

PEOPLE OF
THE WORLD
UNITE TO
DEFEAT
IMPERIALISM

THE CALL

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FIGHT - DON'T FREEZE!

Thousands Laid Off in Energy Crisis



Truckers in protest of the rising fuel prices and the limiting of fuel supplies. Independent owners as well as workers have been hard hit, while oil company profits continue to rise. For more on the truckers' struggle see story on page 4.

OIL PROFITS CONTINUE TO RISE

The worst economic crisis since the grim days of the Depression has swept the United States causing massive lay-offs, spiraling inflation, production cutbacks, stock market flurries and, finally, culminating in the so-called "energy crisis."

In the face of this growing crisis, the strategy of the giant corporations and their main spokesman, President Nixon, continues to be, "Make the people pay!"

While the profits of the oil monopolies climb to new records, the "energy crisis" is being used as an excuse to raise the price of gasoline to as much as 50¢ per gallon and to insure congressional approval for construction of the Alaskan pipeline and renewed offshore drilling.

The causes of the "crisis" of course are hidden or obscured by the bourgeois media. According to consumer rights advocate, Ralph Nader, oil companies have consciously understated their reserves in reports to the government and have withheld oil from the market in order to push prices up and force a real reserves the government has are those supplied by the oil companies themselves.

Furthermore, Newsweek magazine reported that oil companies were actually exporting oil, to the tune of 242,000 barrels a day as late as October.

The oil shortage is now being used to whip up anti-Arab sentiments by emphasizing how the Arab oil embargo is "blackmail" which will only cause suffering for the American people.

CRISIS HITS POOR PEOPLE

The harshest effects of this latest crisis, however, are on U.S. working people. Millions of workers are being laid off and sent out the factory gates with apologetic letters from the industrial tycoons explaining that these lay offs are an unfortunate result of an "energy crisis."

In fact, the energy crisis is now the chief excuse for the giant monopoly corporations to cut labor costs with massive lay-offs and to increase profits. The strategy is to use fewer workers to do the same amount of work and use the resulting unemployment as a stop-gap measure to slow down the inflation-ridden economy.

Even the most optimistic Washington economists are now contradicting the promise Nixon made last January when he said that unemployment wouldn't go over 6 per cent this year. The Labor Department issued statistics for November, before the large industries began the energy crisis lay-offs and even these statistics showed a jump of a quarter million jobless people.

The Wall Street Journal said that, "Many private economists think the economic impact of the Arab oil embargo will be severe enough to push the (unemployment) rate toward 7 per cent or higher."

Senator Muskie (D-Me.) noted that unemployment in his state would probably rise to 15 per cent and that 150,000 jobs would probably be lost in New England. "Yet," said Muskie, "from the Administration we hear a much rosier picture of how the fuel shortage will affect the economy. Who is right?"

The right answer to Muskie's question that the lay-offs now occurring are the companies solution to inflation and a long expected drop in sales. As the weeks in December passed, one industry after another announced lay-offs auto, rubber, aircraft, air transport, boating, plastics, cosmetics, meat packing and on down the line, leaving millions to face the winter and rising fuel costs with no income.

The auto industry alone announced lay-offs of over 250,000 workers, or nearly 30 per cent of the entire industry.

ANTI-NIXON DEMONSTRATIONS SET FOR JANUARY 20TH

A year ago, on January 20, 1973, tens of thousands of people demonstrated at President Nixon's inauguration, demanding an end to the government's aggressive policies in Indochina. While most direct U.S. involvement ended with the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements, it has become clear that the war isn't the only thing responsible for the massive discontent of the American people.

On January 20, 1974, thousands more will take to the streets in nationwide demonstrations aimed at dumping the president of the United States for the first time in history.

The demonstrations are planned for Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Detroit, Houston, Atlanta, San Francisco, Chicago, Baltimore and many other cities.

Sponsored by broad coalitions of groups, including unions and labor organizations, civil rights organizations, student groups, women's organizations, peace movement and revolutionary and anti-imperialist forces, the January 20 actions won't confine themselves to the simple question of impeachment, but to the broader issues which have brought the overwhelming majority of the people into sharp contradiction with the Nixon government.

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The demonstrations have been called in the face of a retreat on the part of the ruling class politicians, who have already begun to back down from earlier impeachment moves. It has become evident that "Dump Nixon" is a slogan that is widely supported by people from all walks of life, and especially the working people, who are being hit hardest by the current economic policies of the government. Only the militant actions of the people, in a united effort, can get rid of Nixon and weaken the present offensive being launched against the working class.

To be effective, the January 20 demonstrations will have to link the impeachment movement with the general struggle against fascism. It is important to see that Watergate, and Nixon's criminal activities which have come to the surface in the past year, are not simply the abuses of power of one man but part of the rising tide of fascism being used to crush the efforts of the people who are fighting for the economic necessities and an end to war, discrimination and other oppressive policies.

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People in Struggle

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Highest Police Murder Rate...

Atlanta, Georgia—The Atlanta Police Department, which has the highest police murder rate of any city in the country, has done it again, this time killing a prisoner in the city jail. On November 29, two white Atlanta policemen, Officers D.E. Kelley and F.C. McIntyre, strangled to victims have been Black.

Kelley and McIntyre say that Williams resisted them and that they were "forced" to subdue him. One of the officers got a choke hold and the other grabbed Williams' legs. At this point, the police story goes, Williams began gasping for breath and the two officers released him. Williams was taken by ambulance one block to Grady Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Kelley and McIntyre were suspended from the force and charged with murder, only to be released without bail. In typical fashion, the court quickly dropped murder charges and sent the case to the Grand Jury on a charge of "involuntary manslaughter," a misdemeanor.

Protesting the police murder, pickets from the Atlanta Anti-Repression Coalition, Metro-Summit Leadership Conference, and Southern Christian Leadership Conference marched in front of the police station. They demanded justice for Williams' murder and that the two policemen be fired.

In a similar case in Dallas, Texas, Darrell Cain, the policeman who killed a 12-year-old Chicano youth, was sentenced to only five years. The shooting of Santos Rodriguez in July brought out an angry demonstration from the Black and Chicano community.

This month The Call/El Clarin is twenty pages instead of the usual twenty-four. We will resume our regular length with the February issue.

THE CALL

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Poll Shows Black Public Supports Arabs

An overwhelming majority of Black people support the struggles of the Arab nations in the Mid-East War according to a New York City poll conducted by the national newspaper Muhammad Speaks.

Polling some 3,200 Black people in Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant and East Harlem, the newspaper found that 71 per cent support the Arabs while only 29 per cent sided with Israel or had no view. This marked a significant change in view from 1970 when a similar poll revealed that 40 per cent agreed with the Arabs while 38 per cent were sympathetic with Israel.

A high degree of consciousness and support for the Arab people was shown in the fact that 65 per cent of the Afro-Americans interviewed felt that the Palestinians should have the right to reclaim the land and property taken from them by the Israeli state and that 69 per cent said that Israel should return all the Arab territory seized in the June 1967 war.

Black people in many areas have played a leading role in the protests against Israeli aggression as in Atlanta where Black students at the Atlanta University complex held large rallies and spurred citywide demonstrations.



American Indian Movement Protests Trial of Militants

Los Angeles, California—Demonstrations were held here and in San Jose on December 12 to protest the upcoming trial of Indian militants who were arrested in civil rights demonstrations in Custer, South Dakota.

A press statement from Dennis Banks, executive director the American Indian Movement (AIM) said that AIM would continue demonstrations until all charges are dropped and imprisoned Indians are released.

Said Banks, "Indians throughout America will not allow the U.S. government to conduct a 'kangaroo' court to railroad innocent citizens into government jails for political purposes."

Black Women Activists Hold National Convention

New York City, New York—Over 400 Black women from 10 states met here December 1-2 to discuss the formation of the National Black Feminist Organization (NBFO). During two days of workshops and speeches, the women debated and discussed a historic first—the merging on a national level of the struggle against sex discrimination with the struggle against racial discrimination.

Participants ranged from professional women such as Human Rights Commissioner Eleanor Holmes Norton, an NBFO founder, to politicians, household workers, students and working women.

Carolyn Reed of the National Committee on Household Employment and Lillian Roberts, associate director of District Council 37, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, stressed that Black women workers could not get anywhere without organizing. Pointing out to the conference the importance of Black women joining unions and starting drives to organize the millions of unorganized Black women, Roberts said, "You can't go it alone. Power means organizing." Reed noted that the Black household worker is powerless because most are not yet organized.

Interviews with different women at the conference showed many opinions on the direction for the NBFO. Priorities mentioned by various participants included community control of the schools, improving working conditions and wages, the need for childcare, organizing to deal with the overwhelmingly white and male medical establishments which abuse many Black women and helping Black women prisoners and addicts.

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Chicago Latinos Form United Organization

Five hundred delegates and visitors representing some fifty organizations of Spanish-speaking people convened in East Chicago, Indiana, on December to found the Concerned Latins Organization. This significant convention marked the first time in Lake County that an organization of this size has brought together Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and all Latinos to fight against discrimination.

The Concerned Latins Organization has taken shape in the fight against the discriminatory conditions in the East Chicago area. One of the most successful campaigns was waged by the community against discrimination in the Fire Department, where Latino employment amounted to only 5%. As a result of relentless pressure, including disruption of city council meetings, and demonstrations at banks and businesses, the city was forced to adopt a fire department policy under which hiring was to be done in a ratio of four Blacks to four Latinos to one white until equality was reached.

Citing a long list of grievances, one leader of the new organization declared, "These are only a few of the reasons the leaders of the Concerned Latins Organization have said, ¡Ya Basta!!! We are fed up—we can no longer wait for the politicians. We must depend upon ourselves if we are to preserve our dignity, protect our families, and maintain our communities. For these reasons we have sought to organize the Concerned Latins Organization of Lake County."



Impeach Nixon demonstration in Atlanta on November 8.

DUMP NIXON!! STOP THE FASCIST TIDE

Over 500 demonstrators demanded Nixon's impeachment at a rally held in Atlanta November 8 at the Southern Republican Conference. Placards saying "Honk if he's guilty" drew a noisy response from passing motorists. Not only did almost every car and city bus honk as they passed, but many cab drivers carrying Republican big-wigs honked their disgust with Nixon. Nixon was expected to attend, but declined to show up at the last minute.

"Royal Govt of Cambodia Legitimate Government"

United Nations—More than 100 Cambodian residents in the U.S. and U.S. citizens demonstrated here on December 1 to demand that the UN General Assembly restore national rights to the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia (RGNUC) and expel the Lon Nol representatives from the UN.

Demonstrators held signs saying, "The Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia is the sole legitimate government of the Cambodian people" and "Down with the Lon Nol puppet regime!" Sponsored by the Indochina Solidarity Committee and the Group of Khmer Residents in America, the rally was called to support a resolution currently being discussed in the UN General Assembly to restore the lawful rights of the RGNUC headed by Norodom Sihanouk.

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HOSPITAL WORKERS CHALLENGE WAGE FREEZE

New York, N.Y.—Thousands of hospital workers here last month confronted Nixon's Cost of Living Council in a week-long strike that was termed the first major challenge to the monopolists' wage freeze.

30,000 hospital workers, members of Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers Union (AFL-CIO), went out on strike November 5 after waiting for four months for the Nixon administration to approve a 7.5 percent or \$12 a week wage increase that was due July 1. A week later the workers voted nearly 4 to 1 to return to work after the strike forced the Cost of Living Council to end its delaying tactics. The Council offered a compromise settlement of a 6 per cent or \$9 a week wage increase which was accepted by the union and recommended to the membership.

It was the biggest hospital strike ever in this city and a bellweather for the whole workers movement. It signalled a new determination by rank-and-file workers to fight back against the wage freeze which has caused real wages to drop while the cost of living and monopoly profits soar, and it showed that workers are able to stand up against the wage controls, contrary to what some trade union officials preach about the government's strength and the workers' weakness.

Hospital workers here have a long history of militancy. Of the union's 61,000 members, most are Black and Latin workers and they are mainly women. As the strike continued into its final days, the workers' militancy increased. The picket lines in front of Beth Israel and Mount Sinai hospitals grew larger and larger as the strike went on. And as one observer put it, it was "the spirit of the women workers that was at the heart of the strike."

The strikers faced a hostile press that seized on the plight of hospital patients and picket-line incidents to try to discredit the strike and divide the workers from community support. The workers responded as one striker put

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WOMEN TAKE UP MINERS FIGHT IN HARLAN

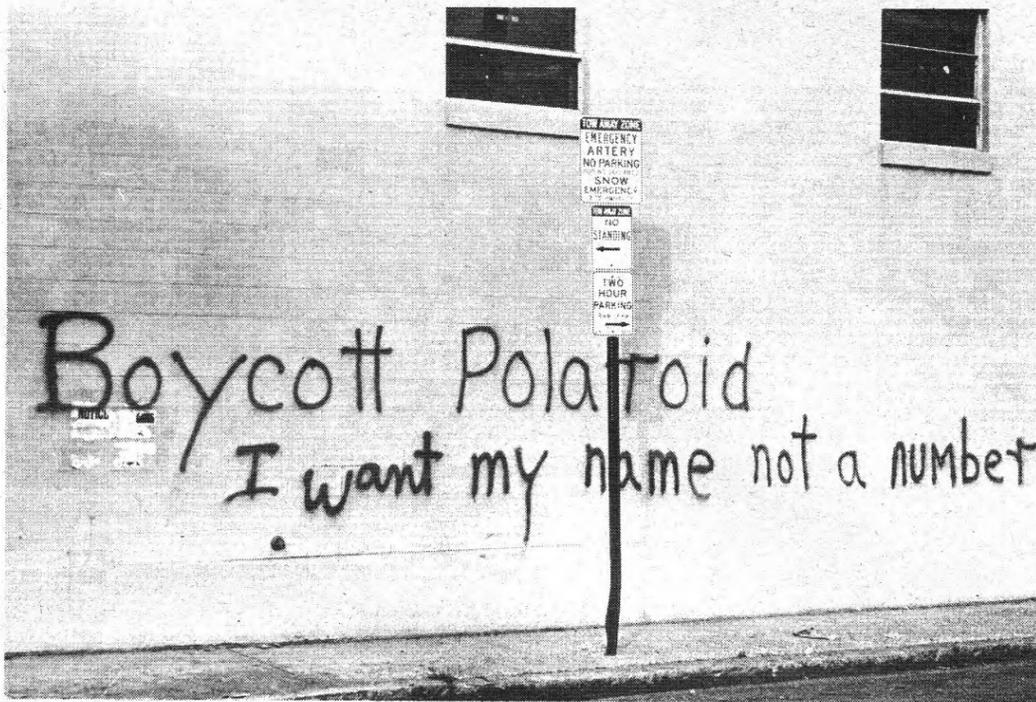
A fierce battle for human justice and dignity is raging in Harlan County, Kentucky today. At the forefront of the fight are the women of the Brookside Women's Club. The Brookside miners have been on strike since June 26 for union recognition for their United Mine Workers local and for strong health and safety provisions against the hazardous mine conditions.

