

# workers world



Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Would war between the U.S. and USSR be a war between imperialists? Sam Marcy reviews the class character of the Soviet Union and why the theory of the "superpowers" is dangerously misleading to the world proletariat. See p. 9.

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# Fight layoffs—workers have a right to a job!



## N. Y. demonstration planned for Ford, Rockefeller visit

NEW YORK, Jan. 27—Ford and Rockefeller will be honored here by the New York Stock Exchange on February 13—and picketed by groups demanding jobs instead of war.

The President and Vice President, in an unusual joint public appearance, will be at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel patting each other and the business community on the back. The occasion will be an award by the Stock Exchange to Nelson (Exxon) Rockefeller. Ford will be the keynote speaker and the ill-timed celebration is to revel in record profits (at a time of record unemployment!).

The demonstration outside in being called by Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) and

Workers World Party. The focus of the action will be for "Jobs at home—Not war abroad!" and will call for a freeze on prices and profits, a cut in the Pentagon budget, low-income housing, better schools, free medical care, free day care centers, and low-cost public transportation.

Advance literature publicizing the action draws attention to the war threats currently made by the Ford administration in the Mideast and Vietnam. YAWF was a prime mover in the anti-war movement of the 1960s, from 1962 when it called the first protest against the Vietnam War in this country.

The demonstration will start at 7:30 p.m. at 49th Street and Park Avenue.

## Demand Ford sign executive order enforcing Full Employment Act!

Unemployment is the number one topic on every worker's mind today—replacing inflation and government corruption in its urgency.

January's unemployment figures will undoubtedly show the highest level of joblessness since the 1930s. Even the most optimistic government predictions are for a worsening of the crisis at least until mid-summer—and any relief then is only a "hope" of those who are running the country.

This deep crisis of the economy runs true to the pattern of capitalist contraction in the past. The only difference is that it has been longer coming because of artificial Keynesian measures of "priming the pump" through government expenditures, mostly on war, and because for a period after World War II U.S. capital was expanding tremendously into war-torn Europe and into the former colonies of Japan and the European powers.

What can the workers here do about it? What demands can be raised to counter the reactionary proposals of George Meany & Co., who in effect are calling for another Mideast war? What demands can the workers make on the government that would help unite all workers, Black and white, women and men, foreign and American-born, against the layoffs?

There is already a federal law on the books—the Full Employment Act of 1946—which requires that the government pursue a policy of full employment. The Ford administration is breaking that law every day when it takes measures that assume

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## 2,000 at Houston 12 Solidarity Day



—see centerfold

## Steelworkers pledge aid

## Support grows for Youngstown nurses' strike

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Special to Workers World  
YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Jan. 24—For a second time, nurses in the Youngstown area are leading a struggle against the hide-bound mentality of the Hospital Association and the doctors who

serve it. Over 450 registered nurses, on strike over 4 weeks, are still holding solid. They are getting increasing support from other organizations, primarily from the workers' movement.

In Youngstown, Local 1330 of the

United Steelworkers of America, representing about 3,500 steelworkers, unanimously pledged moral and financial support. Other locals are expected to follow this lead. The chapter of the Ohio Nurses Association (ONA) at the

Kaiser Community Health Foundation of Cleveland is giving support and is helping to raise funds for the strikers. Other ONA units are expected to take similar action.



## 400 attend Cleveland rally

## Senior citizens protest rate hikes

CLEVELAND, Jan. 25—Nearly 400 senior citizens, many of them retirees from industrial jobs, demonstrated their determination to fight against the ravages of inflation and the lowering standard of living at a rally January 17 in the rotunda of City Hall. This rally, sponsored and organized by the Senior Citizens Coalition of 40 community groups, had the support of labor and religious leaders in the Cleveland area.

The tone of the meeting was one of determined opposition to proposed increases in phone, gas, and electric rates. In addition the elderly are fighting for free bus

transportation. Speaker after speaker underlined the fact that senior citizens in particular cannot live with increasing prices and that the unemployment crisis is also affecting the aged.

Mel Witt, President of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, pledged the support of the labor movement in the fight to relieve the plight of the aged and the underprivileged. Spokesmen for religious groups in the community also showed their resolve to do all they can to prevent the alienation of the senior citizens and to support the aged in their struggle for free bus rides and lower utility rates.

Several senior citizens described their plight as a result of the economic crisis and voiced their dissatisfaction with the treatment accorded them in this society. One of the retirees expressed the militant feeling of those present when he said, "The fight to live is not over for us. We've worked and slaved and helped to produce an abundance of goods. We fought to live all our lives and we don't intend to lie down and die now. We are going to continue to organize and fight until we get our due."

This rally was only a beginning for more actions by the aged and their allies for a decent society for all.

## CODE OF ETHICS

Why the strike? The nurses at the Youngstown Hospital Association are trying to get their contract renewed; they have asked for wage increases to keep up with the rising cost of living. This was refused by the administration. But the real fight is over the demand that a code of ethics be included in the contract. This too was flatly rejected.

With a code of ethics the nurses could refuse to do work on patients that they are not trained to do. In other words, nurses want the right to refuse to carry out orders that may be harmful to the patients.

In the same way, they feel they should be allowed to do what they are trained to do without interference from the administration. To sum it up, nurses are demanding that they be treated as human beings and not as machines; they are revolting against the medieval and male chauvinist traditions clung to by many administrators and doctors.

In an effort to break the strike, one of the doctors went on TV for the administration and denounced the nurses. This only enraged the nurses more and strengthened their determination to hold out. To add insult to injury, the medical staff of the hospital ran a full-page ad in the Youngstown Vindicator "unalterably" opposing the code of ethics. Did this terrorize the nurses? The whip of this attack actually tightened their ranks. The nurses are stronger than ever—and the hospital cannot operate without them.

The nurses are trying to win the support of the nonprofessional workers in the AFL-CIO. They have been laid off because of the strike and are not getting unemployment compensation. While they will not be immediately affected by any gains the nurses may win, at a later time they will have to fight the Hospital Association for their contract and will need the nurses' support then.

The nurses of Youngstown led a strike in 1966, the first by nurses in Ohio. That strike had great impact around the state. Now the news media from Akron, Cleveland, and other cities are following the current Youngstown struggle closely. The outcome of this fight will have lasting repercussions around the state and in surrounding areas.

## WORKERS WORLD

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## DECLINE AND FALL

## NO LITTLE PEOPLE—JUST LITTLE CUSTOMERS

New York Times Magazine, Jan. 5:  
"Advertisers spend as much as \$22,000 for one commercial minute in the peak season on a Saturday morning program.  
"Children's programming," says Dr. Alan Pearce, an F.C.C. economist, "is the most profitable area of television programming."  
"I've been doing some research of my own (says the writer of the Times article, Jean Barthel). I have met an 8-year-old in the Midwest who has 14 Barbie dolls. I have talked with twin sisters from a farm near Athens, Ga., who assured me they watch TV every day after school from 3 to 5:30, while they're shelling peas or bustin' beans.

"If a child watches just three hours of Saturday morning television, two hours of Sunday children's television, and one hour each weekday of 'Captain Kangaroo,' he will see over 5,000 messages per year trying to sell him something to eat. . . ." (some of the popular sugar-coated cereals are estimated to contain as much as 50 percent sugar, though the cereal companies, not surprisingly, won't say).

Advertising Age says: "If you truly want big sales, you will use the child as your assistant salesman. He sells, he nags, until he breaks down the sales resistance of his mother or father."

Four years after a group of Boston mothers demanded a hearing before the Federal Trade Commission, hoping to cut down the number of TV commercials designed to seduce children into demanding

junk from their parents, the commission members issued some surprising statements, such as: "Through advertising, children can learn about the workings of the free enterprise system. . . . Among the influences upon the tastes of consumers—be they adults or children—is advertising. Irrespective of its target, its purpose is to motivate behavior that would not otherwise, but for advertising, have occurred. . . . It is a legitimate aim to stimulate demand for a product and, as a practical matter, this requires that the consumer of the product be reached. In the case of toys and breakfast cereals, that consumer is the child."

## MALNUTRITION KILLS TWO IN NURSING HOME

Jersey Journal, Dec. 30:

Louisville, Ky.—"Jefferson County police late yesterday arrested a husband and wife who operated a suburban nursing home after two elderly inmates were found dead of apparent malnutrition.

"Investigating officers termed the home 'filthy dirty with newspapers and beer cans thrown everywhere.'"

## IS CYANIDE GOOD FOR YOU?

Chicago Tribune, Jan. 9:

"Three South Side steel mills were charged Wednesday with dumping 300 pounds of deadly cyanide into the Chicago sewer system every day for the last 18 months.

"In some cases, the cyanide detected in Chicago sewers surpassed state limits 1,000 times.

"The Illinois Pollution Control Board was asked to fine the steel mills up to \$10,000 for the clean-water violation and \$1,000 for each day they continue."

It was the Environmental Protection Agency that asked for the fine, but its spokesman hastened to add that cyanide does not pose a hazard to public health because it becomes diluted in the sewage treatment process.

# Labor misleaders parrot anti-Arab hysteria; call for the setting of import quotas

By T. MITCHELL  
WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 23—In the guise of an economic program to deal with the current recession, the general board of the AFL-CIO under the direction of George Meany today issued a despicable attack on the Arab oil states.

With millions of Americans voicing rising anger as mass layoffs and continuing inflation force their living standard down, these charlatans see fit to divert the blame onto the Arab people, calling for a boycott of Arab oil rather than pay "tribute."

Meany's program also advocates protecting high prices from foreign competition by setting quotas on imported industrial products.

This jingoistic appeal contains not one word of blame for the crisis directed at the giant U.S. corporations that dominate not only domestic but the entire world capitalist economy. In fact, the AFL-CIO proposal included a \$5

billion tax cut handout to business.

## MOUTHPIECE FOR BUSINESS INTERESTS

To sweeten this proposal by a grain, the AFL-CIO bureaucrats say, working people should get a modest tax break up to a maximum of \$375 for the year, as well as public works jobs and improved unemployment compensation. These measures are comparable to the proposals of many representatives of business who are concerned with softening the blow without going to the source of the problem.

But this inner circle of top labor officials has gone further than to simply serve as a mouthpiece for monopoly and pass over the responsibility of the profit system itself for the recession. In his treacherous misleadership, George Meany is not merely an echo but a leading voice in the hysterical propaganda making the

Arabs the scapegoat.

Even the most reactionary politicians are not openly proposing a boycott of Arab oil with all the hardships that would force on the masses of Americans. It takes a committed servant of the most reactionary circles like Meany to promote a belligerent attempt to force oil prices to the U.S. companies down to their former depressed, super-exploited levels.

Lane Kirkland, the AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer, correctly declared that Ford's program "would mean more inflation, more recession, and more unemployment." But the AFL-CIO program is much the same except that it more emphatically shifts the blame for the depressed economy overseas.

## ARE FOREIGNERS THE ENEMY?

George Meany is a product of the

Cold War. He has made a career of blessing U.S. military adventures overseas against any threat to the world order of capitalism.

But here's the rub for American workers. Wherever the U.S. war machine has intervened overseas to subdue native rebellion, U.S. business has followed, expanding production at slave labor wages. Meany himself, by cheering on military aggression has been a champion of the right of U.S. business to send jobs overseas.

And what would a boycott of Arab oil accomplish to the benefit of American workers? It would only help strengthen the U.S. oil monopolies, which already force U.S. workers to pay blackmail prices.

## RETIRE GEORGE MEANY!

The general board of the AFL-CIO was never elected by any

direct vote of rank-and-file trade unionists. Only the establishment news media claim that Meany truly represents labor.

George Meany has boasted that he never walked a picket line. As far as this labor statesman who collects \$140,000 a year plus expenses is concerned, the system works fine.

