

# Greed of big banks drives NYC to brink of disaster



**Special to WORKERS WORLD**  
NEW YORK, May 17—Like a great falling ax, the terrible economic catastrophe that had been taking shape over the past year descended full force yesterday on the heads of 8 million New York City residents.

**NEEDED SERVICES TO GO**  
Announcing the adoption of new "austerity" measures, Mayor Abraham Beame called a press conference on May 16 to present what even he called "a horror list" of new and devastating cutbacks. They included the elimination of 66 engine and ladder companies and additional Fire Department units. With these scrapped, firefighting response time will be doubled.

*These children marched in New York City in 1971 for better schools, homes, and health care. Now Mayor Beame's drastic budget cuts are eliminating the most essential social services.*

WW photo

In addition to the four hospitals already to be shut down, four more will be closed. Also slated for abolition are three district health centers, ten child-health stations, a neighborhood family-care center, plus other social units, including the possible elimination of all kindergarten classes.

Garbage collections are to be reduced by one-third and street repairs by one-half. Finally, 8,689 substitute teachers will have to go, along with the City University SEEK program (designed to help minority students). Beame also plans a forced reduction of 22,000 students for the fall admission at the City College of New York.

Since he took office, Beame has already cut children's day care by

one-third, reduced sanitary services and fire companies below a safe level, increased class sizes in schools, cut the MTA bus and subway services, laid off 1,600 city workers, and instituted forced retirement, payless furloughs, and payless workdays for those remaining, as well as canceling their negotiated wage increases and some pensions. Having already ordered work halted on most of the badly needed housing projects, either planned or in construction, throughout the city, Beame is already trying to dismantle the Health Services Administration and has pushed through legislation that will raise rents even higher.

## **PUSHING JOBLESS RATE TO 1930s LEVEL**

With the official unemployment rate in New York City already at the depression level of 11.5 percent (65 percent for Black youth alone), Beame's latest threat to lay off 52,000 city employees can only be seen as a brutal all-out assault on the working class.

The mayor claims the budget crunch is so bad he can't even be sure of meeting current city payrolls!

Of course, Beame and New York Governor Carey (who is himself threatening to throw 50,000 state workers onto the unemployment lines) blame the openly pro-big business Ford Administration for "forcing" them to take these cruel measures. But the Executive Director of the 110,000-member District Council 37 local of the county, state, and municipal employees union (AFSCME), Victor Gotbaum has stated, "I don't see how any workers—not only city workers—will work without pay." Faced with a strike by Gotbaum's union, both Beame and Carey are anxious to dump responsibility for the cutbacks on Republicans in Washington and Albany.

The real truth, however, is that the publicly staged shadow boxing between the Republicans and Democrats over the financial crisis is nothing but a cover-up designed to let off the hook the main culprit that both of these capitalist parties serve. And that culprit is the great Wall Street banks.

## **CITY BLED BY BANKS**

New York City is in debt to these banks, particularly the First

(Continued on page 4)

## **A Workers World exclusive**

# **Korea answers threats of U.S. war chief**

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, May 21—In an answer to belligerent remarks by U.S. Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger directed against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (north Korea), the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) has charged the U.S. with "maneuvers to provoke a new war in Korea."

The answer to Schlesinger appeared yesterday in the Pyongyang daily Rodong Sinmun over the authoritative signature of "Commentator." The English translation of the statement transmitted by the KCNA was made available to Workers World newspaper today.

In an interview published by the conservative newsweekly U.S. News and World Report dated May 26 (but appearing on newsstands early this week), Schlesinger had stated that if war broke out on the Korean peninsula, "the United States would take more vigorous action than we were inclined to take during much of the Vietnam war." Admitting that another

Korean war "is bound to lose the support of the American public" if it lasted very long, Schlesinger suggested that "action must be more vigorous at the outset, particularly where there are American forces involved."

Underlining this threat, he added, "We have upwards of 40,000 men in Korea."

With rhetoric reminiscent of that employed so often by his predecessor, Robert McNamara, during the worst of the Vietnam escalations, Schlesinger stated that to win a future Korean war he would find it "necessary" to carry

the battle "to the heart of the opponent's power." That is "one of the lessons" he learned from his defeat in Indochina, Schlesinger told U.S. News.

## **THREATENS TO BOMB CITIES**

Calling the 30-year-old U.S. occupation of Korea a "historical commitment," he said that if the soldiers were brought home it "could unravel the situation." Asked if he would feel "any constraints" about ordering "heavy bombing" of densely populated cities in the north, Schlesinger

**In the forthcoming struggle of the Korean people to free themselves from U.S. imperialism and the repressive Park regime, the support of the socialist countries and all progressive people is just as important as in the Vietnamese liberation struggle. See analysis by Sam Marcy, page 9.**

replied, "I would doubt it."

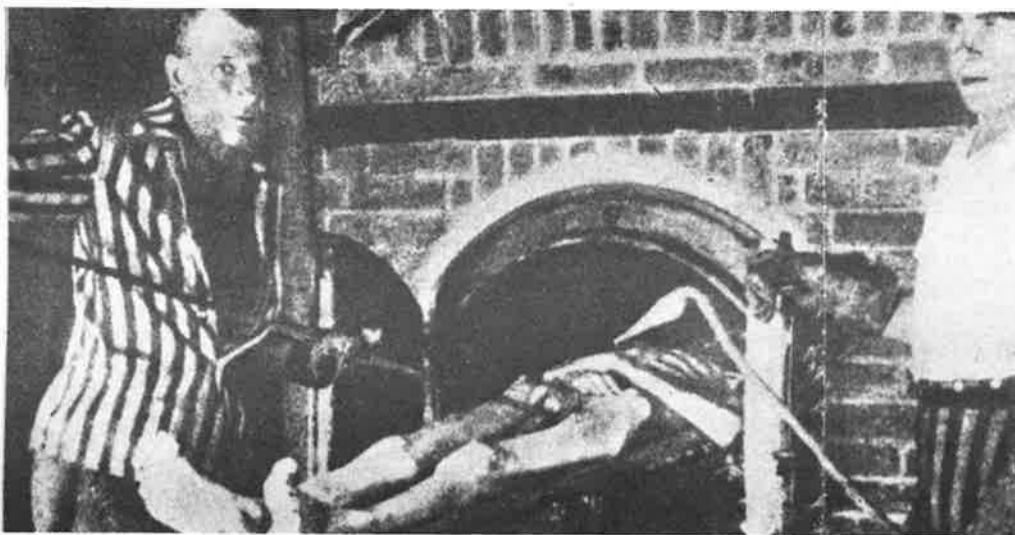
Such air attacks were carried out against all northern population centers during the war in Korea two decades ago, and although many thousands of civilians were killed, the air raids had little military effect and the U.S. was eventually forced to sign an armistice.

## **KOREANS MAKE STRONG REPLY**

Two days after the appearance of the Schlesinger interview, the Commentator article in the DPRK newspaper Rodong Sinmun described his statements as "a vicious and provocative outburst against the Korean people." The editorial warned the Pentagon militarists that while "there is no one who will be frightened by... the U.S. imperialists and their military threats, we can neither overlook it nor can we be indifferent to it."

Fully aware that "Schlesinger had us in mind when he used the

(Continued on page 7)

**Arch-racist aims at fascist rule in U.S.****Wallace: Hitler was right in WW II**

When George Wallace talks about being on "the wrong side" in WW II, he is endorsing racist genocide and the concentration camps, like that above, where it was carried out.

By CARL BESSON

"I think we were fighting the wrong people, maybe, in World War II. What I'm saying is that our true foreign policy in those years ought to have been cultivating the friendship of the

Japanese and the Germans instead of being antagonistic. . . . In fact, I wish we'd been on the same side in World War II."

—George C. Wallace, 1975

Obviously, when George Wallace made these remarks he wasn't

speaking so much of how things "ought to have been" four decades ago as much as he was spelling out how he feels things "ought to be" right now.

Lightning wars of conquest and aggression, the crushing of trade

## Striking Quebec workers seize U.S.-owned United Aircraft plant

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, May 20—"The occupants tried to surrender and offered no resistance, but the police massacred them. They are being rounded up like cattle into a corner and at the moment I am speaking to you, the police are beating them with their batons on the head, arms, and the legs."

This was an eyewitness account broadcast over radio station CKVL in Montreal concerning a brutal police attack on striking workers who took over a U.S.-owned aircraft plant May 12 and held it overnight. The attack left 34 workers arrested and many others injured.

### ANTI-UNION LEGISLATION AN ISSUE

The militant workers' action comes at a time of rapidly mounting tensions between hard-hit Quebec workers and the Provincial Government over recent anti-union legislation, according to Robert Demers of the Quebec Federation of Labor, contacted by telephone in Montreal yesterday by *Workers World*.

The workers involved in the takeover have been on strike for 17 months against the plant, which is a part of the Pratt & Whitney Division of United Aircraft, one of

the 50 largest industrial corporations in the U.S., according to the May issue of *Fortune* magazine. The main issue in the long, bitter strike has been United Aircraft's refusal to recognize a union shop, according to Demers, although wages are also at stake.

The strikers, members of United Auto Workers Local 510, occupied the plant following a march in sympathy with a rally called by the Quebec Federation of Labor in protest of government measures to curb the unions.

Demers told *Workers World* that the rally had been called to protest the passage of a bill which permits "government delegates to take over the trade unions." He said that Bill 29, which was recently approved by the Quebec Parliament, gives the government delegates tremendous powers, such as the ability to supersede the union president and power to change the union constitution. The bill also strips shop stewards of all authority, he explained.

Demers added that another anti-union bill, Bill 39, is currently under consideration by the Provincial Government. If passed, workers and unions participating in strikes deemed illegal will bear the burden of proving their innocence.

It is no accident that these bills are being introduced in Quebec Province where the population is largely French-speaking. Quebecois actually are an oppressed people within Canada, who have always been the lowest paid and have been forced to bear the brunt of the country's unemployment. (According to the March 1975 issue of *Labor Gazette*, for example, almost half of all workers out of jobs in all the provinces as a whole, are living in Quebec Province, where Quebecois make up five-sixths of the population.)

The provincial legislators and the corporations behind them, especially the U.S. corporations who have a stranglehold on the Canadian economy, hope by these measures to stem the Quebecois workers' anger at worsening economic conditions. But the militant takeover of the United Aircraft plant shows the workers are thinking differently. The United Aircraft workers, like the armed Native American workers who recently occupied a plant on a Navajo reservation to protest layoffs, not only struck an important blow for the oppressed, but for all workers throughout Quebec, Canada, and the world.

unions and democratic organizations, the annihilation of nations and entire races—this is the cause whose "friendship we should have cultivated," according to Mr. Wallace. Of course, by "we" he means the racist U.S. ruling class, and especially the neo-fascist wing he represents.

These would seem to be rather startling and damaging statements even for an imperialist politician. Perhaps Wallace feels insulated by postwar U.S. policy which has included the war of devestation and continued occupation of half of Korea, blitzkrieg in the Dominican Republic, the transforming of Indonesia into the slaughterhouse of a million people, the massacre in Chile, the U.S.-backed Israeli wars of aggression, and the decades of genocide in Indochina. Not to mention the manufacture and arming of fascist police-state puppets all around the globe.

Perhaps the "new Wallace" and his big business allies who are cranking up his 1976 campaign for national office feel that his past performance of standing in the schoolhouse door, vowing "segregation now and forever", the daily murders of Blacks in Alabama's prisons, the officially sanctioned murders of Blacks and other minorities on the streets, the Jackson States, the Atticas, and so on, and on, have softened the ground for an open pronouncement of fascist ideological identity.

Perhaps his statements in favor of the ruling classes of the axis powers do not seem treasonous to the officer-veterans of World War 2 who whipped up American troops to fight the working masses of Italy, Germany, and Japan. These militarists can easily switch allies, because the war was over U.S. profits, not democracy vs. fascism.

But his remarks were a spit in the eye of the masses of workers and poor in this country who well understand the importance of the struggle against racism and bigotry, and who well know the rapacious greed of the U.S. corporations and the necessity of labor actively organizing the employed and unemployed against them. We are all familiar with the criminal suggestion that only another war will serve to end the economic crisis which is now grinding down and undermining our daily lives.

The socialist revolution will end hatred, unemployment, and war, and will relieve the world forever of its George Wallaces and whatever other crazed bodyguards of the dying capitalist system are still dreaming of gas chambers, ovens, and quick-lime pits.

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### WORKERS WORLD

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Published by:  
World View Publishers, Inc.  
46 W. 21 St.  
New York, N.Y. 10010  
Editorial office: 212-675-2555  
Business office: 212-255-0352

Published weekly, except for the first week of August and September.

Closing news date: May 19, 1975

Subscriptions: one year, \$7.00; 6 months, \$3.50. Please address requests for bundles to World View. Make checks payable to World View Publishers.

Second Class Postage paid at N.Y., N.Y.

## DECLINE AND FALL

### YOU NEVER GET RICH WORKING

New York Post, May 5:

"Fred J. Young has spent 23 years at Harris Bank (Chicago), 'working with rich people, helping them to get richer.'"