The Brookside Women's Club came together spontaneously when court injunctions were issued which limited the number of miners' pickets to three at a time. The women went to Harlan town to protest this action by the court which provided an easy way into the mine for scabs. A daughter of one of the miners said, "We just got tired of watching the scabs take the men's jobs."

The line of women confronted the President of Eastover Mining in his office and the hired gun thugs and scabs on the line. One thug who is a known killer in the area was pulled out of his truck and whipped with sticks by the women. Other scabs were chased down the mountain by the women who were determined that no one would cross the line. On the second day of picketing by the women 50 Kentucky State Police were called in with riot gear to escort the scabs across the line. The State Police picked out several women they considered to be ring leaders and dragged them across the highway, placing them under arrest. This continued until a delegation from the striking miners forced the police to escort the women more politely.

The following day the women were confronted by 60 to 70 troopers. They fully expected to be dragged off the line and beaten again. At this point over a hundred miners still in full work gear from the nearby Glenbrook Mine came marching over the mountain. They had heard of the incidents of the day before and came in support of their brothers and sisters at Brookside. The state troopers backed down in the face of the organized strength of the miners. The garrison of troopers has since been withdrawn except for a small detail.

The Brookside Women's Club is made up of the wives, daughters and supporters of the Brookside miners. Many of the women are not even related to the Brookside men. They are the wives of union miners in other mines who decided that they must fight for the union wherever it is.



Polaroid, using its experiences in South Africa to guide it, has embarked on efforts to photograph and computerize lists of people for identification purposes. As the accompanying article shows, this is a move towards fascism. (Call Photo)

I. D. SYSTEM MOVES U. S. CLOSER TO POLICE STATE

The photo-identity card in wallets and purses, the video-tape camera scanning city streets, the 25 million files in the possession of U.S. intelligence services—all these are but aspects of a growing police state in the U.S.

Compared to the trend toward fascism exposed by the Watergate hearings—including use of wiretappings, enemy lists, extensive government surveillance, infiltration and sabotage of "legitimate" political organizations, etc.—the photo-identity cards and files seem relatively harmless. That's what makes them all the more insidious.

In fact, the government trend toward the establishment of a national identity system is an ominous sign that the U.S. ruling class is considering fascist means of political control. The development of instant photography ID systems by Polaroid Corporation has made this all the more possible.

Attention was first focused on Polaroid's "national identity systems" on October 5, 1970, when a worker at the Polaroid Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts, accidentally found a sample ID card for mine workers in South Africa. Up until that time Polaroid's involvement in South Africa and their role in aiding the racist white minority government had been a secret well guarded from the Polaroid workers and from the public as a whole.

POLAROID IMPRISONS BLACK PEOPLE

A few days after the discovery of the card, a group of Polaroid workers, called the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers, put out a leaflet saying, "Polaroid Imprisons Black people in 60 seconds in South Africa and they'll use it in Georgia and Mississippi, too." The workers called a rally and a press conference to expose Polaroid and its "liberal" image. They demanded that Polaroid get out of South Africa, make a public statement against apartheid, and give some of the profits to liberation movements. The Polaroid Revolutionary Workers contacted other anti-apartheid groups throughout the world and called for a boycott of all Polaroid products.

Since then, Polaroid has fired all of the workers involved in the struggle. Some have since formed a group called People Against National Identity Cards (PANIC), which is continuing the fight against the establishment of a national ID system in this country, as well as all over the world. They feel that the issue of national ID systems just doesn't relate to the freedom of South African and Black people, but to the personal liberty of every person in this country.

Polaroid has not ceased its production and promotion of the identity systems. The national identity systems give Polaroid a huge profit and continuous market around the world with the many governments which require all citizens to be photographed. Polaroid's sales department actually promotes the establishment of these fascist control systems. Presently, its portable ID-2 system, which is capable of 200-300 IDs per hour, is in use in south Vietnam, South Africa, Cambodia, Laos, Greece, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Trinidad, Haiti, Jordan, Israel, the Gaza strip, Thailand and Argentina.

There are many indications that identity systems in the U.S. are being used for political and social control rather than for their intended use. Today millions of Americans are forced to carry around picture ID's, for jobs, for schools, credit, government security, press and for other institutions. More and more of these ID's include the social security number—never intended for identity purposes—which is used to centralize information in the vast government computer banks. In New York City, the welfare department has started requiring picture ID's for welfare recipients.

In October 1972 the Senate passed a bill (Public Law 92-603) which would require all U.S. citizens to be finger printed and given a social security number when entering school at age six, when immigrating to this country, or when applying for welfare. Members of PANIC point out that this "is a pass system. The only problem that remains in establishing a National Identity System is to photograph, number, and code the youth and babies and make it law."

A look at the use of the Polaroid identity systems in south Vietnam and South Africa gives a clear picture of their use for fascist political control. The government of South Africa uses a National Identity System to maintain apartheid, a system of complete racial segregation

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JANUARY, 1974—THE CALL—3

TRUCKERS CONFRONT RIOT POLICE TO PROTEST ENERGY POLICIES

Responding to the impossible conditions created for truckdrivers by Nixon's plans to "solve" the energy crisis, upwards of ten thousand angry drivers participated last month in roadblocks and slowdowns on major routes through at least a dozen states.

The blockades began December 4, and were tightly organized in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey by truckers using citizen band radios to coordinate their protest. Throughout the month of December these tactics continued despite vicious attacks from riot equipped police and national guardsmen, as well as threats of long jail sentences and heavy fines for participating drivers.

Even where there was no organized roadblock, the talk in every truckstop across the country centered on ways to fight the government's policy of making truckers pick up the tab for the energy crisis, and thereby driving them out of business.

The cutbacks in fuel supplies, the closing of gas stations, the lower speed limits and various other measures taken by the Nixon administration have left truck drivers, especially the ones who operate their own rigs, in a situation where they can't cover distances quickly enough to meet their own expenses.

The 10,000 drivers who blocked roads in December provided one of the most militant examples of people fed up with Nixon and his fascist schemes. They organized themselves quickly and took strong action, and overnight publicized the justice of their demands.

Many of the truckdrivers are members of the Teamsters Union, whose president, Frank Fitzsimmons, stumbled over himself to disassociate the Teamster leadership from any of the actions only minutes after they had begun. Fitzsimmons, of course, is Nixon's favorite labor leader, and has always provided support for Nixon on every question from the war in Indochina to trying to bust the United Farm Workers.

ANTI-NIXON SENTIMENT

Paul O'Dwyer, a fuel hauler from Tulsa, told a newsman in a truckstop, "Hell, your newspapers say the Teamsters endorsed him (Nixon). But you look around this room, and I'll bet you there ain't two guys here that voted for him."

Many Teamster members sent telegrams and petitions to Fitzsimmons, demanding that he support them, and stop acting as Nixon's stooge. Said Jack Hanson, a Team-

ster member for ten years, "I saw Fitzsimmons on the news and it was disgusting. I got everyone in the restaurant to sign a letter telling him that if he didn't start doing battle with Nixon over these cutbacks and speed limits, he wouldn't last much longer than Nixon."

The truckers are still angry. Nixon has promised to "look into the matter," but it appears that more will be necessary to force the government to back down. Wherever the truckdrivers have spoken out, they have consistently placed the blame for the current crisis situation on the government and the big companies. They are not fooled by Nixon's talk of "all of us sacrificing, none of us suffering" or the myth that somehow the Arabs are at fault for the problems in the U.S.

An equipment hauler in Ohio, summing up his feelings in a statement which was picked up by many of the major television and newspaper networks said, "They say there's no talking to a man who's hungry or a man who's cold. Well let me tell you about the bastards who run this country.

"Comes the time that my wife is cold or hungry, that's the time I get out my shotguns. We are going to the mats over this. Today the Ohio Turnpike was the mat . . ."

"If they bring the Guard out here, there'll be civil war. . ."

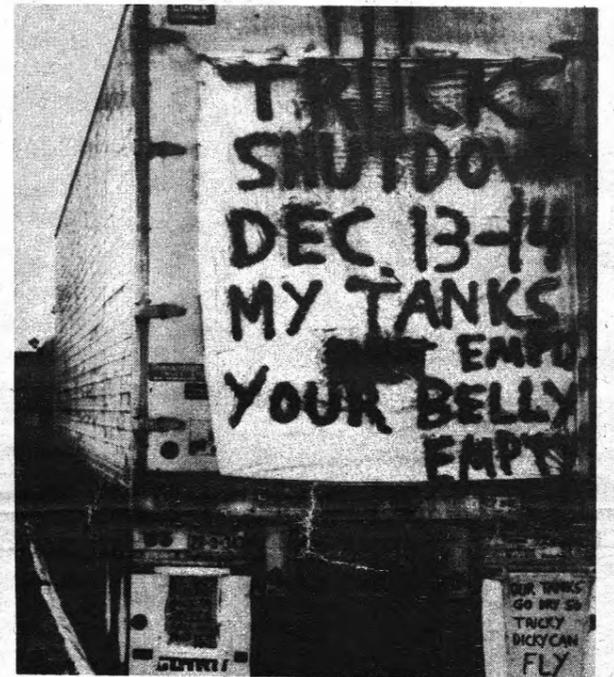
The militant spirit of the recent blockades of interstate highways across the U.S. by truckdrivers protesting the conditions of the "energy crisis" is best revealed by the statements that many of them made as they were interviewed by the news media.

At a truckstop outside Detroit, a reporter for the Detroit Free Press interviewed truckers and found the general sentiment to be: "We may go to jail, if that's what it takes to get people to listen to us." A steel hauler from Gary, Indiana, added that these kinds of militant actions were very necessary saying, "The Blacks never got anything until they did what they did ten years ago. We're doing the same thing."

The conditions that energy crisis shortages and restrictions have placed on drivers are forcing many of them right out of business. Near Akron, Ohio, an independent truck owner-operator told CBS news, "You can't tell thousands of truckdrivers that the government is going to squeeze them so dry that they squeeze us right out. This country can't survive without trucks, We know that, but it seems like Nixon don't."

Throughout the days of the blockades, the participating truckers expressed an angry demand for immediate action from both the leadership of the Teamsters union and the White House. Gregg Kirkland, a truck driver, said, "If Fitzsimmons (president of the Teamsters) doesn't want to back us up, we'll get rid of him. We didn't get thousands of guys out here to park their rigs in the middle of the road over some small issue. This is life or death."

A few minutes later, when asked about what would happen if police or national guardsmen tried to force the trucks back onto the road, Kirkland added, "If they bring the Guard out here, there'll be civil war right here. I got my gun with me."



'ENERGY CRISIS' BRINGS AN ATTACK ON JOBS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The hardest hit by lay-offs, as usual, are going to be the minority and women workers, who in most cases have the least seniority and have suffered for years under the notorious policy of "last hired, first fired."

Labor Department statistics for November showed that unemployment for non-whites jumped nearly a whole point over October to 9.1 per cent while unemployment among whites jumped only 0.1 per cent. (These statistics were also issued before the big December lay offs.)

Thousands of recently hired women, who had just managed to break through the sex-line in basic industry as the result of equal rights legislation, will now be laid off in order to "help out" with the energy crisis.

Meanwhile, small independent owners and operators such as gasoline dealers will be driven out of business and

the monopolies will continue to hit workers with sharp declines in real wages. When unemployment is rising, it is easier for the companies to lower wages, because there will be more competition for the few jobs that exist.

Labor Department figures indicate that actual paychecks declined three cents in November. This drop, coupled with inflationary rises in the costs of basic necessities, has put the masses of working families in unlivable situations. Many families simply cannot afford basic necessities such as food and gas, to say nothing of "luxuries" like Christmas presents.

As icing on the cake of corporate profits, the government dropped controls on gasoline prices and has actually encouraged oil companies to raise their prices, ostensibly to ease the energy shortage by making gas too expensive for anyone to buy.

PRICE HIKES APPROVED

In a similar move, the government dropped wage and price controls on the auto companies but since wages have already been set for the next three years by recent contracts, this was nothing more than an invitation to raise prices which the auto makers promptly did. The Cost of Living Council is now busy handing out price boosts for many companies and industries, all under the same excuse that the price of oil has necessitated these raises.

The militant actions taken recently by the truckdrivers, who stood up 10,000 strong and refused to go along with the squeeze put on them by the government, shows the willingness of the working people to fight back. The past year, however, was largely characterized by union bureaucrat's capitulation especially to the wage freeze, and thousands of unemployed workers are now paying the price for this rotten leadership.

Out of these experiences, the realities of the struggle are becoming clearer. Workers are seeing the need to unite the working class in order to stand firmly against the government's attacks. The fight for jobs is a fight for all workers: employed and unemployed, Black and white, men and women. This unity can lead the working class in throwing off the burden of the crisis which Nixon and the monopolies have tried to place on the people's backs.

A GUSHER OF PROFITS

Third-quarter profits in millions of dollars

	1971	1972	1973
Atlantic Richfield	50.6	51.6	59.8
British Petroleum	87.0	35.0	135.0
Exxon	357.0	353.0	638.0
Gulf Oil	141.0	110.0	210.0
Mobil Oil	134.1	140.9	231.2
Phillips Petroleum	32.4	37.6	53.9
Royal Dutch Petroleum	209.3	110.5	413.7
Standard Oil of California	135.0	150.0	226.0
Standard Oil of Indiana	93.3	107.3	147.3
Texaco	218.2	207.4	307.4

ATOMIC WASTES ENDANGERING U. S. CITIES

Radioactive Materials Found in Rivers

As the energy crisis mounts, and the big corporations join the government on the frantic bandwagon of finding "new energy sources," the question of nuclear power has become one of the most talked-about alternatives. Nuclear power, says General Electric, Westinghouse, and other energy-monopolies, is "low cost." But how low cost is it in terms of the health and livelihood of people? The nuclear power complex which is now in operation has proved to be a frightening time bomb, underneath towns and cities in Washington, Idaho, Colorado, and other states. Radioactive substances have leaked into soil and rivers. Storage precautions have been notoriously inadequate, unscientific, and in some places, scandalously lacking in common sense.

Furthermore, utility companies and nuclear industry interests are pressuring the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) not to tighten certain safety standards governing the construction of nuclear reactors, standards recommended by the staff of AEC. Such companies as Chicago based Commonwealth Edison claim the new standards could deprive the company of up to one-third of the power reserves and "... would have significant ... economic impacts on the operability of present nuclear

power plants." Translated, that means that power companies may have to give up some of their profits to protect the safety of the people.