In the past, unfortunately, few trade unionists bothered about Meany because he stayed out of any direct involvement in contract negotiations. Now with the entire working class being strangled by the irrational needs of the profit system, it is becoming absolutely urgent that there be fighting leadership at all levels of the unions.

George Meany and his gang are going to feel the wrath of the working people for their long standing disservice to the workers' interests.

# Striking clerks score 'liberal' New School

By PETE PERKINS  
NEW YORK, Jan. 25— "Gentlemen, I have to apologize to you for the amusement outside you had to endure on your way in."

So began the opening speech presented by President John Everett of the New School of Social Research today as he opened the show for the ninth annual New School Conference entitled "Wall Street and the Economy, 1975."

The "amusement outside" to which Everett alluded was a picket line of striking clerical, secretarial, and library workers of Teamsters Local 1518. But as every master of ceremonies knows, "the show must go on" even if the pay checks and livelihoods of working people don't. And so Dr. Everett prepared to go on with his apologies to the 11 "distinguished speakers" at the dais and the 450 assembled captains of finance in the audience.

As he was about to elaborate on how recalcitrant the 163 striking workers had become, his place at the podium was taken over by Susan Steinman, spokesperson for the Center for United Labor Action (CULA), who proceeded to put him on notice that working people didn't appreciate his jokes and slanders about them and that he would regret his policy of slandering them rather than negotiating with them. Ms. Steinman and six other CULA members were then rudely expelled by a "security force" of city police and campus rent-a-cops.

## SHARP CLASS DIVISIONS

The class divisions within capitalist society have seldom been more sharply in evidence than between the insiders and the outsiders at the New School today. Inside sat 450 corporate bigshots sipping free vintage wines provided for them gratis by Monsieur Henri Wines Ltd.; outside in the cold soaking rain about 75 striking workers and supporters walked a picket line seeking salary and benefit increases, including cost of living allowances.

Negotiations between the school

and striking workers have broken off with the school's self-proclaimed "fair offer in light of the current economic situation" amounting to less than half the increases the workers are seeking. Everett's "fair offer" is for a 10 percent salary increase in exchange for a 10 percent reduction in the workforce. As an added incentive for the workers to cooperate with him on his "belt-tightening" program, Everett has already begun to use scab labor against them in a strike-breaking measure.

## PHONY LIBERALS

For those unfamiliar with the New School for Social Research, it may come as a shock to know that the school is considered among the most liberal institutions in the country. Everett can easily charm his Wall Street cronies with that line but he may not seem like such a gilded liberal to most of the \$85-per-week clerical workers he now plans to lay off.

Not all of the 163 strikers work for just \$85 per week but the main issue of the strike is to get a large raise and job security for those on the bottom of the pay scale. So after Everett is through wining and dining his friends from Chase Manhattan, First National City Bank, Bankers Trust, Merrill Lynch, First Boston, E.F. Hutton, and the rest of gangland, he's going to have to soberly return to the bargaining table and work things out with Local 1518.

The militant action taken here today may have spoiled the enjoyment of some of the captains of finance in the featured speech, given by the senior vice-president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and entitled, "Capital Adequacy and Bank Holding Companies. But it had a much better effect on the morale of the striking workers.

These captains of finance expect us to "tighten our belts" while they gorge off the wealth of our labor. But more and more they will be answered as they were at the New School today, with militant resistance.



Members of the Center for United Labor Action take over microphone at financiers' conference at the New School in support of striking workers walking the picket line outside. WW photo: Tom S.

# Federal Reserve proves itself the bankers' friend

By KEN FRANSON

The Federal Reserve System has announced a change in the reserve requirement for the national banks. The reserve requirement is the percentage of bank deposits which must be held on reserve, and not lent out. The amount has been changed from 17.5 to 16.5 percent for large banks, with similar changes for smaller banks. This is a measure rarely resorted to, used only when there is severe pressure on the economy.

The effect will be to make available for loans about \$1.1 billion which the banks were previously required to hold in reserve. For the moment, it gives the banks more "liquidity" (cash on hand to lend or to pay debts), but it reduces the amount of reserves available to cushion a bank failure.

Although this will increase the money supply and will help push inflation up, the official government economists have not

criticized this action. The reason is clear. The fact that it temporarily shores up the banking system (which is in deep trouble from speculation) is more important to Ford and Rockefeller than the rise in prices it will cause. It is one more example of the government's attitude that, "What's good for Chase Manhattan Bank is good for the country." Not to mention the Rockefellers, who own Chase Manhattan.



Seatrain worker hit by layoffs.

# Seatrain layoff idles 1,800 shipbuilders

NEW YORK, Jan. 23—The Seatrain Shipbuilding Corporation announced layoffs effective today for 1,800 workers employed in constructing two oil supertankers in the old Brooklyn Navy Yard. Last month, 1,000 other workers on the site had been cast aside.

About 85 percent of the workers are Blacks and Latins, who were hired and trained in skilled trades jobs under federal, state, and city manpower programs. Seatrain was given the use of the idle Navy Yard property and paid to open its hiring offices to unskilled, unemployed local workers to offer them a career and a future.

Now their future has been wrecked without ever getting launched. While the military budget is over \$90 billion, federal funds for job training and social progress have been trimmed by a lot of blowhards ordering austerity and sacrifice for those who can least afford it.

# 'Reverse racism'—code word for inequality

By NAOMI COHEN  
Throughout the history of the United States, colleges and universities across the country have had a uniform quota system; although tacit and hidden, it is a quota system nonetheless. This quota system has worked to effectively exclude nonwhite peoples—in particular, Black and Latin people—from positions as students and faculty in the higher educational system.

Now that the federal government has been forced to make a token gesture—through its affirmative action program—to redress this centuries-old policy of racist exclusion, we are hearing an outraged protest against "quotas" and so-called "reverse racism" from many who have benefited for so long from that discrimination.

## SUITS AGAINST 'QUOTAS'

According to a study by the American Council on Education, in 1969 (2 years after the government affirmative action program was supposed to have set up guidelines to prevent discrimination against minorities and women), only 2.2 percent of college and university faculty members were Black and only 19.1 percent were women. Four years later, in 1973, these statistics had barely changed: 2.9 percent of the faculties were Black

and 20 percent were women. Despite this dismal proof of continuing discrimination, there is now a mounting furor over "quotas" for minorities and women.

Several highly publicized suits against affirmative action programs are now pending in the courts. One such suit in California was brought by a white male student who claimed that he had been discriminated against in his application to the University of California Medical College at Davis because the school reserved 16 out of 100 openings for "educationally or economically disadvantaged students."

A similar case is pending against the City College of New York Center for Biomedical Education. The Center is being sued by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and by the Italian-American Center for Urban Affairs on the grounds of "reverse discrimination" against three white applicants. These suits claim that the white applicants were "better qualified" for entrance and were therefore denied their constitutional rights to equal protection under the law.

## SOMETIMES LEGAL EQUALITY MEANS INEQUALITY

This question goes to the very

heart of the concept of equality. How does one judge people as equal if the circumstances of their lives have been unequal. Qualifications cannot be based on equal test scores when there is no equal educational opportunity. And test scores do not really establish "qualifications" for anything—except skill in taking a certain test.

Furthermore, who is the judge of "qualifications"? A white student is not necessarily better qualified for medical school just because he may have had the money to go to a better college than the Black or Latin student. And a rich student is not "smarter" because he could hire a tutor to get him through an exam, while a poor student may have had to work nights to get through school.

We are told that everyone has a right to equal protection under the law. But this "equality" turns out to be a form of inequality, if a poor person finds himself or herself in court with a Rockefeller, because all the laws are written by the rich for the rich.

In the case of education, to attempt to hold up the standard of abstract equality, when in fact racism and sexism have destroyed social equality, is to try to perpetuate the old system of inequality. To pretend that entrance exams or job qualifications are color-blind is

to justify all the old racist practices. And to call affirmative action "racism in reverse" is an attempt to keep the victims of racism at the bottom of the social scale forever.

## MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE RICH

Furthermore, if one were to investigate the real basis for admission of students to universities, one would find all kinds of unjust quotas that the present critics of "reverse discrimination" have not seen fit to protest. For example, it is well known that the sons of the rich and powerful go to schools like Harvard, Yale, and Princeton. The fact that one's father is a heavy donor or a graduate of one of these universities may have more to do with a student's acceptance than his grades. These students don't have to compete on the basis of merit. It's only students who have no social entree into such institutions who have to prove their "worth."

These reactionary quotas in favor of the rich should be the objects of protest. But instead, it is the children of the poor Black and Latin people who bear the brunt of so much outrage. Such an oversight alone should expose the current controversy over quotas for what it is—a racist sham!

Revolution. It was a progressive attempt by the rising capitalist class to put an end to the feudal aristocracy which held all the important positions in society by virtue of birth and inheritance. The merit system—which for the first time in history opened up careers to people on the basis of talent—was clearly meant to benefit the educated sons of the capitalist class. It was not envisioned to apply to the working class, which didn't get enough education to compete in the first place.

As the working class grew in size and strength, however, it was able to demand and get public education for its children. Workers' leaders also raised the demand for the merit system as a way to climb the social ladder. But here the limits of the system began to be exposed.

Working class children go to inferior schools, are channeled into technical rather than academic programs, and do not have the money to go on to college. The crisis for the Black and Latin working people in the U.S. today is even deeper because of the racist discrimination they suffer, and their consequent greater poverty.

So the merit system, which began as a progressive step at a time when the capitalist class was on the rise, has turned into its opposite in the era when that same class is in its period of decay. Equality before the law was progressive as compared to feudal privileges of birth, but it becomes reactionary when used to measure people who are not equal socially. Only when there is social equality will legal equality have any real meaning.

## Protesters shout down KKK leader, stop racist speech in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Special to Workers World  
CARRBORO, N.C., Jan. 20—On January 6, David Ernest Duke, National Information Director of the Ku Klux Klan, came to speak before a capacity crowd of 800 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. His speech was arranged by the Carolina Forum and he was paid \$800, money obtained from mandatory student fees.

Duke did not speak. His speech

was prevented by a highly organized and disciplined group of 200 Black students and about 50 progressive whites, including Jewish and gay students who chanted "Power to the people" and "Hit the road, Duke," drowning out his attempts to speak for 45 minutes.

Although Chapel Hill is now in an emotional debate about "free speech" and "educational freedom," January 16 was a

victory for the people. We are chided that Duke has been allowed to speak at Vanderbilt, Indiana, USC, Stanford, and Tulane.

We serve notice to Duke: your cause will no longer be legitimized by the privilege of speaking on university campuses. We urge students on other campuses: use your power, you do not have to allow this racist to "recruit quality people" on your campus. Power to the people!

## Racism in Norfolk, Va.

## Anti-racists defend Black home

By JOHN LEWIS  
NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 23—There is a new upsurge of racist activity throughout the United States today. Racist forces, including the Ku Klux Klan, the Nazis, the John Birch Society, the so-called "Concerned Parents," and others, are attempting more and more to agitate and organize white people against Black people.

In Boston, "anti-busing" is the code word for racist organizing. In Charleston, W. Va., and other places the racists are leading a movement to take textbooks which contain writings by Black and anti-racist authors out of the schools. In Norfolk, Va., and Queens, N.Y., racist gangs are harassing and terrorizing Black families who move into previously all-white neighborhoods.

In Norfolk, a Black family recently moved into the all-white neighborhood of Tarralton Park. The Smiths and their 5-year-old daughter have constantly been harassed and attacked by a white racist gang. Rocks and bricks have been thrown at their house, and a post was ripped off their front porch and thrown through their living room window.

The Norfolk police have been notified of this terrorism but have

done nothing to stop it. When the cops were called about the rock throwing they responded with, "Well, a lot of kids throw rocks. Are you sure they were throwing at the house?" Mr. Smith has called the police eight times but they have "on record" only one phone call. "Clearly," Mr. Smith says, "the police and the gang work together. Whenever the cops appear, the gang disappears 5 minutes before they come, and reappear 5 minutes after the cops leave."