"... 'There are only two ways to get rich. First, you either inherit it or marry it. Second, you spend less than you earn and invest the rest in something that will go up.' The rub comes in selecting the right investment among stocks, bonds, running your own business or whatever. 'Most people I've seen,' says Young, 'have gotten rich from real estate.'

"You can never get rich from your salary. I have yet to find a wealthy man who got rich from his salary."

### GULF NEVER BRIBES, IT CONTRIBUTES

The New York Times, May 11:

"La Paz, Bolivia—The Gulf Oil Corporation, through its representative here, has informed the Bolivian government that it has not paid a \$4-million bribe to protect its investments in Bolivia.

"However, the company said it was 'unable at this time to give assurances that

Bolivia was not involved in political contributions from Gulf.'"

### BLUE CROSS DOUBLE CROSS

Blue Cross-Blue Shield (of Greater New York)—Brochure, 1975:

"It may be hard to believe that you have someone in there working to keep down the cost of hospital care when you hear, on every side, that it is soaring. "But we are working very hard toward this end."

Letter to Blue Cross Subscribers, (of Greater New York) Feb. 24:

"After a thorough examination of our financial situation the Superintendent of Insurance approved new hospital rates effective April 1, 1975. The new quarterly rates for hospital coverage will be:

"Individual \$43.29 (a quarterly increase of \$4.89)

"Family \$98.09 (a quarterly increase of \$15.72)

### TWO STEAKS GOT HIM 16 MONTHS

United Press International, May 6:

"Oklahoma City—The State Court of Criminal Appeals ruled today that 16 months in prison was enough for a man convicted of stealing two steaks. The court upheld the larceny conviction of Lloyd Sedric Newton, and said his five-year sentence should be modified to the time he had served in prison, 16 months."

But Ford and Kissinger won't serve a day for murdering a score of marines and airmen and uncouneted thousands of Cambodian civilians.

# Buffalo women workers begin to play leading role in militant picket lines, strikes

Special to Workers World  
BUFFALO, May 15—In greater numbers, women workers in recent months have been walking out of their traditional roles in substandard-paying jobs and onto the streets in militant picket lines as the major force behind strikes in the Buffalo area.

**AFTER 7 MONTHS  
BUFFALO FORGE STILL OUT**  
Office workers from United Steel Workers Locals 8269 and 8267 are in the seventh month of a walkout against the Buffalo Forge plant in Buffalo. The picketers, who are mostly women, are fighting for the basic right of unionized workers to negotiate their own contract. The company has refused to bargain seriously with the union.

At Arcata Graphics Corp., a major area printing company, women workers last month composed a majority of pickets in a 9-day strike of 650 workers to prevent an increase in working hours and other cutbacks in benefits. Members of seven other unions representing employees in the firm refused to cross the picket lines of Local 178, Bookbinders Union, AFL-CIO and brought operations in the plant to a standstill.

On May 14, the company made public plans for further layoffs at the plant. Since January 1, 350 workers from a total workforce of over 1,600 have been laid off. The company is now blaming the recent strike for the loss of orders causing the layoffs.

**BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD  
STILL OUT**

The Western New York Blue Cross-Blue Shield Offices in downtown Buffalo have been shut down since April 28 as over 600 clerical workers, members of Local 212, Office and Professional Employees Union, AFL-CIO, walked out in response to the company's proposed contract offering an insulting 6, 5, and 5 percent wage settlement over 3 years. Demanding a 2-year settlement of 12 and 10 percent, the union effectively closed down the building, with strong picket lines made up for the most part of women on strike for the first time. The women are calling for a voluntary overtime clause, and are opposing a company proposal for an absence and tardiness control program.

These women workers, like thousands of others in downtown offices, banks, and stores, have been consistently underpaid and denied many of the benefits workers in industries with years of union representation have won over the years. One of the contract proposals of the Blue Cross-Blue Shield women is the right to a dental plan that the company offers its workers in other industries. Through the power of their new union, the women are demonstrating to their sisters in non-unionized offices that they do not have to settle for subsistence salaries.

**COALITION OF LABOR  
UNION WOMEN FORMED**

It is this basic struggle for economic needs and dignity on the job that has brought more and more women workers into unions. Discrimination against women workers prompted the formation of the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW) in Chicago in March of 1974. The growing

awareness of area union women of their own oppression has made the formation of a western New York chapter of CLUW a reality which will certainly be a growing source of support and encouragement for white and minority women in all areas of the workforce.

Support from workers in other unions has long been a key factor to either make or break a strike. As the union-busting tactics of big business heighten, it becomes all the more crucial that organized labor give support to women workers and all others who are hitting the bricks. In turn, working women in their struggles for union representation and benefits are dealing a death blow to the age-old tactics of the bosses to keep all workers on their knees by keeping us divided along the basis of race, sex, or job classifications. Our strength and victories depend on our unity and the determined fight for the rights of the most oppressed of our class—all non-white workers and our working class sisters.



The same struggle for economic equality and dignity that brought women into the unions is now bringing them onto the picket lines in the fight against layoffs and cutbacks.

## Texas strikers call for job safety

By BARBARA TEEL

HOUSTON, May 15—Eight hundred workers have been on strike for 4 months now at the Ethyl Corporation's chemical plant in Pasadena, Texas. In their second strike in 22 years they walked out during negotiations, months before the expiration of their contract, when the company refused to deal with the workers' demands.

Despite company attacks, the workers are maintaining three picket lines 24 hours a day. On the second day of the strike a supervisor ran over a picketer with a truck. This past week, two of the workers were seriously injured by knife-wielding company thugs. The company is bribing supervisors, some for as much as \$100 a day, to scab on the strike.

Their tactics not working, the company has turned to the courts, obtaining an injunction against one of the picket lines. The workers first obeyed the injunction, but when the company began bringing in more scabs, the picket line was back up in defiance of the injunction.

The workers are members of Local 16000, United Steel Workers; Local 716, Electrical Workers; Local 211, Pipefitters and Welders; and Local 54, Sheet Metal Workers. They have banded together into the Concerned Ethyl Employees to fight their bosses. They are appealing to the workers in the area for support, exposing the arrogance and the greed of the corporation. The workers proclaim in their strike literature, "We put people over profits."

The workers are fighting for their lives—for the right to safety on a job where they must handle tetraethyl lead, vinyl chloride, and other dangerous chemicals every day. They know from bitter experience the low value the company places on their lives. In 1973 an explosion in the plant killed two workers and hospitalized nine others. The U.S. Labor Department fined the company a whopping \$600 for its negligence! Since then, there have been 400 injuries in the plant, 38 of them major.

In the vast stretch of petrochemical plants and refineries that surround Houston, the danger

constantly exists of explosions which could destroy entire communities. The 1947 explosion of the Monsanto Chemical Plant in Texas City was an example. The blast was felt in Houston 50 miles away. Fireballs rained from a fountain of flame which rocketed more than 3,000 feet to blast two aircraft before turning Texas City into a living hell of twisted steel, burning bodies, and leveled buildings.

**1947 CHEMICAL  
EXPLOSION KILLED 500**

When the smoke and carnage were cleared, the count was 561 dead, 3,000 injured, and thousands homeless. With the expansion of petrochemical plants in the area since then, there are enough deadly chemicals to kill every man, woman, and child in Pasadena and Houston. And scabs with no factory experience are now running the plants, vastly increasing the danger of explosions.

While millions of workers are unemployed, those still on the job are under attack, despite high profits by many corporations. Ethyl Corporation, a huge chemical conglomerate, had the second highest rate of return on investment last year of any chemical company in the U.S. Yet it is offering the workers only an 8 percent increase, an insult in these

inflationary times. The company is trying to throw out grievance procedures and shop stewards' rights and modify the seniority system.

As one workers said, "They're trying to take away everything that we've fought for ever since we opened up the place 23 years ago. They're trying to bust the union. But they won't get away with it."



Ethyl Corp. strikers have been on the picket line for 4 months to win safety measures in the plant. WW photo: Tim

Ford in Norfolk, Va.

## Pickets demand jobs for all

NORFOLK, May 6—"Lay off Ford, not workers" demanded more than 30 demonstrators outside the Norfolk Naval Station on May 3. Inside the huge base, Gerald Ford was commissioning U.S. imperialism's latest super-weapon, the \$700 million aircraft carrier U.S.S. Nimitz. The demonstration was called by the Center for United Labor Action (CULA) and included General Electric workers who had attended the rally for jobs in Washington the week before, as well as Norfolk residents who have been active in the fight against the Virginia Electric and Power Company (Veeco) and its exorbitant rates.

The picketers demanded jobs for all and the enforcement of the 1946 Full Employment Act and protested against Ford's Omnibus Energy Bill, which would drive the cost of energy up even higher, with huge profits for the utility companies and banks. Some of the placards pointed out that Rockefeller banks own a controlling interest in Veeco and Rockefeller-

owned Exxon sells fuel oil to Veeco at super-inflated prices.

The demonstration also attacked the wasteful spending on the U.S.S. Nimitz and demanded money for schools and hospitals rather than warships. Passers-by, mostly sailors and base workers, greeted the demonstration warmly, often with honks of horns and clenched fists.

The demonstration against Ford came at the height of several weeks of CULA activity in building the fight against ever-rising Veeco rates. Several of the picketers were people whose gas and electric service had been cut off by the huge monopoly. Yesterday, May 5, the CULA demanded an end to the fuel adjustment clause, which is one of the main factors making Veeco bills so high that hundreds of families are presently without service. Speaking at the State Corporation Commission hearing in Richmond, CULA spokesman Tom Gardner described the ever-increasing suffering being caused by the fuel adjustment, which

automatically passes increasing fuel costs on to Veeco consumers.

"Let Rocky and Exxon and Veeco trim off a little of the fat," he said. "They can afford it a far sight better than the working and poor people."

In a press conference today, John Lewis and Margaret Green of the CULA announced plans for a new campaign to alleviate the suffering of those who have been hardest hit by Veeco rates—people whose service has been cut off. The CULA is seeking a city ordinance that would make it illegal for Veeco to cut off anyone's service without a hearing. The labor group is also demanding the elimination of the city utility tax, which is the highest in the state and accounts for a large percentage of Veeco and telephone bills.

As a result of door-to-door canvassing, the CULA estimates that as many as one-fourth of the homes in some sections of Norfolk are either without electricity or facing imminent cutoffs.

# Police beating sparks NY Chinese outcry

By LESLIE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, May 18—The residents of New York's Chinatown are thundering with anger over the arrest and police beating of a young Chinese architectural engineer. Members of the community have described what happened as a continuation of a policy of racism and police brutality against Chinese people in New York.

The arrest of Peter Yew, 27, followed an incident in which a Chinese and white motorist were arguing after a traffic incident. The white motorist had swung his car into a crowd of pedestrians half a block away from a police station at Bayard and Canal streets. The white motorist dashed into the police station for refuge; police emerged to form a protective corridor for the motorist, and in doing so, they slammed into a bystander, Mr. Yew. When Yew protested loudly, police grabbed him by the throat and three other cops beat him with nightsticks.

But Yew wasn't arrested until a week and a half later.

Residents of Chinatown reacted with rage to the arrest and beating of Yew and the protection of the white motorist, who bystanders assumed must be a police officer himself. Some 350 Chinatown residents met swiftly at the Chinese Community Center to express support for Peter Yew. The meeting included community leadership, Chinese garment workers, and area elderly people. They voted almost unanimously to demonstrate at City Hall on Monday, May 12.

At 9 a.m. Monday morning, over

a thousand angry Asians marched to City Hall waving placards and banners and chanting loudly. Children, students, and the elderly joined in leafleting to passersby to explain their outburst of anger. The strength of the demonstration was not just in sheer number. The militant contingent was made up of groups of people in the community who were joining together in anger for the first time.

At 4 p.m. demonstrators were still there to decry the racist policy of police and the denial of democratic rights to Chinese people. When they left, they promised to come back.

Every schoolchild knows that it takes adding a great deal of heat to water before it finally bursts into boil. The arrest of Peter Yew was preceded by the slaying of a Chinese bystander by police during a fight in a restaurant last December. Earlier there was the arrest of dozens of demonstrators protesting employment practices at a Chinatown construction site last fall.

Some tell of greedy bosses who make Chinese residents work without wages for the first 6 months in order to get a job. Those who refuse face massive unemployment drastically out of proportion to national averages. And day after day every Chinese worker is lashed at with (white) racism.

(As we go to press, an even larger demonstration of 10 to 15 thousand Chinese was held to again protest police brutality. A full account of this mass protest will appear in next week's Workers World.)



One of the demonstrators injured by a cop's nightstick during a mass protest against police brutality in New York's Chinese community.

## Despite election gains of pro-Shanker racists in District 1

# Pro-community parents vow to fight on

By M. WYNN

NEW YORK, May 17—"They are very sophisticated in their methods," said one mother of two children in School District 1. She was talking about the racist forces led by Albert Shanker of the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) who had spent \$100,000 on school board elections in New York City to defeat the slates fighting for community control. In District 1, this meant a temporary setback for the Por Los Ninos (For the Children) slate, which had tried to dislodge the racist majority on the local board by running candidates in the May 6 city-wide elections, but only won 3 seats.