One of the central questions discussed at recent AEC hearings was the adequacy of the emergency core-cooling system (ECCS), the key safety system in nuclear power plants that delivers cooling water to the reactor core in case of an accident. The ECCS is also used in tanks which store radioactive wastes, the by-products of nuclear power plants.

Critics claim that ECCS hasn't been successfully tested. No full scale test of the system has ever been conducted by the AEC. All six of the semi-scale model tests of the system have failed. The AEC maintains that "computer models" of the system indicate its safety.

If an ECCS fails to operate, the over-heated core containing radioactive fuel rods would melt through tons of steel and concrete surrounding it, and cause a steam explosion scattering radioactive debris for miles. The AEC estimated that, if this were to happen, 45,000 people might be killed, 100,000 injured and \$17 billion in property damaged. And the only assurance the people have that this won't occur is a "computer model."

Not only do these nuclear power plants pose a threat to present and future generations, but the by-product of these reactors, radioactive waste, can be just as dangerous in the event of an accident. Scientists have warned that the lives of Americans are increasingly endangered as more and more atomic wastes are shipped and stored around the country.

Attention was focused on the mounting problem when 115,000 gallons of highly radioactive waste leaked from a storage tank at the AEC's Hanford, Washington, facility. The leak was not discovered for 51 days as it dribbled a daily average of 2,500 gallons of the boiling liquid into the soil.

Other leaks have occurred at a similar facility at Savannah River, S.C. And in at least one case some of the radioactive material entered the water table there.

As if this weren't enough, the L.A. Times reported on July 5, 1973 that plutonium, the most cancer causing agent known to man, and quite possibly the most dangerous substance on earth, has been buried in ordinary steel drums at the National Reactor Testing Station near Idaho Falls, Idaho, despite stern warnings that the drums would leak. Radioactive materials have been found in the ground water beneath this facility and poses a serious threat to water supplies for much of the Pacific Northwest.

In order for plutonium to be rendered harmless, it must be isolated from man's environment for almost 50,000 years.

RADIOACTIVE LIQUID DISCHARGED

To top it off, the AEC has been deliberately discharging low level radioactive liquid into the soil at Hanford and Idaho Falls. Some radioactive material has already entered the Columbia River, contaminating salmon which finds its way to tables all over the world.

In the face of all this, the AEC continues to minimize the dangers and risks involved. While striking a pose of concern for the lives of the millions of people who are endangered, the AEC refuses to tighten standards and continues to cater to powerful utility and nuclear industry interests.

The frantic atmosphere surrounding the bad news about the energy situation, has provided a cover for unprecedented attacks on the living standards and very lives of the American people. The frightening question of nuclear power as it is now being developed, is only one among many good examples that the people must fight back against the unworkable and dangerous schemes the Nixon administration is trying to force on us. These schemes are designed to keep corporate profits rolling in and in fact, to take advantage of the crisis to develop new sources of profit, at the expense of the well-being of the masses of people.



1973 - LABOR PHONIES SHOWED TRUE COLORS

Earlier in the year, the newspapers were calling it the "year of the contract," but now it has gone down as the "year of the sell-out." 1973 saw the development of a massive movement among the working class, hitting back at the efforts to make them the victims of the economic crisis.

Along with violence and bloodshed, the giant corporations and the government have relied heavily this year on their "labor lieutenants" to disarm the workers' movement and guarantee labor "peace" and high productivity. These paid-off tools of the monopolies really delivered the goods this year, led by I.W. Abel (United Steel Workers), Frank Fitzsimmons (Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters), George Meany (AFL-CIO) and Leonard Woodcock (United Auto Workers). The extent of their work showed up in the following main areas: a sharp decline in real wages; efforts to do away with the right to strike; increased attacks on the minority workers and in worsening workplace conditions such as speed-up, safety cut-backs, etc.

RACISM USED TO SPLIT WORKERS

The cornerstone of the attack spawned by Fitzsimmons was racism, directed against the thousands of Chicano, Asian, and Arab farm workers. Racism and national chauvinism have been, and continue to be, the main ideological weapons of these labor traitors, splitting the workers' struggle and destroying the positive influence of the minority workers.

The efforts of Fitzsimmons and company failed in some of the major organizing drives of the past year. Largely led by Black and Latin workers in the South and the Southwest, strikers at Oneita Mills in South Carolina, Farah Manufacturing in Texas, and woodcutters in Mississippi and Alabama, stuck to their guns and made important advancements. The leadership given to these fights by minority workers, and the unity that developed between Black, Latino and white workers, were a source of strength to the whole labor movement and dealt major blows to the drive of the labor lieutenants to promote scabbing and disunity.

In other areas, the "year of the sell-out" took the form of adhering to Nixon's 5.5 per cent wage guidelines in the face of skyrocketing prices. The leadership of the railroad,

maritime and rubber workers held wage demands within the guidelines early in the year. This was followed by similar settlements in electronics and auto.

The efforts of these opportunists began early in the year, when Fitzsimmons appeared as the guest speaker at the convention of the California Growers Association, laying out his plans to destroy the United Farm Workers of America. This was followed throughout the year by raiding efforts on the UFWA contracts and the use of police and goon squads to violently attack the farm workers' strike efforts. More than a thousand workers were jailed and several were murdered.

NO - STRIKE POLICIES

Voluntary adherence to the wage guidelines was closely connected with the selling away of the right to strike. From Abel's outright abandonment of this basic right, to the de facto no-strike policies of Woodcock and Meany, the main defensive weapon of the working class is being taken away from them. United Rubber Workers President Peter Bommarito shoved back the rubber workers' contract deadline four days in April to prevent a strike. At General Electric, where workers struck for 101 days in 1970, the IBEW and IUE negotiators didn't even bother filing a notice to strike during the contract talks, and signed the company's first offer.

UAW President Woodcock tried to save face by taking Chrysler workers out over a weekend "quickie" strike before agreeing to a meager 3 per cent increase, and compulsory overtime requirements forcing many auto workers into a 60-hour-week. Woodcock did this knowing full well that a few weeks after the contract would be signed, a quarter of a million auto workers would be spending Christmas holidays on the street with no jobs, while the remaining workers would be working longer and faster than ever.

However, Abel's betrayal of the right to strike in exchange for a measly hundred and fifty dollar "bonus", has to rank as the most open sell-out of all. The agreement, which gave up the steelworkers' right to strike in the contract negotiations, must be seen as a major step towards fascism, where the working class has no rights at all and where the giant monopolies can run wild in their drive for

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 8)



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WORKERS OPPOSE UAW ZIONISM

NO BONDS FOR ISRAEL!

Detroit, Michigan—No More Bonds! No More Bonds! Palestine for the Arabs!

Over 1,500 Arab-Americans and supporters of the Arab struggle demonstrated outside Detroit's Cobo Hall on November 28, and raised these slogans against UAW President Leonard Woodcock. Inside, Woodcock received an award from the Zionist B'nai Brith organization as thanks for his purchase of one million dollars worth of Israeli bonds. These bonds, paid for by the dues money of the 15,000 Arab auto workers and hundreds of thousands of other UAW members across the country are used by Israel to finance its war of aggression against the Arab people.

The well organized and extremely militant demonstration was organized by the Arab Worker's Caucus from Chrysler, GM, Ford and other plants around the area. After an angry two hour mass picket, the crowd marched to Kennedy Square, and heard speakers from the Arab community, and workers from several auto plants. They all called for unity in the Arab community, and for workers in the plants to struggle against the monopolies and their agents in the union like Woodcock.

AUTO WORKERS DEMONSTRATE

Arab auto workers account for 15,000 of Detroit's Arab population of 85,000. The majority are Palestinian, Lebanese, Yemeni and Iraqi and working mostly in Detroit's largest plants.

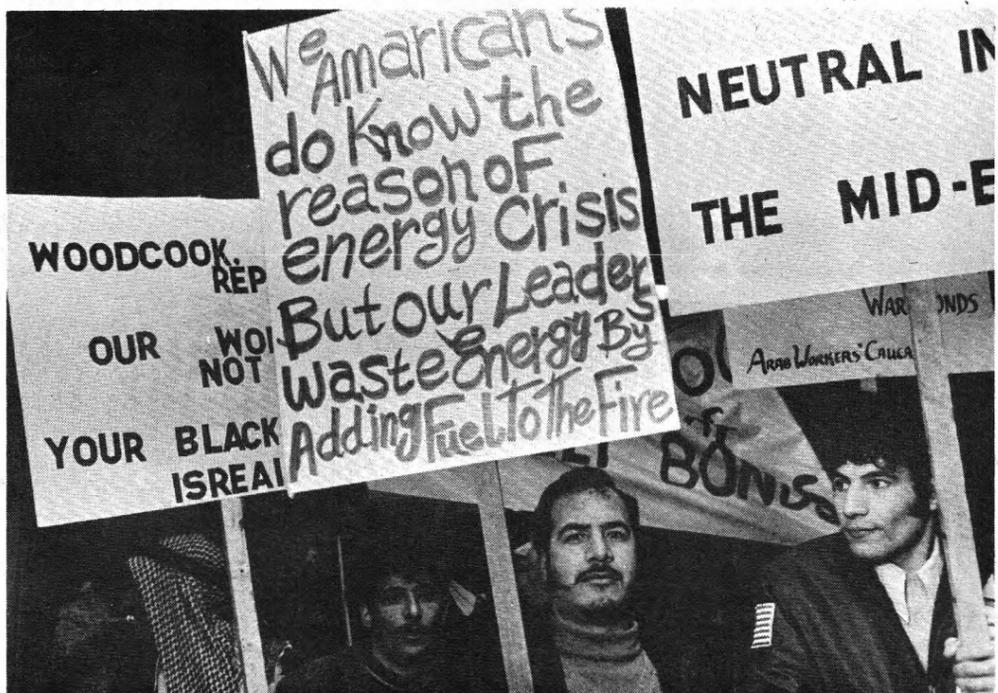
The largest Arab community is in Dearborn, a town which is owned by Ford. Arab people have faced virtually non-existent social services, urban renewal projects designed to break up their community, substandard housing and the constant threat of deportation, similar to the tactics used against Latino workers. Newly arrived Arab workers are funnelled into the hardest dirtiest jobs in the plants, receiving little protection from racist union misleaders like Leonard Woodcock.

Out of this situation and with the Arab people's deep desire to see their homeland freed from imperialist and Zionist thieves, a political awareness is growing here. Organizations have been formed like the Arab-American Co-ordinating Committee, a coalition of all Arab organizations in the Detroit area, as well as the Mobilization Committee, whose two branches, the Workers' Caucus and the Women's Caucus played key roles in the November 28 demonstration.

The program of the Worker's Caucus is to educate Arab workers to their rights in the U.S., to teach English, to educate people on the Middle East situation, and to build unity with other workers, especially national minority workers. More specifically, the demands on the company include 1) An end to discrimination and 2) A program to help Arabs learn English and acquaint themselves with American society, so they won't get ripped off. From the UAW leadership the Caucus demands 1) An end to support for Israel and 2) Start dealing with the real problems of workers and educate them in union activity.

Support for the Arabs is widespread at Dodge Main Local 3. Black workers took the lead in shutting down two lines on the night of November 28.

As a result of the demonstration, Woodcock agreed not to buy any more Israeli bonds. But this concession, in the view of Arab workers, is just a first step in the struggle for their rights, as well as the rights of all workers.



1,500 Arab workers and supporters march in Detroit, demanding an end to UAW leadership's support of Zionism. (Call Photo)

ON THE LINE

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES AROUND THE COUNTRY

TWA Settlement... Farah Boycott... Food Lock-out... UFWA Agbayani Village Sloane Memorial...

TWA cabin attendants, who faced a concerted union-busting effort by the whole airline industry, won a new contract, ending their 45-day strike in mid-December. The 5,500 cabin attendants, members of the Transport Workers Union ratified the three year contract with a 13.5% wage hike.

The cabin attendants struck in early November, seventeen months after the previous contract expired. During the months of negotiations, TWA tried to force a contract through which would have given only a 3% wage increase, while increasing work loads 13%. Through the industry's Mutual Aid Pact, TWA collected \$2 million a day from the other airlines while grounded by the strike. In response, the strikers in Los Angeles and some other cities mobilized union members, including pilots, to picket at Pan Am and American Airlines airport terminals, demanding that the mutual aid agreement be dropped.

(Reprinted from The Guardian)

San Pablo, California—Nearly 150 supporters of the Farah strikers formed a lively picket-line Dec. 1 around the Mervyn's department store here.

Mervyn's stores in several Bay area cities were chosen as the target for the kick-off of the use of the secondary boycott. This tactic represents a significant escalation of the Farah strike movement and was planned to coincide with the Christmas season when Mervyn's makes 50% of its annual profits.

The demonstration, organized by the Oakland Farah Strike Support Committee, included local rank-and-file workers as well as students and other friends of the Farah strikers. They heard speakers from the Oakland strike committee, the U.C. Berkeley farm workers support group and United Auto Workers Local 76 which recently raised \$1,000 from among its membership to send to the Farah strike in El Paso, Texas.

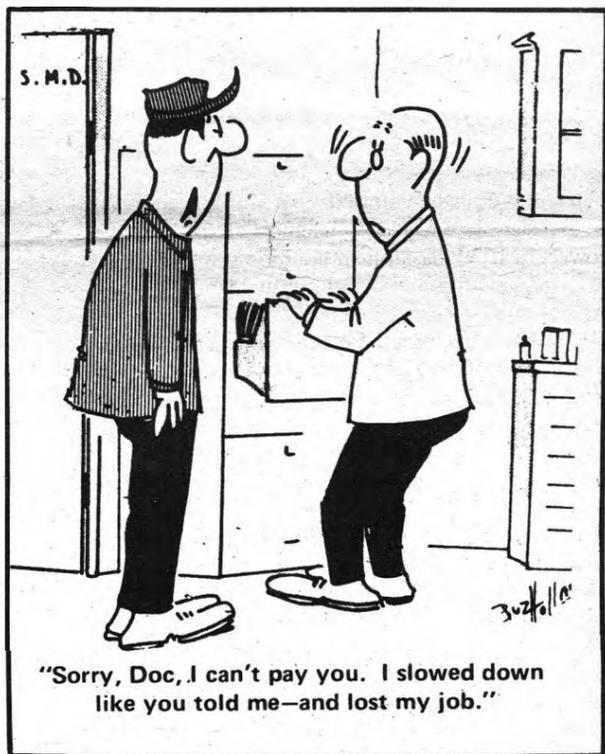
Los Angeles, California—A massive strike-lockout against Southern California's retail food industry began in the early morning hours of December 3 after members of four allied unions had soundly rejected the contract offer by supermarket operators.