Tarralton Park has a record of racism. A few years ago when the all-white Tarralton Park Elementary School was to be integrated, the community resisted the busing of Black children to the school. Mr. Smith said, "These kids are only carrying out what is said by their parents at home." No one in the community has ever expressed sympathy or support for the Smiths, and the Black family has always been met with silent contempt by their neighbors.

The story of harassment and vandalism against the Smiths was revealed recently in the Norfolk Black newspaper, The Journal and Guide. This has been the only media coverage of the racist activity in Tarralton Park.

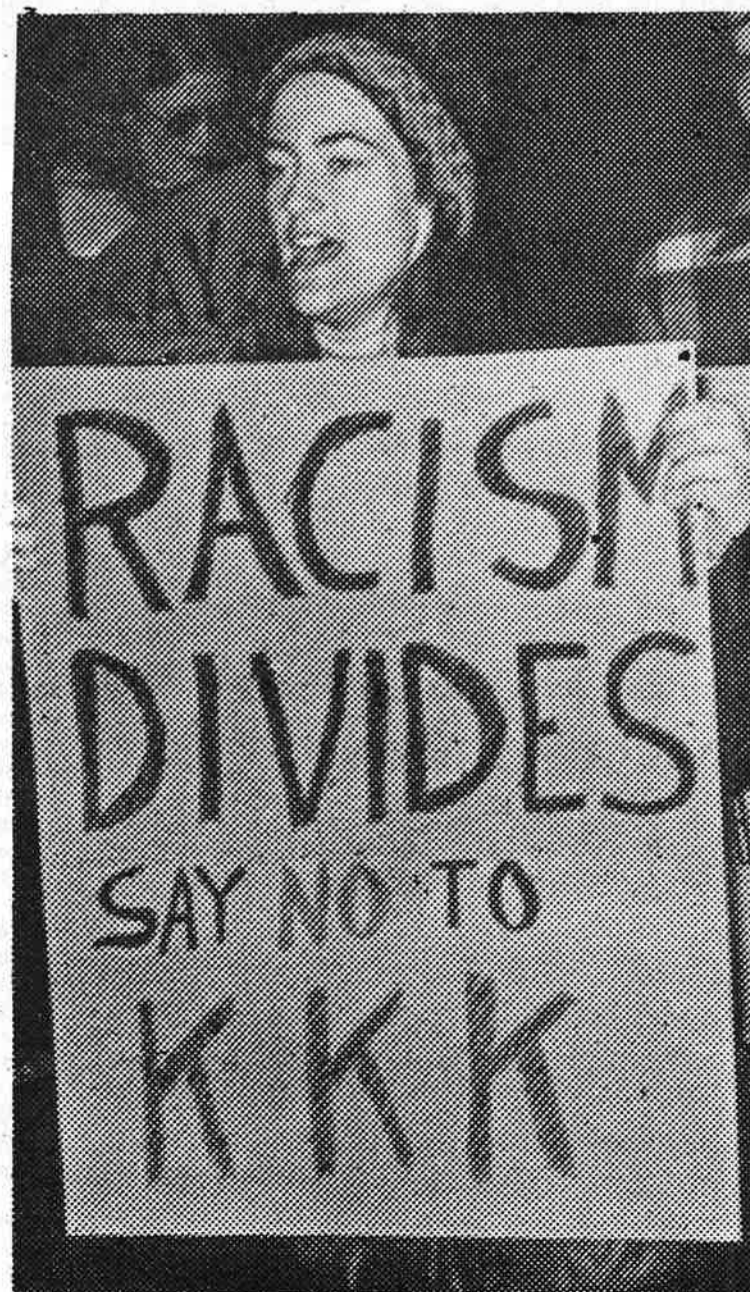
On Tuesday, January 14, a delegation from the Tidewater Emergency Committee Against Racism went to see the Smiths and offered sympathy and support. This same committee had organized a busload of people from Tidewater to go to the December 14 march against racism in Boston. In close consultation with the Smiths, the coordinating body of the Emergency Committee decided to take on the task of supporting and defending the Smiths against these racist attacks.

One of the first things the committee did was to raise money among the supporters of the March on Boston to secure the Smiths a telephone. In the meantime, patrols were set up which included both Black and white people from the Emergency Committee and other organizations. The patrols have stopped and talked to several of the white youth in the community. Names have been taken, as well as phone numbers and license plate numbers.

The racist gang has been made aware of the fact, as Mr. Smith puts it, "There is now a positive force in the community that will deal with the harassment and attacks."

## The Merit System

It is interesting to note that the merit system was first instituted as a reform of the French



Demonstrators chant while Klan official tries to spew his racist venom at the University of North Carolina.



Puerto Rican nationalist Lolita Lebron has been in prison since the 1954 attack on the House of Representatives.

## 20 Latin countries oppose U.S. trade act

By JOSEPH WEXLER

JANUARY 28—As we go to press, it was learned that Argentina yesterday canceled a conference of Western Hemisphere foreign ministers to have been held in Buenos Aires because of the outrage of Latin nations over the discriminatory new U.S. Trade Act.

JANUARY 23—Twenty member nations of the Organization of American States (OAS) voted today to condemn the new United States trade act, calling it "discriminatory and coercive." The vote was taken by the Permanent Council of the OAS, the organization's governing body, over the objections of the U.S. to "unacceptable" language.

The trade act sets discriminatory import taxes against member nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), including Venezuela and Ecuador. Many Latin American and Caribbean governments regard this act as a threat designed to discourage them from uniting to get better prices for their coffee, bananas, copper, tin, bauxite, and other natural resources. Over the years the U.S. has extracted these items at low prices drained while charging higher and higher prices for finished products, often made with these very same minerals and

products of the soil!

The OAS has in the past served merely as a rubber stamp for U.S. foreign policy, and served as a cover for U.S. economic, political, and military attacks against Cuba. Many of the governments voting against the U.S. trade act were in fact put into power with the direct help of the U.S. and have acted as puppets for U.S. exploitation of their people and resources.

This vote shows the continuing deterioration of U.S. imperialism's ability to bully and manipulate the rising nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Since the heroic victory of the Vietnamese people over U.S. military attack Washington is much less able to threaten other countries with direct attack. Even puppet governments are able to show some independence and take steps to protect their countries' resources.

Imperialism is a dying system that is giving way to the rising socialist and national liberation movements. It is only a matter of time—and not a very long time—before the workers and oppressed people of the world deal it a final death blow and replace imperialism with a world socialist system that allows every nation to develop its people and resources for the good of all without one nation benefiting from the poverty of others.

## Cuba offers to release CIA agent in exchange for Lolita Lebron

By L. STEIN

JANUARY 22—Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro has called for the liberation of Puerto Rican Nationalist Lolita Lebron. In exchange for her freedom he has offered to release to the U.S. government a CIA agent captured in Cuba at the time of the Bay of Pigs invasion.

On March 1, 1954, Lolita Lebron along with three other Puerto Rican Nationalists entered the spectators' gallery in the House of Representatives. They unfurled a banner demanding the independence of Puerto Rico, shouted "Que viva Puerto Rico libre!" and sprayed the House with bullets. Five congressmen were wounded.

A note was found in Lolita's pocketbook at the time of her

arrest which expressed the depth of her conviction that Puerto Rico must be released from the parasitic grasp of the U.S. It read: "I give my life for the liberty of my country. I take full responsibility for everything."

In 1959 a sister island nation, Cuba, did break the grasp of neocolonialist exploitation. Three years later, the U.S. organized the Bay of Pigs invasion in which it tried and failed to recapture Cuba. CIA agent Lawrence Lunt, now being offered in exchange, was captured by the Cuban people when he participated in this debacle.

Today, independent and socialist Cuba has achieved a position in which the U.S. finds it increasingly difficult to impose the economic

and political blockade established between her and her less fortunate Latin American neighbors in 1964. The effect of U.S. imperialism is demonstrated in the contrast between the conquest of the Cuban people over poverty, illiteracy, and disease and the misery of the Puerto Rican people.

At a time when the capitalist economic crisis in the U.S. is having an even more devastating effect in Puerto Rico, Cuba has offered to release the criminal CIA agent in return for Lolita Lebron. It is in support of every Latin American oppressed by U.S. imperialism as well as with Puerto Rican Nationalists that Cuba makes this gesture of solidarity.

Free Puerto Rico and Lolita Lebron right now!

## Retaliation for Puerto Rican deaths

### 4 execs die in Wall St. blast

By JULIO GHIGLIOTTY

NEW YORK, Jan. 25—Yesterday during the lunch hour the Armed Forces for the Liberation of the Puerto Rican Nation (FALN) set off a bomb at Fraunces Tavern in lower Manhattan's financial section "in retaliation for the CIA-ordered bomb that murdered Angel Luis Chavonniar and Eddie Ramos . . . and the conscienceless maiming of ten innocent persons and one beautiful Puerto Rican child six years old in a Mayaguez, Puerto Rico dining place" on January 11.

The blast wrecked the interior of Fraunces Tavern's 19th-century annex, a favorite lunchsite for Wall Street bankers, financiers, and corporate executives, and the home of the Anglers Club, an exclusive club for millionaire fishermen. Four corporate executives were killed in the explosion. Fifty-five other people were injured.

One of the executives killed in the blast, Frank Connor, 33, was an assistant vice-president at the Morgan Guaranty Trust Company. He was an export financing expert in the International Banking Department of Morgan Guaranty.

Harold Sherburne, a millionaire investment banker and senior partner at Bacon, Whipple and Company, in charge of their New York office, was also killed in the blast.

Another fatality was James Gezork, an assistant treasurer of Scott Paper Company and a client of Frank Connor. A third luncheon partner at the same table was Alejandro Berger, a businessman

from Philadelphia who "has not yet been identified," according to today's New York Post.

**'YOU HAVE UNLEASHED A STORM . . .'**

Last October 26 the same group set off five bombs at Wall Street and Rockefeller Center sites demanding the release of Puerto

### Landlord to go free in 4 hotel deaths

NEW YORK, Jan. 23—A Manhattan grand jury investigating the Aug. 3, 1973 collapse of the Broadway Central hotel decided that no crime was committed despite the fact that the landlord, Philip Edwards, failed to repair a menacing bulge in the outer wall of the dilapidated building that had been reported Feb. 22, 1973 by a city building inspector.

The 308 residents of the rundown ratrap were all poor people, many of them placed in the building by the Welfare Department at room charges of up to \$50 a week. These rents went into the coffers of the First National City Bank, which held the mortgage.

The city permitted the building code violations to go unrepaired because a former Deputy Commissioner of Buildings, Bernice Rogers, is one of the heads of Edwards Management. The bulging wall was left for months like a time bomb until the fateful day, when all but four tenants were able to escape as the building started to shudder.

Rican political prisoners. Then as now, the FALN left a communique explaining the blasts in a phone booth.

Explaining their action this time, the communique stated, "The Yanki government is trying to terrorize and kill our people to intimidate us from seeking our rightful independence from colonialism. They do this in the same way as they did in Vietnam, Guatemala, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, the Congo, and in many other places including the United States itself."

Referring to the fact that their previous bombing activity had been deliberately planned to avoid injury to innocent people, the FALN explained why this action was set off "at Fraunces Tavern with reactionary corporate executives inside."

"The attacks on our people," concluded the communique, "have been elevated (into) vicious criminal brutality and murder of hungry hard-working people. You have unleashed a storm from which you comfortable Yankis cannot escape."

### FORCES OF THE STATE MOBILIZED

This latest FALN action is being followed by a massive mobilization of the city police and the FBI.

