

# WORKERS' DAILY

PRODUCED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE  
CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF U.S. MARXIST-LENINISTS

Vol. 2, No. 21 10¢  
Wednesday, February 13, 1974

## National Health Legislation For Whom?

Boston, February 13 (Workers' Daily) - The monopoly capitalist class and its politicians are making a big hoopla this year about "national health insurance". Richard Nixon has proposed his "Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan" (CHIP) and declared that "national health insurance is an idea whose time has come." Edward Kennedy is pushing his Health Security Act (HSA) and blithering that "health care must not be governed by private profit, it is a right of all Americans." The Boston Globe said that this year Congress, through debates on national health legislation, will shape "the most sweeping social legislation in America since Social Security was enacted in 1935." Although the bourgeois politicians are pushing different health plans according to the interests of their particular monopoly capitalist master, they are all agreed on certain fundamental points--promote national health legislation as a boon and benefit to the working class in order to cover over how the monopoly capitalists are extorting greater and greater superprofits in the medical and health industry through further exploitation of the working class. This is the essence of all health care legislation being promoted by the monopoly capitalists and their politicians--further impoverish the working class, further reap superprofits for the monopoly capitalists--all carried out neatly under the slogans of benefiting the working class and "giving all Americans equal health services".

Richard Nixon, loyal flunkey of the monopoly capitalists, has proposed the Comprehensive Health Insurance Program. Nixon glibly promises that this program will give "health services unparalleled in the world to every American, at no extra cost", but the facts prove him a clumsy liar. Nixon's CHIP program is designed to tremendously increase the superprofits of the largest health insurance corporations through extortion of more and more money out of the working class. Last year the health insurance industry made profits of 49 cents for every dollar in insurance premiums paid for by the working class (the health insurance companies' profits are much higher when income from investments are counted). Workers are forced to hold health insurance policies and pay out high premiums in order to offset the tremendously high costs of medical and health care. But Richard Nixon and his monopoly capitalist masters are not interested in improving medical and health care for the working class, but are only interested in sucking greater and greater amounts in premiums and direct federal tax monies out of the working class and into the pockets of the health insurance monopolists. The CHIP program will establish a health insurance program for every worker. An average worker, head of a family of 4, who participates in the CHIP program (and most will be forced to by employers who will take out CHIP as a "benefit to workers" and claim it as a "wage increase") will have to pay premiums of \$150 per year, while a single worker would pay premiums of \$60 per year. This represents a tremendous increase in the cost of health care insurance charged workers and will also greatly increase the number of workers who hold health insurance policies. In addition, Nixon's program will supply health insurance to unemployed workers by paying out premiums to the health insurance monopolists with federal tax money and will likewise increase the coverage for elderly persons now receiving medicare and medicaid. Through these direct, increased government handouts, the health insurance industry will be given close to \$7 billion extra per year. This, plus the increased income through premiums paid by the workers themselves, will boost the profits of the insurance companies tremendously. The capitalist newspapers have openly admitted that the new CHIP program will do little or nothing in terms of providing health care for the working class; the Globe pointed out that at most only 2 per cent of the population are likely to receive any money at all in benefits under the proposed CHIP program, while the costs for health insurance per

continued on page 2

## GREATER BOSTON BRANCH OF COUSML OPENS HEADQUARTERS

Boston, February 13 (Workers' Daily) - The Greater Boston Branch of the Central Organization of U. S. Marxist-Leninists opened its headquarters at 91 River Street, Cambridge, on Saturday, February 9, and organized a public meeting and rally Saturday evening to hail this event.

The opening of the local headquarters of the Central Organization of U. S. Marxist-Leninists won warm approval from the workers and revolutionary masses in the Cambridge area. All day Saturday, workers, political activists and other members of the local community came to the headquarters to greet the comrades of the COUSML and engage in vigorous political discussion on how to get organized for proletarian revolution. The basic sentiment expressed by everyone visiting the newly opened headquarters is that a Marxist-Leninist Center is just what the working people of Boston need to advance their struggles against the monopoly capitalist class and the capitalist system and to take these struggles into the political arena.

