

FIGHT BACK!



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KICK 'EM WHILE THEY'RE DOWN!

Special Supplement on Nixon Resignation p.8

African People Fighting to Victory



The African people's struggle for independence and liberation has made great steps forward in a number of countries in recent months. In Mozambique the liberation forces (Frelimo) are very close to forcing the Portuguese colonialists to sign a treaty that will force them completely out of their country. Recent months have seen Frelimo launch new offensives that have completely liberated more farming areas and towns, and that they are now seriously threatening seaports which are used by the racist regime of Rhodesia. While in Angola the liberation forces have also been able to gain ground and intensify their assaults on strategic colonial targets. In Guinea-Bissau the first anniversary of the people's declaration of independence from colonialism is approaching. September 24th will be a day of celebration, not only for the African people's growing victories, but as an encouraging example of determination and courage for all people fighting against imperialist domination all over the world. And all of these wars of liberation in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau have ruined the Portuguese colonialists' designs to dominate the African people in these nations. A closer look at the determined fight the people of Guinea-Bissau waged will show why this has occurred and why the Portuguese imperialists are in such deep crisis.

The people of Guinea-Bissau have a long history of resistance to colonial rule-- the Portuguese ruling class was only able to secure Guinea as a colony after a long and bloody war ending in 1966. For the past 11 years the liberation war has been waged under the political and military leadership of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and the Cape Verde Islands (PAIGC), an organization that sees the need for armed revolution to throw out the monopoly capitalist leeches who exploit the Guinean workers and peasants, land, and resources.

Great gains have been won by the people's army whose courage and determination has defeated the Portuguese imperialists, driving them into fortified enclaves that could only be supplied by air or boat, and for the past year actually making air attacks impossible over many sections of liberated zones with their anti-aircraft defenses. Many advances have been made by the people of Guinea-Bissau over the recent years of liberation fighting-- schools, day care, medical facilities, and "people's shops", an equitable system of trade for the people, have been established in liberated areas. And women have proudly taken up their part of the struggle for liberation, fighting in the army and working in leader-

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EDITORIALS

All Out For African People

After years of courageous and militant struggle, the African people in the countries of Mozambique, Angola, and Guinea-Bissau are on the verge of final victory. The Portuguese occupying forces have been consistently routed and defeated. And the Portuguese ruling class has been reduced to trying to work out some kind of "political deals" with the liberation forces-- "deals" which the liberation armies have countered with continued military victories against the tottering colonial armies in Angola and Mozambique, and apparent total victory in Guinea-Bissau. All these victories are severe blows to the US monopoly capitalists, who have plundered these African nations for their labor and rich natural resources, and who militarily and economically backed Portugal throughout the war.

This September 24th will mark the first anniversary of the declaration of independence of the people of Guinea-Bissau from colonialism and imperialism. The Brigade is going to build actions or events on numerous campuses on that day to build support for the courageous struggles being waged by the African people, honor their victories, and move forward the fight against the monopoly capitalist enemy.

Build Off Advances To Move Forward

When John Dean spoke at the Watergate hearings and noted the great panic and confusion among government officials at the sight of a demonstration or a protest, he was reflecting the thoughts and fears of the entire monopoly capitalist class. And in early August, when thousands of people joyfully celebrated the downfall of hated Chief of State, Richard Nixon, they were reflecting what is driving even more fear and panic into this small class of robbing thieves-- the growing sentiment and understanding of the American people that this system is corrupt and rotten.

And this growing fear in the ruling class can be seen in the parade of the Fords, Rockefellers, and Kennedys (to name a few) as they march around calling for "national unity" and "reconciliation" in their desperate and futile attempt to hold back this developing understanding of the people.

For behind all this talk of "national unity" and "reconciliation" are truths and facts that they cannot cover up. The fact that there can be no reconciliation between the oppressed and the oppressor, and that this bloody system, based on ripping profits out of peoples' sweat and labor, is moving into larger problems and difficulties day by day. Just in looking back over the last year we can see how the monopolists' profit-producing empire has been faced with one defeat, crisis, or breakdown after another. There has been the Arab oil embargo, the energy crisis, the resignation of Richard Nixon and the further

exposure of their corrupt rule, and the impending victories in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Angola. And, of course, the onrushing strike wave which is ripping at the very heart of the monopoly capitalists.