Nearly 22,000 Teamsters, Meat Cutters, Machinists and Operating Engineers, with support by bakers, set-up picket lines at Safeway, Lucky and Thriftmart, the "target" stores. As a result of the strike against these three chains, the Food Employers Council, which represents the management of the retail food industry, locked out members of the striking unions employed at more than sixty food chains. The President of the Council stated, "A strike against one is a strike against all".

The issues at stake include not only increases in wages and fringe benefits, but compulsory over-time, unfair work quotas and arbitration procedures.

Delano, California—Since last spring, retired Filipino farm workers and volunteers from around the country have been building the Agbayani Retirement Village at the Delano, California headquarters of the United Farm Workers of America. Scheduled to be completed by next summer, the village will include 59 units which will house retired farm workers, mostly Filipino men. Named after Paulo Agbayani, a Filipino farm worker who died on the picket line at Perelli Minetti in 1967, the village reflects the long history of Filipinos in American farm labor struggles.

The building of Agbayani Village reflects the nature of the UFWA as a progressive union concerned with all aspects of its members' lives. The Village will be based on the principles of self-reliance and decisions will be made by everybody. The retired workers will maintain the village garden, do upkeep, raise chickens and help to staff a child-care center. These activities will strengthen the links between the union and the retired workers and will encourage the residents to remain as productive members of the community. As one person from the union said: "The building of this village will be a monument to all working people."



Sun Valley, California—On December 7, after their tour of picket duty at R.G. Sloane Co., Marcos Cruz and Adolfo Vasquez were killed in an automobile accident. These two men, Marcos and Adolfo, were very active in the strike, never missing picket duty or failing to raise the peoples' spirits about the strike. One striker said of the two men, "The last I remember them saying was that they were sure the Sloane workers would win the strike."

On December 14, after the burial ceremonies, the Sloane strikers decided to pay these men tribute by going down to Sloane and having a memorial picket. About 75 strikers assembled and marched around Sloane, ending the picket with a rally and speeches in their memory.

Although their passing has been a blow to their family, friends and fellow strikers, it has strengthened the will of the strikers to carry the strike through to the end and defeat R.G. Sloane Co. The company has recently made some concessions, and reopened negotiations, after refusing to negotiate for about three months.

Baltimore, Maryland—For the fifth time since the spring of 1972, longshoremen in this city have refused to unload a ship carrying ore from Rhodesia.

Led by Black dock workers and expressing solidarity with the struggles of the African freedom fighters, they refused to unload Rhodesian chrome from the U.S.-owned freighter, African Dawn.

The first of these work stoppages came nearly two years ago in the port of Burnside, Louisiana.

FARM WORKERS UNION: **DECADE OF STRUGGLE** **AFTER A CENTURY OF OPPRESSION**

Los Angeles, California—The United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) has been under siege from the country's growers ever since it first came into being in the early 1960's, and last spring fought one of the most important labor battles of the decade in skirmishes that ranged the length of the entire state.

But the importance of the struggle was all but buried as the bourgeois media made a great deal of fanfare about the "jurisdictional dispute" between the UFWA and the Teamsters, as if it was just a fight between two rival and jealous unions.

What was at stake was not only if a progressive and militant union like the UFWA could survive the reactionary alliance of the Teamsters and growers, but also if the monopolists could pick off and bust the labor unions one by one, beginning with the militant UFWA first.

The growers began by attacking the UFWA in November, 1972 when they put Proposition 22 on the ballot in the California general elections. The proposition, if it had passed, would have excluded migratory farm workers from participating in union affairs and would have eliminated secondary boycotts and strikes during harvest time. In short, it would have virtually destroyed the UFWA. (Similar bills, however, were passed by the legislatures of Arizona, Idaho and Kansas.)

The proposition was soundly defeated 58 per cent to 42 per cent as the farm workers received substantial support from working people, the labor movement, church groups and even from liberal politicians.

Failing on that account, California growers then hoped to crush the UFWA once and for all, by signing contracts with the sell-outs in the labor movement, the corrupt leadership of IBT president Frank Fitzsimmons.

UFWA FIGHTS RACISM

The UFWA has particularly been the target of venom from the growers because it has fought the racist oppression that thousands of Chicano, Pilipino and Black farm workers have suffered for decades.

The farm workers union, since it won the grape boycott and signed contracts with almost all of the grape growers in 1970, has done more to improve the working and living conditions for agricultural laborers than anyone else in this century.

The UFWA has eliminated practices such as the labor contractors; has struggled against the use of dangerous pesticides (such as DDT); has obtained medical and overtime benefits; has established seniority rights and grievance procedures.

These needed reforms, however, were a long time in coming. The 1969 Report of the Senate Subcommittee on Migratory Labor, for instance, reported that in 1967 the infant mortality among farm worker children and the maternal mortality were 125 per cent higher than the national rate. In addition, the subcommittee also discovered that deaths from influenza and pneumonia among farm workers was 200 per cent higher than the national average.

The subcommittee concluded that, "Migrants are still excluded from many state health programs which have residence requirements that are impossible for migrants

to meet." The National Advisory Commission of Rural Poverty stated the problem more clearly in 1968 when it wrote: "We have failed miserably to protect the health of low-income people in rural areas. The health service they get is not only inadequate in extent, but seriously deficient in quality. It is badly organized, underfinanced, rarely related to the needs of the individual or the family."

The UFWA has built clinics, such as the one in Delano, which are free to farm workers and their families, and has established a medical plan for which the growers pay 10¢ an hour which pays for health care—including doctor visits, hospitalization, etc. for the worker and each member of his family.

UFWA contracts also require toilets in the fields and cool drinking water with individual paper cups, and pro-

vide for safety standards in regard to use of pesticides, protective garments, tools and equipment.

Under the Teamster contracts, all of the benefits and protections that the farm workers obtained after almost a decade of struggle are suddenly wiped out.

The farm workers, however, are fighting back. Judging from the first results of the consumer boycott called by the UFWA, it might just be that the growers might have miscalculated the strength of the farm workers . . . and that miscalculation is going to hurt them where it is most painful—the pocketbook.

It is going to be a long uphill battle, but farm workers remain confident they will win: as one farmworker told *The Call*, "We cannot lose because we have time on our side, even if we lose, history will never be able to erase what we have done."



CHAVEZ SI, TEAMSTERS NO! Three farm workers walk the picket line at a vineyard near Delano, California during last summer's grape strike. (CALL photo)

UFWA BOYCOTT TAKES TOLL OF GRAPES, GALLO WINE

Los Angeles, California—"The War of the Vineyards," which rocked California's agricultural industry last summer and left a trail of blood from Coachella to Delano, reached a turning point last month as the consumer boycott called by the United Farm Workers of America (UFWA) began taking its toll.

In a dramatic series of events, 86 stores of the Farmer Jack chain in Detroit Michigan, agreed to remove all scab grapes by January 1st. The Detroit victory came after 87 boycotters were arrested on charges stemming from an anti-boycott injunction filed by several supermarket chains.

BOYCOTT VICTORIES IN L.A.

In Los Angeles alone, UFWA organizers and pickets forced several liquor stores and chains to remove Gallo wines from their shelves, representing more than one million dollars of wine sales per year. The biggest hit was Trader Joe's, which cancelled all its orders for any more Gallo wine after the stores were picketed for several days. This liquor chain, alone, represents more than \$750,000 in wine sales per year.

In Chicago, the Board of Regents of the University of Illinois voted 8-3 to stop serving lettuce and grapes in the campus cafeterias where some 22,000 students eat daily. The University Board decision came after farm worker children, students, and faculty met with the Board for one hour and a half, urging them to support the boycott.

The boycott made significant headway last fall but slacked off after the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) agreed to cancel the sweetheart contracts they had signed with the growers. IBT President Frank Fitzsimmons, however, went back on the deal and announced that the Teamsters would hold on to the contracts they stole from the UFWA.

The farmworkers are currently fighting against many of the same repressive weapons that were used against

them during the grape strike last spring and summer. The supermarkets have been obtaining court injunctions limiting the number of pickets; police and sheriffs harass boycotters; and terrorism still persists against the UFWA.

In San Luis, Arizona, for instance, the UFWA office was burned by an arsonist and suffered more than \$5,000 in damages. The most bothersome attack of all has been the court injunctions obtained by the supermarkets, which represent a dangerous trend in the boycott fight, according to UFWA General Counsel Jerry Cohen.

Said Cohen, "There have been more injunctions against us in the first three months of this boycott than there were during the entire 1967-70 boycott." According to Cohen, boycotters are having to fight injunctions in eleven states.

In East Los Angeles boycotters have been harassed by the police and county sheriffs and have been threatened with arrest if they did not stop picketing.

SIX-FRONT WAR

The problems the UFWA faces are immense and amount to a six-front war: they are having to fight the growers, the Gallo brothers, the supermarket chains, the Teamster leadership, the courts and the police. Furthermore, in sprawling areas like Los Angeles they simply do not have enough personnel to picket all 102 Safeway stores.

The Gallo boycott, in addition, is like a re-run of David and Goliath since Gallo is one of the largest wine producers in the world. Marketing wine under more than two dozen labels, Gallo currently produces 109 million gallons of wine per year, or a little bit more than half a gallon of wine per year, per person in the U.S. In short, Gallo produces 32.3 per cent of all wine consumed in the U.S. and 45 per cent of all wine produced in California.

But the farmworkers remain confident that time is on their side. The boycott is starting to take effect, but it is still going to be a long winter for the UFWA.

DUMP NIXON! NATIONWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS

DEMONSTRATIONS
AGAINST
THE NIXON GOVERNMENT'S
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
ATTACKS ON THE PEOPLE



CHICAGO WOMEN'S UNION HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Chicago Women's Liberation Union (CWLU) held its fourth annual conference on November 2-4, summing up the gains of the last year and laying out the focus of the coming year.

The four-year history of the CWLU reflects the growing strength of the women's movement in Chicago. The CWLU has become one of the leading women's organizations in the country. By increasingly stressing action programs and by doing outreach to the masses of women, it has tried to unite with a broad base of women and to build unity with other progressive organizations. This has been done through a joint abortion suit with the National Organization of Women (NOW), through its support of the United Farm Workers boycott, and by participating in the September demonstration called by the Coalition for Jobs and Economic Justice.

STRONG UNITY

This growing unity was shown in the opening panel discussion with speakers from the National Welfare Rights Organization, the United Electrical Workers, NOW, and CAP, a community-based reform organization. These speakers were united on two points: they wanted to build a very broad mass movement of women that could fight for both women's rights and economic justice; and they wanted to get rid of Richard Nixon. As Dorothy Hayes, the NWRO speaker said, "Nixon and Walker (Illinois governor) are putting you in a trick bag, because they make we welfare recipients take your jobs and then you won't have one, so you have to organize with welfare recipients." Ann Ladke, the NOW speaker, said, "Everything is moving in one direction. All of us on the panel have the same goals—to make the powers that be respond to us, instead of the other way around." This panel would not have expressed such unity even a year ago; the unity is a response to the deepening crisis, which has made it a necessity that women begin to struggle together.

Members spent the first day of the conference summing up and evaluating their work in many areas. The CWLU does three main kinds of work: service, education and direct action.

Its service projects include an abortion referral line, a legal clinic, pregnancy testing, a rape crisis line and a job discrimination referral service. Its main educational projects are its monthly paper *Womankind*, a graphics collective, a speakers' bureau, and a longstanding Liberation School. The CWLU's direct action projects are the Abortion Task Force and DARE (Direct Action for Rights in Employ-

ment), which does agitation and action around equal employment. There is also a high school and junior college organizing group, which works mainly at white working-class schools.

EQUAL PAY STRUGGLE

Projects like DARE have enabled the Union to broaden its base. Originally DARE saw itself as a service group, which would help women deal with the city bureaucracy in filing discrimination suits and which would put pressure on their employers through publicity and demonstrations.

It was pointed out at the conference that their experiences in the struggle to win equal pay for janitresses at City Hall had led the Union to also put emphasis on work place organizing.

Initially, in the City Hall struggle they concentrated on a legal case to win equal pay. However, they found that the

Black janitress filing the suit, Susan Bates, was isolated from her fellow workers and union. DARE then changed its approach and helped to build a subcommittee of Black women workers at City Hall, and to form a working relationship with Operation PUSH, the largest Black organization in the city.

DARE has also concentrated on work at one factory, Stewart-Warner, where their activities have forced the company to change some of its discriminatory policies. DARE is now putting out a newsletter at Stewart-Warner, *The Secret Storm*, in alliance with women at the plant. This newsletter will be enlarged to cover discrimination against women at another Chicago factory within the month.

The general conclusion of the conference centered on the need to consistently expand CWLU into a mass women's organization, fighting for women's demands as part of the general struggle against the policies of imperialism.



TRUE COLORS SHOWN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

profits. In opposition to this move, a mass movement of steelworkers has grown up, organized by groups like the Steelworkers Committee to Defend the Right to Strike. This committee has gained the support of thousands of workers.

Aside from Woodcock's sell-out at the UAW contract negotiations, the UAW leadership took an active role in launching fascist attacks against Detroit workers who shut down auto plants in wildcat strikes, preceding the contract. Company racism in the plants led to the shutting down of Jefferson Chrysler by workers who demanded the firing of a racist supervisor. This action was supported by thousands of workers and exposed the UAW leadership's racist betrayal. The workers refused to deal through union officials, and only allowed the lines to move again when the company came down and negotiated directly with the workers.

The following week, thousands of Mack Truck workers shut down the plant and walked out in protest of racist police attacks on workers. They were met head-on by a thousand-strong goon squad, hired with UAW funds.

The fight-back continued when Ford workers refused

a contract extension during the negotiations and walked out of the Chicago Ford Stamping plant. In an unprecedented action, Ford skilled trades workers refused to ratify the sell-out contract.

Even while top business and union executives were congratulating each other for surviving a year of "labor peace" hundreds of thousands of union members were marching on picket lines all over the country, including teachers, hospital workers, airlines stewardesses, retail clerks, butchers, newspaper and public utility workers and many others.

FEAR LABOR STRIFE

'74 is a contract year for workers in steel, shipping, coal, aluminum, telephone service, glass and can manufacturing. Already, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT says, "Top labor experts fear a surge of union aggression and labor troubles." Arnold Miller, new president of the United Mine Workers, says that his members will defy court orders and strike for six months if necessary to win the major demands on wages and safety conditions. For the first time, rank-and-file miners will be helping to write their new contract and participating on the top negotiating team when contract talks begin.

But in the year ahead, the struggle between the honest forces in both the union leadership and the rank-and-file on the one hand, and the labor traitors on the other, is bound to get sharper. As the economy goes downhill, the companies will continue to use the excuse of the "energy crisis" to further depress living standards and take away the right to strike, while laying off millions of workers.