Saturday evening nearly 50 comrades and friends participated in the meeting and rally organized to hail the opening of the Greater Boston Branch Headquarters of the COUSML. The meeting hall was brightly decorated for the occasion with red flags, red and gold banners and huge colored portraits of the great leaders of the international working class, Comrades Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Chairman Mao. The main program consisted of two militant speeches by comrades from the Greater Boston Branch of the COUSML. The first speaker thoroughly exposed how the so-called "energy shortages" and developing economic crisis in the U. S. is causing wide-scale unemployment, galloping inflation, deteriorating living conditions and tremendously increased exploitation at the place of work for the American working class. She explained how the current crisis is caused solely by the monopoly capitalist class and the capitalist system in its drive for maximum profits in the shortest period of time through the exploitation, impoverishment and ruin of the working class. The only solution to the intensifying economic

continued on page 3

HEALTH LEGISLATION - continued from page 1

worker will rise. Thus while large numbers of workers would be "covered" in terms of having to pay premiums, extremely few would be actually covered when it comes to receiving health care. Nixon's CHIP plan carries out this trickery by means of a devious set of deductible clauses. Under the CHIP plan, in addition to paying high premiums, the workers' insurance policy will include a \$150 deductible clause per person in each family. This means that the worker must pay out the first \$150 of medical and health expenses, per member of the family, before the insurance policy covers any expenses at all. In addition there is another \$50 deductible clause for drugs. All in all, the head of an average family would have to pay \$150 in premiums plus the first \$600 in medical and health bills under the deductible clauses before the CHIP program would pay out a single cent. Even for health and medical bills above this amount the worker is still forced to pay 25% of the costs.

While stating that Richard Nixon's CHIP program for extorting billions out of the working class for the benefit of the monopoly capitalists is a "good first step", Edward Kennedy has proposed the Health Security Act as a "fully comprehensive, national health care program". Kennedy even makes verbal attacks on the health insurance companies as "profit-hungry", and his plan would do away with these companies. Edward Kennedy is another two-bit monopoly capitalist politician and his Health Security Act is a perfect example of social-fascist legislation (socialist in words, fascist in deeds). Under Kennedy's bill the entire health industry would come under the control of the federal government. In the name of "benefiting" the workers, the state machine of the monopoly capitalist class would then extort upwards of \$120 billion per year from the working class through new taxes and funnel it directly into the hands of the huge hospitals, medical and health supply corporations, drug companies and other monopolists in the health industry. Kennedy advertises his program as a "revolution in health care" designed to "bring the financing of health care in line with the delivery of health care". What Kennedy forgets to mention is that in the U. S., the "delivery of health care" is in no way designed to meet the medical and health needs of the working people but is owned and controlled solely by the monopoly capitalists for the sole purpose of achieving maximum profits. Bringing the financing of health care "in line" with this "delivery system" simply means extorting billions in tax monies out of the working class and "delivering" it directly into the hands of the monopoly capitalists who control the health industry. In addition, Kennedy's Health Security Act would establish a huge federal bureaucracy to directly supervise the health industry and insure it maximum profits. Kennedy calls his plan essential for "rationalizing and organizing" the health industry--that is, organizing the profits of the monopoly capitalists through maximum exploitation of the working class. The only difference between the Nixon health plan and the Kennedy plan is that Nixon would use the federal government to turn money extorted from the working class through taxes and mandatory premiums taken from the workers' wages over to private health insurance companies, while Kennedy's plan would turn the government itself into a huge health insurance corporation, extort even greater amounts of money directly out of the working class and pass this money directly into the coffers of the monopoly capitalists in the health industry. Both plans are advertised as "serving the people" and providing "equal health care to all Americans", but both programs have as their sole aim the further reaping of superprofits by the monopoly capi-

talists through further exploitation of the working class.