"Many went to vote and their names were not on the lists," continued Mrs. Providencia Colon, who is also a student teacher, "and they know the way to confuse and divide us. They paid young Blacks and Puerto Ricans from the Bronx and Brooklyn \$37 a day to hand out their leaflets here."

### ELECTION NIGHT

The night of the elections, there were many hard feelings on the part of the Black, Latin, and Chinese parents whose children make up 95 percent of public school children there, but where the majority of registered voters are white and racist.

Mr. Manuel Rivera, who came to vote, was told his registration had expired because he hadn't voted lately. "You don't have to vote for who you don't want!" he told this reporter angrily, frustration written all over his face. "But in these elections I wanted to vote! Slavery times are over! There will be a day when they destroy themselves."

Many parents were very hopeful that the pro-community-control ticket would win the elections, but even they didn't consider the winning of the elections to be the end of their struggle. "Even if they get in," said Ms. Ethel Liddell, a vibrant young Black mother of two who had just come from voting, "we will have to push them from behind to see that they live up to what they promised to do. And we will do that. The Spanish people here will do anything to get a good education for the children. They are even willing to get out in the streets and fight."

"The voting is undemocratic," said one white parent, Mr. Tom Mitchell, "because during decentralization a few years ago Stuyvesant Town, which was never a part of the Lower East Side, was added to the district. Gerrymandering, or changing an electoral district to get a majority, in this case weights the white vote, even though only 5 percent of the white kids go to public schools. The other 95 percent go to parochial schools.

"Besides," he continued, "the balloting was made as complicated as possible. The candidates names were listed alphabetically on the ballot. Instead of just checking the 10 you wanted, with the top vote-getters winning, they 'weighted' the ballots, which meant you had to number them 1-10 in order of preference.

"How were these ballots counted? All the number ones were counted first, then the twos, etc. How many times did these ballots pass through how many hands? What happened to them in-between?"

"They were only put in a cardboard box! My ballot was taken out of my hand and put in there. How many parents didn't wait to see that theirs was put in the box?"

### RACISM OF SOME TEACHERS

"We know we'll lose all our programs because they won," Mrs. Colon went on, "but the racism is the worst part. Some of the white teachers are brainwashing the children against the Puerto Ricans and Chinese and Blacks. They tell the children we will kill them if they aren't careful, and their little eyes open wide like a cat when they see one of us walking down the street.

"Also many of our children are racially classified as retarded. Two months ago I started to explain some math to a Black youth and he got it in 30 minutes. Now he is learning Spanish by himself. Another was referred to the bilingual classes and in 2 years he became really bilingual. Now he has a scholarship in the Bronx. Both of them were classified as retarded. Only a year ago the second child's records disappeared when we went looking for them."

The racism of the UFT-backed candidates was illustrated by one incident that occurred when the votes were being counted. According to Mrs. Esperon, UFT candidate Martin Schiff was in the room where votes were being counted. When Ms. Carmen Gonzalez (from P.S. 61) told him he shouldn't be there when the votes were being counted, but should be at work, he replied his being there was "not her business."

"It is my business," she countered, "my taxes pay your

salary. . . ." Schiff then arrogantly stated: "Since when do Puerto Ricans pay taxes?" A big argument then broke out in the room and Schiff was forced to leave.

"Our parents don't have a lot of experience in all this," Mrs. Awilda Esperon, a PLN organizer,

said thoughtfully. "We lost, and we are mad, but most of all it was good experience. The UFT had to put out a lot of money to beat us. The UFT had to buy people, but our people were all volunteers. We learned a lot, and even now we are organizing a group of parents who are ready to fight back."

## **-Greed of banks**

(Continued from page 1)

National City, for \$13.5 billion, an amount greater than last year's whole city budget. In 1975 the banks will take more than 16 percent of the entire revenues of the city, about \$2 billion. This \$2 billion is over twice the amount allocated for welfare and far more than the full city payroll. The 9 to 10 percent the banks are charging for interest on loans to the city has virtually placed the entire metropolitan population in hock to a few wealthy bondholders. It is precisely the interest payment to the banks that is the major cause of the present money crisis.

All the major banks that deal with (rob) the city, including Morgan Guaranty, Chase Manhattan, Chemical, and First National City, enjoyed a 20-30 percent profit increase last year. If these banks were to reduce their interest rates by just 1 percent, or \$70 million, that money could be used to save at least 5,000 jobs. And if the outrageous interest payments were abolished altogether, as they should be, there would be no threats against the job security of city workers, and no

need to cut the already pitifully inadequate social services.

But of course, Beame, like Carey and Ford, always puts the demands of the bankers before the needs of the people. In fact, Beame actually boasts about how well he has met so-called obligations to the banks, like the Rockefeller-owned Chase Manhattan.

VP Nelson Rockefeller bought himself a \$35,000 bed last week with money obtained from his banks. So maybe, the people are wondering, maybe he could be persuaded to give us a break on the city's interest payments so Mayor Beame can begin to meet his obligations to city workers, welfare mothers, to children, and to the unemployed?

At any rate, something has got to give somewhere. City workers are now planning a massive demonstration on June 4 at the banks that are responsible for their layoffs. And workers in general want to know, if the city is in such an acute crisis, why can't the federal government come through with emergency disaster relief, as it does to businesses in cases of natural disaster?

**Zambia's Kaunda collaborates with Smith and Vorster to****Attack ZANU, but Zimbabwe people resist**

By PADDY COLLIGAN.

BALTIMORE, May 11—Ndabaningi Sithole, president of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), released from jail after 10 years detention, was rearrested by the racist, white Rhodesian government on charges of plotting to kill fellow African national leaders and was then again released.

Herbert Chitepo, second in command of ZANU and its military leader, was assassinated by a landmine in his driveway in Lusaka, Zambia.

Most of ZANU's leadership has been accused of plotting Chitepo's murder and arrested by Zambia, a country which had long given ZANU's guerrilla fighters refuge and support.

What lies behind these perplexing events, so lightly covered by the U.S. press?

**MANEUVERS OF RACIST REGIMES**

The Zimbabwe people have for 9 years been carrying out an armed struggle to regain control of their country from the white, racist minority government of Rhodesia (the colonial name for Zimbabwe). This last year they have witnessed victories of the armed struggle for national liberation in neighboring Mozambique and Angola, which dissolved Portuguese colonialism in collaboration with the struggles of the Portuguese workers.

The military and economic position of the racist Rhodesian government is strategically untenable. South Africa, the dominant economic and military power in the southern third of Africa, has recognized this fact and is attempting to stabilize the situation. While sending in troops to fight the Zimbabwe guerrillas, it is also raising the illusion of negotiations with the "moderate" Black leaders. South Africa wants to ensure its ability to penetrate and expand into the markets of southern Africa and to guarantee the profits of its capitalists and the European and American capitalists that are already heavily involved in the area. It also wants to insulate its own Black and oppressed majority from the struggles of their fellow Africans.

South Africa talks about sharing some of the profits of exploitation with the African elites of the countries involved, which is what motivates leaders like Kenneth Kaunda, president of Zambia. He has been working overtime shuttling from capital to capital (being greeted by demonstrations of Blacks in Washington and London protesting his sellout) to advance the cause of "peace without honor."

**CARROT AND STICK**

Kaunda has taken on the job of harassing the African liberation movements while South African Prime Minister B. J. Vorster presumably is pressuring Ian Smith's Rhodesian government to negotiate with the African moderates. Vorster meanwhile holds out the myth of economic development under imperialism to the African regimes in the region, and also has a well-equipped army to give additional "incentive" for cooperation. From time to time, South Africa has used force (on a limited scale—bombing border villages) to keep Zambia in line. On a much larger scale, it used force to help the old Portuguese regime. And 2,000 South African policemen, armed with light infantry weapons, are fighting inside of Rhodesia.

In December 1974, the still illegal liberation movements of ZANU and ZAPU (the Zimbabwe African Peoples Union) agreed to join the African National Council (ANC) to unite with moderate Zimbabweans. Bishop Abel Maserewa heads the ANC, the sole organization recognized by Smith and Vorster and by Kaunda as speaking for the Zimbabwe people. But the component groups never gave up their independent existence and certainly never agreed to Smith's demand that they disarm before constitutional talks began.

By February 1975, the much-heralded talks between the racists and the nationalists had failed to produce any changes. South Africa, for all the talk and "pressure" on Smith, has not withdrawn any of its police, who are vital to the Rhodesian military effort. In fact, if their words are ignored, the position of the racist white regimes in southern Africa has not changed.

The attacks on ZANU, however, have moved the ANC as a whole to a more militant position on a majority Black government in the immediate future. Even moderates like Maserewa say that armed struggle may be necessary, though they are hoping for a "peaceful solution."

**ZANU HAS MASS SUPPORT**

ZANU has been the most active and militant liberation movement in Zimbabwe in the past few years. Since the victories in Mozambique and Angola it has gained overwhelming mass support. Along with its increasing support have come increasing attacks. The strategy which Smith and Vorster are pursuing is an attempt to eliminate it as a factor in the struggle and then make a worthless deal with the moderates.

Smith and Rhodesia's military forces failed to eliminate ZANU in the field. They failed to destroy ZANU's support in the countryside. But now Kaunda is moving against

ZANU's bases and rear area in Zambia, as well as any of its leadership that he can find. And Smith has been moving against ZANU's organizing inside Rhodesia.

On March 2, 1975, Sithole and other ZANU leaders went to a rally in Highfield, a Black township near Salisbury, Rhodesia. The crowd was so happy that ZANU was there that they hoisted the ZANU leaders to their shoulders and carried them around, shouting "Chimurenga"—armed struggle. Two days later, Sithole was back in jail on charges of conspiring to kill his opponents inside the ANC. But instead of breaking apart the shaky ANC coalition, this repression of ZANU brought bitter denunciations from all components of the ANC. This racist move backfired and strengthened the liberation forces.

Later in March came the attacks on the ZANU leadership in Lusaka, Zambia. First national chairman Herbert Chitepo was assassinated. Kaunda used this not to expose the

racist counter-revolutionary attacks on African freedom fighters but as an excuse to lock up as many ZANU leaders as could be found (when they had come to Lusaka for an important meeting) and many others from the large Zimbabwe community in Lusaka—in all, about 300 people. Kaunda's reason—"to keep them from killing each other"—bore a striking similarity to Smith's public excuse for rejailling Sithole. This is a treacherous act which removes much of the leadership of the Zimbabwe struggle at a very critical time.

Even though Sithole is not yet back in Zimbabwe and most of the ZANU cadre jailed in Zambia have not yet gotten out, ZANU has survived. The struggle of the Zimbabwe people has gone too far to be deterred by a sellout like Kaunda or destroyed by a puny racist like Smith.

The people of Zimbabwe will win, just as the people of Vietnam have won.

**Day of solidarity with the Palestinian people**

By JOHN C. OTTO

NEW YORK, May 15—Prolonged applause from more than 400 people filling the auditorium seats greeted the remarks tonight of Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) spokesperson Saadat Hassan. He had said that while only a few years ago the Palestinian struggle was isolated and weak, now it had gained strong international support, and it is imperialism and Zionism that are isolated and weak.

These remarks typified the sentiments in Columbia University's International Affairs auditorium tonight: a deep sense of international solidarity and confidence based on the recent diplomatic successes of the PLO at the Rabat meeting and in the UN, and on the decisive victories of the Indochinese people in the past month. The Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Palestinian people, celebrated in many U.S. cities and internationally was a success.

Adding to the feeling of international solidarity were the Ambassador of Cuba's UN mission, speakers from Vietnamese and Cambodian organizations, and the statements of the Palestinians themselves. The audience, too, was international. Sitting right near this reporter were African students from Guinea, Mali, and Nigeria, four older Arab-American men, many revolutionary Puerto Ricans, and of course Black and white North Americans, including progressive Jews.

**MEETING OPENS**

A Palestinian Information Center spokesperson opened the meeting with a tribute to Vietnam and Cambodia, and then reviewed the last 10 years since the guerrilla armed struggle opened in Palestine, directing her remarks both against the Zionist settlers and their U.S. imperialist backers and against the reactionary Hussein regime in Jordan. She asked progressive Americans to fight to stop U.S. aid, especially military aid, to Israel, and to demand that Palestinians be freed

from Israeli and Jordanian prisons.

Dr. Zaabi, a New Jersey college teacher, spoke on the 14,000 political prisoners in Israeli jails. He examined the racist nature of "settler colonialism," whether practiced in Rhodesia, South Africa, the U.S., or Israel, and showed the inevitability of resistance by the Palestinians and

repression by the Israeli state, which has led to the imprisonment of thousands of Palestinians without trial.

**STANDING OVATION**

The audience greeted the Vietnamese speaker with a standing ovation, as they did the Cambodian, Cuban, and PLO representatives later. He said that the victory in Vietnam was won not

by Vietnamese alone but by the socialist camp, the oppressed people of the Third World, and progressive forces in the capitalist countries. He ended by saying that his people's struggle had entered a new phase, that of building a society "where exploitation of man by man is abolished." While doing this they will continue to show the same solidarity with their Palestinian sisters and brothers.