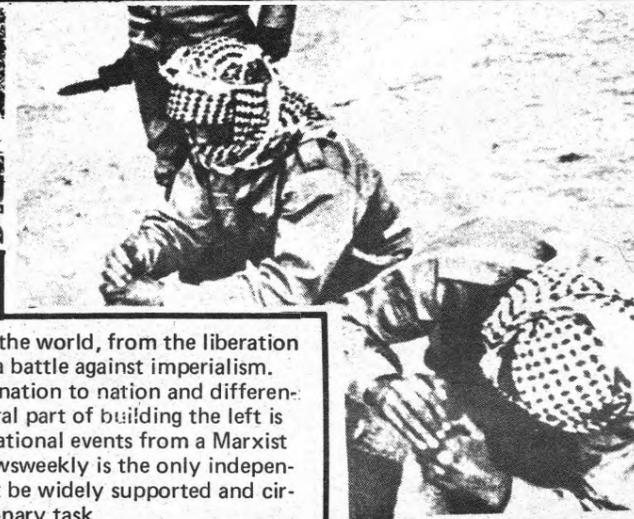
As the times get harder, workers are turning to their unions, the most basic defense organizations, and getting organized. Rank-and-file caucuses are forming in most of the large industrial unions along with rank-and-file committees and other organized groups to struggle against the sell-out policies of the opportunists and to support progressive leadership in the fight to take back the unions.

These forces are working to unite minority workers with white workers, to breach the gap of racism and to forge the kind of unity that will destroy the reactionary influences of Meany and Fitzsimmons. Rallying begin the farm workers, boycotting Rhodesian chrome imports and Farah pants and linking the struggles of the employed and the unemployed, and of the U.S. workers with foreign workers, these militant forces will win important new victories in 1974. No collusion between the labor bureaucrats and the corporations will be able to hold back this tide of working class struggle.



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LOCK-UP OF ALL CALIFORNIA PRISONERS

In an apparent attempt to isolate prisoner activists, the California State Correction Department put into effect in December a lockdown in six prisons and proposed rules to the Federal Court which would deny news media interviews to a large number of state prison inmates.

The lockdown followed by only two weeks a peaceful strike in the maximum security wing of Folsom Prison where nearly 130 prisoners on October 15 began to refuse to shave, eat or leave their cells. They demanded open visitation rights, open correspondence, an end to guard violence, sanitary food, improved medical care, and setting up an independent committee to review the "Adjustment Center." Thirty-five men have been transferred to other prisons because of their activity in the Folsom movement, and several prisoners, including former Los Angeles Panther Elmer Pratt, have been shot by guards. Reporters have not been allowed near the maximum security wing.

Following these events on November 30, prison director Raymond Procnier launched an unprecedented statewide "lockdown," affecting Deuel Vocational Institute, San Quentin, Soledad, Folsom, Vacaville, and Chino. At the same time that he instituted this wave of terror against prisoners, Procnier attempted to stir up racial antagonisms in the prisons by blaming "prison violence" on Chicano, Black and white prison organizations.

The press regulations proposed by Procnier would prohibit interviews with prison "leaders," inmates who "advocate violence," and inmates in "segregation." They would also prevent interviews with prisoners convicted of assassination and mass murder, the latter regulation being a blatant effort to silence Juan Corona, the Mexican farm contractor who recent evidence indicates more strongly than ever was a victim of a racist frame up in the murder of farm laborers.

FALSE CRISIS

Protests against these extraordinary moves came almost immediately from prisoners and prison reform activists who said that Procnier had created the crisis to get more money for building maximum security prisons.

In a communication to the San Francisco Examiner, San Quentin lifer Robert L. Duren hit at the lockdown and the news blackout, accusing the state prison authorities of making scapegoats of the prisoners for the administrations failures. Duren told the newspaper, "We have no intention of standing still for it. It has been easy to exploit us because we have virtually no access to the people, while they have it all." Duren also denied claims that "Black prisoners with allegiance to George Jackson," were involved in the prison violence.

Describing the lock up, one prisoner wrote *The Call* from Deuel: "Through this week, we've been skin searched once, our cells ripped apart twice, no medical care and one shower. We are being constantly harassed ignored and it's only getting worse."

San Quentin prisoner Ruchell Magee, in a communi-

cation to the Examiner, accused director Procnier of lying, saying that the cause of prison violence was not the prisoners, as the director claimed, but the rotten conditions, brutality, and acts of the guards. Magee said that the "key to finding out what makes prisoners murder (one) another" is letting newsmen in to see the conditions and talk to prisoner activists.

Willie Holder, ex-prisoner and president of the Prisoners Union claimed that the Lockdown would only add to the violence. Like others, Holder insisted that Procnier had "hyped" the prison crisis in order to "get bigger and better" prisons. Agreeing with this, Alice Daniels, a consulting attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union said that the crisis was created to get a new \$50 million maximum security prison.

The use of "lock ups" and maximum security measures by California is part of a nationwide trend in the prisons as prison authorities have moved to cut out "rehabilitation" programs and moved to include more and more "isolation units," "adjustment centers," and "maximum security prisons. As prisoners have organized to fight these repressive measures, and defend their rights, prison administrations have only doubled their efforts to use force and isolation to crush the movement.



"Don't Let the Government Experiment on us!"

The Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, has been the scene of active prison struggle and like many prison systems, including the California system written about in the accompanying article, the authorities have employed inhumane "isolation" techniques to try to snuff out prison protest. Inmate Victor Bono describes the results of this harsh treatment and the resistance of the prisoners.

Brothers, Sisters, and Comrades,

We are political prisoners in a prison's prison—the United States Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois, the Federal Government's replacement for Alcatraz?

There are eighty-seven of us who have been beat, tear-gassed, forced to sleep naked on cold steel beds without mattresses, and walk on cold floors, without shoes for months. We have struggled over the last sixteen months now and have only retained our clothing, some of our legal documents and bedding. Our food is still cut to half rations.

In the last sixteen months here in the Isolation Unit, four of our Brothers have lost their minds; one Brother got his back broken by the guards; nine Brothers have suffered from broken bones by beatings from federal guards; and twelve Brothers have suffered other types of injuries. Recently, a Comrade was murdered by the guards (a Brother named Jackson Fee); and even more recently three Brothers cut themselves after being told that they would never again see the general population. There was also our food

strike (nothing but water) that lasted thirteen days, over the death of our Comrade and the protesting of the "Long Term Segregation."

What has happened here is this. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons is acting under orders of the United States Attorney General to implement the massive transfers of politically minded prisoners—militants, radicals, strikers, and other federal prisoners who are struggling from a political base in mind—to the special isolation unit "H and I" at the government's most closely guarded penitentiary in the federal prison system. We're being kept like this (locked up), possibly in our opinions, until the opening of the new Federal Bureau of Prisons' "Behavior Modification Center" at Butner, North Carolina, in April 1974.

We want you the people to help us cut their money off—that money comes from the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Subcommittees on Appropriations for the Justice Department. Organize and protest at Federal Buildings, let them see there are people who dare to protest for federal prisoners, because it affects every federal prisoner.

People, Brothers and comrades, don't let the government experiment on us. We request the urgent support of each of you, the readers of this newspaper. The Federal Courts will act in our interest only if the public is behind us in our struggle.

Victor G. Bono 1710-135; U.S. Penitentiary (H-unit)
P.O. Box 1000; Marion, Illinois 62959

Oakland, California—Angry and concerned parents here have put a damper on a plan to bring armed police onto high school and junior high school campuses. In its place, the suggestion has been made that community parents be hired by schools to deal with problems arising in the schools.

The police plan is part of a new statewide program aimed at minority students in California's inner-city schools. The proposed program also includes a plan to issue students identification cards bearing their name, school and a color photograph. Students could be detained or arrested if they failed to show their card to police.

Playing a leading role in the fight against the police plan has been the Coalition to Save Our Schools (CSOS), a group of parents, teachers, students and community people. Formed a year and a half ago around the issues of federal funding and teacher cutbacks, the CSOS has consistently called for community control of the schools.

RIGHT WING PLAN

The police plan came out of a Alameda county grand jury report submitted to the Oakland Board of Education in the summer of 1973, dealing with "truancy, vandalism and violence in the schools." It was primarily drawn up and pushed through by the California Council of Criminal Justice, a committee of judges and corrections officials appointed by the state government and funded by the repressive Federal Safe Streets Act Administration. Citizens for Law and Order, an ultra-right organization including the John Birch Society, also participated in the formulation of the plan.

The proposed Oakland security program concentrates on seven secondary schools, though these are not named. The total cost is said to be \$1,500,000—paid mainly by the Oakland school system.

All this was done behind the backs of the people in

Oakland. When the program was finally leaked to the press in September, angry parents went to the school board to demand an explanation. The school board refused to admit there was such a plan until a spokeswoman brought forward a newspaper article describing the proposed police program.

The CSOS made copies of the police proposal to get around to other concerned parents. They started a petition drive to show they were not just a "small but vocal minority" but rather spoke for much of the Oakland community. People from CSOS have appeared on local television to deal with the lies and misinformation being spread to support the police plan.

These attacks and slanders have been most acute since the murder of Dr. Marcus Foster, Black superintendent of Oakland's schools system. Dr. Foster was gunned down outside a school board meeting November 6 by a so-called "Symbionese Liberation Army" who in letters to local newspapers called him responsible for the police plan. Many people here feel the murder of Dr. Foster was the work of right-wing goons.

In spite of the hysterical backlash following Foster's murder, the CSOS has pushed ahead in exposing the police plan and the back-room dealings of the school board.

The program for Oakland reflects a national trend of repression in schools in the larger cities, especially in Black and Latino communities. Already, armed police patrol the halls in New York, Boston, Los Angeles and other cities.

The key to the struggle against police repression is community control of the schools. In talking to *The Call*, CSOS co-chairperson Vera Silverman put it this way: "What we want is for the administration to pay parents union wages to work in the schools. People coming out of the community into the schools, people who know the schools, know the student's family, know the students all that. Community taking care of community."

Angry Parents Derail Plan to Police Oakland Schools

NEW YEAR'S EDITORIAL

WHICH WAY OUT OF CRISIS?

The year 1973 has now passed, leaving in its wake both 12 months of deepening worldwide crisis in the imperialist system and a rising path of new victories for the working and oppressed people around the world.

Everywhere the signs of collapse of a system that has outlived its time are coming into clearer focus. The most evident sign to be seen this year was Vietnam, where U.S. imperialism suffered so massive a defeat, that it actually began to tumble from its throne as the world's main superpower where it had, since the defeat of Hitler Germany, ruled the capitalist world unchallenged.

Today, the U.S. empire is in a state of decay and collapse, and throughout the world the U.S. imperialists are locked in a life-or-death struggle with the other superpower, the Soviet Union. Apart from its defeat in Vietnam and an impending defeat in Cambodia, the U.S. imperialists are being turned back throughout the third world and in Europe. Faced with these setbacks, they have intensified both their collusion and contention with the Soviet Union in desperate attempts to dominate the world's people and make war, under the signboard of "detente."

1973 saw the struggle in the Middle East explode as the Palestinian and Arab peoples responded to continued Israeli aggression with some major military victories, exploding forever, the myth of Zionist invincibility. It was only after the Arab forces regained much of their lost territory from the 1967 June war, that the two superpowers intervened and forced a renewal of the "no war—no peace" situation. The Middle East events showed again that "detente" is simply a signboard, under which the superpowers threaten world war, if necessary, to expand their spheres of influence and destroy the revolutionary peoples movements around the world.

WORST RECESSION IN FORTY YEARS

Nowhere is the impending collapse of U.S. imperialism more evident than here at home, where the U.S. is facing its worst recession in 40 years. The economic crisis is matched only by the continuing development of the worst political crisis in its history.

The Nixon government has completely lost the credibility it had so shrewdly developed. In the wake of Watergate and the "secret" bombings in Cambodia, the pay-offs from the milk companies and ITT (to name a few), the homes in San Clemente, the income tax scandal, a mass movement has developed to get rid of Nixon and put an end to the fascist offensive he has launched against the great masses of people. This offensive has taken the form of savage attacks on the labor movement and the right to strike, as well as the living standards and the democratic rights of all people, especially the minorities.

The new year is here, but for the working people of this country, the holidays have only brought new hardships. The worsening economic crisis has led to massive lay-offs and rising inflation. The main concern of millions of this country's working people this holiday season is feeding their family and keeping their car running, rather than presents for the kids. Small businessmen and independent owners have also felt the pinch, being driven out of business because they could not compete with the monopolies in the face of the crisis and the driving up of prices.

According to reports of Nixon's own top economic advisors, we are heading rapidly towards the worst recession since the 30's. The auto industry, which is usually the best indicator of the economic direction of the country, has already laid off a quarter of a million workers at Big 3 production plants and more are expected.

A 7.5 per cent increase in consumer goods prices has been predicted by government economists in the first quarter of 1974 alone, and this is a conservative estimate. The main areas of these increases will be in the basic necessities of life, where working people are the most affected, especially food and gasoline. At the same time, profits in the oil industry are at an all-time high as are profits for the auto and food monopolies.

Nixon's message to the American people on the "energy crisis" was that we should be prepared to make sacrifices." He has set the trend by turning down the thermostat in the White House to "65 degrees." But Nixon has made a million dollars in bribes from the big corporations in exchange for allowing price increases. It is clear that by "sacrifice" Nixon means for the working class only. The two roads out of the crisis have been laid out by the President himself. His way is to starve. Our way is to fight back.

The truckers on the nation's highways have been pointing the way for the rest of the working class by taking independent action, blocking highways and confronting the efforts of the police, national guardsmen and union officials to get them back to work. Their militant response to the efforts of the monopolies to dump the energy crisis on the workers' backs, is worth more than all the debates in Congress that the politicians can muster. They deserve the support of all workers.

In the front ranks of the struggle against Nixon's anti-working class offensive have been the United Farm Workers, the Oneita textile workers, woodcutters of the Gulfcoast Pulpwood Assoc. and others involved in the fight for basic union rights. In their struggle they have taken on the concerted attacks of the police and the union misleadership, like Fitzsimmons of the Teamsters union and Abel of the steelworkers. The attempts on the part of the agricultural growers, the Teamsters leadership and the government, to bust the United Farm Workers, has failed because of militant action and widespread support for the farm workers by the working class.

It is no surprise that these effective struggles against the crisis have come from sections of labor where Black, Chicano and other minority workers are playing a central role.

The entire working class has been deeply influenced and affected by the struggles of the Black, Latin and other oppressed minorities. Their position at the bottom of the ladder has made it impossible for them to struggle without moving the rest of the working class forward.

The alliance and merger of the struggles of the national minorities with the general movement of all workers, will result in the final defeat for U.S. imperialism and the construction of a new socialist society. But for this alliance to become a reality, revolutionary leadership is necessary.