In the advanced capitalist economies the monopoly capitalists are in constant search for more and more markets where they can invest their tremendous hoards of capital and further maximize their profits through the superexploitation of the working class. Ever since the New Deal of the 1930's, the monopoly capitalists in the U. S. have more and more turned to their state machine to develop "social-welfare" programs as just such an outlet for achieving maximum profits in the shortest period of time. The New Deal instituted social security and welfare programs to extort billions in tax money out of the working class and turn it over directly to the monopoly capitalist financiers. At that time the Blue Cross Insurance program was started in the medical and health field. This program has provided the monopoly capitalists in the health and medical industry with windfall profits through constantly increased exploitation of the working class. The Blue Cross corporation itself is operated as a "nonprofit" company, but it works solely for the benefit of the monopoly capitalists. The monopoly capitalists are constantly raising prices on medical and health care to unprecedented heights (during the last five years medical and health costs have risen 6 times as fast as the average rise in goods and services purchased by the working class). The Blue Cross pays out these tremendously inflated prices and simply passes them on to the working class in the form of higher premiums. This way the monopoly capitalists are able to conceal the tremendous rise in medical costs and their windfall profits, because instead of individuals paying out the full price, it is spread out over wide sections of the working class through increased Blue Cross premiums. The Blue Cross insurance corporation is passed off as nonprofit, while the monopoly capitalists in the health and medical field made over \$8 billion last year through this program. In the 1960's, under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, the state tremendously stepped up its role in subsidizing the health industry with the tax money of the working class through the institution of Medicare, Medicaid and other federal health programs. This increased governmental financing of the health industry has turned it into one of the fastest growing and most lucrative sectors of the economy, taking up over 7% of the Gross National Product. Today the monopoly capitalists are proposing various legislative measures such as CHIP and HSA in order to further centralize and concentrate the health industry and further employ the state machine for extorting billions more in taxes out of the working class and funneling them into the pockets of the monopoly capitalists. These social-welfare programs, such as the proposed national health legislation of Kennedy and Nixon, are promoted as reforms of the capitalist system which serve the well-being of the masses, but facts prove that these programs will have nothing to do with improving the health care and well-being of the working masses and everything to do with increasing the profits of the monopoly capitalists. National health legislation is even billed by the monopoly capitalists as a step "towards socialism" in order to hoodwink the working class. Under the capitalist system it is the monopoly capitalist class which owns and controls the health industry. The monopoly capitalist class wields its state machine for the purpose of subsidizing this industry through increased exploitation of the working class. Under the capitalist system there can be no "national health plan" which does anything but further increase the profits of the monopoly capitalists and further increase the exploitation of the working class.

The only way in which the working class can improve the quality of health care and develop programs to insure its well-being is to overthrow the monopoly capitalist class and the capitalist system and establish socialism

under which the working class holds political power and develops the economic, social, political and all aspects of life in the U. S. for the benefit of the working and oppressed masses. End item.

#### BOSTON BRANCH - continued from page 1

crisis and the exploitation and misery suffered by the working class under the capitalist system is for the working class to organize proletarian revolution. Today, the primary task is building the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party as the general headquarters of the working class in its struggle against capital. The speaker pointed out that the opening of the Branch headquarters, a Center for bringing the Marxist-Leninist political line to the working class and representing the working class in the political affairs of the country, is a small-scale advance on the road towards building the Party.

The second speaker militantly denounced U. S. imperialism for its intensive war preparations and constant aggression against the Palestinian and Arab peoples, the peoples of Cambodia, Viet Nam and Laos, and the revolutionary peoples throughout the world. He showed that while the two superpowers, U. S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, hypocritically talk about "permanent peace" and "detente", it is their contention and collusion that is the cause of all the in-tranquility and turmoil in the world today. He said that the American working class must firmly carry out its internationalist duty of supporting the national liberation struggles in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the socialist countries and all peoples struggling against imperialism and social-imperialism by organizing proletarian revolution in the U. S. which overthrows U. S. imperialism once and for all.

Following these two main speeches, a representative of Eritreans for Liberation North America gave a message of solidarity to the meeting and spoke of the heroic national liberation struggle of the people of Eritrea against U. S. imperialism and the Ethiopian feudal regime. The Eritrean comrade pointed out that the developing solidarity between the COUSML and Eritreans for Liberation reflected the revolutionary sentiment of the peoples of the two countries and was bound to develop. The entire meeting rose to greet the Eritrean comrades present with militant slogans: "Victory to the National Liberation Struggle of the Eritrean People!" and "Death to U. S. Imperialism!"

The formal part of the meeting closed with vigorous and sustained shouting of revolutionary slogans honoring the occasion and the singing of the Internationale and The East Is Red. End item.

#### GENEVA TALKS - continued from page 4

East for itself. The speaker denounced the many crimes of the zionist puppets of imperialism in suppressing the Palestinian people and carrying out aggression and expansion against the surrounding Arab states.