It is in this developing situation-- marked by the people's increased strength and the imperialists' continual weakening-- that the people can move forward and strike hard and decisive blows. And it is in this increasingly favorable situation that the new student movement is beginning to emerge.

And we know that this will be an important part of the developing people's struggles. For, as we saw during the 60's, the student movement proved to be a storm that lashed out and attacked the monopoly capitalists and exposed its true nature to many, many people across the country, as it raised support for the Vietnamese people's just struggle and played an important role in the Black liberation struggle as well as the fight of all oppressed nationalities. And of course there were other issues in which the banner of mass struggle was raised as well: women's liberation, political prisoner support, strike support, and the fight against corporate and army recruiters, to name just a few.

But the student movement of the 60's also had its difficulties and setbacks. It was a young movement with little experience to fall back on-- and while a great deal was learned and gained during the struggle, not enough was known at the time about the nature of the enemy, how the different struggles of the American people must be linked up, and how the ruling class enemy could be brought down. And because of this a number of students got confused and discouraged about the people's ability to force social change when after the smoke had cleared from the storm of protests, the ruling class had not fallen (though it had certainly been weakened). Of course the imperialists always go out to sum up all the struggles that the people wage in a defeatist manner, and they have done this with the student movement. They try to tell us that the student movement was a "fad" when kids were "young and inexperienced" and that the mass protests and struggles did no good-- that there's no more time to "fool around" with the job situation so tight. And they try to convince us that there is a "niche" out there somewhere where we can find "peace" with the system. All of these factors have brought about setbacks towards continuing to develop the student movement, but they are certainly temporary, and they are already beginning to be overcome.

For when we look to the future and the building of a new student movement, we can see that there have been many, many advances which lay the basis for building a more powerful student movement than this ruling class has ever seen. As we've already noted, we face a ruling class which has been increasingly exposed and weakened, and that this is not because some monopoly capitalist is making a mistake up there, but because people through-

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The R.S.B.

The Revolutionary Student Brigade is a nationwide organization, made up of all nationalities united to fight our common enemy, the monopoly capitalist system, whose very existence is rooted in the exploitation and oppression of people in the U.S. and throughout the world.

We in the Brigade are determined to build struggle that will consciously fight and expose this bankrupt imperialist system, and we will fight with and support the struggle of oppressed people both at home and abroad in their battles against it.

The Brigade is united around two principles: 1) Support for national liberation struggles such as the NLF-PLG in South Vietnam, and 2) Support for oppressed people at home.

We know that the road ahead will have many twists and turns, but we also know that students have a long, powerful history as a fighting force against exploitation, and for justice and revolution. We in the Brigade are confident that if we go out actively among the students and practice in the true interests of the people, we will help build a revolutionary student movement, and be a part of the over-all revolutionary movement that will ultimately defeat U.S. imperialism.

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Letters

Dear Friends:

Enclosed please find a \$3 money order. Please let me know when my subscription will expire. I am not exactly a student as I am 77 years of age and on a small old age pension, or I would send you some money. I wish I had more time to keep fighting-- there's not much time left for me, but if you all stick together and fight like hell, you will have something to live for-- but not under this system.

Yours truly, ERC, Los Angeles

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AT BERKELEY CUTBACKS FOUGHT

Last spring saw the development of a major struggle at the University of California at Berkeley. The protests developed around the closing of the school of Criminology and an increased attack on the autonomy of the ethnic studies program. At the high point of the fight over 4,000 students were involved in militant demonstrations, and during the last week of classes three building takeovers occurred.

On most campuses, struggles around Criminology are to kick them off campus-- not to keep them on. As most criminology schools specialize in scientific research for different police techniques and other methods of repression. At Berkeley, however, a number of progressive teachers had been giving courses with a more societal analysis of crime and much of the school's program was geared to exposing who are the real criminals in this system. For instance, one of the most popular Criminology classes dealt with the "crimes of imperialism, racism, and sexism."