Reports of harassment of Puerto Rican independistas have already been voiced. The Carlos Feliciano Defense Committee reports that FBI agents have been coming to the Puerto Rican Nationalist's home—despite the fact that he has been in prison for over a month.

## A page from revolutionary history

### The three L's

By BOB DOBROW

The month of January marks the anniversaries of the deaths of three of the working class' greatest leaders—Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg, and Lenin. Lenin died on Jan. 24, 1924. Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered on Jan. 15, 1919 after the defeat of the German revolution of 1918.

Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht were immersed in the German working class movement their whole lives. Their party, the German Social Democratic Party, was in the early 1900s the largest working class organization in the world. It totalled over a million

members and rallied to it the most authoritative and respected figures of Marxism.

Imperialism in Germany and the rest of the capitalist world was expanding feverishly. On the basis of exploitation at home and the enormous loot and super-profits extracted from the sweat and blood of the colonial slaves of Latin America, Asia, and Africa, the bosses fabulously enriched themselves. While a large number of the workers throughout Europe were extremely revolutionary, a section of the labor movement, especially the more skilled and privileged, gave in to chauvinist

propaganda and discarded class solidarity with the workers of other countries for a narrow national outlook. Liebknecht and Luxemburg heroically fought this creeping tendency within their own party.

In 1907, the various workers' parties throughout the world agreed that in the event of an imperialist war they would oppose it and fight their "own" ruling classes.

But when World War I did come, almost every single party capitulated under the enormous pressure of bourgeois nationalist rivalry. Social Democrats voted for war credits in the parliaments and called on the workers to "defend the fatherland." In Germany Karl Liebknecht was the only deputy to stand up in the German Reichstag and vote no for war credits, denouncing the war. It

was he who first said, "Turn the imperialist war into a civil war."

In Russia, Lenin successfully steered the Bolshevik party on a clear path against the war. After the Russian bosses were overthrown in 1917, he quickly got Russia out of the war, which was merely a struggle of the exploiters to redivide the world at terrible expense to the masses.

Luxemburg and Liebknecht spent time in jail for their anti-war activities. Even while in jail, they organized themselves as a militant faction in the German Social Democratic Party called the Spartacus League. In 1918, on the eve of a mighty revolutionary movement in Germany, they broke from social democracy and formed the German Communist Party.

But unlike Lenin, who had formed a centralized, combat party way back in 1903, after a split

within the Russian Social Democrats, the German Communists lacked the organization to bring the revolutionary wave to its logical conclusion. Had they been successful, Germany would never have had a Hitler or fascism, and the history of Europe and the world from then on would have been profoundly different.

Lenin in Russia, however, was successful. As leader of the world's first workers' state, he stands as one of history's undying figures. From Lenin's pen came some of Marxism's greatest classics—"What Is to Be Done," "Imperialism," and "State and Revolution," among others. But the true test of his ideas lay in his deeds and actions. He organized and led the first successful workers' revolution.

(Continued on page 8)

# Air thickens with U.S. war threats in Mideast

By P. MEISNER  
 JANUARY 27—After Secretary of State Kissinger first revealed that a U.S. war in the Mideast was a real possibility, "reassurances" came from other Administration officials that the war contingency was only "hypothetical" or "remote." But after each such denial, another statement would be issued by yet another Ford Cabinet official reaffirming the threat of a U.S. war in the Middle East. And so goes the war propaganda machine of the U.S. imperialist rulers, desperately trying to confuse the American public and the world.

Nevertheless, the threat of a U.S. war against the Arab oil-producing countries has become quite real. Following Kissinger's remarks in Business Week (see Workers World, Jan. 10) President Ford has on at least three different occasions confirmed the possibility of a U.S. military invasion of oil fields in the Middle East.

## INVASION 'FEASIBLE'

The most ominous and belligerent statements on this question, however, have come from Secretary of Defense Schlesinger, who on January 14

said before a news conference:

"It is indeed feasible to conduct military operations if the necessity should arise."

Schlesinger restated his threats of war (in case anyone didn't hear them the first time) on January 23 when he told the press that military intervention against oil-producing countries in the Middle East was "within the power of the United States."

Another report also confirms the Pentagon's preparations for war in the Mideast. In the January 18 issue of the *New Republic*, a former Pentagon official said that "army planners are cranking up a three-division Middle East expeditionary force (an armored, air-mobile and airborne division)" and that "there may be reason to believe that the Joint Chiefs of Staff are not just stuffing their files with the usual contingency plans."

Asked to comment on this report during a nationwide NBC television interview held last week, Ford replied:

"I don't think I ought to talk about any particular military contingency plans. I think what I said concerning strangulation and Dr. Kissinger's comment is about as far as I ought to go."

The devastating effects of the Cold War, the Korean War, and the Indochina War—which have over the years undermined the U.S. balance of payments, destroyed the dollar, increased government indebtedness to the banks, and diverted billions of manhours into wasted and parasitic war production—are just beginning to be fully felt by the American people. So now the ruling class is going to "rescue" the economy by embarking on a new and even more insane military adventure!

The attempt to blame the deep economic crisis plaguing the U.S. capitalist economy on the Arab countries is bound to fail. And despite all the chauvinist hysteria being whipped up for a war against the Arab peoples, the workers, the poor, and the oppressed in the U.S. will know exactly who are the criminals responsible for the unemployment, the layoffs, and the staggering inflation: the profit-mad, warmongering U.S. capitalist rulers.

## Who's strangling whom?

While Ford and Kissinger continue the fraud about the U.S. being "strangled" by the oil-producing countries, the giant U.S. oil monopolies keep raking in incredible profits, and still largely from Mideast oil. In 1974, Exxon (Rockefeller-controlled) amassed the greatest profits ever by a single corporation in one year—\$3.14 billion! The statistics from the first five big oil corporations to release their 1974 profits speak for themselves:

	1974 profits	percent increase over '73
Exxon	\$3.14 billion	31
Texaco	1.78 billion	38
Standard Oil of Calif.	1.22 billion	45
Mobil	1.04 billion	23
Standard Oil of Indiana	.97 billion	90



Workers who must buy gas to get to work protest in front of the White House after Ford announced another price hike.

# Ford's 'energy tax' threatens Houston workers' livelihoods

By BARTEE HAILE  
 HOUSTON, Jan. 22—"It will cost me my job," the 28-year-old factory worker said matter of factly. He had just explained that the 40-mile round-trip to work each day costs him more than \$40 a month.

"My old car doesn't get more than 10 miles a gallon. It won't stop at a nickel more for gas, so it's a question of how long I can afford to drive that far to work. Maybe I can make it until the summer, but probably then I will end up having to take some job closer to home, if I can find one."

The reaction of this unskilled steel plant worker is typical of the plight of many people in Houston. The prospect of a gas price increase of 5 cents, 10 cents, or more in the coming weeks threatens to push their family budgets to the breaking point and undoubtedly will mean the loss of

many jobs.

Although gasoline sells for 41 to 55 cents per gallon depending upon the grade and brand in the city, lower than the present price in most major cities, the average Houston worker is more dependent upon his or her car and is compelled to buy more gas than working people in New York, Atlanta, San Francisco, and New Orleans. The pitifully inadequate city-owned bus company, the only means of public transportation, serves only the inner city and offers terrible service and high fares. As a result, every worker who possibly can sacrifices to purchase a car and then continues to sacrifice to keep it running.

Houston is a sprawling metropolis, second in area only to Los Angeles. It is not unusual for working people to drive 30, 40, 50 miles or more to and from work. Many of the better-paying jobs are

far from their inner-city homes on the fringes of the city or in industrial suburbs.

Driving to work each morning, the Houstonian who travels the freeways through the downtown area is reminded where the outrageous profits from gas pump hijacking go. The city's skyline is dominated by the huge buildings of Shell, Gulf, Pennzoil, Conoco, and the other oil monopolies. The propaganda suggesting that we must go to the Middle East to find those responsible for this criminal situation is particularly ridiculous when the real enemy is around the next corner.

The fight is not thousands of miles away with another mad military adventure, this time to seize the oil of the Arab people. No, it is right here at home against those oil barons who would sacrifice the Arab people and us for their dreams of a petroleum empire.

# Free the H



The "Rally and Fiesta to Free the Houston 12" drew over 2,000 three other Houston 12 brothers, explains that their arrest was not the people are not intimidated."

## Solidarity day drama trial scheduled to

By NICK DEFREITAS  
 HOUSTON, Jan. 26—A crowd of over 2,000 Chicanos, Blacks, and whites showed their support for the Houston 12 defendants at a solidarity rally held here today in the predominantly Chicano Northside section of Houston. In a casual atmosphere, the crowd relaxed in sunny 80-degree weather and enjoyed various cultural foods and entertainment. They listened carefully, clapping many times in agreement, to political speeches which frequently denounced police brutality and called for the freedom of the Houston 12. Today's 4-hour fiesta and rally at Moody Park reflected the mass community support that the Houston 12 case has gained over the months.

### ATTACKED AT ANTI-WAR DEMO

Five of the 12—Jose Barriga, William Christiansen, Bartee Haile, Alex Rodriguez, and Miguel Trujillo—go to trial in a week for "attempted murder of a police officer". These charges stem from a demonstration on Oct. 9, 1973 called by Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) to protest U.S. and Israeli aggression in the Middle East. The predominantly Chicano demonstration was attacked by an overwhelming force of police officials wielding blackjacks, lead-lined flashlights, guns, and attack dogs. Twelve demonstrators were singled out, beaten severely, then jailed on phony charges ranging from assault to attempted murder of a police officer.

Ever since the 12 were released on astronomical bond, Houston has become the front line of a major battle waged by the Houston 12 Defense Committee for their freedom. Today's tremendously successful rally was the result of a

call made by the defense committee, whose leaflets and posters urged everyone to make January 26 "Houston 12 Solidarity Day."

"Rally and Fiesta to Free the Houston 12" read a 20-foot-long blue banner stretched between two lampposts across busy Fulton Street running parallel to the park. In passing cars, drivers could easily view the lively crowd and the many booths selling tacos, tortillas, tamales, snow cones and many other delicious foods prepared by people from the community. Many of the vendors turned over their proceeds as donations for the defense of the Houston 12. Even though the majority of those at the rally were poor farmworkers, housewives, and low-paid laborers, almost \$250 was collected by the defense committee through button sales, collections, and donations.

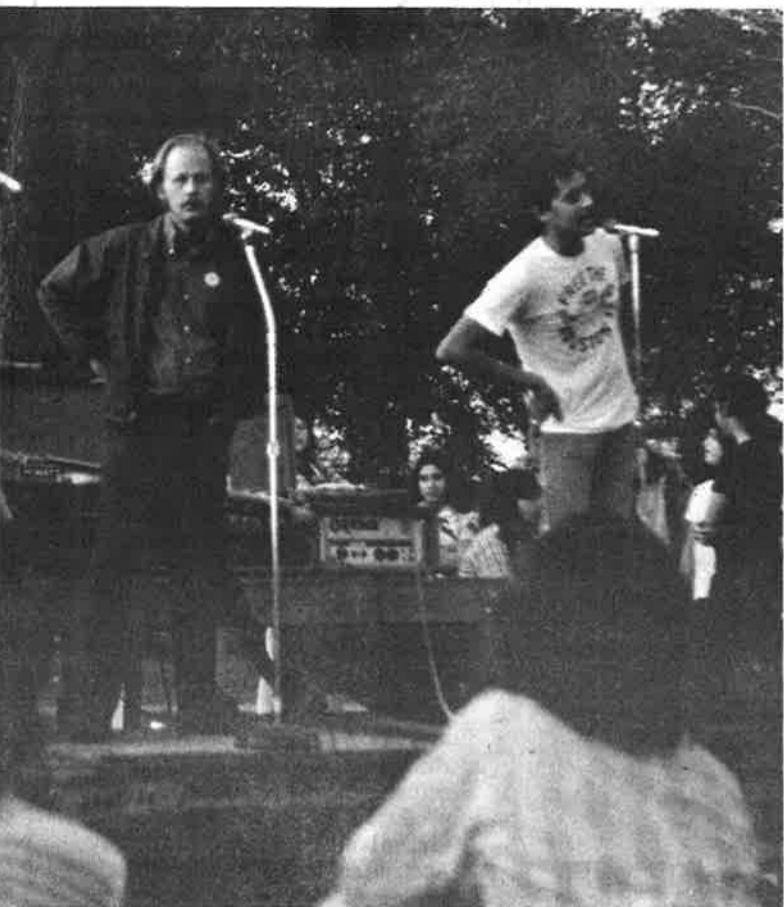
The militant speeches could be heard from blocks away. Although many of the speakers had different political beliefs, all of them totally agreed on one point—"Stop the Houston 12 frame-ups; free them now!"