DEVELOPING FIRM ROOTS AMONG THE WORKING CLASS

The past year has seen this leadership developing in the form of the growing, young communist movement, which has made great advances in giving concrete leadership to the struggles of the working and oppressed people. It is a movement that has rooted itself more firmly among the working class and had a major influence in some of the most important labor struggles in 1973. Its presence has been felt from the steelworkers right-to-strike struggle in Chicago to the lettuce fields of Coachella Valley.

One of the most significant developments within the revolutionary forces this past year, has been the increased unity between white and minority fighters. The development of multi-national revolutionary fighting organizations on a nationwide scale, has broken through the myth that organizational unity is impossible. At the recent October League Labor Conference, there was active participation by large numbers of minority communists all active in the labor movement. This is a significant sign in terms of the workers' struggle in the upcoming year.

As we face the new year, we do so in the light of very favorable conditions for peoples struggle. The international events, which saw continued victories for the Vietnamese and other third world countries fighting for independence and liberation, confirm this fact, as does the growing fight-back here in the U.S.

U.S. imperialism has been severely weakened and is heading for collapse. Of course this system of exploitation and oppression will not collapse of its own weight. But the new year has witnessed the increased growth and development of the revolutionary movement, based more and more among the working people, that will smash imperialism once and for all.

The conditions have changed and the crisis has rapidly sharpened, but the tasks remain the same for 1974. Basing ourselves on the leading role of the working class in alliance with the oppressed minorities, we must forge the anti-imperialist united front. This movement must unite all that can be united to oppose imperialism and its fascist and aggressive policies. This front can begin the new year on a good footing by dumping Nixon as the first step forward in smashing the fascist offensive.

Letters to THE CALL

ON BOSTON RACE HYSTERIA

Editors note: The Call received this letter in response to an article in last month's issue about racial violence in Boston. Evelyn Wagler, referred to in the letter, was a victim in one of the incidents that took place in October.

Dear Call,

I wanted to add something to your article "Boston Papers Fan Racist Hysteria". I was a friend of Ms. Wagler's and lived in a collective with her, her husband, Mark, and their kid.

The Press not only responded in ways you described—they were even worse. For several days after Evelyn's death, sensation-seeking media people hovered around Mark's apartment here in Chicago. The first stories claimed that Evelyn was a social worker. CBS wanted to do a special around this lie (the last thing Evelyn was or wanted to be was a social worker), which would have had a message of "ungrateful Blacks kill altruistic white who was trying to help them."

Mark and some friends decided that the best way to handle the media vultures was to try to get them to print something a little more realistic. A statement was made to the effect that Evelyn died because America is based on racism and ruling class profits demand ghettos, hunger and unemployment. Mark explained that Evelyn would never have wanted her death used as an excuse to promote racism, and that none of us wanted that either.

The Chicago papers put some of Mark's words in quotes, left some out, and generally gave an ironic tone to the statement, as if we were misguided.

My point is that besides the promotion of racism and fascism by the media, there was also an obscene compulsion with gore on their part. I talked with people at my plant about it and they thought the press coverage was disgusting.

We were sure there were many unreported incidents of attacks on Blacks before and after Evelyn's death. I was glad to see this brought out in your article.

v.B.
Chicago

CRITICISM OF SLOPPY ANALYSIS

In an otherwise excellent December issue of The Call, an important error was made of sloppy analysis that has no room in a communist publication. In the article "Black Mayor Elected in Atlanta" the class nature of capitalist elections was distorted.

While correctly showing Maynard Jackson's "weak-kneed" and compromising stand on civil rights, the article left the question of support open. At one point the article went so far as to say the elections in Atlanta showed "the local power structure of bankers, realtors, corporate heads and downtown businessmen can no longer decisively influence local elections."

While opposing the race-baiting of reactionaries like Sam Massel in Atlanta, or Sam Yorty, in the Los Angeles election, we should beware of tailing the capitalist's move to use Black mayors as their front men in attacking Black liberation. We must be careful not to foster illusions about candidates like Jackson, Young or Bradley and certainly not entertain any notions the the monopolies do not thoroughly control the electoral machinery.

Yours in the struggle,
M. Reed
Detroit, Mich.

THANKS FROM PRISONER

Dear Gente,

Just writing these few lines to let you know that I'm receiving your paper and to thank you for sharing with us this enlightening news of the People's developments.

Even though the best of my years are being spent in confinement, the awareness that is growing from reading information that is from the People, for the People, has created a changed in which I'm evolving an ideology to concert with the People's struggle for revolution, etc.

Thank you for sending more light into this gloomy part of our world.

Awakening,
Juan
San Quentin Prison,
California

As Gerald Ford stepped into the vice-presidency, many Washington observers noted that it was only a matter of time and tactics before Richard Nixon would be gone.

The scandal of the erased tape went the way of all the other aspects of the Watergate case—the White House story fell apart under examination, and the only “sinister force” that seemed to be involved was Nixon and his gang of thugs and plumbers. The tax scandal enraged millions of people with the news that the President of the United States, on an income of a million dollars paid less total taxes in the last three years than the average working family pays in one year.

Amid all this, the government itself was releasing statistics revealing the tremendous dimensions of the current inflation, the sharp rise in unemployment and the extent of the shortages of basic consumer necessities.

In spite of these outrages, the ruling class is still trying to shore up the Nixon administration by emphasizing the “good job” he is doing on the crisis facing the United States. Nixon himself has continued to deny that there is any chance that he will resign; Ford stated that “the President does not intend to resign, nor do I think he should,” and those Congressional leaders who had appeared to be actively calling for Nixon’s resignation have in large part toned down their statements and faded out of the news.

MASS ACTION NEEDED

The decisive factor in this situation is mass pressure and mass mobilization against the fascist crimes of the Nixon regime.

Mass action is imperative in order to insure that Nixon really is dumped, because if the impeachment question is left in the hands of the ruling class, they will try to whitewash Nixon and ride

DUMP NIXON RALLIES SET FOR JAN. 20th

out the storm. On the other hand, if things get too hot, and the sentiment in Washington really is for a clean Ford rather than a dirty Nixon, only through mass action will the people be able to demonstrate that it is not just one particular President, but the fascist policies of imperialism itself that we oppose.

The ruling class, despite any tactical differences within it, is doing everything possible to keep the people from taking any action because they are afraid of the potential that exists for a strong anti-fascist movement.

But action is what they’re getting! All over the country, coalitions and organizations are spring-

ing up demanding that Nixon be ousted and that justice be done. It is becoming more and more obvious that the corruption and crime unearthed by the Watergate investigation is only the tip of the iceberg, whose base is in the attempt to outlaw the right to strike and bust unions, the attacks on people’s democratic rights, especially minorities and women, the worst inflation since the Depression, imperialist aggression against the peoples of the Third World, and savage police repression here in the U.S.

DUMP NIXON DEMONSTRATIONS

The people’s movement against fascism is exposing all these crimes and linking them to Nixon. In major cities, January 20, the anniversary of Nixon’s inauguration, will be a day of mass action to denounce these fascist policies and demand that Nixon be dumped. These kind of demonstrations, which both expose fascism in general and call for Nixon’s ouster specifically, are the only way to actually rid the country of Nixon and at the same time, insure that there is a militant mass movement ready to take on Ford or anyone else who tries to carry out Nixon’s policies in new disguises.

Already, students, truck drivers, gas dealers, labor leaders, striking workers, oppressed minorities, welfare recipients and small businessmen have spoken out in militant statements and organized protest actions in some places. The task for January 20, however, is to unite all these forces into a broad anti-fascist movement which can speak loudly and militantly for the great majority of people and in opposition to the interests of the handful in power.



1973 BRINGS NEW VICTORIES! The year 1973 was a significant year as the courageous people of Vietnam inspired the people of the world with their many victories; meanwhile, the United States imperialists plunged deeper into chaos and crisis. Included here are some photos printed by *THE CALL* during the past year, depicting the many struggles that took place last year. (Top left) are several hundred farm workers and their supporters during the grape strike in Coachella, California. (Top right) Larry Carter and Isaac Shorter are carried by fellow workers during wildcat strikes at the Chrysler plant in Detroit. (Bottom left) a Vietnamese woman on patrol in south Vietnam. (Bottom right) Native American Indians hold vigil in front of Federal Building in downtown Los Angeles, California in support of Wounded Knee. (Credit photos to Vietnam Magazine and *THE CALL*.)

"Countries want independence, Nations want liberation, People want revolution"

TAKING UP THE CALL

MILITANT LABOR MOVEMENT GROWING IN BRITISH CRISIS

The economic crisis in Great Britain, similar to the crisis here in the U.S., has reached massive proportions with industry scheduled to move to a three-day work week on January 2, and sixteen million workers affected by lay-offs and cutbacks.

The energy crisis is also gripping the British working class in much the same way as it is here. For many, there is no heat to be had, almost no gas for cars, and power blackouts in some areas. But the British oil monopolies such as British Petroleum (BP) and Royal Dutch Shell are putting away record profits, as they use the shortages to raise prices. BP's profits are up almost 500% over last year!

Inflation has averaged 10% a year for some time, but in the past six months alone, the jump has already reached 8%. As prices have gone up, the government has forcefully held wages down, and now, in the middle of this intolerable economic situation, British workers are refusing to submit to government control any longer.

Coal miners, whose jobs and lives were tossed to the winds in recent decades as Britain converted from coal to Mideast oil as a major energy source, are now suddenly being asked by the government to "help out" with the energy crisis and begin working overtime. The miners, however, have been waging a militant struggle all year for wage increases and an end to overtime, and they are now boycotting all overtime assignments.

Angry workers in other industries have also struck in recent months, and for the most part, they have simply demanded a genuine living wage. Some of the strikes and slow-downs now going on include dockworkers, railwaymen, and transport workers. At the Triumph Engineering Company in Meriden, workers have occupied the factory with its valuable inventory of thousands of motorcycles, in order to prevent the conglomerate company which has recently taken control from closing the plant and laying off 1750 workers.

ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTION CELEBRATED IN ALBANIA

Albania celebrated the twenty-ninth anniversary of the liberation from fascism and the victory of the people's revolution on November 30, with mass ceremonies in cities and villages all over the country.

In the capital city of Tirana, the Central Committee of the Albanian Party of Labor held a banquet at which many leading Party officials spoke on the achievements of the Albanian people in the past, the tasks for the future, and the continuing struggle against imperialism and fascism in the world today.

The President of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, H. Lleshi gave the major address, in which he stated, "Socialist Albania is today stronger than ever. The Albanian people are ready at any time to make every sacrifice to defend the freedom and independence of their fatherland."

Lleshi also reaffirmed the commitment of the Albanian people to support the just struggles of all countries defending their rights in the interests of freedom and peace. He pointed out that Albania has won "deserved prestige" for her stand against imperialism and social-imperialism.

FRENCH STRIKE AGAINST INFLATION

The largest and most successful in a series of one-day national strikes against inflation and economic crisis in France swept the country on December 6, highlighted by demonstrations of several hundred thousand people, mostly workers, in the streets of Paris.

The national strike was supported by virtually all small shops and stores in Paris, as well as the major industries and trade unions. The demonstrators united under slogans calling for an end to lay-offs, higher wages, and controls on the rapid inflation which has raised the cost of living 15% in the last eight months.

In the last year, many shopkeepers and small businessmen, faced with rising costs and high taxes, have been forced out of business. Those who are still in business are finding it difficult to make ends meet. This situation has brought about unity with the demands of French workers that prices be lowered and wages raised.

Participating in the December 6 demonstrations were contingents of Arab and North African workers, protesting not only unemployment and the high cost of living, but also racism and discrimination.



EUROPE AT ODDS WITH SUPERPOWERS ON MIDEAST

The attempts of the Soviet Union and the United States to dictate the terms of the Mideast peace settlement, have drawn an enraged response from European countries. This trend, which began in the first days of the October Mideast War, reached a high point at the December 10-11 meeting of the Atlantic Alliance Foreign Ministers in Brussels.

"We cannot tolerate the use of the so-called 'detente' by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. to divide and dominate the world. We cannot be participants in an alliance which seeks to determine the destiny of the world without consulting Europe." Michel Jobert, the French Foreign Minister, consistently expounded on these views throughout the Brussels conference, in spite of efforts by U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to convince the European countries that the actions of the U.S. were taken in the interests of "world peace."

In the different Western European Countries, the growing belief is that West Europe must unite to defend its own interests, because the superpowers buy, sell, and trade policies without any concern for the future of the countries involved.

A November editorial in the British newspaper, The Guardian, pointed out that, "Events seem to have justified De Gaulle's long-standing warning that one day the two superpowers would carve up bits of the world without even explaining themselves."

West Europe, which has historically been allied with the U.S., feels that its own needs and interests, especially on the energy question, are not being handled appropriately by the U.S. Western European countries depend on the Mideast for 80% of their oil, and yet, U.S. foreign policy caused the Arab oil embargo to be directed at Europe for six weeks.

At the same time, the West European governments fear Soviet domination of the Mideast. Said a leading French paper L'Aurore, "The desire of the Soviet Union to control Arab oil is also a tool in the eventual domination of Europe which is at the mercy of supplies from the East."

ALGIERS SUMMIT BRINGS NEW ARAB UNITY

The heads of state and delegates of seventeen Arab countries convened in Algiers November 26-28, and reached unity on a number of questions crucial to the resolution of the conflict in the Middle East.

The most important decision reached was that the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) should be the sole representative of the Palestinian people in all negotiations concerning the Middle East.

The Conference also took a strong stand on the controversial ceasefire imposed in the Mideast by the U.S. and the USSR. The general declaration of the Conference stated that the ceasefire, "by no means signifies that the struggle has come to an end or one can impose on the Arab nation a solution which does not accord with its just objectives."

"Ceasefire is not peace," continued the declaration, "And in order to realize peace a number of conditions are required." Among these conditions, agreed on by the Conference were the evacuation of Israel from all occupied lands, and the restoration of all national rights to the Palestinian people.

In order to continue to pressure the international imperialist forces to come to terms with the Arabs and Palestinians, it was decided at the Conference that further investigation would be done into the utilization of the oil trade as a weapon. To this end the Conference concluded that the embargo of oil should be continued toward the United States and the Netherlands, but lifted from most European countries. Oil will not, however, be sent to Portugal, South Africa, or Rhodesia, as a sign of solidarity with the African peoples' struggles against those three regimes.

"WE SHOULD NOT GO HUNGRY WITH GUNS IN OUR HANDS"

As the liberation forces in Cambodia won fresh victories blowing up two strategic government arms depots and advancing the spearhead positions in the siege of Phnom Penh, the people of Pochentong City also won a significant battle against the corrupt and treacherous Lon Nol government.

Living under virtual starvation conditions, the people of Pochentong have been denied access to government rice stores, which are being used exclusively for the troops, and for black market profit by Lon Nol and his cohorts.