The ethnic studies departments, won through a militant mass struggle in 1969, had developed a certain amount of autonomy from the rest of the school as it was not under the wing of any of the major departments at the University. This had given the ethnic studies departments a better opportunity to have progressive courses. Now the University was trying to put these departments under the wing of College of Letters and Sciences-- where its program would be under the direct control of the school's administration.

As the ruling class faces increased problems and difficulties with their system, they launch harsher attacks at the people with wage freezes, no strike deals, and increased repression to stabilize their system and hold the people back from building struggle. And the educational system is no haven from these attacks-- for we've seen major cutbacks at schools across the country from U. of Connecticut, to Antioch College in Ohio, to U. of Wisconsin--Madison, to Berkeley. And these attacks and cutbacks are not to the military research research programs on the campuses, but to ethnic



Thousands of students at one of the rallies in Berkeley, California, protesting the closing of the Crim school and the attacks on the ethnic studies departments.

studies, other progressive departments and financial aid.

Preparing for Struggle

When the 1973-74 school year began, the rumors of the closing of the criminology were already beginning to come down. A number of crim students and others formed the Committee to Save the Crim School and began to organize resistance. Throughout the school year, propaganda in the form of leaflets, broadsides, forums, etc. was combined with action in the form of rallies, marches and demonstrations-- both to educate people to the issues and to start building militant support.

On March 5th a rally was held and hundreds of students entered the administration building, and 2 were arrested as they demanded to see the chancellor. Upon being told by the police that he was not there, the students were told to leave. But they refused to go, unless the two arrested students were released. After a short time in which the occupation continued, the 2 arrested students were released and the charges against them were dropped.

During this time the Ethnic Studies Defense Committee (ESDC) was forming-- as rumors of the attacks on those departments were spreading. Leafletting and forums were held by the committee and a mass picket line was built for by a part of the committee. This continued throughout the spring-- to both educate students as to the attacks on the departments and to prepare people for fighting for their defense. However, due to a number of internal conflicts and wrong ideas (which we will explain a little later on), the struggle around the ethnic studies issue was not built as broadly or with as much strength as possible. And this, in turn would hurt the struggle for its defense as well as the fight for the Crim school.

The Struggle Intensifies

By mid-May it had become clear to many involved in the Committee to Save the Crim School that the University was going to close down the Crim school during the summer. This is a tactic that the universities often use with their cutbacks-- waiting until the summer when there are few

students around, making it difficult to wage immediate protest and confrontations against these attacks.

So the Committee to Save the Crim School knew that they had to bring out the issue of the Crim cutback forcefully before the school year ended. A rally was called and some 500 students marched to Haviland Hall, home of the Crim school, and seized the bu building. The university administration offered to negotiate the Crim issue. The occupiers insisted that the negotiations be broadcast live on over the radio. This happened, and Chancellor Bowker further exposed the university stalling tactics, saying a absolutely nothing and consistently holding back information. As the night went on a crowd of nearly 1,000 surrounded the building in support, and soon the university asked the protestors to leave or face arrest. Those who were not yet ready to face arrest over the Crim issue left the building. The 156 who remained were removed by police but were not arrested. Instead, they were charged under California's repressive Uniford Act, passed in response to the student upsurge of the late 60's which bars people from campus for 14 days without trial. However, with hundreds of people consciously defying the law, the police were unable to enforce it.

Over the next few days the movement grew and gained tremendous support. Mass meetings of up to 1,000 people were held and rallies of 1,500 and 4,000 people took place-- the latter culminating in a temporary building seizure. And it was announced that the chancellor was going to make the "Crim School decision" the following week, the last week of classes on Wednesday, June 5th. A rally was called to respond to the decision. The Ethnic Studies Defense Committee also called a mass picket and rally on that day to protest the increasingly probable attacks on their departments.

Response to the Closing

In an attempt to hold down the rally, the University suddenly announced the closing down of the Crim school on late Tuesday afternoon, June 4th. Immediately students rush



Education is no haven from cutbacks. Above, University Wisconsin students fighting against the closing of Third World centers in fall (73).

FREE JAMES HALL!