Between speeches, entertainment was provided by several bands, who in a gesture of solidarity played without charge.

### MASS SUPPORT DESPITE COP HARASSMENT

"This morning we drove with a sound car through various Black, Chicano, and poor white communities announcing the rally," said Allison Keyes, a defense committee worker. "The response really overwhelmed us. Almost everyone knew about the case and reacted very favorably. When we got stopped and harassed by the police, within minutes someone from the community drove to the committee office to tell the rest about it."

# Houston 12!



10 supporters on Jan. 26. Alex Rodriguez, accompanied by  
meant to intimidate all progressives in Houston, but "...  
WW photo: Barbara Timko

## aws 2,000; to begin Feb. 3

Police harassment of the 12 defendants has not stopped. At the rally site, amidst all the hectic activity, Alex Rodriguez, one of the Houston 12 defendants facing life imprisonment, explained, "The racist police attack of October 9 was not just to smash that particular demonstration, but it was also calculated to destroy and intimidate any type of progressive activity or organization in Houston. Today's rally shows that they have failed. The people here are not intimidated. They support us and are willing to come out in public." Speakers at the rally included Pacho Mindiola, Harris County chairman of La Raza Unida Party, who urged supporters to show up at the trial on February 3. Mary Brown, a leader in the Black community and also with the Houston Metropolitan Ministries, praised the demonstrators of October 9 for having the courage to oppose the insatiable war drive of the U.S. government.

"All of us should have been there," she said. "Just like in Vietnam, if the U.S. gets involved in war in the Middle East, we're going to be the ones on the front lines. Our brothers and sons will be killed first. Billions of dollars will be spent. We should all come to the trial and support these heroic brothers." Other speakers included Paul Hernandez of the Austin Brown Berets and Father Rivers Patout.

However, the highlight of the rally was when 4 of the Houston 12 joined the other speakers on stage. Well-thought-out speeches by the defendants explained why they picketed on the night of October 9 and why the police crushed the demonstration. These brought the defendants rounds of applause from the audience. Jose Barriga summed up the feelings of the four when he concluded that no matter

what happens, the struggle has to go on. "Even if they railroad me into jail," said Barriga, "They still won't be able to intimidate us. The first thing I'll do when I get out is to get back in the struggle and fight for our liberation."

"Everyone's spirit has been really lifted," commented Gerri Presnall, a leading member of the defense committee, while serving snow cones to a group of children. "Such a strong showing of solidarity has not been seen for a long time, but it's only the beginning. Many national figures such as Father Dan Berrigan, Clyde Bellacourt of AIM, and Corky Gonzales are already coming to Houston to raise support. We're not going to stop until all the defendants are free."

### BULLETIN JUDGE DENIES MOTIONS; TRIAL SET FOR FEB. 3

HOUSTON, Jan. 28—Judge Andrew Jefferson today refused to grant defense motions for dismissal of the charges against the Houston 12. The defense had cited illegal electronic surveillance by the prosecution and the fact that the grand jury handing down the indictments was completely unrepresentative of the defendants.

Some of the Houston police who took part in the attack on the October 9 picket line have been linked to a recent political wiretapping scandal in Houston. Judge Jefferson noted that codes used in the police files on the defendants could indicate illegal electronic surveillance and ordered Police Chief Lynn to answer a memorandum of questions under oath in court Monday at 9 a.m.

Supporters plan to picket the court prior to the beginning of the trial.

# Wages of militarism

By KEN FRANSON

At a time when the working people of this country are facing unemployment and hunger, military spending is at a record high.

No matter how much suffering this causes to the working class, the rich capitalists who control the government want to continue spending on the military establishment that is ready to intervene in their interests in any country. They also want to continue to get rich on military contracts with massive cost overruns.

How much does this cost the working class? One way to measure is to look at what could be bought instead.

For example, a Navy A-6E Intruder plane costs \$9 million—the same as 257 new apartments in New York City. For the cost of one Huey helicopter—\$1 million—66 low-cost homes could be built.

### C-5A VS. POOR PEOPLE

For \$11.4 billion, the low estimate for the B-1 bomber program, all poor Americans could be brought above poverty-level income. The C-5A aircraft program cost \$4.5 billion. The same amount could eliminate hunger in the U.S.!

The child-care program vetoed by Nixon as inflationary would have cost \$2.1 billion. That's equal to the cost over-run alone on the B-1 bomber development program. The 6,000 aircraft lost in Indochina by October 1969 cost \$6 billion. The same money could have provided 750 fully-equipped new schools, and one year's salary for 35,000 teachers.

The list could go on. The military budget is over \$100 billion a year

and constantly growing, while funds for social needs are cut.

This contradiction is basic to imperialism, which is the highest stage of capitalist exploitation. For the U.S. capitalists to maintain their ability to rob the less-developed nations, they must be able to threaten them with military intervention. The Arab countries are a good example. The U.S. gets only 6 percent of its oil from the Arab countries, but these oilfields, owned mostly by U.S. companies, export oil to Europe and Japan. So

Ford threatens intervention if there is any danger to the profits of the oil companies. These threats are useless without a huge display of military might to back them up.

So the contradiction of increasing military expenditures while the working class goes hungry and homeless will continue, as long as the capitalists are in control of the government. Only when the working class takes over control, and establishes a socialist economy, will this contradiction disappear.



Lockheed's Mach 3 SR-71: While military expenditures climb ever higher, spending for housing, education, and welfare are cut to the bone.

## U.S. eyes strategic location in alliance with Omani Sultan

By GREGORY M. DUNKEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 21—As part of its preparations to seize the oil fields along the Arab Persian Gulf when the next Mideast war and oil boycott break out, the United States recently entered into a political and military alliance with Oman.

The Sultan of Oman, Quabus bin Siad, made a "private" visit to Washington from January 9 to 11. During this visit, he and his foreign minister got private meetings with Ford and Kissinger. Vice President Rockefeller showed them around town. And today, the Pentagon announced that it had requested base rights at Masira, an island off the south coast of Oman, from the British who now control it. The Sultan has given his assent.

While Oman does have some oil, its main significance is strategic: it controls the entrance to the Arab Persian Gulf and possesses staging areas for an invasion force. It has other modern military bases besides Masira built by the British.

### AIMED AT SEVERAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES

This alliance will also be used to try to suppress the national liberation struggle of the people of Dhofar; to attack the progressive Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, which shares an undemarcated border with Oman but closed the Red Sea to Israeli shipping

during the 1973 war, and to battle the Popular Front for the Liberation of the Arab Gulf (PFLOAG), which is attempting to unite the struggle in Dhofar with the oil workers of the Gulf.

Oman does not have much to offer this alliance besides its location. It is a very underdeveloped, weak country, until now controlled almost entirely by the British. Before the present Sultan overthrew his father in 1970, literacy was a crime, unless you were a rich merchant. There were no roads whatsoever. It was forbidden to wear pants. (Pants were considered either Western and modern, or Dhofari and revolutionary.)

The commander of the armed forces is British; all the pilots and most of the artillery officers are British. Iran has sent at least one regular regiment to beef up Oman in its struggle against Dhofar, and many of the troops in the Omani army are Iranian mercenaries. About 40 percent of the Omani budget is spent on the war against Dhofar. (This war began in the early 1960s, after the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen won its independence from Britain.) But Oman still has not made much headway in crushing this struggle.

Along with its request for base rights, the Pentagon also announced that it will begin

supplying the Sultan with some modern anti-tank weapons. Washington is afraid of getting into another Vietnam in Dhofar, but the collapse of British imperialism in the Mideast is sucking them in.

### PENTAGON NEEDS SECURE COMMUNICATIONS BASE

Probably the most important facility at Masira is its modern communications. The strength of the Eritrean Liberation Movement has made the U.S. communication base at Asmara in Eritrea insecure. Without good communications, the United States could not carry out any complicated plan in the Indian Ocean area.

This alliance must also be seen in the light of the Iranian attack on Iraq and the current presence of a Seventh Fleet task force in the Indian Ocean.

The Ford administration is trying to back up its threat to seize the oil fields. It cannot allow its threats to be seen as empty bluffs. Even if Washington doesn't feel it can really seize the Gulf oil fields, acting like it can may scare some of the weaker Arab leaders.

But despite U.S. fleets and bluffs and threats and oil companies, the Arab people are in a struggle to gain control over their own lands and their own resources, from Palestine to Oman.

The people of Vietnam and the people of Dhofar have pointed out the path!


 EDITORIAL

## —Fight the layoffs

(Continued from page 1)

that a certain level of unemployment is "good for the economy." On the strength of this act, President Ford has the power to issue an immediate executive order telling the corporations that they *have* to rehire all laid off workers. It would be up to them to figure out how to do this. The way it is now, it is up to the workers to figure out how they are to live without jobs.

Ford has just demonstrated how an executive order works. He signed a proclamation January 23 ordering an increased fee of \$3 a barrel on imported oil, spread over the next 3 months. This will go into effect February 1 unless Congress overrides the order, and it is doubtful they can act so quickly.

Will Ford take such a bold step on behalf of the workers? A camel could squeeze its way through the proverbial needle easier than this stooge of the Rockefellers and other billionaires could act on the workers' behalf. But that's not the point.

The point is that working people have every right to demand that the law be enforced. This is a demand that has applicability to workers from all regions, all industries, all backgrounds. In the process of explaining what the government *could* do, workers by the millions could be convinced of the fairness and justice of *making* the workplaces rehire and resume full production.

Workers need jobs; all people need the things they produce. There can only be guaranteed full production when the workers themselves are in command of industry and are producing to satisfy human needs.

But in the meantime the idea that the workers have a *right* to full employment must be fought for. In the process of elaborating such a struggle, the crippling profit system with its billionaire beneficiaries will be seen by the millions as the thing that stands in their way, that blocks them from entering the plant gates and starting up the machines again.

The struggle against unemployment is ultimately a struggle against capitalism. But it can be begun on the basis of a simple, legal demand that Ford sign an executive order reopening the plants and offices.

## When the leaders speak of sacrifice . . .

The U.S. billionaire ruling class, the greatest parasitic social formation of all time, is trying to create a mood of "sacrifice" in the country. This theme is echoed in a thousand editorials, columns, and "informal" interviews with the mighty.

As filtered through the "liberal" bourgeois press, the idea of sacrifice comes across as a humanitarian, progressive idea. "We" consume too much; "we" are wasteful; "we" are exhausting the earth's resources; "we" are ruining the economy by living beyond our income.

But who are "we"? There is not the slightest hint that "we" might not all have 3 cars and a garbage dispose-all. There are no DuPont family and no migrant farm workers in the land of "we." It would offend those moralists to point out that sacrifice for some would not be sacrifice at all, while for others it might mean near-starvation.

And isn't it odd that these arguments always come up most frequently around contract time?