The Cambodian speaker attacked the U.S. for its aggression over the Mayaguez ship, and expressed solidarity with the Palestinians. The Cuban representative gave an historical appreciation of the Palestinian nation.

The audience responded warmly when speakers mentioned names of Israelis who had aided Palestinians against repression. Mr. Hassan also mentioned that the PLO realized that many young Israelis were dissatisfied with the tensions of life under Zionism, and looked forward to building with them a democratic, secular state where Moslems, Christians, and Jews could live together in peace.



Protesting the visit of the Shah of Iran, several hundred Iranian students and supporters march through downtown Houston.

WW photo: Tim

**200 in Texas shout 'Shah is a murderer! Down with the Shah!'**

By JOANNE GAVIN

HOUSTON, May 15—A march of about 200 people, most of them masked Iranian students, today climaxed a 48-hour vigil here protesting the U.S. visit of the Shah of Iran.

The students and their supporters had maintained a round-the-clock sit-in outside the building that houses the Iranian Consulate since Tuesday night. Today at 11:15 a.m. a picket line was thrown up around the spacious square in front of the "Cullen Center" site. The line completely surrounded the square. Chants led on a bullhorn included:

"Shah is a U.S. puppet! DOWN with the Shah!"

"Vietnam to Persian Gulf—One struggle, many fronts!"

"Stop arming the Shah's regime!"

"Shah's troops out of Oman!"

"U.S. out of Persian Gulf!"

At 11:45 the line became a march, up to and down Main Street, past department stores and office buildings and people getting out for lunch. Closely packed, it covered an entire block on the sidewalk. The march continued to the Houston Chronicle building. This is the only major newspaper with a downtown office, and was an effort to take the march to the media, which had ignored it.

During the vigil a sound truck had circled the block and had been decorated with banners reading, "Stop killing political prisoners", and with a life-size puppet portraying the Shah being

manipulated by the CIA.

The recent murder of nine political prisoners in Iran, the shooting of students there protesting those murders, and the torture of thousands of dissenters make the current visit of the Shah to this country an insult to all progressive peoples. The valor of the Iranian people in resisting the tyrannical Shah and his U.S.-backed fascist regime makes their cause one every progressive person must hold dear and support in any way possible.

The Houston marchers explained it in their chant, "Iran the next Vietnam? U.S. OUT of Iran!" And, as another chant said, "Support the struggle of the Iranian people!"

# The Mayaguez hoax

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, May 19—As the government- and news media-manufactured hysteria about the Mayaguez affair begins to subside, it is useful to pause and take stock of what really happened behind the smokescreen of jingoistic propaganda.

## CRINGING OF CONGRESS

Some obvious points: Congress completely folded under pressure from the White House and the Pentagon. It was as if the clock had been turned back to 1965 as senator after senator vied with one another in waving the flag. Typical was Rep. Carrol Hubbard, chairman of the supposedly "more progressive" contingent of 75 freshmen congressional House members. Of the air-raids against Cambodia, Hubbard exclaimed, "Had we shown some fortitude such as this during the past ten years, we could have easily won the war in Vietnam."

Such nonsense speaks for itself, but it is most revealing that with a single rigged-up crisis, Ford could so easily reduce to rubble all congressional pretensions about restraining the President's arbitrary war power.

## CRIMINAL ACT

Point number 2: Gerald Ford committed a criminal act of aggression against Cambodia. The New York Times (May 16) reported that the Pentagon had used "The largest conventional

bomb—weighing 15,000 pounds—against the Cambodians, who said the air raids "caused substantial material and human losses." And yet all agree that the SS Mayaguez had penetrated deep into Cambodian territorial waters when stopped and boarded by Khmer coastal patrol boats.

On May 17 the U.S. itself seized a Polish trawler and 72 crewmen 10 miles off the coast of California, 6 miles further out than the Mayaguez had been from Cambodia's Teng Island. And yet no one expects that Poland will demand the "immediate" return of their vessel and then proceed to rush soldiers to invade Catalina Island, while bombing San Diego. But then, Poland is not an imperialist country.

## REVENGE, NOT RESCUE

Point number three: Ford ordered the ill-fated helicopter troop assault on Koh Teng at 7:20 p.m. EDT, 20 minutes after the Cambodian radio announced "We will release the ship," as they had others that had intruded into their waters. Thus 38 servicemen were killed for nothing, the greatest number of U.S. dead in combat since 1972, all so Ford could have his eagerly sought-after "show of strength," and not, as he claimed, to "rescue" the seamen.

Ditto for the brutal bombing against Sihanoukville and Reap which took place over an hour after the crew of the Mayaguez, flying their underwear in surrender from

the mast of a Thai-CIA junk previously impounded by the Cambodians, were spotted by the destroyer Wilson. The only casualties among the seamen were three wounded by earlier strafing from U.S. fighter planes.

And the New York Times (May 17) admitted that a second air strike hit Sihanoukville "43 minutes after the Captain of the Wilson reported to the White House that the crew of the Mayaguez was safely aboard."

At least this time we didn't have to wait 7 years, as in the Gulf of Tonkin hoax, to learn that just about everything we were told by the government was lies!

The New York Daily News, Ford's most vocal cheer leader, conceded that in the military action against Cambodia, "he saw an opportunity to demonstrate to the world—and perhaps to ourselves—that the United States was not a pitiful, helpless giant despite our forced withdrawal from Indochina."

## THAIS TELL PENTAGON "GET OUT!"

But unfortunately for Ford and his rich friends, their bloody "show of strength" in the Mayaguez episode has not quite had this effect, at least in one key nation. Even before the last senator had genuflected toward the Pentagon, Thailand, the only remaining U.S. ally in Southeast Asia, demanded that all U.S. forces begin to leave as anti-imperialist demonstrations rocked the country. The Thai government, fearful of appearing to be U.S. stooges, recalled its ambassador from Washington and demanded the Ford administration apologize for illegally introducing marines into that country during the recent crisis.

The phony "rescue" of the



More than 20,000 Laotians lined the streets of Savannakhet May 19. Here people clamber onto tank in victory parade.

## 800 anti-imperialists greet Vietnamese

By JOHN C. OTTO  
MONTREAL, Quebec, May 19—The celebration began here yesterday as members of the Union of Vietnamese Patriots in Canada and antiwar activists from the U.S. greeted delegations from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) at the airport.

Mayaguez can hardly compensate the militarists on the world arena for the loss of their strategically placed U.S. airbases in Thailand.

The imperialists having had their gory "revenge" party are now sleeping it off, full of the intoxicating dreams of victory. But when they awake to the hangover of reality, the Indochinese revolution will still be there, and Ford will find that the Mayaguez incident only further loosened Wall Street's faltering grip on Asia's billion-fold masses, the very thing it was supposed to strengthen.

## Who's xenophobic?

In trying to "explain" the actions of the Cambodian government in defending itself during the recent Mayaguez incident, (Ford's actions apparently needing no explanation), a number of capitalist commentators have concluded that the new revolution there is xenophobic; that is, it hates all foreigners.

Certainly the Cambodian people do loathe the imperialists who devastated their country.

The U.S. dropped 250,000 tons of bombs on Cambodia between 1969 and 1973, forcing half the people to become refugees. One of the reporters recently returned from Phnom Penh, Jon Swain of the London Sunday Times, wrote as follows about what he saw: "The entire countryside has been churned up by American B-52 bomb craters. So far I have not seen one intact pagoda. . . . The

war damage here (Sihanoukville, a city Ford bombed again since Swain wrote this), as everywhere else we saw, is total. Not a bridge is standing, hardly a house. I am told most villagers spent the war years living semi-permanently underground in earth bunkers to escape bombing."

And yet after all this, Time magazine (May 26) quotes a crewman of the Mayaguez, able-bodied Seaman Herbert McDonald, 57, as saying, "At first I thought the Cambodians were going to take us out and shoot us. But they were so nice, really kind. They fed us first and everything. I hope everybody gets hijacked by them."

Meanwhile Goldwater was urging Ford to bomb Cambodia as a lesson to "every rinky-dink little country."

So who's xenophobic?

## Cleveland YAWF holds rally to hail victory in Indochina

By AL NORMAN  
CLEVELAND, May 9—"Vietnam liberation—Victory for all workers and oppressed" was the theme of a rally held here tonight to celebrate the complete liberation of Vietnam. The rally, sponsored by Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF), heard several speakers give their personal experiences of the war and explain the political significance of the victory. Sixty persons attended.

The program was chaired by Denise Scaffidi of YAWF. Standing in front of a large NLF flag, she pointed out that "with the liberation of Vietnam, a new chapter has begun for the working class of the world." She then introduced Linda Norton, a young Black actress, who read selections from the late Ho Chi Minh's poetry.

The first main speaker was Bob Chenoweth, a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam for over 5 years. He was one of the anti-war POW's.

"It's not my view that Indochina has fallen," stated Chenoweth. "Instead the countries of Indochina have risen up and freed themselves." He retold how he was captured, not by regular NLF troops, but by peasants armed with American M-16s (introduced into Vietnam only 3 weeks earlier). While in prison, he was able to learn about the life of the Viet-

namese people and their struggles, read about the anti-war movement and Marxism. On occasion he was taken to villages and museums.

In response to the media hysteria over the migration of Cambodians from Phnom Penh to the countryside, Chenoweth made clear that Cambodia was an agricultural country, and now had to re-establish its food supply and economy.

## PICTURE OF LIBERATION

Steve Cagan of the Indochina Peace Campaign followed. Cagan, a free-lance photographer, spent 35 days in Indochina last fall. He showed color slides of life in Hanoi (the children have returned to the city!), Quang Tri, and other cities held by the liberation forces. The spirit to rebuild and the movement to uplift the most oppressed from their poverty was evident everywhere.

Cagan contrasted this with pictures of Saigon, showing the political repression, shacks for homes, prostitutes, Coca-Cola signs, and the Chase Manhattan bank, and other symbols of the imperialist presence.

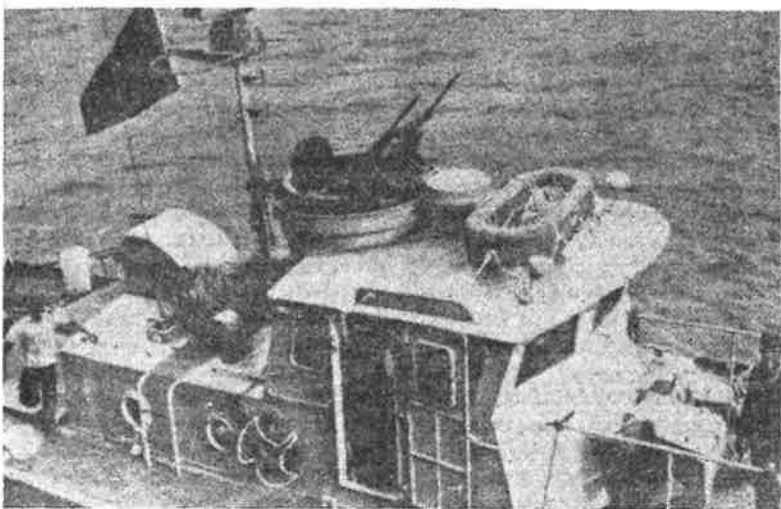
After the chairperson presented a history of YAWF's role in the anti-war movement, beginning with YAWF's first demonstration against the Vietnam war in 1962

she introduced Sharon Chin, representative of the national office of YAWF. Ms. Chin gave an account of the history of the Indochinese peoples' struggle over the past 30 years. Though the final victory was quick and bloodless, it took years and tremendous sacrifice and unending war to reach that moment of liberation.

The role of women in Vietnam was given special mention. For centuries, women in Vietnam were virtual slaves. But through the liberation struggle and the progress of socialism in North Vietnam, women have been raised up to the political, social, and economic equal of men.

Ms. Chin completed her presentation with an explanation of the political nature of the Vietnam war. It began as an anti-imperialist struggle for national liberation, but grew into a battle of the Vietnamese workers and peasants against a rich native capitalist class and Wall Street itself. This war was also linked to the global war between classes.

This was the first rally in Cleveland to celebrate the victory in Vietnam. It set a militant tone for the continued struggle of workers and poor in this country on the heels of one of the greatest defeats Wall Street and the Pentagon have ever suffered.



Cambodian patrol boat as it boarded the Mayaguez. The U.S. "show of strength" may have made the imperialists feel stronger, but will actually hasten the revolution in the rest of Southeast Asia.



19 to welcome liberation army.

Long live the Laotian revolution!

# Pathet Lao seizing power

MAY 20—United States Embassy officials in Laos have begun to burn their secret documents, and going up in smoke with them are all the U.S. colonialist schemes of the past 22 years for keeping the Lao nation within the orbit of imperialism.

Full of the despair of a businessmen's magazine reporting the bankruptcy of a once-promising enterprise, U.S. News and World Report (May 26) glumly conceded that the leftist victory in Laos "is just as decisive as Communist successes in Saigon and Phnom Penh."

