for the day when we will get them off our backs. ■

While this view makes perfect sense to the capitalists, it is losers' logic for the working class. In fact, there is a third alternative: for the workers in this country together with our class brothers and sisters in the USSR and elsewhere in the imperialist world to rise up in revolution, overthrow these oppressors and end the war in a victory for the working class.

This, in a nutshell, is the communist view of the war now being prepared by the superpowers. We stand for the elimination of war, but to eliminate it, its source, imperialism, must be wiped out by working class revolution.

The imperialists do not allow the working class the freedom to stand aside from their wars. They drag the workers off to fight for them, while they give the orders and reap the profits. In doing so they create an explosive contradiction, one for example, that blew up in their face in the GI revolts in Vietnam. When they place guns in the workers' hands and tell them to shoot down their fellow workers, there is no choice but to organize against them on this front. The weapons they order the workers to use, to prop up their rule on the broken bodies of millions, must be turned into weapons against them and their system which breeds destruction.

War and Revolution

Revolution is the only way to prevent world war. Should the U.S. and USSR drag the world into another war for their empires of profit our stand must be: they make us shed our blood, but let us not shed it for them. Let's shed it for ourselves, our class, and a future for mankind free from their rule and free from their wars.

The imperialist system breeds wars fought slave vs. slave to decide which slave master will reap the biggest pile of loot. The stand of the workers of all countries must be to convert this war into a war of the slaves against the slaveowners.

Imperialist war is a barbarous crime, a blood debt owed by the imperialists and their criminal system. Millions of workers and millions of others hate it and must and will struggle against it. It stands as an indictment of the system, a horrible waste that mankind will move far beyond once we rid ourselves of the rule of these exploiters.

As the Programme of the Revolutionary Communist Party says, "Even if they do launch such a war, with all the suffering it will bring to the people throughout the world, it will only hasten their own downfall and the end of imperialism...in launching a third world war, the imperialists, especially the rulers of the U.S. and the USSR would further expose their barbarous nature, deepen the determination of the people of the world to bury them once and for all and give rise to a revolutionary storm shaking the world as never before." It is with this goal in mind, with this hope for the future despite all hardships, that the RCP is joining with many others to take out the working class stand and slogan "We Won't Fight Another Rich Man's War!" ■

War...

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to join with them to defend the country they must be opposed, even when they point to the military might of the Soviet Union. All they can mean is defending U.S. society the way it is—with them on top. They mean defending their rule—a social system that results in the cancers of crises and seemingly inevitable wars. They want to "defend the country" because they want to preserve their rule as slavedrivers and overlords over the workers and others in this country. But why is it in our interest to defend their rule against another set of international exploiters, to pick between international gangsters for protection from a rival gang?

Still, when it comes right down to it, is there a choice? The media pushes the idea of "peace through strength." They pose the alternative: either we build up U.S. weapons systems or face the danger of Russian bombs landing on major U.S. cities in the future.

Is it a fact that sticking with the imperialists and their war preparations will mean less misery and destruction for the working class? Exactly the opposite is true. In Vietnam, for example, the U.S. imperialists talked about "light at the end of the tunnel." But they kept up their aggression and the war dragged on year after year, sometimes seeming like it would never end. It was only the struggle of the Vietnamese people combined with a powerful anti-war movement in the U.S. that finally ended it. Sticking with the imperialists in their war preparations and war efforts can only mean more prolonged destruction. The more arms they build up, the more they rally us to their side, the longer and more destructive their war will be.

Even if the U.S. wins another war, this will not protect our families and communities. A victory for the U.S. would mean the imperialists would continue to rule society. The U.S. imperialists advertised World War 1 as the "war to end all wars," but the imperialists who survived only dragged the world into still more wars. And just like their rule has led to crises and wars in the past, so too would it lead to more crises and a fourth world war, until finally they are overthrown and their criminal system is put in the museum of history.

When all is said and done the imperialists of both superpowers pose two alternatives to the masses of people should a war break out: either it ends in a victory for the U.S. or a victory for the Soviets. And of course each makes it seem like their defeat would be the worst of all possible worlds.