If not everyone's heart is touched to go out and ask the boss for a pay cut, is it any wonder? The generosity of the working class has been betrayed a million times. How often have the people been willingly rounded up (after a fervor of patriotic propaganda) to go out and sacrifice not mere comforts but their lives and limbs in wars of imperialist conquest? But the world wasn't made safe for "democracy," the war didn't end all wars, and the only freedom won was the freedom of exploitation for the monopolies.

How many pennies have been dropped in missionaries' cups in good faith? How many workers' inventions have boosted the bosses' profits and earned their inventor no more than a cheap watch? How often have bosses taken advantage of workers' generosity?

People who know their efforts will go for the betterment of society and not to a rich boss are capable of almost limitless sacrifice. That is an electrifying lesson of the Vietnam War. It was shown in Cuba when the people there donated tons of sugar to Vietnam in spite of their own poverty. It can be seen in every picket line when workers forego their needed pay checks in a common struggle.

The bourgeois ruling class will never be able to call upon such generosity, because the workers understand their selfish motives. As Bertoldt Brecht once wrote, "When the leaders speak of peace, the mobilization orders are already written." And when they speak of "sacrifice," the layoff slips are already in the foremen's pocket.



## WHAT WE MEAN BY . . .

# CLASS SOLIDARITY

By ANDY STAPP

When we speak or write about proletarian solidarity, working class solidarity, and international solidarity, we mean the complete unity of interest of all the peoples oppressed and exploited by capitalism. It is only by combining together in solidarity, it is only through closing ranks against the common enemy, that any victory has ever been won by the masses of people.

Working class solidarity is present in every strike, when a picket line is set up. Only a scab or a boss will cross this line, while all workers who feel solidarity with each other refuse. Workers formed trade unions and continue to organize into unions today out of knowledge that only through

banding together in solidarity can even the slightest improvement be gained in working conditions, wages, job security, and so forth.

The bosses attempt to break up and destroy working class solidarity by dividing the poor and working people against each other. They attempt to turn men against women workers, white against nonwhite, straight against gay, "Americans" against "foreigners."

Nonetheless, the solidarity of the world working class and oppressed peoples has often defeated the attempts of the capitalist to trick working people into fighting against one another.

U.S. workers have shown solidarity with the African peoples living in the fascist settler states of

Rhodesia and South Africa by refusing to unload coal and chrome produced in those countries by virtual slave labor. Similarly, Australian longshoremen refused to unload U.S. ships during the terror bombing of Hanoi and Japanese workers wouldn't handle scab cargo from the U.S. during the longshore strike here a few years ago.

The boycott of scab grapes and lettuce by millions of Americans who support the Farmworkers Union is an act of working class solidarity.

Real working class solidarity can only be achieved and real unity won when solidarity is based on the rights of equality of all. This means that male workers must fight for equal rights for women, whites for the equality of Black and Brown, and so forth.

The greatest act of working class solidarity is the world socialist revolution itself, a revolution that has already begun and that will wipe out all oppression forever.

## LETTERS

G.S., Baltimore:

Bosses act so smart, but they really don't know how to do much but make money off the people who have to work for them.

I'm a helper on a small web printing press, which is still a very complicated machine. My boss, the owner's son, recently tried to run the press because the pressman

was on vacation.

We had to get out a rush job that nes in every week. Even though boss knew he had to run the ss, he didn't bother to ask the ssman any questions before his vacation began. The boss' attitude was: I own it—I can run it.

Well, we spent 6½ hours trying to get the press set up. An hour and a half was spent putting the plates on, which is a job that takes 5 to 10 minutes if you know what you're

doing. We wasted \$300 to \$400 worth of materials. Finally, the boss gave up and called the pressman back from his vacation.

The pressman had to come in, because we don't have a union. It took him 2 hours to clean up the mess that our boss had made and 2 hours to run the job.

This was just one more time when having a boss around messes things up. Won't life be easier when we get rid of them? You bet.

## —Three L's

(Continued from page 5)

As early as 1902 he saw the urgent necessity for a vanguard, multi-national, combat party that could weld together the most advanced and determined elements of the working class. Such was the Bolshevik Party, and it alone was capable of elevating the working class to power during the 1917 revolution.

Russia at that time was nicknamed the "prison house of nations" for 57 percent of her population were from oppressed nationalities. Lenin consistently fought for the rights of nations to self-determination and against "great Russian" chauvinism. In so doing he united all the different nations into a common struggle against the Russian oppressors.

One of the characteristics of a revolutionary leader is the ability

to stand up and fight against the stream, even in the face of isolation or worse. This is what radiates through the lives of these three leaders. Their devotion to the international working class was thorough and unconditional.

prisoners in a state of perpetual slave labor for life, while spreading their productivity around to all the various penal colonies.

## INDONESIAN STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE

Despite the horrendous conditions inside these concentration camps and the extremely repressive measures meted out to any who protest against Suharto and his U.S. backers, the struggle of the Indonesian masses for a better life has not been extinguished. The January 1974 demonstrations revealed to the world that the movement for political freedom and an end to exploitation still lives. Although U.S. imperialism and its puppets in Indonesia may appear strong at times, history is on the side of the Indonesian masses who will one day be victorious.

## —Indonesia

(Continued from page 9)

profit on the surplus.

The Suharto military regime has begun a system of "transmigration," by which they say prisoners will be able to live with their families while imprisoned and migrate to different prison camps before being freed. What "transmigration" really signifies is a plan to keep these political

# War danger and false superpower theory

By SAM MARCY

**JANUARY 24**—Not a single, solitary day has gone by in recent weeks without some dire warning and threat of war from high officials of the Ford Administration.

If it isn't Kissinger one day, it is Schlesinger the next, and on days like yesterday, it is Ford, Schlesinger, and Kissinger.

It is scarcely possible to avoid the conclusion that the Pentagon is girding for a preemptive strike in the Middle East, renewed bombing in Vietnam, or both.

Under these circumstances it is absolutely essential that there be clarity in the ranks of the working class on the source of the war danger. At no time has it been more imperative and more indispensable to ideologically and politically arm the working class in the face of a new and most dangerous imperialist adventure. Nothing could be more harmful, however, and nothing could sow more ideological confusion and political disorientation of the masses than the peddling of the so-called "superpowers" theory, with its invariable concomitant: that the USSR has degenerated into an imperialist state and only utilizes socialist phraseology to cover its aggressive imperialist rivalry with the U.S.

This is the essence of the so-called theory of "social imperialism." The latest pronouncement, coming from Premier Chou En-lai's speech of January 13, states: "The two superpowers (the U.S. and the USSR—S.M.) are the biggest international oppressors and exploiters today and they are the source of a new world war."

This assertion is not only false insofar as the USSR is concerned, but wholly pernicious and misleading in the extreme. It is high time to take this issue out of the sphere of mere theoretical differences. Its objective effect is to blur the class contradictions between the USSR and imperialism, disorient the masses, and hence objectively aid the imperialist onslaught of the U.S.

## WHO ARE THE WARMAKERS?

What is the source of a new world war?

Let us see. Who is it that is daily raining death and destruction on Cambodian villages and towns? Who is it that has been conducting a genocidal war against the Vietnamese people for more than a decade? Who supports and maintains the quisling Thieu regime? Who opened the aggressive war against the Korean people, and who to this day supports and controls the fascist Park regime and still maintains more than 40,000 troops in south Korea? Who overthrew the Auende government, and carried out one of the worst massacres in recent history?

Who but the CIA? And who but the CIA instigated and plotted the counter-revolution in Indonesia and installed the butcher Suharto at a cost of more than 200,000 lives?

Who invaded the Dominican Republic? Who overthrew the Guatemalan government and the Mossadegh government? Who (is it not embarrassing to ask?) occupies Taiwan and exploits, oppresses, and robs 25 million Chinese people there?

This list of U.S. domination and repression is practically endless. There is not a corner of the earth where American finance capital

does not have some stake from which it extracts super-profits—except where, as in the USSR, China, and other socialist countries, imperialism has been overthrown and the possessing classes expropriated.

If we are to close our eyes to these facts and equate the USSR with the U.S. it can only lead to the worst sort of confusion which ultimately can only redound to the benefit of imperialism.

## CONCILIATORS, YES; IMPERIALISTS, NO

It is barely a year since Nixon's phony military alert, which was calculated not only to intimidate the Middle East countries, but also to frighten the USSR and compel the Brezhnev leadership to pull back.

It is one thing to attack the Soviet leadership and the entire Soviet bureaucracy for appeasing, conciliating, or accommodating itself to imperialist blackmail and threats, and for outright class-collaborationist policies; it is something else again to vilify the

USSR as an imperialist state.

On the contrary, the USSR is a progressive social formation, in spite of the bureaucratic deformations with which it is encumbered.

The contention between the U.S. and the USSR arises from the wholly different driving forces of the two economic systems. Imperialism is driven relentlessly and irresistibly to search for super-profits, raw materials, and areas for the disposal of its products, as well as cheap labor for exploitation. These are not the ills which afflict Soviet society. Nothing brings out the sharp contrast between the two competing social systems more than the current catastrophic economic crisis which is ravaging the capitalist world, while remarkable economic growth and development prevail in the Soviet Union.

## CONTENTION OF OPPOSING CLASSES

Certainly there is contention between the U.S. and the USSR.

But it is the contention of two diametrically opposed social systems, each resting on opposite and antagonistic classes and having different objectives. The social system of monopoly capitalism is based on domination by the bourgeoisie, the exploitation of the proletariat, and the super-exploitation of oppressed peoples.

The USSR, on the other hand, is a workers' state in spite of all the degeneration it has gone through since the death of Lenin. It is basically a new, progressive social formation. It has a new mode of production with a planned economy and production for use. It is, in spite of all repression, bureaucratic absolutism, and high privileges and emoluments for the bureaucracy, a proletarian dictatorship, while what we have in the U.S. is a dictatorship of a ruthless, predatory, decadent, monopolist, war-breeding bourgeoisie.

## CHARACTER OF SOVIET BUREAUCRACY

The Soviet bureaucracy is a

temporary, transitional social phenomenon. It has been responsible for inhibiting and retarding the development of Soviet society. It has prevented Soviet society from moving in a wholly socialist direction. It has overthrown the working class norms and revolutionary internationalism of the Leninist period.

The violation of socialist legality and destruction of Soviet democracy is not only the work of Khrushchev and his grouping, but dates back to Stalin. It was he who introduced the dogma of peaceful coexistence and class collaboration with imperialism. Khrushchev and Brezhnev only deepened the trend.

From 1959 until the signing of the Test Ban Treaty in 1963, the Chinese CP leadership carried on a generally progressive struggle against the Soviet bureaucracy. During this entire period the attack on the Soviet leadership was centered on its accommodationist attitude toward imperialism. The Soviet leadership was accused of abandoning the class struggle, of renouncing the inevitability of imperialist war, and of collaborating with the bourgeoisie. U.S. imperialism was consistently depicted in Chinese CP literature as the "main enemy of the working class" and "the most ferocious enemy of mankind." The change came about abruptly after the signing of the Test Ban Treaty between the U.S. and the USSR.

## BEHIND BREAK WITH CHINA

The Chinese opposition to the signing of the treaty was based not so much, it turns out, on what the treaty signified in and of itself—that is, the banning of nuclear tests in the atmosphere—as on the fact that Khrushchev went ahead and unilaterally signed this treaty with the U.S. without consulting China, as should have been done in the light of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty. Unquestionably, this was a flagrant breach of socialist solidarity by Khrushchev and the Soviet bureaucracy. China was justifiably outraged. It was a break in fraternal relations.

However, judged by the enormity of other hostile acts carried out by the Soviet bureaucracy, it did not necessarily change the fundamental class character of the Soviet social system. The USSR did not thereby become an imperialist state. Khrushchev, Stalin, as well as Brezhnev have carried out many such double-crosses of the international working class movement and allied socialist countries—but that is the nature of the Soviet bureaucracy, which must not be confused with the class foundations of the USSR.