Monopoly capitalism creates a garbage can of a social system to live in. And it's the job of the police, courts, and other state apparatuses to hold down the lid. Whenever the people start building struggle, be it a demonstration or a picket line, the police are out there in the name of "Law and order"-- defending and protesting this system which makes millions for the monopoly rulers.

Some of the most brutal repression that the state carries out is in Third World communities, where Black, Latin, Asian, and Native American people are often harassed and brutalized by the police. The cases have been increasingly clear recently-- the murder of Black youth Tyrone Gunton and the racist Zebra murders in the Bay Area, the murder of six Chicano activists in Denver, the frame-up for a police murder of Chicago Ray Mendoza in Milwaukee, and the murder of Black 10 year old Clifford Glover in NYC. All of these attacks by the police are attempts to intimidate Third World people from boldly building struggle, and to create racist hysteria to divide the people along lines of nationality. But what is becoming increasingly clear is that rather than being divided and intimidated from building struggle, more and more people of all nationalities are learning more about the nature of their common enemy and are writing like an iron fist against these attacks. As all of the above mentioned, racist attacks by the state have launched mass struggles of resistance which have mobilized hundreds and sometimes thousands of people. This article is based on a report we received from the Iowa City chapter of the RSB about a struggle against repression and national oppression that is beginning to be taken up.

In Iowa City, Iowa the RSB has started to help build a struggle around the frame-up of Black student, James Hall, who has been charged and convicted with the death of a white woman on the University of Iowa campus.

Though there have been conflicting reports of both white and black men being around the woman's room at the time of her death, the police immediately went into a round-up campaign of Black people when the investigation began. And after Hall was arrested, the district attorney tried to further whip up racist hysteria by stating that the scene of the trial should be changed out of Iowa City because it might not be safe there as they were expecting "Black demonstrations."

The evidence that the state had was a farce. A fingerprint of Hall's in the woman's room (there were 30 different fingerprints found) and a hair found in the room that was judged to be "consistent" with Hall's. The state's star witness, who placed Hall in the dorm at the time of the woman's death, at first stated that she could not identify Hall as being in the dorm-- and then incredibly, changed her story and positively identified Hall in the last day of the trial.

During the trial a small number of students and Black businessmen had been trying to raise the issue of "racism" to the Iowa City community. But the main thrust of their work, on the advice of Hall's lawyer, was around support for the legal case. When the legal case lost, and Hall was convicted to 50 years in prison, many of these

forces became discouraged, and support for Hall was all but finished.

It was only at this time that the Brigade took up the fight around freeing James Hall-- something they have summed up as a bad mistake. For though it was true that they had been very busy being the host city for the Brigade's National Convention and could not put as much work into Hall's defense as they'd like-- the attitude developed that since the forces who were heading up his defense wanted the total legal approach and not to build mass support for Hall, so be it. Thus, as they've summed up, they incorrectly did not build struggle with those de-



fending Hall or try to build any mass support for him.

When the Brigade did take up the struggle, they called for the Committee to Free James Hall, and around 15-20 black and white students and ex-prisoners came to the meeting. A demonstration and march demanding an appeal and the freeing of James Hall was organized by the Committee, the RSB, and the

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Ruchell Magee:

TAKE UP THE FIGHT

In August of 1970, 16 year old Jonathon Jackson, younger brother of the now slain George Jackson, burst into the Marin County Courthouse in San Rafael, California, and armed two prisoners who were on trial. The two prisoners and Jonathon proceeded to take the judge, district attorney, and a few others with them in an incredibly daring escape attempt. Upon entering the van at the gates of the courthouse, the police fired for 30 seconds straight. When the smoke had cleared, Jackson, James McClain (one of the prisoners) and the judge were dead.

Little has been heard over the last four years as to why such a daring attempt would take place and who were the individuals involved. Some of those answers can be found in the one prisoner who was critically wounded in that escape attempt, lived, and is still fighting like hell against exploitation and oppression to this day--Ruchell Magee.