But why are these the only two alternatives? Isn't there something workers can do in their own class interests? Why does such a war have to end with the victory or defeat of the *present, capitalist* governments?

Police Gun Down Hundreds Rebellions Shake South Africa

The anger of black people in South Africa boiled over in a tremendous wave of protest in June. The South African uprising began when police tried to stop a demonstration of over 10,000 high school and grammar school students in Soweto protesting a government order that their courses be taught in Afrikaaner, the language of the most powerful section of South Africa's white rulers. Police fired on them with tear gas, pistols and machine guns, leaving many dead. The students fought back with rocks, sticks and whatever else they could get their hands on, killing two government officials.

This mass demonstration and the repression against it sparked other huge protests across the country, including workers in the black township of Soweto where the first outbreak occurred and other workers in Johannesburg and other cities. As the police and authorities tried to drown these spreading flames with blood, killing hundreds, still more protests broke out, including at least one uniting both whites and blacks and several by students at all-white universities.

The outbreak of demonstrations, the burning hatred of the people in South Africa at the gunning down of their brothers and sisters, the condemnation around the world—all of this spells even greater trouble for the South African apartheid system of racial oppression and strict segregation, oppression rooted in the exploitation of the black masses by the capitalists of South Africa and abroad.

U.S. Business

This is why Henry Kissinger met with South African Prime Minister Vorster for what he called a "business-like discussion," even as the South African government was in the midst of brutal repression of the uprising.

The main business the rulers of this country have in South Africa is \$1 billion in investments, spread out among 400 U.S. corporations. Almost every major American employer is involved, from Standard Oil to International Harvester, from Ford and Chrysler to the banks deeply bought into South Africa's diamond mines.

Because the apartheid system means that black people have hardly any rights at all and are kept down by open armed force, the black workers who are 90% of the workforce there are the real "gold mine" for the capitalists. In the mines, they have to work 60-72 hours a week for a take home pay of about \$30 a month. In the auto plants, they get an average of 53 cents an hour. No wonder the head of International Harvester's South African subsidiary once said, "I am sympathetic to what the South African government is trying to do. I don't want hundreds of Africans running around in front of my house." He wants them in

the IH plant slaving away to make the company's profits!

South Africa's 18 million blacks are restricted to nine reservations called "homelands," comprising only 13% of South Africa's territory. The other 87% is open only to the 4.1 million whites. Africans are given permission to leave these reservations for only one purpose: to work and produce profits for the South African ruling class and the foreign capitalists operating there. In order to leave one of these "homelands," according to the government's Pass Laws, a black African must have permission stamped in his pass. Without it they can be arrested on the spot.

Africans who are allowed to leave these "homelands" are forced to live in all-black urban concentration camps like Soweto, where over 1 million people are crowded into 102,000 4-room shanties, three-fourths of which have no electricity and less than half have cold running water. Blacks may not own these "homes" and can be expelled immediately if their work and attitude no longer suit the authorities.

History of Resistance

Oppression breeds resistance, and the black people have resisted all this at every point. A quarter of a million black South Africans gathered at Sharpsville



New language regulations imposed by the South African government were one abuse too many. Black students launched demonstrations in Soweto which grew into a nationwide storm of struggle.

in 1960 for a demonstration against the Pass Laws. Police opened fire on the demonstrators, killing 72 men, women and children.

Because of this the apartheid government was rocked with crisis, but U.S. banks rushed in with \$85 million in aid to shore it up. Much of this was spent on arms, which the U.S. government justified as being for South Africa's defense. But a former South African Minister of Defense explained what they were really trying to defend themselves from: "Do not think we are arming to fight a foreign army. We are arming to shoot down the black masses." This could not quench the fires of struggle, though, which are burning still hotter today.