Today, the speaker pointed out, the two superpowers have come up with a "political solution" aimed at stopping the struggle of the Palestinian, Egyptian, Syrian and other Arab peoples against Israeli zionism and for national liberation and national sovereignty. At the moment when the troops of the Arab countries were dealing heavy blows to the zionists in the October war, the superpowers jammed a cease-fire resolution through the U. N. Security Council halting the advance of the Arab people. On December 18, the Geneva Peace Conference was convened under the leadership of the superpowers to further suppress the Arab people by legitimizing the state of Israel at the expense of the national rights of the Palestinian people and legalizing its expansion into neighboring Arab countries under the hoax of providing it with "secure boundaries".

The speaker pointed out that only when the Palestinian national liberation struggle is carried through to victory and a democratic, secular state of Palestine is created will there be genuine peace in the Middle East. The speaker concluded by declaring: "All violent suppression and deceptive peace plans concocted by the zionists and the superpowers are bound to fail!"

In the discussion which followed the talk, participants sharply denounced the role of the Soviet revisionist social-imperialists in co-chairing the Geneva Conference with the U. S. imperialists and viciously striving to liquidate the Palestinian Revolution and the just struggles of the Arab peoples and governments against Israeli zionist aggression. It was pointed out that this is further proof that the Soviet Union is an imperialist power just like the United States. Lively discussion on this question lasted for a long time. End item.

### **Sharp Rise in Private Debt**

Peking, February 1 (Peking Review) - The rise in consumer credit and huge increase in individual debt in the United States have more clearly shown the cruel exploitation of the people by monopoly capitalism and the inherent weakness of the U. S. economy.

Looking for maximum profits through selling goods at high prices and practicing usury, the monopolists have all sorts of consumer credit schemes covering every aspect of the ordinary American's daily life.

More than 10,000 banks and even more department and chain stores offer several hundred million credit-cards or charge-accounts of various kinds. Holders of these cards have to pay in instalments with interest and in a specified period of time. And the longer the payment is overdue, the higher the interest rate rises. Dressed up as facilitating purchases, instalment loans to consumers boil down to usury. A commodity bought on credit, including interest, costs much more than a cash purchase. Burdened by heavy taxation and soaring prices and, consequently, lowered purchasing power, millions of Americans are forced to buy on the instalment plan. Private debt--consumer credit, mortgages on houses and other forms of debt--totalled 714,700 million dollars at the end of 1972.

In normal circumstances, the working people, by tightening their belts, can manage to meet their payments. If, however, they are unemployed, sick or injured in labor accidents, more often than not it can be disastrous. The number of personal bankruptcies rose drastically from 25,000 in 1954 to 100,000 in 1960 and then to 200,000 in 1971. The number of delinquent instalments, with payments overdue 30 days or more, in 1973 was greater than at any time since the 1950 recession. The situation in the United States shows that the more rapidly credit swells, the faster the increase in the number of bankruptcies will be. Using extravagant amounts of credit as a stimulus for the economy is like drinking poison to quench a thirst. The "boom" supported by such practices is working up to an even more serious crisis. End item.

#### **WORKERS' DAILY NEWS RELEASE**

Monthly subscription rate

(five issues a week) :

North America: \$6.00

Outside North America: \$10.00

Bulk orders are available on request.

Subscriptions should be sent and all checks made payable to:

N. F. C. PUBLICATIONS

PO Box 930

Boston MA 02103

## R. S. V. N. Issues Statement on First Anniversary of Paris Agreement

Peking, January 26 (Hsinhua) - The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued a statement on January 24 on the occasion of the first anniversary of the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, according to G. P. A.

The statement said: "Over the last year, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam as well as the government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam scrupulously respected and thoroughly implemented all the provisions of the Agreement. However, since the beginning, the United States and the Saigon administration have systematically violated and undermined it."

The statement said: "The United States was forced to put an end to its military activities in both zones of Viet Nam and withdraw all its expeditionary troops from south Viet Nam. Nevertheless, it still refuses to give up its dark scheme to realize neo-colonialism, trying to turn south Viet Nam into a separate state, dependent on the United States and to perpetuate the partition of Viet Nam."