Magee's story goes back to 1963 when he was convicted of robbing a pimp of \$10 in Los Angeles. Over the next seven years, Ruchell was in San Quentin penitentiary for this crime. The US prisons are the dungeons of monopoly capitalism where people are treated worse than animals in a zoo--walled off and forced to live in cages working long days at wages of pennies a week, facing barbarous and divisive racist attacks and national oppression, and having every minute of every day controlled by the gun of the state. It is these barbaric conditions among numerous others, that prisoners throughout the country are increasingly rebelling against-- as the mass insurrections at Attica, New York and Leavenworth, Kansas testify, And it is

against these oppressive conditions that Ruchell fought against from the first day he entered San Quentin. In 1970 he was on trial for being involved in struggle against the rotten prison conditions at San Quentin; a trial that saw the state trying to railroad him into a life term. Thus, when Jonathon Jackson burst into the courtroom and gave him another opportunity to fight and escape-- he took it.

Since then Ruchell has been kept in solitary confinement and the state has already tried to convict him of murder, attempted kidnap & escape, stemming from the escape attempt that occurred 4 years ago. But Ruchell has been fighting them tooth and nail with the defense that "all oppressed people have the right to rebel". As throughout his trial he told the jury that under the slave-like conditions he and other prisoners are forced to live under, it is good and correct to fight and revolt, and that he will continually do so. With this defense ("It's Right to Rebel") brought to the jury, Ruchell's first trial ended in a hung jury.

But the state is determined to put Ruchell away for good and has been preparing for new trial. Recently Magee has been played by state-appointed lawyers who were able to get him, in a moment of confusion, to plead guilty--a plea he immediately took back and appealed. But there is a good chance that the state will refuse the appeal (a lower court has already done so) and use the "guilty plea" as a means to railroad Ruchell into a life long prison term. This has put the defense of Ruchell at a critical point.

Ruchell Magee, though often alone in recent years, has refused to quit in the struggle to be freed from the slave-like conditions of the monopoly capitalist dungeons called prisons. The movement to free this courageous fighter is just beginning to emerge in the Bay Area. Next month a rally will be held in San Jose demanding that Ruchell will be freed. All people wanting further information about this rally and the future struggle to free Ruchell can get in contact with the RSB in the Bay Area (call 415-261-9894) or the National Office in Chicago, Illinois.



Marin County Courthouse, August, 1970.

Joyous Celebrations At Nixon's Downfall

While the politicians sobbed and newscasters soberly commented about the "solemn, tragic" events, thousands of American people around the country took to the streets to celebrate the victory of Nixon's downfall.

People began gathering in front of the White House early on August 8th, Nixon's final night, and by nightfall over a thousand jubilant people were on Pennsylvania Ave. "How can anyone rejoice at this tragedy?" a commentator asked on national TV. He was answered in a speech by one of the demonstrators, a member of the RSB, who pointed out that the fall of the Nixon regime was a reflection of the increasing weakness of the ruling class in this country-- and that's good for the people. "But we're not stopping here," the speaker exclaimed. "We kicked Nixon in the ass-- now we're after his whole damn class!"

Over 2000 people poured into the streets in Madison, Wisconsin that same night after Nixon's resignation speech. Chanting "Jail to the Chief!" and "The People United Will Never be Defeated!", they seized a large street barricade and used it to get past police as they marched on the State Capitol. The RSB had prepared a leaflet explaining that now was a time to continue and intensify the struggle-- to kick the ruling class while they're down. Returning from the capitol, the mood of the crowd was one of festivity as a massive block party and bonfire continued until 4 AM, and an effigy of Nixon was burned.

About 150 people came to Central Square in Cambridge, Mass., when the RSB, the Boston Workers Committee, and



Madison, Wisconsin students joyously celebrating the resignation of Richard Nixon, chanting "People, United Will Never be Defeated" and "Jail to the Chief."

the Revolutionary Union (RU) called a march on just a few hours notice. During the course of the spirited march, hundreds of people joined in. Several Boston radio stations mentioned the action during their newscasts, and by the time the demonstrations reached Harvard Square there were over 2000 people in the streets for a rally and celebration!

Within the week actions were held across the country. A car caravan wound its way through Detroit, the lead car carrying a large sign saying "Nixon forced out, system remains. We've Just Begun to Fight!" Chanting "Ford and Rockefeller more of the same, people of the world are wise to your game!", a hundred people picketed the Civic Center in downtown Chicago and heard speeches from the RSB, the Chicago Workers Committee, Iranian Students Association, Union of Democratic Fili-

pinos, and the RU. And in NYC a march was held to oppose the idea of "national unity" put forward by the imperialists.