When compared to last month's spectacular liberation of South Vietnam and Cambodia, the triumph of the Laotian people over Wall Street domination has come almost quietly. But it was not easy.

## 8 YEARS OF SATURATION BOMBING

Perhaps no people in Indochina has suffered so much at the hands of the Pentagon as have the Laotians. Eight years of B-52 saturation bombing drove half the populace from their homes and villages, and forced virtually the entire rural population to live most

of the time in holes burrowed underground where the bombs couldn't reach them.

Despite these terrible conditions, the people's army, the Pathet Lao, succeeded in freeing about two-thirds of the country from the control of the pro-U.S. royal government headquartered in Vientiane.

Two years ago and shortly after the Paris accords on Vietnam were signed, a ceasefire was negotiated in Laos, setting up a coalition government composed of five rightists, five Pathet Lao, and two "neutralists."

The end of fascist rule in Cambodia, followed 13 days later by the Saigon regime's surrender to the Provisional Revolutionary Government, radically accelerated developments in Laos. Fighting flared up again briefly between royal troops and Pathet Lao soldiers, in which the royalists decidedly got the worst of it. Troops in the rightist army began to mutiny against their officers and demanded to be put under the command of the Pathet Lao. Patriotic students attacked the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane, denouncing the imperialist in-

tervention in their nation.

Time magazine (May 26) stated that, "In part, the demonstrations were protests against soaring food prices, which are rising at a rate of 70 percent annually. The U.S., however, is a natural target for the left. In the past two decades, Washington has propped up rightist and recently neutralist governments with more than \$3-billion worth of military and economic aid."

## RIGHTISTS IN CABINET COLLAPSE

After several days of rebellion by both students and workers, and facing a spreading insurrection among their own soldiers, the rightist faction within the cabinet collapsed. Pro-U.S. politicians and capitalists began to flee the country to Thailand. Among them was General Vang Pao, a former Japanese and French collaborator, who had directed a "secret army" financed, trained, and armed by the CIA.

In the northern city of Luang Prabang, Laotians waving red flags stormed the U.S. Agency for International Development, a notorious CIA front. U.S. AID also came under fire in Savannakhet, where twelve Americans were placed under house arrest. Latest news reports say that the Pathet Lao have marched into the city to the cheers of large crowds.

Although some very weakened right-wing elements have stayed on in the government, the

revolutionaries seem to have decisively gained the upper hand. The pro-U.S. "neutralist" Premier, Souvanna Phouma, admitting that he was powerless to halt the course of events that were bringing Laos to "an accord with history," named Pathet Lao General Kham Ouane Bouppha to take charge of the national armed forces. Its previous head, the reactionary Defense Minister Sisouk na Champassak, had fled along with thousands of other rich Laotians.

While it is possible that there may be some resistance from rightists in Vientiane, the capital, to a people's government, the victory of the revolution is a foregone conclusion.

The new government has already taken measures to bring order to the economy, forbidding the gold and currency speculation that caused the country's devastating inflation. Prices on commodities were first ordered reduced and then frozen. And the U.S. has begun to evacuate most of its 1,000 business, military, and embassy personnel. This withdrawal is not fast enough for Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington, who suggested that the retreat be sped up, "so we won't get into the same kind of mess we got into in Saigon."

With the liberation of Laos, the whole of Indochina is free from imperialist control for the first time in 90 years.

A.S.

## greet PRG and DRV delegations

# ese celebrate in North America

In the DRV delegation were Mrs. Nguyen Thi An and Mrs. Duong Thoa, both executive members of the Union of Vietnamese Women. Mrs. Duong Thoa is also editor of the Review of Philosophy. In the PRG delegation were Mr. Von Tan Phat and Mr. Dung.

They had just flown in from Vancouver, B.C., where the night before 300 U.S. antiwar activists had driven from Los Angeles and San Francisco to meet them for the West Coast celebration.

## 800 AT FETE

In the evening, 800 Quebecois, Canadians, Vietnamese, U.S. friends, and delegations from the Lao, Chilean, and other Montreal communities, gathered in the auditorium of Old Montreal University to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the birth of Ho Chi Minh, the end of 30 years of war, and the complete victory of the revolution to liberate Vietnam.

## LIFE OF HO

Mrs. Duong Thoa gave an analysis of the revolutionary morality of Ho Chi Minh, from his willingness to spurn pleasures and endure hardships, to his desire to study and learn from all cultures, especially to study Marxism-Leninism and apply it to the struggle in Vietnam, to his profound feelings of proletarian internationalism.

Mr. Vong Tan Phat gave an account of the rapid battle-by-battle victory of the liberation forces in the period between the surrender of Ban Me Thuot in the Central Highlands to the liberation of Saigon. He said that on April 30, Saigon was in the hands of the army of liberation, and a few days later, all South Vietnam was under PRG control. "The deepest wishes of President Ho Chi Minh had been completely realized."

The audience greeted speakers and speeches with standing ovations, and likewise the cultural presentations of the various countries and movements. This reporter saw tears in the eyes of

the Vietnamese delegations, of the people around him in the audience, and his own filled too as the singers from the U.S. changed the words of the song from "Vietnam will win" to "Vietnam has won."

## FROM LIBERATED VIETNAM

Following the celebration, Mr. Dung of the PRG held an informal question and answer session with a few dozen antiwar activists. The following is a summary of the information exchanged.

Currently the mood in South Vietnam is very good, with the PRG able to maintain public order, and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) so secure that a DRV delegation including the President attended 3 days of festivities there.

Ties between north and south are growing. One can now take a bus from Hanoi to Saigon, letters can be exchanged, and boats travel between Haiphong and Danang.

The PRG faces tremendous problems arising from brutal policies of the U.S. and the Thieu regime: dislocation of the peasant population to concentration camps near the cities; hundreds of thousands of unemployed soldiers; and many thousands of former political prisoners crippled by their prison torturers.

## PRISONERS FREE THEMSELVES

As the Thieu regime collapsed, the political prisoners freed themselves. On May 6, the first group reached the mainland from Con Son, of tiger cage infamy.

Nguyen Than Mam, a student leader imprisoned on Con Son, is now the chairman of a committee of schoolchildren whose task is cleaning up Saigon.

The "third force," that is, religious and political groups and individuals who opposed the Thieu regime but were not part of the PRG, have declared their readiness to cooperate with the new government. In some areas, these forces moved into action in advance. In Danang, it was groups of Buddhists who greeted the PRG

troops, while in Nha Trang a delegation appealed to PRG troops fighting in the area to liberate the city from Thieu's riotous ex-soldiers.

Mr. Hung divided the Vietnamese "refugees" into three categories: (1) those who were close collaborators with the U.S.; (2) the rich whose property has been confiscated; and (3) people frightened by the U.S.'s and Thieu's lies about the so-called bloodbath. The last category should be allowed to return and at U.S. expense.

The PRG welcomes foreign investment, but will watch carefully so there is no takeover of the economy by the multinational corporations.

Vietnam is getting aid from the socialist countries; for example, they've already received tractors from the Soviet Union.

## MINORITIES, WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The ethnic minorities now have the same rights as other Vietnamese. One general and two colonels of the army, and the Vice-president of the PRG are from these minorities, who played an important role in the liberation of Ban Me Thuot.

Mr. Hung made it clear to us he couldn't answer questions on behalf of the Union of Vietnamese Women, but let us know that four PRG cabinet members, two ministers, and two vice-ministers are women.

## SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES

Much of the \$3 billion in abandoned U.S. military equipment may be converted to civilian use. Throughout history preachers and pacifists have talked about beating swords into plowshares. But the heroic revolutionaries of Vietnam, led by the Vietnamese Workers Party of Ho Chi Minh, are practicing it. At the beginning of the war they turned jungle bees into their first "air force." Now, at its end, they're turning captured U.S. tanks into tractors.

## -Korean answer

(Continued from page 1)

words 'heart of the opponent's power,' the Rodong Sinmun commentator stated that "the basic content of the imperialists' 'new Asian strategy' is to direct the spearhead of their aggression against Korea" and to "keep occupying south Korea indefinitely."

The U.S. government is making a strong effort to create in "south Korea an important stronghold for bolstering up their colonial ruling system" which is "totally crumbling in Asia," the article continued.

It warned the U.S. ruling class that it would be a grave mistake to "unleash another war in Korea in a foolish attempt to save their bankrupt policy of Asian aggression.

"The U.S. imperialists must clearly know this stand of our people and must not make a miscalculation."

"No matter how the U.S. imperialists may scheme, our people will firmly maintain the revolutionary stand of independence against imperialism, fight it out to reunify the divided country by our own efforts without outside interference and will certainly realize our just cause," the article stressed in conclusion.

Schlesinger's threats against People's Korea were repeated again on May 18 when he told a New York Times reporter that heavy bombing of North Korea was "an option to be considered" if fighting should start.

## U.S. WAR OF NERVES

For several weeks both the Pentagon and the Ford administration have stepped up their war of nerves against the DPRK. Throughout the Mayaguez affair,

high government officials have stated that the bombing of Cambodia was intended, in large part, as a show of force against Korea.

The New York Times (May 16) admitted that "although there have been no overt signs that North Korea is preparing to attack South Korea, administration officials have said for some time that the next major trouble spot in Asia would probably be the Korean peninsula."

A revealing statement indeed! If there is no sign of an "attack" by the DPRK, why all the bellicose talk about Korea being "the next major trouble spot in Asia"? Is the U.S. ruling class looking to reassert their once-vaunted "military supremacy" after the crushing defeat in Vietnam? Is this the reason for the well-orchestrated "war fever" that the May 10 Times reports in south Korea, where "a number of youths wrote slogans in blood denouncing North Korea" at a violently anti-communist rally sponsored by the fascist government?

Is this why Ford continues to give unlimited support in dollars and arms to the repressive dictatorship of south Korean President Park, despite the worldwide outcry against his terroristic methods of rule?

During the last Korean conflict, more GIs died than were killed in the 10 years of the Vietnam war.

Ford, Rockefeller, Kissinger, and Schlesinger have badly underestimated both the Korean people's ability to defend themselves and the American people's desire for peace, if they believe that starting a second war in Korea will save the position of U.S. capitalism, either abroad or at home.

## Attica and the Mayaguez

Last week we wrote of the U.S. air raids and invasion of Cambodia around the Mayaguez affair as an "Attica-style" attack. The truth of this comparison has become even more obvious with the last few days' disclosures about what was actually happening to the crew of the Mayaguez while U.S. planes bombed Cambodia.

Just as at Attica, U.S. government authorities carried out the bloody attack on Cambodia under the pretext of "saving lives." But in the process, they showed utter disregard for the lives of the very people they were supposedly rescuing. They strafed and teargassed the sailors of the Mayaguez—who had received excellent treatment from the Cambodians.

Top U.S. officials are as much as admitting that the detention of the Mayaguez was just a convenient opportunity for them to make a show of American strength after their stinging defeats in Cambodia and Vietnam. They are using the adventure to threaten revolutionary movements in other parts of the world, and Ford, Kissinger, and Schlesinger are setting up press interviews and television appearances to hammer this point home.

Rockefeller, who was behind the Attica massacre, was in on the planning of this one, too. We don't know how many Cambodians—men, women, and children—were killed in the bombing raids on Sihanoukville, but the Cambodian government reported extensive damage. And this was all in the calculations of the National Security Council—Ford, Rockefeller, Kissinger, Schlesinger, Joint Chiefs head General Brown, and CIA chief Colby.

Just as Attica was a warning to the poor and oppressed in this country that the ruling class would use the most brutal forms of repression rather than yield to the reasonable demands of prisoners kept under medieval conditions, so this was a warning to all the poor and oppressed everywhere that the nature of imperialism has not been changed one whit by its inevitable defeat in Indochina. It is still as violent, rapacious, and aggressive as before.

Yet for all its bombers, its napalm, its mighty fleet, U.S. imperialism is doomed. It is an economic system that is mired in its own contradictions, and cannot solve human needs. It will more and more be opposed by the workers it exploits at home, who will understand that their interests are in harmony with the interests of the masses of working people around the world.

Such bullying acts of revenge as the Attica massacre and the Mayaguez bombardments will in the long run only create more millions of dedicated and fearless fighters against imperialism.