The statement went on: "The Nguyen Van Thieu clique, a handful of most reactionary and war-like persons in south Viet Nam, instrument of U. S. neo-colonialism, has opposed peace, independence, democracy and national concord, more and more feverishly. It has openly sabotaged all the provisions concerning the cease-fire, stepped up the war, refused to return the detained civilian personnel, strangled every democratic liberty and repressed every opposition tendency. Over the last year it mobilized all its armed forces, police and other forces of its coercive apparatus in both urban and rural areas in south Viet Nam comprising over one million men to carry out the extremely barbarous plan of land-grabbing and 'pacification'. It plundered rice and other property of the people, causing a serious economic crisis in the areas under its control, driving the people into indescribable misery. It created deadlock to the work of the two-party Joint Military Commission and the Consultative Conference between the two south Vietnamese parties, and sought every means to hinder the activities of the machine for the control and supervision of the implementation of the Agreement. Its acts are aimed at wiping out the revolutionary achievements of

### Geneva Peace Conference Has Nothing to do with Peace in the Middle East

Boston, February 13 (Workers' Daily) - On January 23, the University of Washington Organization of Arab Students, the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Forum (Seattle) and the Anti-Fascist Students' Association of the University of Washington held the first in a series of meetings on the Middle East situation. The meeting dealt with the Geneva Peace Conference. The main point made was that this conference has nothing to do with genuine peace in the Middle East.

A member of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Forum (Seattle) presented a talk. The speaker pointed out that the Zionist state of Israel was created by force by the western imperialist powers, who drove the Palestinians out of their native land by means of terror in order to create a beachhead for imperialism against the Arab people. Today, the speaker said, the Israeli Zionists are supported by the two superpowers, the U. S. imperialists sending weapons and the Soviet revisionist social-imperialists sending manpower. The superpowers collude together to suppress the Arab people while each contends with the other to grab the Middle

continued on page 3

the south Vietnamese people, weakening and eventually abolishing the forces of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, reducing the size of and completely abolishing the liberated area. These acts of war and the obstinate attitude of the United States and the Saigon administration have created a very serious situation in south Viet Nam, threatening the total implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam."

It said: "Naturally, without the planning, command and massive military aid of the United States, the Nguyen Van Thieu administration can in no way carry out such cynical acts of violation and sabotage of the Agreement. The government of the United States cannot evade its responsibility."

The statement said: "The Paris Agreement conforms to the fundamental interests of the south Vietnamese people and the people throughout Viet Nam, at the same time it conforms to the aspiration for peace of peoples all over the world. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the only genuine representative of the south Vietnamese people, has always exerted its utmost to ensure the strict implementation of the Paris Agreement, to restore genuine peace, create favorable conditions for an early formation of the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord comprising three equal segments, proceed to really free and democratic general elections, and ensure the south Vietnamese people's democratic liberties as stipulated by the Paris Agreement."

The statement said: "The south Vietnamese people are resolved to deal due punishing blows at the military adventures of the Nguyen Van Thieu clique in order to protect the lives and property of the people and defend the liberated zone and the Paris Agreement."

It went on: "The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam stresses that if the United States refuses to draw lessons from the failure of its policy of aggression, continues to violate the Paris Agreement, encourage and support the Nguyen Van Thieu administration to sabotage peace and intensify its war acts, the situation in south Viet Nam, which has already been critical, will become more serious. The United States and the Saigon administration must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from their military adventures."

"The only correct way is that the United States and the Saigon administration must scrupulously respect and strictly implement the Paris Agreement, the act of the International Conference on Viet Nam and the June 13, 1973 Joint Communiqué."

The statement said: "Carrying forward the tradition of undaunted and valiant struggle, the south Viet Nam armed forces and people are determined to strengthen their unity, heighten vigilance and get ready to deal with any situation. Bringing into full play the invincible strength of the akin sentiments between north and south, standing shoulder to shoulder with the fraternal peoples of Cambodia and Laos, and enjoying the sympathy and support of our friends all over the world, we will frustrate all criminal schemes and acts of the U. S. and the Saigon administration, preserve the Agreement, safeguard the revolutionary fruits and proceed to build a peaceful, independent, democratic, neutral and prosperous south Viet Nam and advance to the peaceful reunification of the fatherland.

End item.