Clearly the American people are overjoyed that Nixon is gone. And in spite of all the ruling class propaganda, people are not uniting behind the used Ford they're trying to sell. While Ford's campaign to 'heal the nation's wounds' and play all-around gaudy continues, the people continue to build struggle. For instance, when he spoke at the OSU summer graduation, he was greeted by a 50-person picket line chanting, "Gerald Ford Nothing New-- Ruling Class Puppet Number Two!"

As a leaflet distributed in NYC said, "We will not unite with them to be robbed and repressed. We will unite with each other to build... Our job now, even more than in the last two years is to ORGANIZE TO FIGHT!"

DEPORTATIONS: RULING CLASS ATTACK

Over the past year there has been an intensification of the round-up of "illegal alien" workers by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), creating a reign of terror in many Third World communities, especially La Raza communities in the West and the Southwest. This year alone, 700,000 workers and their families will be ripped out of their jobs and homes and thrown out of the country.

This is not a new story for many people from Mexico, Haiti, and other Central American countries who come to the United States looking for work, forced to leave their homes because they cannot find jobs and feed their families in their countries where unemployment is incredibly high (Mexico presently has unemployment of around 40%). Unemployment caused by U.S. imperialist control keeps these countries poor and underdeveloped, as they own all the industry in them and rip the natural resources and labor of the people for tremendous profit.

Coming from foreign lands, and living in a strange country, the foreign workers have always been used by the capitalist's for dirt cheap labor-- only to kick them out once there are no jobs and no profit to be found in their labor. Now, as the monopoly capitalists have found their economy

with larger problems and growing unemployment, they have stepped up further, the deportations of foreign workers. For, with no jobs to exploit them, the state is starting to launch massive campaigns to throw them out of the country. This year, alone, over 100,000 people will be thrown out of their homes in El Paso, Texas, and deported.

The campaign has been accompanied with tremendous and whipped up racist hysteria from the ruling class that it's the "invasion of foreign workers" that is the cause of unemployment and not the fact that the monopoly capitalists will only hire people when they can rip profit out of people's sweat and work. The deportation campaign has also been used by the imperialists to harass Chicano, Puerto Rican, and other minority workers-- subjecting them to searches and harassment while they must prove or not they are citizens. And to top it all off, the state is now making this deportation system, which has existed for decades, the "law of the land". Going through Congress right now is a bill sponsored by Peter Rodino and Ted Kennedy that essentially says that the present procedure that the state is using against "illegals" is legal and just.



The Farmworkers Fight has long struck tremendous blows at the ruling class. The deportation campaign is one more attempt to hold it back.

But the people will stand up to these attacks and attempts to divide them. As we went to press there were reports of demonstrations in Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago against these deportations procedures (along with other demands). The one in Los Angeles, which the Brigade built for and had a contingent within, saw over 3,000 people of all nationalities engage in a militant march and rally.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Enthusiasm, important political struggle, and militant unity marked the first national convention of the Brigade. Held last June 15th through 17th, the convention marked the consolidation and launching of the Revolutionary Student Brigade as a national student organization. The convention was originally planned last January by the Attica Brigade (our former name) at a mass meeting of the Brigade membership in Kent State, Ohio. At that time, the Brigade was mainly rooted in the East Coast and the Midwest. Three days of floor discussions, workshops, and speeches were a culmination of months of buildup and preparation, which saw members of the Brigade travel through the South and out to the West Coast, talking to different student groups and individuals about the student movement, the convention, and the Brigade.

The convention was attended by about 450 students from 80 different colleges and universities in nearly 30 states. Throughout the convention, both in the workshops and in the floor discussions, people drew from their experiences in speaking to recent developments of struggle, the present situation on the campuses, and the potential for building a powerful student movement.