To do that is to disorient and hopelessly confuse the working class movement. The USSR is still, more so today than perhaps in earlier years, a mighty working-class fortress which contains limitless possibilities for socialist growth and development, whereas the camp of the bourgeoisie is one of decay and decomposition, repression, counter-revolution, and genocidal war. To propagate the spurious theory of "social imperialism" in the face of the real imperialism we are faced with day in and day out is to give objective aid to the very class enemy which must be overthrown.



## 30,000 Indonesians still jailed since 1965 bloodbath

By MOLLY CHARBONEAU

**JANUARY 20**—This year marks the tenth anniversary of the bloody CIA-backed coup that left Indonesian rivers flowing with the blood of hundreds of thousands. Yet 10 years after this horrendous slaughter, more than 30,000 progressives rounded up in 1965 are still imprisoned in Indonesian concentration camps, most of them without trial! Hundreds more were arrested following a resurgence of anti-imperialist demonstrations in January 1974.

## SUHARTO'S LIES ON 'FREEING' PRISONERS

Despite a statement by the Suharto regime in 1973 that the "Indonesian government is trying hard to solve the problem of political prisoners and to free them," no fundamental changes have taken place. Two years after these hollow promises, thousands

of prisoners still struggle to survive on spoonfuls of rice and vegetables allotted to them by the regime.

According to exiled Indonesian progressives, political prisoners in concentration camps at Buru, an isolated island, and throughout Java are divided into categories. More than 2,000 A-category political prisoners are to be detained indefinitely, possibly for life. These are undoubtedly the most militant and heroic of the prisoners whom the government fears most. More than 27,000 B-category prisoners can achieve freedom, but only at the right-wing regime's discretion when they are too beaten down to continue in the anti-imperialist struggles and demonstrations. More than 740,000 C-category prisoners are employed by the government or allowed to work in vital enterprises while imprisoned. When they are freed

they lose their jobs, and are often rearrested time and time again as a form of intimidation. The hundreds of prisoners arrested after the January demonstrations will be kept in detention for years before ever being tried, let alone freed.

## BURU CONCENTRATION CAMP THRIVES ON SLAVE LABOR

Buru, an island concentration camp, reveals another reason why prisoners are detained for so long—for their labor power. Four years of unpaid labor by prisoners on Buru turned swamps and forests into productive farmland. Last year prisoner labor on this island alone produced 1,597 tons of rice, 531 tons of maize, and 5,355 tons of cassava. The prisoners themselves are fed little of what they produce, and the U.S.-backed government receives 100 percent

(Continued on page 8)

# POLITICAL PRISONERS



## RUCHELL MAGEE SENTENCED TO LIFE TERM

On January 23, Ruchell Magee stood impassively before Judge William Ingram as a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment without parole was passed on him for "aggravated kidnaping" in the August 1970 Marin County Courthouse escape attempt that left Jonathan Jackson, inmates Willie Christmas and James McLain, and a judge dead when cops attacked the getaway van.

Outside the courthouse, several supporters were arrested for "failure to disperse" while conducting a demonstration to free Ruchell.

Angela Davis was acquitted on charges relating to the same incident and Ruchell has been carrying out a determined battle in the courts for over 4 years to beat the frameup. His trial last year ended in acquittal on the charges of aggravated kidnaping, which carries a sentence of 1 to 5 years.

The presiding judge declared a hung jury and the entire proceeding a mistrial, covering up the fact that Ruchell had been acquitted on the major charges.

Magee has been incarcerated for 19 years after a robbery conviction with a sentence of 5 years to life under California's notorious indeterminate sentence practice. Ruchell became a self-taught legal expert behind bars. He is famous throughout the California prison system, but in his own trials the judges have refused to let him defend himself and imposed a public defender on him.

Before his case was severed from that of Angela Davis, Magee succeeded through legal writs in forcing several judges to disqualify themselves from the case, but still he was declared incompetent to defend himself.

Magee has been under tremendous pressure ever since he became a leader of his fellow inmates, spending years locked in solitary in San Quentin's Adjustment Center where George Jackson was murdered. He saw the mass support for Angela Davis that never was broadened into support for his case.

Ruchell has repeatedly been compelled to undergo prolonged fasts to win the right to a minimal freedom to conduct his defense. Today's sentencing comes after appeals to the Supreme Court to retract a guilty plea made last August 14 out of frustration while he was awaiting yet another trial on the

major charges, even though the jury had acquitted him.

Ruchell's appeal was based on the reasoning that since the court said he was incompetent to defend himself, he was likewise incompetent to enter a plea. But the the courts do not operate on reason.

The California prison system was already planning to keep Ruchell locked up for life, forever denying parole because of his intransigent resistance to injustice. They can jail Ruchell, but they can never jail his heroic spirit of struggle that stands as an inspiration to all the oppressed.

## DEATH TRIGGERS STRIKE AT TERRE HAUTE

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., Jan. 14—On January 6, William Lowe died due to improper treatment at the Federal Penitentiary hospital here. Two days later more than 900 out of the 1,071 prisoners at Terre Haute participated in a peaceful work stoppage to protest Lowe's murder.

Three days before his death, it took the vehement protests of six prisoners living in Lowe's housing unit to finally get him admitted to the prison hospital after 4 p.m. (There is no doctor at the prison from 4 p.m. Friday to 8 a.m. Monday, nor is there any competent medical staff.) On Sunday a medical training assistant administered Lowe a barbiturate to relax his nerves. He later died. There was never an attempt to take Lowe to a hospital in the community, even though the staff knew the prison hospital lacked the facilities to deal with Lowe's illness.

The prisoners held the work stoppage on January 8 to form a Prisoners' Council, a liaison group of prisoners who could air grievances with prison officials, and to demand better medical treatment, including a doctor 7 days a week, a competent medical staff at night, and use of community hospitals for those prisoners whose illnesses necessitate such facilities.

This is not the first protest against conditions at the hospital. In October of 1972 prisoners here were promised better medical treatment as a result of a work stoppage. Improvements were never made. Now, the hospital guard says nobody will be admitted to the hospital unless he is on his "death bed."

Currently there is a flu epidemic inside the penitentiary. The "medication" being administered is a combination of cold capsules, cough syrup, and throat lozenges.

A temperature of 102 is necessary for prisoners to be excused from work, and prisoners with temperatures higher than 102 degrees have been refused admittance to the hospital. Just this morning a man in the factory passed out with a temperature of 103 degrees. He was immediately taken downtown to a hospital (only because there is still a lot of tension in the prison).

The situation is tight. There have been 70 prisoners locked in segregation or transferred as a result of the peaceful protest. More lock-ups and transfers are imminent—all of which will be an attempt by prison officials to suppress the rage and the facts around Lowe's death.

We need a full investigation of Lowe's death, the lock-ups, and the hospital's facilities. Letters of protest should go to congresspeople, the warden here (Warden Benson, Box 33, Terre Haute, Indiana 47808) and to the director of the Bureau of Prisons (Norman Carlson, H.O.L.C. Building, 101 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.). Push for a full-scale investigation before the next man dies!

## INMATES CHARGE JAIL WITH TORTURE

By KEITH PAVLIK  
DETROIT, Jan. 26—On January 5, six prisoners from Wayne County Jail filed suit against the jail on charges of overcrowding and severe torture of prisoners.

In March 1972, the court limited the capacity of the jail to 799 prisoners, still much too high for the ancient structure. Despite the court order, over 800 inmates have been incarcerated there continuously since September 1974.

It has come to light recently that "mentally ill" prisoners are hosed with chemical fire extinguishers while in their cells. These hosings are known to have occurred at least 15 times within the last 3 months. Carlton Abbot, 23, said he was hosed down for 20 minutes with water mixed with a chemical substance from five portable fire extinguishers. The temperatures were below freezing and the windows open. The sticky yellow chemical in the water stuck to his body, burning throughout the night.

Another inmate, Kenneth MacGee stated, "Half the the time I'd be in my underwear and the windows would be open and it would get frighteningly cold."

One alternative to the hosings, says the prison administration, is the use of drugs to

control behavior. These drugs are used on supposedly mentally ill prisoners—often those politically active who refuse to accept degrading and inhumane treatment. Doctors agree that even for prisoners legitimately ill, neither drugs nor torture is the answer.

## REFORMS INADEQUATE

Sheriff William Lucas has been charged in contempt of court for the overcrowding of the jail, and a three-judge panel has heard the charges of torture. On Friday former city chief attorney Elliot S. Hall was appointed as jail monitor. While city officials have been forced to make a few changes, they are at best inadequate reforms which don't deal at all with the tortures and the prisoners' real problems.

## HIGH COURT DENIES APPEAL FOR CARRINGTON

NORFOLK, Jan. 24—The appeal of James Carrington, a young Black man framed up on a phony rape charge and sentenced to 75 years, was turned down by the Supreme Court this week. The Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal, which was based on discrimination in jury selection at James' trial. The jury was all white, all old, all rich, all men. James Carrington has already spent 5 years in prison. The Prisoners Solidarity Committee is contacting James' lawyers to see if another appeal can be made. For messages of solidarity to James and his mother, please write: James Carrington 95682, 500 Spring Street, Richmond, Va. 23219 and Mrs. O.T. Carrington, Route 2, Box 170-A, Keysville, Va. 23947.

**Free the Atmore-Holman Brothers**

**AND STOP POLICE REPRESSION**

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA. FEB. 8**

**March**

—Assemble 12 noon at Martin Luther King Park (16th St. & 6th Ave. North)

**Rally**

—3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Methodist Church (15th St. & 6th Ave. North)

## N.Y. rally demands freedom for political prisoners in Spain

NEW YORK, Jan. 24—The Ad Hoc Coalition for Spanish Political Prisoners rallied here today to protest the detention and torture of two activists in the women's movement in Spain and seven other opponents of the Franco regime.

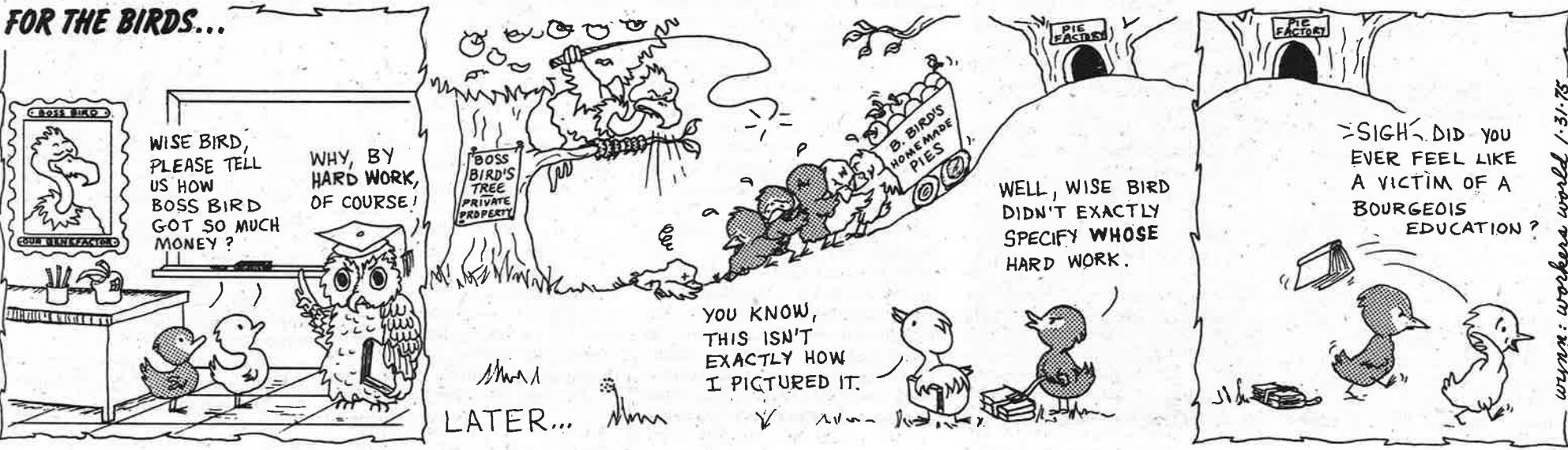
The rally, which drew a crowd of 150 to UN Plaza, heard speakers from women's groups and other organizations, politicians, and

individuals. The Women's Caucus of Youth Against War & Fascism was among the supporting groups.