Conditions are now even worse for black Africans in South Africa, and even more U.S. and European capital has flooded in. And even as revolution is raging through the southern end of the African continent, throwing off, one by one, the colonial régimes that had kept people in bondage, the U.S. capitalists are still desperately trying to save what they can in South Africa. In fact, just before he left to meet with the South African Prime Minister, Kissinger declared that the U.S. was willing to negotiate with black forces in neighboring Rhodesia and Southwest Africa (controlled by South Africa)—if only that would let the South African apartheid government last "for a longer period of time."

But while the imperialists who rule the U.S. have been able to prolong the life of the South African government for a while, they have created a powder keg which will explode in their faces. The fury of the masses of black Africans shown in Soweto last month is the fury of an oppressed people rising up to smash down their oppressor—a force that no amount of vicious repression can keep down for long. The days of the South African apartheid regime are numbered. ■

Rubber...

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that scab production at the struck plants must be stopped. Behind this lies a growing sense of the need for organization and the need to do what has to be done to win the strike.

One example of how this is developing was at the recent meeting of General Tire workers following an important court injunction ordering them back to work. Rank and file strikers in Akron organized a picket line outside the union hall calling for a strike while workers from General Tire inside the meeting demanded that the union leadership give the company a five day strike notice. They weren't able to beat back the union officials this time but it represented more coordination than previously and the men are still organized to go out again at General while the strikers are getting ready to shut down Mohawk.

Another development was at the June 19 mass picket at General Tire when the police came and ordered the men to let a truck through. The local union officials scurried to get the men to comply. In the past the men reluctantly went along with these leaders. But this time things were different. "Why should we let them through," they shouted and they ignored the officials' warning and police threats and kept the plant shut down completely.

The understanding of the workers and the poten-

tial development of rank and file organization has been spurred on by the strike. The strike itself has raised questions among the workers about the general direction in which things are heading in society. Discussions on the strike lines have ranged from tactics and the significance of the international boycott of Firestone products, to who controls the courts.

At the June 18 rally one of the most popular chants, coined by rank and filers, was "In the courts the name that's known is Firestone," a takeoff on the company's ad jingle. Several workers came with homemade signs to that rally reading "200 Years—For What?" A large support contingent organized by the Rich Off Our Backs—July 4th Coalition from the Cleveland/Akron area, carrying the banner "We've Carried the Rich for 200 Years—Let's Get Them Off Our Backs!" was warmly welcomed into the lines of the march. At the rally members of the Coalition sang a solidarity song and gave a speech on the demonstration in Philadelphia. They received tremendous applause and several workers said they wanted to come.

Broad Support for Strike

Increasingly, ties are being forged between the rubber strikers and other workers. Solidarity messages have been sent from other rubber workers' locals. Contingents of unemployed workers have shown up in support of the rubber workers at the Akron rally. Special leaflets explaining the importance of the strike and its links with auto have been distributed in Detroit and in the Cleveland/Akron area by Auto Workers United to Fight in '76, rank and filers organizing for the UAW contract which expires in September.

Funds are needed to help maintain this strike. Support resolutions can be passed in locals and wherever

possible workers can join the picket lines. Support the boycott of Firestone tires. Most of all the word must go out that the rubber workers are battling for all of us. ■

Dead End...

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things in this country and they have to deal with that. Especially since lately fewer and fewer people believe anything our rulers tell us, it's very convenient for them to have some so-called "radicals" go around telling people looking for an answer that they should somehow "pressure the government to make the system work," instead of rebelling against it.

Our point of view is that only by our own struggle will we win what we need. That's why we raise our slogans and demands around the Bicentennial not as cure-all gimmicks, but as part of building a fight aimed squarely at the capitalist class. Built in this way, the Bicentennial demonstration can help strengthen the growing working class movement, make it more united and conscious of its direction and goals. We aim to come out of this stronger—with more organization and more understanding to carry on the fight against the rich exploiters.

These advances would be impossible if we didn't put out and organize around a line that reflects how things really are—or if for the sake of a phony "unity" around a wrong line we threw away our chance to unite the broad millions of the working class and its allies to move things ahead long after the Bicentennial is gone. ■