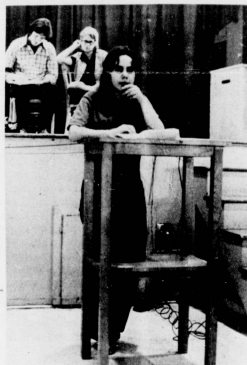
The Convention body also heard speeches from representatives of organizations involved in the revolutionary struggle: the Revolutionary Union, Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization, Zimbabwe African National Union, and Attica defendant Herbert X Blyden. Solidarity statements of support were given by Federacion Universitaria Socialista Puertorriquena, Mouvement Revolutionnaire des Etudiants du Quebec, and the Iranian Students Association. Also attending and participating were Harambe, a Black anti-imperialist group from New Jersey, Wei Mein She, an Asian-American anti-imperialist group from the Bay Area, Los Tres, a Chicano group from Southern California, and MECIA, a Chicano group from Seattle.

The Convention also politically endorsed support for two upcoming rallies: the July 4th demonstration in Washington as called by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization (for what happened see p.), and the October 27th Rally in Madison Square Garden calling for complete independence to the colony of Puerto Rico. Great spirit and enthusiasm was added to the convention by numerous cultural performances--notably Prairie Fire, a revolutionary singing group from the Bay Area, and Hammer and Steel, a revolutionary workers rock group from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Numerous Brigade chapters also made different cultural presentations, both singing and political theater.

The discussions on the floor of the Convention also brought out some important political struggles--and lessons. The main issues of struggle unfolded around the question of building multi-national unity, the new national campaign, and the changing of our name to the Revolutionary Student Brigade.

Building Multi-national Unity

The struggle around how the Brigade should be built as a multi-national organization first broke out around the functioning of a Third World caucus. The caucus had been proposed by some Third World students who felt that it was important that Third World students from across the country meet separately to discuss the fight against discrimination and national oppression and to speak to the question of developing the Brigade into a stronger multinational organization. The Revolutionary Union, a national communist organization, stated that while not opposing Third World caucuses in principle, it did not feel that it was necessary to have one at this Convention. The R.U. noted that principled unity among all the nationalities must be built to defeat monopoly capitalism and can only be forged if all



the people in the Brigade take up the fight against national oppression--not just the Third World students. The Brigade, the R.U. felt, had laid the basis for all people at the Convention to discuss the question of fighting national oppression in a principled way because of its consistent fight against national oppression and its consistent stand on the need for a multi-national student organization. The caucus, they claimed, leaves the struggle against national oppression to Third World students only--and isolates them from broader political questions, leaving them to the white students. The caucus itself struggled over these positions, and while there was no consolidated unity in the Brigade whether there was a need for the caucus, the issue provided important political struggle and everyone did come to agreement that the struggle against national oppression must be taken up by the entire Brigade.

The last day of the Convention saw struggle unfold around what issue to recommend to the Brigade's steering committee for a possible Fall national campaign. National campaigns are waged by the Brigade when it sees a key issue to nationally develop struggle and mobilize people in order to further weaken and expose the monopoly capitalist system. The Spring of 73's national campaign was to throw Nixon out under the slogan "Throw the Bum Out--Organize to Fight". As Nixon has just recently been banished to the surf of San Clemente, the Brigade has not yet developed a new national campaign.

At the convention there were some who proposed that if Nixon was still in office in the Fall the Brigade should continue to develop the campaign around the slogan "Throw the Bum Out--Organize to Fight". They argued that if Nixon was still President, the whole struggle around him would be coming to the fore in the Fall with the impeachment process. And that the ruling class would be trying to cover up its growing weaknesses and corrupt state by trying to make Nixon the scapegoat of the country's problems and trying to "put over" that there is justice and democracy here in the



Two sets of workshops were held during the convention. One set was concerned with summing up experience and struggle around areas such as building multi-national unity, the struggle against the oppression of women, and fighting out-backs. The other set focused on key areas of struggle going on against the imperialist system, for example, African Liberation, the Mideast, and the rising workers movement in the U.S. (ABOVE: Workshop on the history of the student movement in the United States.)

LAUNCHES RSB



The floor discussions saw many important political discussions and struggle developed. The most lively struggle unfolded around the issues of building multi-national unity, the new national campaign, and the changing of our name to Revolutionary Student Brigade.

land of the dollar. This was opposed by those who stated that fighting repression was the key issue to develop work around nationally. Giving examples of the murdered Black youth Tyrone Guyton, the racist Zebra nanshunts, and the six Chicano activists murdered in Denver, they spoke of the need to unite the people against these growing attacks from the ruling class.