When word got out that a shipment of rice for Pochentong's black market was on the way, soldiers and residents decided to seize it. With shouts of "We will shoot anyone who dares to stop us!" the soldiers led the march on the granaries from all directions, piled the sacks on carts, and emptied all the rice in a few minutes.

Long after the people had gone, the slogans written on the walls of the granaries remained for all to see: "Seize the rice, it's a just struggle," and "We should not go hungry with guns in our hands."

MINeworkers CONGRESS FIRST SINCE BOLIVIAN COUP

Bolivian miners convened their national congress in the mining city of Potosi in late November and adopted a program calling for the guarantee and extension of democratic rights to the Bolivian people, as well as staunch defense of the country's national resources.

The mineworkers, meeting for the first time since the military coup of 1971, also demanded new wage increases and called on Bolivian workers and peasants to consolidate their revolutionary unity.



MOBUTU: "TOTAL LIBERATION FOR OUR CONTINENT"

"The slogan of our commitment to the African cause is: 'Total liberation for our continent.'" With these words, Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire (formerly the Congo), addressed his country's national legislative body on the question of Zaire's role in the overall African struggle.

Mobutu characterized the enslavement of Black people in Africa by racism and colonialism as "a scandal" which can only be wiped out by African unity and militant struggle to overthrow oppression. "Our primary duty," said Mobutu, "is to fight colonialism and racism in Africa by all means."

For Zaire, 1973 was a year of strengthening its ties with African and other Third World countries. Mobutu pointed out the significance of these developments and spoke enthusiastically about the strong solidarity developed between Zaire, Tanzania, and Zambia, in their common struggle against colonialism and white racism in the southern areas of Africa. He also spoke at length on the achievements of Zaire in consolidating an independent national economy.

Rhodesia, (African name: Zimbabwe), is one of the countries in southern Africa where the black African majority is fighting for freedom and independence from the white racist regime. In response to the growing strength of the liberation movement in Zimbabwe, Rhodesian troops are engaged in torture, bombing and burning of villages. Troops are also operating inside Mozambique and on the borders of Zambia.

Mukudzei Mudzi, Executive Secretary of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) was in the U.S. recently to address the United Nations. In San Francisco, comrade Mudzi gave a press conference for journalists from progressive and anti-imperialist newspapers and the Black media. He also addressed the O.L. Labor Conference.

Can you tell us something about the origins and history of ZANU?

ZANU was formed after we had had a number of African organizations which had believed in reformist policies. At that time, we believed that, just as other countries in Africa had gotten their independence through legal means and constitutional methods, we would also get our independence that way. But we realized, after trying hard, that we would not get independence with those methods. It was then we decided to form ZANU, on August 8, 1963.

We decided that we had to go into the politics of blood, that we would only liberate ourselves through armed struggle. We decided that ZANU would be a nationalist, Pan-Africanist, socialist organization.

As a nationalist party, we believe that we are a people who are discriminated against because of our color and that we have to think of ourselves as a nation. We feel that even though there are different levels and ideologies we can bring together all the Black people, and by so doing, make the Zimbabweans nationalists, in the first place.

Secondly, we have made the Africans feel that Zimbabwe is part of the whole continent of Africa, therefore they must share their lot with the rest of the countries of Africa. Not to say that we are promoting racialism, but if we wish to liberate Zimbabwe, we have got to participate in the affairs of the OAU (Organization of African Unity), which has been pursuing progressive policies, as far as we are concerned.

Finally, as socialists, we feel that by applying Marxism-Leninism-Mao's Thought we will be able to liberate our people and serve the interests of the people. We feel that ZANU has to be socialist in order to fulfill our internationalist duties and participate in the world-wide workers' movement. We feel that socialism is the answer to eliminating capitalism, neo-colonialism and all sorts of oppression which are going on today.

ZANU came about having been convinced that armed struggle is the only way we can be understood by the colonialists, the imperialists and all fascist and racist oppressors. Hence, ZANU has been developing its ideology as well as armed struggle, and by so doing, we have been able to unite the people of Zimbabwe through action. Through their action, the people come to understand why they have got to be united in fighting for their liberation, and why they

SEÑORA ALLENDE SPEAKS AT LOS ANGELES RALLY

Los Angeles, California—Over two thousand people enthusiastically welcomed Señora Hortensia Busse de Allende here on December 9 at a militant rally at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The rally was sponsored by the Coalition for the Restoration of Democracy in Chile, a group formed shortly after the fascist coup in that country.

When Sra. Allende entered the hall at the Convention Center, she was greeted by chants of "¡Viva Allende, Allende Vive!" and "¡Chile, sí—Junta, no!"

Sra. Allende, who is beginning a speaking tour of the United States in an effort to build support for the Chilean people's democratic and anti-imperialist struggle, emphasized the need for the people of the United States to do all that is possible to effectively isolate the ruling junta in Chile.

An example of this kind of aid and solidarity is the action, announced by Sra. Allende, that Local 10 of the Longshoremen's Union (San Francisco) has taken to boycott all goods and cargo that are either shipped from Chile or are bound for that country.

In addition, Sra. Allende spoke about the democratic and popular nature of the Unidad Popular (Popular Unity) government, which was headed by Salvador Allende. She charged that it was the power of U.S. imperialism, through such groups as ITT and the CIA, which made it possible for the fascist forces within Chile to seize power.

A handful of reactionary Cubans and Latin Americans (who are known as "gusanos", a Spanish word for worms) attempted to disrupt the rally by shouting anti-Allende and anti-Popular Unity slogans, starting fist-fights and releasing a tear gas bomb inside the hall.

THE CALL Interviews African Liberation Fighter

should associate themselves with other workers and oppressed people in all parts of the world.

What is the current situation in Zimbabwe?

ZANU is the only group carrying out armed struggle in our country, through ZANLA (Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army). We have been very effective, particularly in the northern part of the country where the enemy has admitted that those are zones where war has been declared. We are operating in other areas also. The revolution is ripe because we have politicized the masses and they have become part and parcel of our war, using guerrilla warfare. Without the masses, guerrilla warfare cannot be effective, and this is the method we are using throughout Zimbabwe.

Besides the armed struggle in the rural areas, we organize

The effectiveness of the gusanos' actions was diminished by the overwhelming response of the crowd in support of Sra. Allende. The gusanos, who are nothing more than police agents and provocateurs, were quickly expelled from the hall and the rally continued on a militant and victorious note.

The attempted disruption was another example of the fear that is generated within the fascist circles by the continued struggle of the people for their rights.

Representatives from the Native American movement, the United Farm Workers of America, Al Dortch, a Black community organizer, Rodolfo Sanchez of Los Tres del Barrio, two well-known actors, Will Geer and William Thompson, and a representative of Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley's office attended the rally in support of the Chilean people.

the workers in the urban areas. Despite the fact that the workers are not supposed to have trade unions, we are able to organize them and a number of strikes have been going on.

Recently, at a conference in Chicago, Angela Davis stated that ZAPU (Zimbabwe African People's Union) is the only legitimate liberation movement in Zimbabwe. Could you comment?

I attended this conference and discovered that the CPUSA seems to be following the line of the Soviet Union. She listed ZAPU because this is an organization controlled and supported by the Soviet Union. She did not include ZANU because the Soviet Union is not able to control ZANU. We have seen the Soviets and told them; if they are interested in supporting the struggle going on in Zimbabwe, the armed struggle, they should give us aid. But they said they would not do this, because we are supported by China. We told them point-blank that they are not interested in our struggle if they are providing aid to ZAPU, which is not fighting now. The Soviet Union is sabotaging the armed struggle, and not supporting the masses, because they are refusing aid to those who are working with the masses.

The second reason why the Soviet Union would not support us is because we say to our friends, and those who would like to give us aid that they can make suggestions, give advice and aid, but without particular directions that we have got to take. What our friends tell us of their experiences is for us to sort out and see whether it applies to our concrete situation, whereas the Soviet Union would like you to do as they tell you.

And the other thing I feel is that the Soviet Union has grown to be a big power, and its arrangement with the other big powers is to sabotage revolution. They are not interested in armed struggle.

Although ZAPU relies on legal means and feels we can get our liberation from the U.N. or from Britain, they have also fought, but mainly using conventional warfare. I am convinced that we cannot liberate Zimbabwe using that means because the enemy is better armed and stronger than we are.

What can the American people do to support the struggle in Zimbabwe?

The repeal of the Byrd amendment, that allows the US government to import chrome from the racist Rhodesian regime would be a tremendous aid to our struggle, since the foreign currency that the Smith regime gets from the sale aids in stabilizing the economy of the country. Actions such as those by the longshoremen in Louisiana and the dockworkers in Baltimore are of tremendous aid in creating international support as well as weakening economically the regime. All such actions aid the people of Zimbabwe, and its our hope that actions such as these inside the US would be increased by working people here. Your fight is to weaken the imperialists here who are at the moment supporting the imperialists and colonialists in our country.

In next month's issue, we will run an interview conducted with Sra. Allende during her visit to Los Angeles.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LUNAR NEW YEAR AND THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM PEACE AGREEMENT

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Bovard Auditorium, Univ. of Southern Calif.
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MRS. ALLENDE speaks at rally in the Los Angeles Convention Center, attended by more than 3,000 persons. Mrs. Allende is in center of photo; and behind and behind and to her right is Will Geer, star of Executive Action and of TV's The Walton Family. (CALL photo)

Saigon Regime Intensifies Attacks on PRG

The Saigon regime in south Vietnam escalated its attacks on the territory of the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) in December, as President Thieu, with U.S. backing launched a propaganda campaign, inventing the story of a so-called "Hanoi offensive."

Since last January 27, when the Paris Peace Agreement was signed, the Saigon regime has launched an estimated 30,000 "nibbling" operations in an effort to chip off border areas legally held by the PRG. At the same time, it has continued its daily bombings, on the average of 200 sorties a day, aimed at population centers such as in Tay Ninh where in November one whole village was levelled.

Thieu has become even more isolated in the Saigon areas as the economy has sunk into a state of chaos and stories of government corruption have hit the papers daily. In desperation, Thieu is preparing the new offensive against the PRG, and on one recent occasion bragged that he would "gain mastery by striking first." To cover up his escalated attacks, Thieu has stumped around the country preaching about a major "Hanoi offensive" in the dry season.

This Saigon propaganda has been echoed recently by the U.S. news media, while the Nixon administration has used the "Hanoi offensive" invention to stir up congressional sentiment for renewed bombing, and has even admitted to studying its legality.

The cry of "North Vietnamese aggression" has been used since the beginning by the U.S. to justify its presence in Vietnam. The Paris Agreements, however, clearly show the lie in this phony excuse and fully recognize the legitimacy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and its zone of control in south Vietnam.

President of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, Huynh Tan Phat, recently denied the U.S.-Thieu lies about a 1974 offensive. In a written interview reported in the L.A. Times, Phat pointed out that it was the U.S. and Thieu who are violating the Agreements. "Paralleled with their acts of war intensification in south Vietnam, the United States and the Saigon administration have been seeking all means to degrade and sabotage these negotiations." According to provisions of the agreement, the Thieu government and the PRG are to hold negotiations on reconciling the two governments and finding a peaceful political solution to the war.

In a recent interview with Guardian correspondent Richard Ward, PRG spokesman Ly Van Sau explained that the PRG was engaged in a political campaign to implement the Paris Agreements. But he added that it was necessary for the PRG to maintain the military struggle to defend its territories from the Thieu regime.

Responding to the outright attacks on their territory, the Provisional Revolutionary Government forces have fought back against nibbling operations. In Mo Cay District, Be Tre province, in November, PRG forces encircled and destroyed guard posts illegally erected by the Saigon land-grabbers in the liberated area and defeated a Saigon battalion attempting to rescue the outpost.

Part of Thieu's war fever must be attributed to the rapidly decaying political and economic conditions in the Saigon area. The economic situation under the corrupt policies of the Thieu regime has drastically deteriorated. Agricultural production has plummeted and hundreds of industries have shut down. With huge areas out of cultivation rice production has dropped severely and in 1973, Saigon was forced to import twice the amount it had expected.

The Saigon press reports that about 70 per cent of the textile industry has shut down, the sugar industry is almost at a standstill, and three of four electrical appliance manufacturers have closed shop. Unemployment in the Saigon controlled areas is reaching toward 2 million and thousands

have been forced into begging to ward off starvation. On top of all this, inflation, egged on by Thieu's financial policies, is running rampant, with the price of necessities such as meat, rice and sugar two and three times that in January.

Los Angeles Times writer, George McArthur, summed up the situation in a December 11 dispatch: "The cost of living has been rising at a rate of 60 per cent a year. Meanwhile, the nation has weathered a major rice crisis, has seen its dollar reserves reach a dismal record low and has been told of scandals involving rice, sugar, cement, brass, a major bank, fresh vegetables and the National Assembly."

DECAYING POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Thieu's response to the above mentioned "rice crisis" has been to forcibly requisition rice, sending out military police to commandeer supplies and even to loot rice from peasants in areas under Saigon control. These confiscations have created famine conditions in many rural areas. Much of the current fighting in the Mekong Delta in recent months has resulted from Thieu's fascist attacks on the peasants' harvests.

The Saigon-controlled areas have been turned into virtually a political jailhouse. Thieu has intensified his fascist rule in complete disregard for the agreement provisions calling for the restoration of democratic rights and liberties. Since January, the Thieu regime has carried out almost 200,000 police raids, arrested more than 30,000 people and forced about 1,000,000 people off the land into concentration camps. It has returned only a small number of the political prisoners, all of whom were to be released according to the agreements. More than 200,000 still remain in the Saigon jails.

The failure of the Thieu regime in the past year to solve Vietnam's economic needs is in sharp contrast to the growth of the economy and social services in the liberated zones of the PRG. Writing for Prensa Latina, Miguel Rivero recently reported on conditions in the war ravaged Quang Tri province, 85 per cent of which is under PRG control. In the liberated zones of Quang Tri, Rivero noted "intense construction work... going on to build new houses and irrigation canals. Tractors circulate on the roads and the buffalos may be seen in the rice paddies, preparing the land for a new harvest... the first rice harvest in six years." Rivero visited a recently opened hospital that had served

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 15)

BLACK LEADERS CALL FOR GULF BOYCOTT

Boston, Massachusetts—"Portuguese colonialism enslaves her country... Gulf finances that enslavement."

This statement printed on a photo of an African child, explains at a glance the basis of a nationwide campaign to boycott the products of Gulf Oil Company. The poster, one of a series appearing in the streets of over 200 U.S. cities, is part of a massive educational effort organized by the Pan African Liberation Committee.

"The aim of the boycott," according to Randall Robinson, one of the boycott coordinators, "is to mobilize active support in the Black community for the African liberation struggles against Portuguese colonialism and aggression."