## LETTERS

### IN THE SPIRIT OF VICTORY

Marie Anderson, Baltimore:

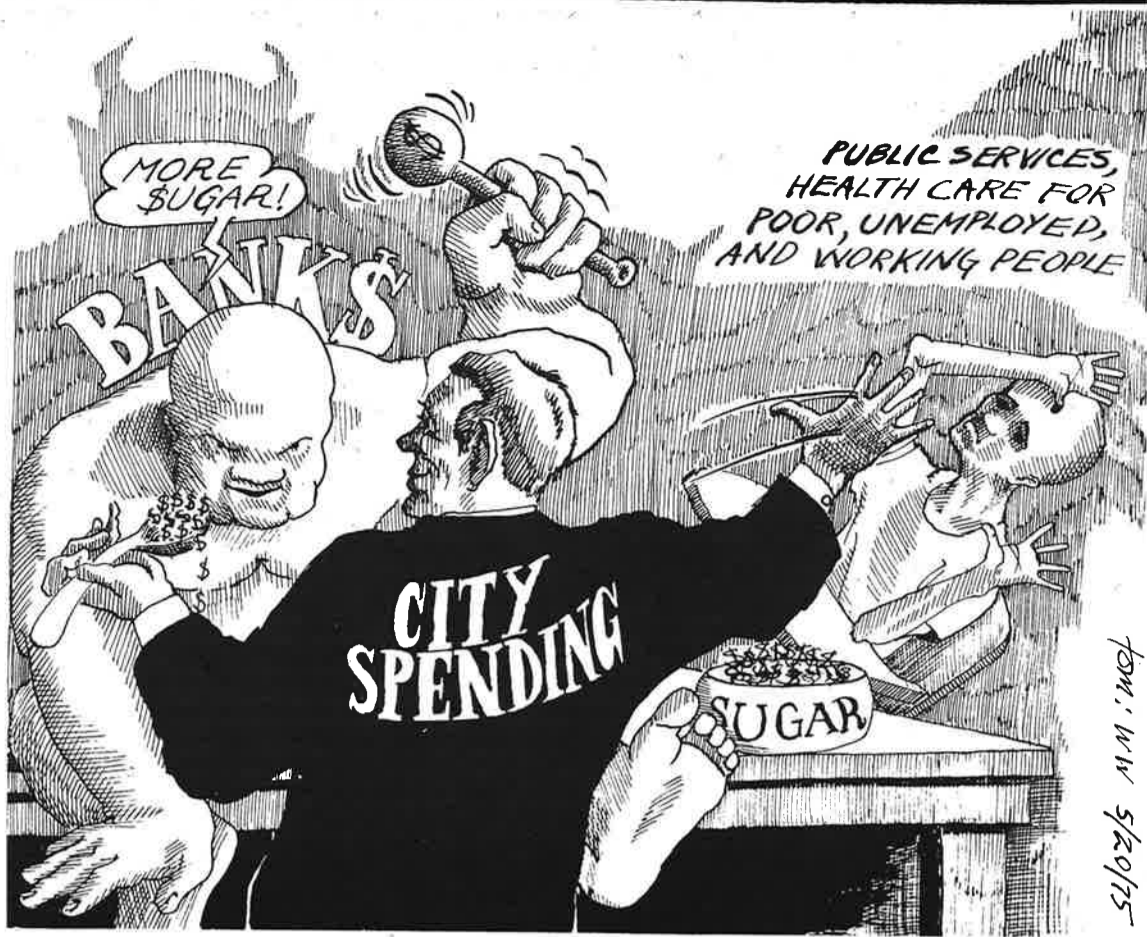
This poem is written in the spirit of May Day and the glorious victory of the Vietnamese and Cambodian people, which further clarifies the vision of world-wide freedom and health for all working and poor peoples. Long live the fruit of people's war!

*you've used us,  
and abused us  
you've stripped us of our  
labor and the wealth  
that comes from it  
you've fouled our vision  
with racism and hate,  
fear and two-faced morals.*

*you, who have fostered nothing  
but hate, war, greed, disease,  
oppression and genocide.  
it's you we see through!  
it's you we must destroy!  
it's you we must strip of  
your ill-gotten wealth,  
of your power  
that destroys!*

*in the spirit of the victory  
of the Vietnamese  
Cambodian,  
Cuban,  
and all peoples,  
we the American people  
see you for what you are!  
the scum of the earth!*

*and we will purge you  
from our land and all  
other lands!*



### After NY State Court ruling

## Who can afford divorce?

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, May 9—Poor people are not entitled to public aid in getting a lawyer for divorce, a New York State Court of Appeals ruled May 1.

"It's a devastating opinion," Kalman Finkel, head of the civil division of the Legal Aid Society of New York City, protested, according to the May 2 New York Times.

### A SERIOUS BLOW

While the state did not pay lawyers in divorce cases before the ruling, the decision nevertheless is a serious blow, since previously attorneys would volunteer to take the cases on the basis that the poor were entitled to a lawyer in such matters.

"Now attorneys just aren't going to do it," one Legal Aid spokesman told Workers World.

The opinion came after two Ithaca, N.Y., women, Rhonda Smiley and Betty Monroe, filed suit to have the county provide the lawyers they could not afford.

The ruling covers both those initiating divorce actions and defendants, since one of the women was suing for divorce and the other was a defendant in a divorce case.

A dissenting opinion in the close 4-3 ruling held that since a person must go through the state to get a divorce, the state could not deny divorces solely on the basis of lack of money.

Before the ruling, the court in

some areas appointed unpaid counsel to poor people who needed it, while in others, legal assistance was left to Legal Aid volunteers or lawyers paid through private donations through the Legal Aid Clinics.

### PRIVATE FUNDS DRYING UP

However, not only are volunteers bound to shrink as a result of the decision, but because of the current economic crisis, the clinics are becoming more and more unable to handle the cases due to lack of funds and personnel. Private donations are drastically down, and in many cities, like New York, Legal Aid Clinics are included in the tremendous slashes in city funding.

As it is, Legal Aid Societies cannot help all of those who so desperately need their services. Because of a lack of sufficient volunteers even before the ruling, many poor people have been forced to remain in unwanted marriages, solely because they did not have the cash needed for a lawyer.

Right now in Brooklyn, for example, there are 500 people waiting for Legal Aid in divorce proceedings. Many have been waiting since October. The number on the waiting list has risen so high, in fact, that the Brooklyn Clinic has had to start turning people away.

"What it means is you get people trapped in marriages. You've got a

real involuntary servitude problem," one Legal Aid counsellor told Workers World angrily.

And the number of poor people remaining in marriages mutually undesirable is bound to grow as layoffs more and more threaten working people and as prices continue to rise, making it so that only the rich can afford divorces.

### HOW MUCH MORE CAN POOR PEOPLE TAKE?

The economic crisis and government cutbacks have added burden after burden onto the backs of poor and working people, especially Black and Latin people. Cutbacks in the food stamp program mean more and more will go hungry this year. Cutbacks in education mean poor children must attend larger classes and receive less attention in understaffed public schools. Cutbacks in daycare mean working women must turn over larger and larger chunks of their paychecks to see that their children are cared for.

And now, this court ruling is nothing more than an open admission that the legal system benefits only those rich enough to afford it. Coupled with the cutbacks in Legal Aid, the decision makes the right to terminate a marriage, which should really be a private matter between a mutually consenting husband and wife, a luxury.



Hundreds demonstrate in New York City to protest the bombing and invasion of Cambodia during the Mayaguez incident.

WW photo: Dick

Part II, *The Mayaguez Provocation*

# Sino-Soviet relations and the U.S.

By SAM MARCY

MAY 16—Only one day has passed since the Mayaguez provocation and yet one can easily see, through the fog of capitalist propaganda, what the Pentagon's piratical assault on the Cambodians amounts to.

No one has seriously ever doubted that with its overwhelming naval and air power, the U.S. can launch a hit-and-run mission in a selected area of the world. The Pentagon is, of course, equipped with all the most modern and sophisticated technology, including a tremendous nuclear capability.

But such successes are of the type that the late Senator Wayne Morse of Oregon warned against. He was one of the two Senators who voted against the Gulf of Tonkin resolution after one of those briefing sessions by the military to Senate Foreign Relations Committee of which he was a member. Senator Morse said, in 1964, "What the military have in mind doing in Asia will make the United States the most hated nation in the world."

There's no question that the Mayaguez provocation has succeeded splendidly in fulfilling Morse's prediction. The hatred of the popular masses all over the world is not directed against American people here as a whole; it is against the imperialist system which continually fosters such unbridled militarism.

When the bragging dies down, it will be seen very clearly that the real U.S. objective in the renewed Cambodian assault cannot be achieved. The dream of the Pentagon planners to recover in Southeast Asia what has been won by the revolutionary masses is only a dream. It is impossible to recolonize Southeast Asia. The position of American finance capital in that part of the world is hopelessly lost and will never be retrieved, not even by the most forcible and violent methods.

This, however, does not exclude maniacal efforts to do the impossible. Nor will it stop the Pentagon from utilizing one pretext or another to make a show of force in order to prevent the liberation of other enslaved areas of the world from imperialist banditry.

Unquestionably, the Mayaguez operation was calculated to intimidate the Korean people, to stifle any effort to overthrow the yoke of the fascist puppet Park regime, and to strengthen the U.S. military position in all of northeast Asia.

## RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND CHINA

Here it is necessary to once again examine Sino-Soviet relations in the new context of the rapidly deteriorating U.S. world position, especially in the light of the monumental victory of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples. There is every reason in the world for both the Soviet Union and China as workers' states to feel enormously strengthened and self-confident in relation to imperialism and particularly in relation to the U.S. And yet one must ask just how did the crisis engendered by the Mayaguez adventure find both China and the USSR? Did it find them closer together vis-a-vis U.S. imperialist objectives or did it find them further apart than ever?

A dispassionate view of the

relationship confirms that on the day of the military provocation, China and the USSR were both deeply engaged in hostile maneuvers against each other, to the advantage of imperialism.

## U.S.-USSR NAVAL VISITS

Consider these two undeniable facts: On the day of the provocation a Soviet destroyer was paying a friendly visit to Boston while a U.S. destroyer was

prefer to close their eyes to Sino-Soviet relations and concentrate on the task of combatting imperialism at home. This might certainly seem preferable, were it not for the fact that the imperialists are certainly not closing their eyes to Sino-Soviet relations. Nor is it possible for a revolutionary working class party to combat imperialism without taking into account the actual situation of the socialist countries and of the world

**"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea needs the support of all the socialist countries and all the progressive people of the world."**

reciprocating in Leningrad. Why? For purely ceremonial reasons? To celebrate the Nazi defeat of 30 years ago?

Such a reciprocal military exchange is not part of normalizing relationships between countries having diametrically opposed social systems. It is in fact an abnormality. Such military exchanges are regarded as hostile acts by countries which are oppressed by imperialism. They are evidence not of "normalizing relations", but of efforts at an alliance. Alliances in the context of contemporary world relationships, are made only against third parties.

In this respect, China has every reason to regard the visits as a hostile act. And how should Cambodia, Vietnam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, not to speak of Cuba, all Latin America, and the oppressed peoples of the Middle East, regard this military exchange?

However, it is only one aspect of a larger effort which includes plans for a joint USSR-US space mission—a spectacle which, if it takes place, will be just as odious and offensive to the sensibilities of all oppressed people and a fraud and deception upon the world proletariat, including most of all the people of the USSR. Such a demonstration is not calculated to advance scientific development. It can only be viewed as an effort at political accommodation, at the expense of proletarian internationalism and socialist obligations to the rest of the world.

## TENG IN PARIS

And where was the People's Republic of China on the day of the monstrous provocation by the U.S. in the waters of the Gulf of Siam? Deputy Premier Teng Hsiao-ping had arrived in Paris for a 6-day visit. His avowed purpose was to line up imperialist Europe against the USSR. His visit was supposed to cap months of intensive agitation and diplomatic activity calculated to firm up the NATO powers against a workers' state. This is so openly and so flagrantly stated in the Chinese press as to make it as utterly fantastic as it is fallacious politically.

It was a frightened leader of the French CP, George Marchais, who denounced Deputy Premier Teng's visit as an attempt to line up the monopolies of Europe and to curry favor with President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the chief executive of French imperialism.

But Marchais is in poor standing to denounce Teng's maneuvers in the light of his support of Soviet diplomacy—let alone the sorry class collaborationist position of the French CP.

There are those who would

working class as a whole. To neglect such a task is to fly in the face of the most elementary precepts regarding internationalism. Again there are those who would like to say "a plague on both your houses" and utilize every opportunity to borrow imperialist propaganda to attack both China and the USSR. This approach was all too often practiced in certain radical circles and broad sections of the liberals here during the entire Cold War period.

The objective result of this policy has been to embellish and strengthen imperialism to the detriment of class truth.

Then again, there are blind camp followers who either unabashedly endorse and uncritically pursue the Soviet or the Chinese line. Thus the Daily World here completely evaded in the current Cambodian crisis the fact that the USSR withheld recognition of the Khmer

Rouge (National Khmer United Front), and has given the most tepid, pro-forma support to the Cambodian revolutionary government on the Mayaguez assault (if it could even be called support).

On the other hand, the Maoist groupings here vociferously support the false and spurious social-imperialist theory of the People's Republic of China, and applaud China's efforts to galvanize imperialist NATO against the USSR.

## SOCIALIST SUPPORT FOR KOREA

How then will it be with the USSR and China in the forthcoming struggle of the Korean people to free themselves from the scourge of the puppet Park regime and the U.S. military?

One U.S. aim in the Mayaguez adventure was to intimidate the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and to threaten the rebellious masses groaning under the heel of the Park regime.

This June 25 will be the 25th anniversary of U.S. aggression in Korea. Both the USSR and China have a common border with Korea. Both have a stake in the liberation of south Korea from imperialist enslavement. The DPRK needs support, not only from the USSR and China but, like Vietnam, it needs the support of all the socialist countries and all the progressive people of the world.