The speakers called for the immediate release of all nine political prisoners, including Lidia Falcon, a lawyer and author of several books on women's rights, psychiatrist Eva Forest, a labor leader, and several well-known Spanish intellectuals.

The nine were arrested following

a September 13 bombing of a cafe in Madrid that is usually frequented by cops. The government immediately blamed the explosion on the ETA, a Basque separatist organization. The 9 were arrested for complicity, even though they were not known to have any link to the ETA. In addition, the ETA denied responsibility for the bombing and pointed out that no police were in



wynn: workers world 1/31/75

# 'Pecking order' in machine shop only helps bosses divide workers

By EDDIE REILLY  
Last Friday the foreman finally fired George, the diemakers' helper. Although he was already a first-class machinist and did careful work, he didn't own his own tools. Because of that the diemakers had wanted him fired since the first month he worked here.

Owning your own tools is a job requirement for workers in the machine trade and an obsession among the most skilled and highest paid, the tool and diemakers. The average production worker usually needs only a few basic measuring tools, like a one-inch micrometer or a vernier caliper. But a tool and diemaker needs tools that can easily run into hundreds and hundreds of dollars.

The bigger your tool chest is, the higher up in the shop's pecking order you are. It is also supposed to show how much skill you have, but the two are not necessarily connected. In the machine shop in my plant, no two machinists are treated the same. They all get slightly different salaries, different types of jobs to do, different privileges. The more skilled machinists all have one or two helpers or second-class machinists to supervise. Even though the machinist is not your

boss, if he says you're out, you're usually out. The top guys get to drink coffee from the foreman's electric percolator.

George went through hell with the diemakers. He took the job even though it paid less than his last one because he felt he would never get anywhere in production work and wanted to learn diemaking. I think the diemakers felt threatened by him because he already knew machine work and would learn too fast, maybe cutting into their overtime. All they had him do was clean their machines, make them coffee (but he couldn't drink it), and occasionally make something on the milling machine when they were too busy.

One day they sent George up to the tool crib to pick up clean aprons for everybody. One of the aprons had pinstripes, and the rest were plain white, so he took the striped one for himself. When the head diemaker saw the pinstriped apron, he told George to take it off and give it to him. At first he thought the diemaker was kidding. But when he shouted, "Give it to me, I want it," George realized it was either give up the apron or give up diemaking.

From then on, whenever George needed to borrow a tool from the

diemakers, they would answer, "Why don't you buy your own?" It reached the point where he was ruining pieces because they wouldn't loan him the proper tools.

So the head diemaker demanded that the company fire George. First the foreman offered to sell George tools from the company tool crib at cost and deduct the payments from his paycheck. Since he only took home \$97 a week to feed his family, I can understand why he refused such a "generous offer." So they canned him.

The whole system with tools among machinists really plays into the hands of the boss. Each machinist is made to feel like a little business man with his own traveling factory. I think if it were practical the company would try to make you buy your own lathe, too—and some guys would do it!

I can understand why the bosses set things up this way, but what I can't understand is how so many machinists get sucked in by it. Just because the bosses take advantage of us is no reason for us to take advantage of one another. The only way we really get any thing better for ourselves is by sticking together. If the bosses want production, let them buy us the tools we need!

'The Towering Inferno,' etc.

## Danger at the movies

By B. LAPIDES  
Commercial films guarantee themselves big profits by capitalizing on popular moods. Which is why *The Towering Inferno*, the slickest, most expensive—most ultra-commercial—film of the year is the one which is most sensitive to the profoundest development of our day, the collapse of capitalism.

Cold War audiences in the 1950s didn't care that the science fiction movies they went to see were mostly badly written, badly acted. At their core was always a tension that paralleled the anti-communist hysteria then gripping much of America. Kids in school, wearing metal dogtags so that their remains could be identified, were taught terror, crouching under desks in atomic air raid drills. Their parents' more realistic fears about McCarthyism were overwhelmed by government-sponsored paranoia. As general anxiety about the future grew, so did the popularity of those films.

Their tension involved, on the one hand, an attack—of invaders from another solar (social?) system, or a new, more developed (socialist?) species of human or some creature of great size and strength (the masses?) from the

deep—and, on the other hand, a powerless, panic-stricken population. The day was usually saved by the ingenuity of a couple of scientists or by the technology of the military. The fruitlessness of popular struggle reinforced the audience's frightened passivity, relieved as it may have been that the danger was beaten back.

The acknowledgment of fear provides a point of identification in fiction, for it's the moment of human choice, which can degenerate into helpless panic (as in these movies) or can be mobilized into active struggle. Some children's stories, for example, help kids overcome their fear of powerlessness in the face of serious dangers to come by showing that, despite fear, victory over the giant is possible, that a climb up the beanstalk, a walk through the woods, leaving home is not impossible.

People crave recognition of the complexities of life because they want to learn resilience, would rather resolve their fears than deny them. And yet, knowing how cynically audience-fears have been manipulated and heightened, some progressive film-makers avoid any recognition whatever of hesitation, hoping the angry optimism of a

struggle already joined will inspire those less developed. However, their decision to skip the transition from fear to action forfeits an as yet unready mass audience, which feels "talked at" by the certainty of such an approach.

If only for commercial reasons, the currently popular "disaster" films are responsive to the anxiety about the future, again becoming widespread. But while Cold War fantasies were best expressed in manipulative science fiction, the realities of the crisis in capitalism are reflected in painstaking realism—and surprising honesty. No longer an attack by an alien force, the danger now is that the system itself is no longer safe, the structure no longer operable. An airplane crashes, a boat turns upside down, a building collapses, another burns itself down—and in each case there are people trapped inside.

*The Towering Inferno* is the best of these, because it most fully develops the lines of tension: the arrogance of bourgeois power and the fear of being helplessly caught in its self-destruction. As the tallest building in the world (American capitalism?) is being dedicated in a (bicentennial?) celebration on the 135th floor, an electrical fire below begins to burn down the structure—because a millionaire capitalist had put profits before human safety. Many are killed, especially those who panic; but many are saved by their own courage and cooperation and by the heroic firemen.

It's doubtful the film's director meant these heroes to represent the vanguard of the proletariat, but the helplessness of those at the top, paralyzed by their self-involvement, is answered by the "ordinary," working class firemen, whose organized bravery and individual commitment show the way out of extreme danger.

the cafe at the time of the bombing. It was suggested that the bombing was done by the cops themselves as a pretext to round up the nine.

Speakers at the rally here included representatives of the CUNY Women's Coalition, the Women's Caucus of the Modern Language Association, Amnesty International, and a number of well-known writers, professors, and politicians. Most predicted that the cases would go before a military court in early February and said that recent news from Spain indicated they all had been brutally tortured. The speakers

said that at least two of the group, Eva Forest and Antonio Doran, are expected to receive the death penalty.

At the rally Sue Olan, representing YAWF Women, read a statement which concluded, "YAWF Women join with other progressive women and men in the U.S. and around the world to protest the stepped up political repression in Spain and to condemn the U.S. government for supporting it. We call for the immediate release of all political prisoners and for the freedom of all women and men in Spain to fight for their basic democratic rights."

Get in the struggle with  
**Youth Against War & Fascism  
and Workers World Party!**



For information, contact: **WORKERS WORLD**  
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In Boston, "anti-busing" is the codeword for racism. Now in other cities charges of "reverse racism" are being used to protect the age-old policy of discrimination in education. See p. 4.

## Menominee tradition of struggle behind warriors' land reclamation



*"The Menominee Warrior Society is simply reclaiming . . . land under an original 1848 treaty. . . . The Menominee nation was once self-sufficient; it intends to be so again."*

By JIM MILLER

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 25—The Menominee Indians have a rich history of struggle. The current occupation of the vacant Alexian Brothers monastery near Gresham, Wis., by the Menominee Warrior Society is the latest chapter in that history, and flows from years of oppression and theft of Indian land by the U.S. government and racist discrimination by white residents in the area.

### LOST TRIBAL LAND

In the 1830s when Wisconsin was first being populated by white settlers, the Menominee tribal land included most of Eastern Wisconsin. Rather than face extinction in an unequal war, the Menominees made treaties with the U.S. government which forced them to give up most of their land. The U.S. tried to move them to Minnesota, but eventually a reservation was set up in Northeastern Wisconsin. In late 19th century the government tried to turn the Menominees, who are traditionally hunters and fishermen, into farmers, but the Menominees resisted and today the major natural resource of the tribe is its vast woodlands. Because of its lumber the tribe

was largely self-sufficient. But in the 1950s, the government again stepped in and pushed through the policy of termination, which by 1961 removed the tribe from federal protection and turned the reservation into a state county, subject to federal and state taxation.

The Menominee people lost all their federal aid and their hospital. The county quickly became the poorest in Wisconsin, with unemployment running as high as 50 percent. Medical services were totally inadequate and an epidemic of tuberculosis struck in the early 1960s. Infant mortality is the highest in the state. Menominees were forced to get needed medical services and education in the nearby white community of Shawano, where discrimination against Menominees is prevalent in every aspect of life.

Because of the economic situation many Menominees were forced to leave their land and emigrate to Milwaukee, Chicago, and Detroit to find jobs. But these Menominees still have strong ties to their land in Wisconsin.

### AGAINST LAND SALE

The Menominee tribal assets were controlled by a corporation, Menominee Enterprises, of which

a large share is held by the First Wisconsin Bank. In the 1970s the directors of the corporation, without approval by the tribe, began to sell land to a white developer for sale as summer cottages. This brought a widespread movement among the Menominees. They conducted many demonstrations that eventually led to a halt in all further land sales. The

Menominees formed an organization called DRUMS (Determination, Rights, and Unity for Menominee Shareholders) to fight for restoration of tribal rights with federal protection, and an end to the termination process. A law to this effect was passed in 1973.

But pressing economic and social problems remain for the Menominees. There still is no hospital or high school for the

Menominee people yet just outside Menominee County stands a 60-room building owned by the Catholic Church which has been unused since 1968. The Menominee Warrior Society is simply reclaiming this land under an original 1848 treaty so that it can be used for the Menominee people. The Menominee nation was once self-sufficient; it intends to be so again.

## Seneca nation answers utility company's false allegations

BUFFALO, Jan. 27—"Doesn't anyone have the right to defend their home, land, and children?"

These were the feelings of Marlene Kennedy, a young Indian mother facing charges of attempted murder of a policeman and reckless endangerment, as she spoke to a press conference here on January 20. The press conference was the first opportunity the Indians had to counter a false and biased account fabricated by the state police and circulated by the news media surrounding an incident which occurred January 9

on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation.

On that day officials of the Niagara-Mohawk Power Co. invaded the reservation in the southwest corner of New York State with a state police escort to shut off power to the homes of many of the Indian families, including the Kennedys.

The Senecas feel they should be receiving fair payment for the commercial use of Indian land and have been testing their demand for the right to negotiate contracts as a

sovereign nation by refusing to pay their utility bills.

The press conference was the first effort by the recently formed Marlene Indian Defense Committee to build mass support for Marlene and to defend the rights of Indian people. Posters and buttons are being produced to raise the funds necessary for the legal battles ahead. In addition, a support rally for the near future is being planned and a defense committee office is being secured in Buffalo.