The Portuguese government relies heavily on Gulf's money and its oil to fuel the desperate war effort against liberation forces in Guinea (Bissau), Mozambique and Angola. Gulf has energetically collaborated in the war in order to protect its super profits derived from oil of the Cabinda region in Angola.

Gulf is one of 30 U.S. corporations in the Portuguese colonies, but its investments amount to twice as much as the other 29 combined. Through taxes, rents and royalties, Gulf provides \$50 million a year to the Portuguese government.

Gulf also maintains a powerful lobby to insure that the U.S. continues to aid Portugal. This lobby played an important role in the U.S. government's decision to pay Por-

tugal \$435 million for the use of an apparently outdated military base on the Azores Islands.

Without the support of Gulf, the United States and the rest of the NATO countries, Portugal, which is Europe's poorest country, would never be able to sustain wars against the African struggle for independence and freedom. Payments from Gulf alone amounted to 50 per cent of the Portuguese military budget for Angola last year.

The dependence of Portugal on Gulf has increased as a result of the Arab oil embargo. Although the capitalist press has hardly mentioned it, Portugal is a special target of the Arab embargo because of its aggression in Africa.

With Mid-East oil cut off, Portugal has had to rely almost exclusively on the oil Gulf pumps out of Angola. All of the oil from the Cabinda region now goes directly to Portugal. Gulf and Portugal are therefore locked into a desperate mutual aid pact: without the Portuguese armed forces, Gulf's days in Angola would be numbered; without Gulf, the Portuguese armed forces would be routed by the African liberation fighters.

BOYCOTT WOULD HURT GULF

A successful boycott could inflict decisive losses to Gulf's profits. It is estimated that Blacks account for 7-10 per cent of Gulf sales in the U.S.—\$70 million a year—roughly equivalent to Gulf's profits derived from all U.S. sales.

The boycott has now spread from Boston where it started, to 25 states and is endorsed by a wide spectrum of Black leaders, including Ralph Abernathy, Imamu Amiri Baraka, Rep. Charles Diggs, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Huey P. Newton.

The campaign's primary aim at this time is to educate people about Portuguese colonialism and Gulf's role, with an eye to building mass picket lines at Gulf service stations throughout the country by next spring. Mass actions against Gulf have already included a demonstration against Gulf recruitment at Princeton University and a take-over of a Harvard building by Black students, in an effort to pressure Harvard to sell its Gulf stock.

Asked about the effectiveness of the campaign to date, Robinson replied that "Gulf is already busy trying to buy off the leading endorsers of the boycott by offering them and their organizations large sums of money. Just recently they gave a \$50,000 grant to Ralph Abernathy of SCLC."

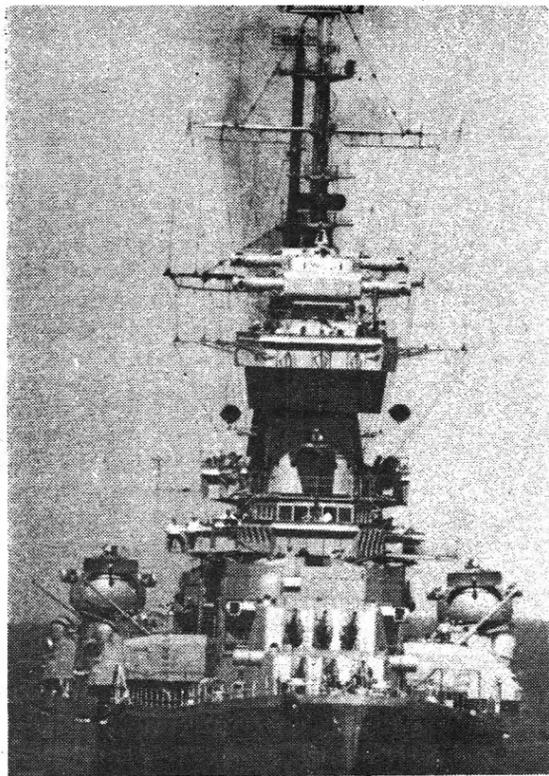
Internationally, Gulf is encountering increased isolation and repudiation. The Organization of African Unity along with all the liberation organizations, has demanded Gulf's withdrawal from Angola.

A determined nationwide boycott will help force Gulf to withdraw from Angola and thus weaken Portugal. In the words of a Pan African Liberation Committee leaflet, "African liberation forces are fighting for freedom against tremendous odds... Every Gulf dollar received by the Portuguese government means that the war must last a little longer and more people will die. You can participate in the struggle for African freedom by refusing to buy Gulf products and in that way hit both Gulf and Portugal where it hurts—in their money bags."



MIDEAST EVENTS EXPOSE SUPERPOWER ROLE OF SOVIET UNION

Reprinted from *The Worker*, newspaper of the Communist Party of Britain (M-L)



Soviet cruiser during maneuvers in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Middle East events of October 1973 have brought into sharp focus the world-wide imperialist designs of the Soviet Union. Only pressure from its rival, the US, prevented the Soviet Union from sending ground troops into the Arab lands under the pretext of "policing the ceasefire." Even so, the opportunity of increasing the Soviet military presence in the region was not missed. A guided missile carrier and two guided missile destroyers sailed last month through the Bosphorus to reinforce the 90-strong Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean, the largest ever.

Cheap oil is a major Soviet interest in the Middle East. They get oil from the countries of the Gulf in return for loans, the oil being obtained at a quarter of the price at which the Soviet Union subsequently sells it to the West. The Soviet pretext for such robbery is that Middle East oil is really "international property."

Since its creation, Israel has policed the Middle East on behalf of the imperialist powers and today the Soviet Union provides its most crucial requirement—manpower and soldiers with which to pursue its military operations. From a few hundred in 1970 the emigration to Israel from the

Soviet Union reached 32,000 in 1972. Last month the number reached 1000 per week, the highest rate ever.

Apart from its oil, the Middle East is of great strategic value. For Britain, the Middle East was the pathway to India. The Soviet Union is seeking to take over the mantle of the British in the Middle East because it has already taken over the British mantle in India. Brezhnev is soon to visit India in an attempt to increase the Soviet stranglehold on that country. Already, Indian projects built with Soviet "aid" control 80 per cent of machine building industry, 60 per cent of electrical equipment, 35 per cent of oil processing, 38 per cent of steel and 20 per cent of the electrical power of India.

NAVY IN INDIAN PORTS

Indian ports are providing the bases for the Soviet naval build up in the Indian Ocean. By spring 1973, fifty Russian warships had been moved into Indian waters from the Mediterranean. This naval strength is penetrating to all the oceans of the world. Groshkov, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union, justifies this expansion by saying that a powerful navy is the only thing to protect the national interests outside a country's territory.

What are such interests? The Soviet fish-haul in far-away oceans accounts for well over three-quarters of their total catch. No wonder the Soviet Union, in the face of world-wide opposition, has insisted that the territorial sea or fishing zone of each coastal state "shall not exceed 12 miles."

The Soviet naval presence in the Indian Ocean, together with the Pacific fleet based in Vladivostok, completes the encirclement of Socialist China—the chief stumbling block to Soviet designs to rule the world. Already, a million Soviet troops with modern armaments are stationed along China's northern border. Western publicity has suggested that the "Soviet General Staff is thinking in terms of a swift military operation against China—a 'Blitzkrieg'—following a massive nuclear strike."

In the West, the Soviet Union is equally active, both economically and politically, as well as militarily. Recently the Counsellor of the Soviet embassy in Prague, Semyonov, demanded in the name of "fraternal cooperation" that Czechoslovakia open its home market to Soviet arms and equipment and coordinate its industrial projects with Soviet needs.

This year has seen a massive build up of Soviet military strength in Eastern Europe. This is not only to keep in line the "wayward" Czechoslovakia but to pave the way for infiltration and expansion into Western Europe. The first ever visit of a Soviet leader to West Germany saw the signing of an "agreement on developing economic, industrial and technical cooperation." How long before Soviet tanks are rumbling into Western Europe on the pretext of preserving such "cooperation."

1199 HOSPITAL STRIKE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

it, "We're concerned about the patients but this strike was forced on us because they won't give us our money." In fact, the workers actually gave care to the most seriously ill patients during the strike, often with better treatment than they had received under "normal" hospital conditions.

Under Phase 3 of Nixon's economic controls, workers in health and food industries were kept under the mandatory limit of a 5.5 per cent wage increase while all other workers were said to be exempt. Despite this, Local 1199 last year won a contract calling for a 7.5 per cent wage increase or a \$12 a week increase, whichever was greater, in the second year of the contract. The 30,000 hospital workers were due to receive that increase last July 1, but the League of Voluntary Hospitals and Homes, representing 48 New York hospitals and nursing homes, refused to pay it until Nixon's Cost of Living Council approved it.

But the Cost of Living Council kept delaying its decision on the wage increase. In effect, the profit-making hospitals and the business-dominated Cost of Living Council were telling the hospital workers they weren't going to get their money.

"President Nixon: WE CAN'T LIVE ON PROMISES, WE NEED OUR MONEY NOW." read a picket sign carried by many strikers. Hospital workers are among the lowest-paid workers in the United States. The minimum wage for Local 1199 members, before the strike was only \$142 a week. With food costs going up all the time, the need for wage increase was desperate for many.

"Thank god my kids are not stew eaters," one striker told reporters, explaining that on her \$106-a-week take-home pay she can hardly afford to buy stew meat. Hamburger and bacon once a week was all the meat she could afford to feed her children. "And look what we have to go through just to get a couple of pennies," she added while standing on the picket line.

By mid-week, it was apparent that pressure from the strike would force the Cost of Living Council to make a ruling on the wage increase. At the same time, the union was under pressure from fines levied by a federal court judge for defying a court injunction to end the strike. The judge fined the union \$500,000 and \$25,000 for each day the strike continued. In addition, Local 1199 president, Leon Davis, was fined \$10,000. The judge also ordered the Cost of Living Council to meet on the wage increase and on November 10, the Council sliced the workers' pay raise to 6 per cent or \$9.00 a week. The union's executive council and delegate assembly accepted the compromise and hospital workers approved it in a ratification vote

VIETNAM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

some 4,500 patients in its first 50 days. Reflecting the enthusiasm for what he saw, Rivero concluded: "In Quang Tri, we saw the PRG as the great organizer, as the power that is building a new life everywhere among the barbed wire, the craters and the ruins of war."

The fight of the Vietnamese people for independence and democracy has taken a long a bloody road. Today, one year after their victory over U.S. aggression, the refusal of the U.S.-backed Thieu regime to honor the Paris Agreements still stands as a serious obstacle in the Vietnamese people's struggle. However, these desperate attempts by Thieu and the U.S. to attack the PRG are bound to meet defeat at the hands of the people and armed forces of the liberated zones. They have shown they are determined to fight to safeguard the fruits of their hard-won victories.

The anti-war organizations and the American people must take seriously the possibility of renewed U.S. bombing and must continue to mobilize against U.S. involvement.

which carried by a nearly 4 to 1 margin with 15,212 voting Yes, and 4072 voting No.

But most workers, even those who voted yes, appeared reluctant to accept the compromise. "As far as I'm concerned, the council should drop dead," one striker told reporters.

The United Electrical Workers (UE) was one of the few unions to back the largely minority-led strike. UE president Al Fitzgerald sent a telegram to the Cost of Living Council which said, "We are outraged at the COL Council's holding up a minimal wage increase to the hospital workers in New York City, one of the most exploited groups in America." But the city's Central Labor Council headed by Harry Van Arsdale had not a word to say and AFL-CIO chief George Meany, in a statement over the weekend, mentioned the strike of flight attendants at Trans World Airlines, an important strike, but Meany said nothing about the hospital workers' strike.

One reason for the silence was that the Local 1199 strike set a precedent for the labor movement by challenging the government's wage controls when most union leaders have urged acceptance of the controls.

The strike fell short of its goal but it set into motion what is sure to be stronger fight against the wage controls. Already, hospital workers are talking about their next contract in July. "We've learned from this strike and we'll be mobilized for the struggle coming up next July," said one worker.

POLAROID FASCISM

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

and subjugation of the Black majority by the white minority. All South Africans are required to carry ID cards made by the Polaroid system. Non-white South Africans are required to carry a 90-page passbook in order to work or live anywhere or to move about at all.

The pass system has helped the white minority government to try to control the Black majority—the source of cheap labor in this colonial state. Everyday an estimated 3,000 people are arrested for not having their passbooks or not keeping them up to date. For this "crime" they face imprisonment and forced work in the mines under the conditions of slave labor. In March 1960 when thousands of Black South Africans left their homes without passbooks to protest this pass system, the South African government brutally suppressed the peaceful demonstrations, especially in the town of Sharpeville where police opened fire killing 69 and wounding more than 200.

I.D. SYSTEM IN SOUTH VIETNAM

In Vietnam the U.S. government has used the Polaroid system to develop a national identity system for the fascist Thieu regime, a government which today holds at least 200,000 political prisoners in jail. Under this fascist system, all south Vietnamese are registered by the age of 16 with a family portrait, fingerprints, bloodtype and a political category. Each citizen is rated politically on his card by number: 1—"element of goodwill"; 2—"fence-sitting escapist"; 3—"known to have dealings with the vietcong"; 4—"dissatisfied citizen"; and 5—"hoodlum or crook". The penalty for not having an ID card or being in the wrong place with the wrong political category is not imprisonment, it is the immediate death penalty with no trial.

Although identity systems have not been employed to such an extent in the U.S., ID's are already being used to create a police state atmosphere in high schools and to prepare the students to accept the identity systems as a means

of control. In Brockton High School, just outside of Boston, students are required to carry around a computerized ID card with a Polaroid picture. ID's are checked in every class and every movement outside the class is monitored by the cards. Non-possession of the card leads to suspension or detention. Even the mayor of Brockton was forced to admit that the ID system is a means of control and has very little to do with education.

The Black students at Brockton High have taken up the struggle against the ID cards because it is used especially to discriminate against the small number of Black students. As one Black student said, "The teachers get paranoid if we walk three or four together in the halls. They want to see our ID cards. We can't sit four at a table at lunch. ID checks are made in the bathrooms. We punch a time clock on our pass to show how long we've been gone from class."

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Black students also took the lead in the fight against the ID system. With the help of community groups such as PANIC and the Polaroid Revolutionary Workers, the students were able to keep the ID system out of the Cambridge schools. The plan was meant to keep "outside agitators" from "creating trouble", but what it amounted to was controlling the students themselves. The school committee finally voted against the ID cards on the basis that the ID cards system raised constitutional questions.

Watergate has exposed a small portion of the extent to which the U.S. government is involved in spying on the private and political affairs of U.S. citizens. This fascist trend has been aided by Polaroid, as well as other companies, which are developing all kinds of surveillance equipment for the police and the military. As a woman from PANIC said, "These devices will be used against all of us. We have to deal with them now or wait until we're living under a complete police state."