Instead of the unprincipled Teng maneuver in Paris and the equally unprincipled Gromyko-Kissinger maneuvers in Vienna, would it not be in the interest of socialist

solidarity to have a joint Sino-Soviet statement of support and solidarity with the DPRK and with the oppressed south Korean people against U.S. aggression?

Would this not be more in the interest of all the world's oppressed? Such a joint statement would help to cut the ground from the Ford-Kissinger-Schlesinger latest exercise in imperialist brinkmanship.

The orgy of jingoism and chauvinism which the Mayaguez adventure has engendered requires a renewed and more determined dedication, particularly by the American working class movement and by all progressive forces, against the ugly spectacle of another U.S. intervention in Asia.

Our task here is to give the same kind of aid, the same unconditional support to the Korean struggle that we have given so magnificently in the Vietnam liberation war. We will do so all the more vigorously because we are cognizant of the difficulties imposed by the false and spurious struggle between the Soviet and Chinese leaders and those who echo their line here. We are unswervingly committed to defend all the socialist countries and the oppressed people everywhere not only against imperialist reaction but also against internal bourgeois reaction.

Our criticism of Sino-Soviet policy is absolutely consistent with our global class view of defending all socialist countries, while at the same time retaining our own independent view of the political and diplomatic conduct of both China and the Soviet Union.



This year millions of people in Indochina were for the first time able to celebrate the birth of their great leader in complete liberation from foreign oppression. Although Malcolm X fell to an assassin's bullet 10 years ago, the victim of a plot by ruling class reaction, his revolutionary inspiration lives on. The forward march of oppressed peoples all over the world is even now aiding in the development of new leaders of the oppressed Black nation who will carry on in the struggle for complete liberation.

On May 19 the world celebrates the anniversary of the births of two great liberation fighters—Ho Chi Minh and Malcolm X. Both men inspired struggle against oppression and racism in their own countries and throughout the world.

It was Malcolm's trip abroad (he is seen above in Egypt) that oriented him toward the need for a world-wide struggle against capitalist class oppression, and it was Ho Chi Minh's years of labor in France and the U.S. that convinced him of the racial cruelty throughout the capitalist world.

## Lessons for our class, part III

# Rank-and-file upsurge gave rise to the CIO

By LENNY KAPITOS

This is the third and concluding article in a series on the crisis of the labor movement in America, 1919 to 1935. The first article traced the sharp decline of organized labor from the end of the first World War until the Great Depression. It was shown how the fossilized American Federation of Labor, by refusing to organize on a wider scale than a narrow craft unionism, along with many other false and outdated policies, virtually capitulated to the anti-union offensive carried out by big business during those years.

Despite the fact that the 1920s were so-called "prosperity" years for business, union membership was down drastically by the time the stock market caved in in 1929.

In the second article, we saw a rank-and-file movement take shape that was largely outside the do-nothing AFL. From the struggles of unemployed workers to the monumental sitdown strikes, workers took the path of direct action that overcame both the resistance of the bosses and the objections of their "leaders."

Out of these struggles by industrial workers for unionization, a new labor federation of industrial unions was born, the CIO.

Reflecting the strong pressure of Black workers in the mass production industries, the CIO

reversed the discriminatory policies of the AFL and extended a hand to Black labor. This was of the utmost importance in the effort to forge the needed Black-white unity against the employers.

The struggles for unionization of the workers in the mass production industries could neither be initiated by the AFL nor consummated by that antiquated organization. Its ideology and its structure left no room for the millions of industrial workers whose struggles during the depression years brought about the greatest social change in America since the Civil War.

A few of the leaders of the AFL unions, such as the United Mine Workers and the clothing and textile unions, set up within the old AFL a Committee for Industrial Organization. As leaders of the few industrial unions within the AFL, they saw the economic crisis and the do-nothing policies of the labor federation threatening the very existence of their unions.

Their shrinking membership and their growing list of defeats forced them to realize that they had to expand their areas of organization if they merely wanted to hold on to what they already had. They were forced to realize, for example, that they could not organize successfully in the coal fields unless they organized the steel plants. And to organize the steel plants,



Minneapolis trucking strike, 1934: it was the rank-and-file workers who "showed how to fight and fight to win."

they had to turn to the workers in the auto plants, and the tire plants, and so on.

## ALL LABOR INTERRELATED

The struggles of workers in one branch of industry could not be consolidated while the bosses were free to trample the rights of workers in related industries. The coal that the mineworkers dug fired the steel furnaces which fed the auto plants which waited for the tires which the rubber workers made and on it went. Interdependence was as necessary for labor as it was for capital.

Eventually the Committee for Industrial Organization burst the seams of the AFL and took its place as a new, separate

organization, the CIO—the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The AFL had failed to meet its responsibilities to the working class and so the task of organizing the mass production industries was carried out by others. But it was the pressing need of the workers in those industries for relief that breathed life into the CIO and its member unions.

The CIO was the historical form into which flowed the historical content of those years. That content was the struggle of the workers to organize themselves to resist their oppression. The AFL could not respond to that elemental human flood, except that in a formal sense it was the parent

organization of the CIO. But if the CIO had not arisen, some other organization would have had to be created ultimately.

The flood could be directed or even diverted to a certain extent. But the dam had burst, and no one could stop the waters from carving out a new passageway to the future.

Nor were the top leaders and officials of the CIO the real leaders and organizers of that surging mass of humanity. They were riding its surface much as boatmen might be carried along by rapids. If they had chosen not to launch the CIO upon that mighty current, history would have left them behind and others would have been raised up to carry out that organizational task.

This is not to deny the importance of either the organizational apparatus of the CIO or its personnel, both of which played a necessary part in the struggles. But we should know who the real leaders were, even if we can never learn their names. The real leaders and inspirers of the organizing struggles of the 'thirties' were the thousands of anonymous men and women who labored all their lives in the mills and factories, taught their fellow workers to hope for a better life, and then showed, by their own example, how to fight and fight to win.

They were the thousands of outspoken men and women (in every single workplace there is at least one) who were called "agitators" and "troublemakers" by the bosses. They were the rank-and-file working people who pushed and pushed until the seemingly impassable barriers crumbled at their feet. They were the workers who could no longer abide the misery and deprivation of their existence.

## WHO WILL LEAD NOW?

The leadership and the tactics for the organizing battles of the depression years were born of the suffering and struggles of the workers themselves. The compelling need for relief from the relentless agony of their toil drove them forward.

And now, once again, the established "leaders" of the labor movement are failing in their responsibility to the working people of this country. Once again economic crisis is beginning to lash workers into a fighting temper. Once again new leaders from the rank-and-file are beginning to push their way forward against the confused and cowardly bureaucrats who rule the trade unions.

Where are they now, these future leaders of the great struggles to come?

They are all around you. They are you!

## Church slumlord forced to back down

# 5 years of struggle pay off for Mass. tenants

By DAVE CARVER

BOSTON, May 5—The Black, Spanish-speaking, and white tenants of the Back of the Hill Association (BOTH) of Mission Hill in Roxbury celebrated here today, and with good reason. They voted this afternoon to accept an agreement with Mr. Levin, the developer who bought their homes from their former landlord, Ruggles St. Baptist Church in Boston.

## VICTORY AFTER 5 YEARS

The pact erases back due rents from a previous rent strike and lets them use their rent money until September to fix up their badly run-down apartments, falling apart from 5 years of church neglect and untold decades of previous slumlords. In September, they have an option to buy their homes from Levin at \$3,000 a building. The tenants won after 5 years of struggle with the church, capped by a week-long battle against Ruggles St. and its paid thugs.

Over the years, this Mission Hill community has shrunk from 29 to

seven buildings as tenants have been evicted, harassed into moving, and burned out by the Prescotts, church "caretakers" whose only care seems to be the manner in which they totally stripped vacated buildings of all valuable fixtures before putting them to the torch.

The church got the land to sell the developers and insurance from the fires, while the Prescotts sold the fixtures and collected their blood money from the church. This racket, played to the hilt by many slumlords across America, kept these "humble servants of the Lord" in gravy for awhile.

On Tuesday, April 29, they moved to slurrp up the last few drops. Eviction notices were served to tenants in six buildings, and intent to demolish a vacant house, 55 Lawn St., was also published. This time, the church found that the trough had run dry.

BOTH and Jamaica Plains Tenant Action Group met and decided to make a stand and fight this larceny. First they went into court and got a temporary restraining order against

demolition until 10 a.m. Friday.

Then tenants moved in and took over the buildings, boarding windows to protect against firebombs. Signs went up on the house, which is in the middle of the seven apartment buildings. They read, in Spanish and English, "Viet Nam won—So can we," "An injury to one is an injury to all," and "The Church destroys communities—The people save them."

On Thursday, the church made a desperate move to try to drive out the people. They sent thugs down to 55 Lawn, who attacked three tenants with shovels, clubs, and bricks. Richie Harris, a Black community organizer, suffered a broken elbow. The attack was beaten back, however, and immediately groups from around the city, including the Center for United Labor Action, were mobilized to defend against further attack.

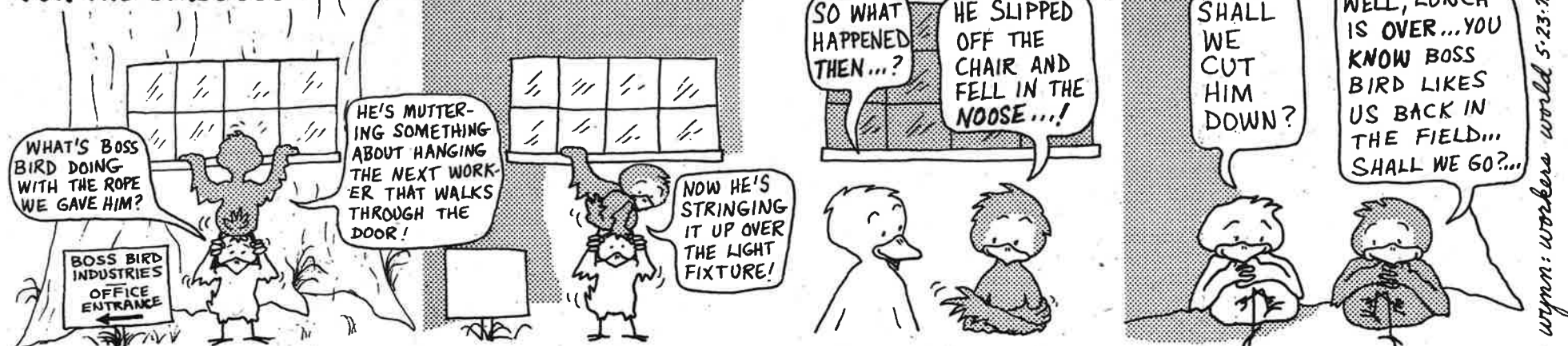
## SUPPORTERS DEFEND HOUSE

The people of the area knew they could trust no one but other poor and working people to fight against the pious exploiters of the church

and their paid goons, in and out of uniform. So calls were made that brought up to 90 people by Saturday night, with at least a dozen people staying there from Thursday night through Sunday morning. Plumbing was hooked up, electricity was run in from neighboring homes, and a quick communication system insured immediate help if the goons came back. So evident to the church was the determination of the tenants and their supporters that after the order against demolition ran out Friday morning, they made no attempt to evict people and destroy their homes. As well, when three cars of thugs came back Saturday night and threatened to return and attack 55 Lawn St., 90 people organized in an hour and chased them away.

The following morning, 100 people demonstrated at Ruggles St. Church in the rain, after leafleting Mission Hill in Spanish and English to let all the neighbors know what their struggle was about. After these actions Ruggles St. made the offer through Levin, a deal that amounted to unconditional surrender.

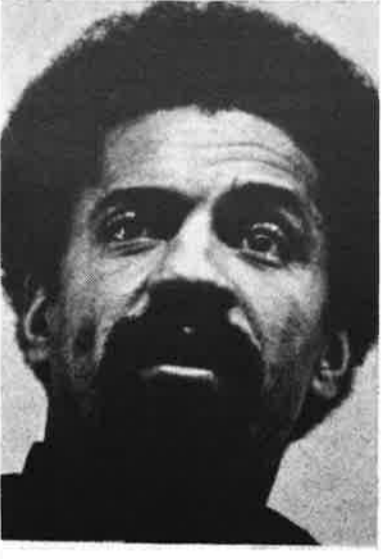
## FOR THE BIRDS...



# POLITICAL PRISONERS

## ATTICA ALL-WHITE JURY BACK

By BRAD KANE  
 BUFFALO, May 17—The trial of Attica Brother Shango Bahiti Kakawana (aka Bernard Stoble) will hear testimony beginning on May 19 following 5 weeks of jury selection. Brother Shango, a Black man, will be tried by an all-white jury for his alleged role in the murder of two white inmates during the 1971 rebellion at Attica. If the state charges stick (indictments against other Brothers have been quashed for lack of evidence), Brother Shango could face a maximum of life imprisonment 41 times over plus 18 years.



Brother Shango

Black potential juror and other jurors who have shown that they might be able to have an open mind on such questions as amnesty for the Attica Brothers and the fact that the state has covered

up crimes committed by state officials in the retaking of Attica prison on September 13, 1971.

This line of questioning by the prosecution is the result of a campaign for unconditional amnesty for all the Attica Brothers, a demand which has won much mass support and is being presented to the State Legislature. The state's vast cover-up of crimes has been brought out by numerous individuals on the witness stand, including a former assistant special prosecutor for the Attica cases. Motions to dismiss Shango's indictment on this basis were denied by Judge Mattina despite clear evidence of governmental infiltration into the Attica defense camp and other examples of governmental misconduct which would warrant dismissal.

It is clear that it is impossible to get a fair trial for Brother Shango, and that the only fair trial would be no trial at all.

Amnesty now for all Attica Brothers!

### RACISM AT ISSUE IN JURY SELECTION

Throughout jury selection, the defense was forced to use most of its peremptory challenges against relatives and friends of law enforcement officials and those persons who exhibited extreme and vile racism under questioning by the defense. The prosecution, on the other hand, has systematically excluded every

## PRISON LAWSUIT AGAINST GAY ABUSE

OXFORD, Wis., May 5—The United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin is expected to decide, within 2 weeks, on a civil suit filed by a gay inmate at the Federal Correctional Institution, Oxford, Wisconsin. The decisions are expected to be favorable and evidentiary hearings will be promptly scheduled.

The suit charges the federal government with failure to prevent assaults and sexual assaults during the months of May-August 1974, at the federal facility.

David C. Boswell is represented by counsel, Ms. Gretchen T. Vetzner, of Madison, Wisconsin. The government is represented by the United States Attorney's office, Mr. David McBane.

Thus far, the government has made no dispute of the facts, but

the government's counsel has attacked Boswell's failure to exhaust his administrative remedies, which of course would have been futile.

Since the filing of the suit in September 1974, Boswell has been under tremendous pressure and strain. He will continue to be under this pressure as long as he attempts to crush the vehicles of oppression and the current fascistic machine.

Much more than a mere civil suit, this case deals with the very core of what almost every gay must face and deal with in prison. In essence, when sentenced to prison, all gays are actually being sentenced to moral and physical degradation coupled with dehumanization. A gay's failure to "adjust" to this type of behavior (encouraged by the government)

almost always results in what can best be described as the final scenes from "Joan of Arc."

Boswell was sent to prison for 15 years on April 4, 1974, for his part in the Gay Activists Movement in Norfolk, Virginia, to secure assistance from the federal government in aiding gay citizens.

Let us join together in solidarity and help Boswell. Monetary contributions can be sent to his attorney, Ms. Gretchen T. Vetzner, 2260 West Lawn Avenue, Madison, Wisconsin 53711.

A favorable decision in this case will open the doors for other gays in surrounding prisons all over the country. We have come a long way since the Stonewall Inn but we still have a long way to go. Join in the struggle and send messages of support to David C. Boswell, 21446-175, P.O. Box 1000, Oxford, Wisconsin 53952.

## LETTER FROM GREENHAVEN INMATES

An open letter to all citizens of New York State—laymen, legislators, legal personnel, students, and those of conscience. From: The Green Haven Prisoner's Coalition

On April 29, 1975, a premeditated killing was perpetrated against a prisoner by state correction officers within these walls. The murder victim, one Oliver Robinson, a sick and emotionally unstable person, was bludgeoned and gassed to death by a "goon squad" comprised of vicious animals in the clothing of New York State Correction Officers. Investigations into the facts concerning this premeditated killing have commenced and encompass many state and local officials. As with the Attica Rebellion and massacre there is much furor after the fact.

The blame for the slaughter of Mr. Robinson is entirely upon the negligent and indifferent officials of New York State, administrative, legislative, and judicial. Administrative officials, of the state hierarchy within the so-called "Department of Correctional Services," care little what character of beast they place

the power of life and death in. Miscreants and victimizers of every aberrant persuasion are given access to a correction department uniform.

A case in point is the recent documented case of Ku Klux Klansmen firebombing the cells of black and other non-white inmates' cells at Napanoch. The list of unpublicized instances of similar depredations is infinite. With certain very definite exceptions the responsibility of New York State legislators to the "rehabilitation and resocialization"—the stated goals—of incarcerated people has been thoroughly derelict.

Loss of life and limb in the dungeons of this state is accelerating rapidly. The ignominious conduct of the state commission and of those of similar indifference to the glaring wrongs in this system, encourage the beasts to attack and kill the inmates of these dungeons. We lay the death of Oliver Robinson squarely at their door.

In behalf of several pressing needs, inmates of this prison and others have petitioned and sought in various forms meaningful modifications of existing law. Just

this term men and women prisoners have asked for a reasonable period to see a parole board. I refer specifically to those many who under the old law are incarcerated for first degree murder. Must an offender, particularly first offenders, be exposed to murderers in official clothing every day for 20 years before they become eligible for an initial consideration by the board of parole?

The courts of this state with few exceptions have treated complaints by prison inmates as an unfortunate nuisance rather than as a matter requiring strong and decisive scrutiny. The courts whether in matters of conviction appeals or petitions based on an assertion of inequities and misdeeds inevitably play rubber stamp for the state officialdom. The benches of New York State are filled with a plethora of political appointees who must pay homage to their patrons rather than to the law and as a result they must share in the scheme of dereliction which encouraged the official slayers of Oliver Robinson to "beat the goddamned nigger to death." Who is next? When? Where?

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



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A 5-year struggle of Boston tenants that culminated in a mass community effort to fight off the landlord's goons has been rewarded with victory. Page 10.

Militant Greater Boston contingent draws gay activists, progressives from abroad

## Thousands protest racism in Boston

By JOHN C. OTTO

BOSTON, May 17—Today 20,000 to 30,000 people from around the country gathered here to protest the racist attacks on schoolchildren.

People came from Minneapolis-St. Paul on two NAACP buses; from Austin, Texas, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Los Angeles by airplane; and from Boston itself by subway and foot. A Black man from Austin told me, "I think it's great to have people here from all over. Boston needs to know people are behind this thing."

### WHY THEY CAME

As we gathered on the Fenway in the warm noon sun, I spoke with Mina, a Chicana sister who had helped pull together a group of 25 parents from East Boston, which had threatened to be the next desegregation hot spot. "I came to show that not all of East Boston is racist," she said. "This group helps to prove it. And it's beautiful to see the people here from all over the country."

Many of the people I interviewed were, like Mina, from the Greater Boston People Against Racism contingent.

With this coalition marched a spirited group of over 100 gay anti-racists, proud of their participation. One of the men there, Danny, said, "I feel it's important for gay people to make ties with other oppressed groups."

Hattie, one of a group of



In Boston on May 17, thousands marched, sang, and chanted their support and determination in the fight against racism—in Boston schools and everywhere!  
WW photo: Cheryl

cafeteria workers, had a damn good reason for marching. "I have children in Boston's schools." A black co-worker added, "We shouldn't have to march. These are our rights."

Many groups from abroad also marched with this contingent. A member of the Committee of Palestinians in New England told me, "I believe that racism is an international phenomenon, from

the U.S. to Rhodesia and South Africa to Israel, and we are in solidarity with the Black people and all oppressed minorities here."

An activist in the Eritreans for Liberation in North America said, "The struggle against racism is equivalent to the fight against imperialism and for national liberation. Fighting racism should be a fight against capitalist ex-

ploitation." Juanita, from the Chile Committee for Latin America, also supported the anti-racist movement here and called for a united movement.

### ROAR SET BACK

As this contingent marched around Boylston Street to the Commons chanting "Stop the war against Black America," parade marshals and bystanders joined

the spirited chant and we knew that the racists of ROAR, the anti-busing group, had another setback.

Frank Neisser, a coordinator of the 500-strong Greater Boston People Against Racism coalition, and a member of Boston Youth Against War & Fascism, gave the following explanation of the political need for such a group.

"We organized GBPAR to participate in the May 17 march against racism and to unite progressive and community groups to fight racism both on May 17 and in the future in the communities, work places, and streets of Boston.

"We wanted to build a militant and spirited contingent to condemn racist attacks and to support the struggle for equal education by whatever means the Black community chooses, whether this be desegregation or community control. We also defend Black people's rights to self-defense against racist attacks.

"While some groups, such as the October League, boycotted this anti-racist march, calling it assimilationist and moderate in tone, we approached it differently. Through the GBPAR coalition, all who wished to make a stronger statement against racism could do so while still supporting the march as a whole. To boycott it just weakens the anti-racist struggle."

### RALLY DISAPPOINTING

Under the hot midday sun some marchers gathered round the speakers' platform while others stood or sat all over the grassy Commons. It disappointed many that the rally opened with the Star Spangled Banner, and more than a few boos and hisses were heard.

The NAACP speakers confined themselves for the most part to calls for enforcing the law in Boston, and resolved to carry out the legal battle for desegregation.

Maceo Dixon, a member of the national executive committee of the Young Socialist Alliance (YSA), speaking for the National Student Committee Against Racism, made a strong appeal to "take the U.S. troops out of Cambodia and send them to South Boston to enforce the laws." He did not explain why he thought the racist Marine officers who kill Asians without a thought would enforce laws against racists on the streets of Boston.

While this rally lacked the anti-racist defiance and anti-capitalist tone of the December 14 rally, there is no doubt that the march as a whole was a progressive step in the battle against racism.

### NAZIS ROUTED

In the ranks, the fight wasn't lacking. When a group of outright Nazis red-baited the NAACP, they were surrounded by 400 demonstrators who meant business. The Nazis were routed out of the park, and saved from a beating by the Boston police who "arrested" them to save their skins.

### ROAR's 'anti-busing' really anti-Black

## Equality a right of all oppressed

By T. MITCHELL

NEW YORK, May 18—Last fall, the Boston racist mobilization against integration of the school system went under the slogan: "Stop forced busing." The main group behind the demonstrations, ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights), steadfastly maintained that it was not racist, it was simply against "forced" busing.

On December 14, massive mobilization of 25,000 people in the streets of Boston in opposition to the racist violence against Black children set back the ROAR campaign. But this spring ROAR has emerged again with protests against the federal court ruling for city-wide busing, chanting, "Whites have rights."

There can be no doubt that the issue behind the anti-busing organizing drive is purely and simply white against Black. Boston has become the focus of a nationwide racist campaign against school desegregation, and the outcome of the struggle in that city will be felt in cities all across the country.

### GOV'T WON'T DEFEND 1954 RULING

The May 17 anti-racist march in Boston called by the NAACP

comes on the 21st anniversary of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling, (made almost 90 years after the Civil War) which declared that racially segregated schools were unconstitutional. However, the federal government today is not defending but sabotaging the civil rights to equal opportunity of oppressed people.

While the capitalist establishment made concessions to equal rights in the wake of the 1960's upsurge of the Black Liberation movement, it has now reversed even its policy of limited integration.

On July 25, 1974, the Supreme Court ruled that busing to achieve racial balance could not be extended from the inner city to the segregated suburbs. This decision followed an earlier decision against funding school budgets by a uniform statewide tax instead of the unequal local taxes.

These decisions went a long way toward dismantling the original 1954 Supreme Court ruling calling for desegregation, and they have had the complete backing of Nixon, Ford, and Rockefeller.

The liberals have not challenged the "anti-busing" mobilization any more than they stood up to the

"law and order" agitation against the civil rights rebellions. But the pressure for this intensified racist drive did not come from the white workers, who have on the whole shown growing solidarity with Blacks on the job in union organizing drives and on strikes.

The increased right-wing organizing against civil rights has been organized and bankrolled at the top of the ruling class in an effort to divert the anger of working people facing hard times

ROAR demonstrators chanting "Whites have rights" are basing their appeal to white racism on the false notion that any rights won by oppressed people are taken away from whites. In the economic crisis, the gut issue is job security.

But it is not Black people looking for work who issue the layoff slips. The boss who underpays both Black and white when they work is responsible for high unemployment as well as deteriorating schools.

The ROAR racist mobilization has played on the fears of whites who live in a racially segregated city. ROAR tries to create hysteria to bring out an animalistic stampede of fright and hatred. It is not Blacks who are "animals," as

the ROAR propaganda implies; it is the ROAR leadership who vilely incite race war based on fear mongering.

### RIGHTS OF ALL

White workers have rights to a decent life that should be defended and fought for with total determination. But Black, Latin, Asian, Chicano, and Native American people must have an equal right to a decent life—including the right to go to any school, to live in any neighborhood, and to work at any job. And because Third World peoples have been oppressed even more than white workers, they must demand even more just to catch up to where the whites are.

The whites in Boston who have followed the racist misleadership of Louise Day Hicks and her allies for the past 9 years, in which court orders for desegregation have been thwarted, have seen their neighborhoods and schools go downhill.

At a time when the white capitalist establishment is intent on cutting back all social services in the cities, letting buildings run down and schools get dreadfully overcrowded, it will take a united fight of all poor and working people to win a quality life for all.