But the struggle around the campaign was more than simply "Bum" vs "Repression", for the whole question of building multi-national unity quickly unfolded around the campaign issue and became the key area of debate.

For many of those who struggled for the "Fight Repression" campaign said that Third World students would only be drawn into the fight against imperialism through issues dealing directly with national oppression. That the "Throw the Bum Out" campaign was a white issue and the Brigade would become a white organization if it took the "Bum" up as a national campaign. This position launched a long and heated struggle, as it was opposed by those who stated that this essentially drew a wall between the Third

World people fighting national oppression and the overall movement against the entire imperialist system. They stated that it was not a separate fight of Third World people against national oppression and white people against the whole imperialist system, and while it was important to build the struggle against national oppression among Third World and white students, Third World people would also certainly join the fight against imperialism around issues other than national oppression. They were confident that students of all nationalities were capable of seeing that national oppression stemmed from the rotten imperialist system run by one ruling class, and all students could be united in struggle around a campaign that would attack that ruling class.

After long and intense struggle, there was near full unity-- as marked by the near unanimous vote-- that the crucial issue to recommend as a national campaign was "Throw the Bum Out-- Organize to Fight". This was an issue that we could and must unite people of all nationalities around. At the same time the Brigade agreed that we must systematically take up the fight against repression and national oppression as a key part of the struggle against imperialism, whether this be around Tyrone Guyton, Ruchell Magee, or fighting against Buckley or ethnic studies cutbacks.

The New Name

The other major struggle centered around the question of the name. While many had been proud to bear the name of the courageous Attica rebellion, we all agreed the name "Attica Brigade" was too vague and often misleading for a national student organization consciously fighting the rule of monopoly capital. The name "Revolutionary Student Brigade" was proposed and two days of heated struggle developed. Some stated that "revolutionary" marked a higher level of unity for the Brigade than the past "anti-imperialist level". That this would isolate us from many students who would be turned off by the word "revolutionary". Others



countered by stating that this was a false and dangerous division between the political unity of anti-imperialism and revolutionary; that the essence of the Brigade is that we promote and build revolutionary struggles, rely on the people, weaken and expose the system, and teach the people how to fight it. They went on to say that, as anti-imperialists and revolutionaries, we must show the people in the course of struggle, that until this imperialist system is crushed, there will continue to be crises, attacks, and battles with the ruling class; that if we did not fight around issues in this way we would be spreading illusions about the system and disarming the people from the future attacks of the lying thieves who run this country. After



Prairie Fire-- a working class couple from the Bay Area, added tremendous spirit and enthusiasm to the convention with a two-hour concert of songs about struggle and revolution.

two days of struggle the Brigade came to near full unity around the second position and had a 95% "pro" vote for changing the name to Revolutionary Student Brigade.

The first National Convention of the RSB also saw the Brigade expand into new areas as numerous active political groups and individuals, in the South and in the West, linked up to help form the RSB. And the struggles that occurred at the convention have also sparked good political discussions and struggles in the various Brigade chapters. It is the task of the RSB to take those lessons learned from the Convention out to the students and help promote and build revolutionary struggles, and thus helping to make significant contributions to building a powerful student movement that will be able to play an important part in the overall offensive and struggle against the robbing rulers who run this country.

DARE TO STRUGGLE--

DARE TO WIN!



The convention was highlighted by a number of different speakers. (LEFT: Clark Kissinger, national secretary of SDS, 1963 through 1966, speaking on the development of the student movement through the 1960's. RIGHT: Bob Avakian, national spokesperson of the Revolutionary Union, speaking on the current international situation and the role of communists in the student movement.

THE BUMS ARE ON THE RUN KICK 'EM WHILE THEY'RE DOWN!

BY THE REVOLUTIONARY STUDENT BRIGADE

On Friday, August 9th, Gerald Ford was sworn in as President of the United States modestly declaring "Our national nightmare is over. The constitution works." Right after Ford's short inaugural speech you could see Chief Justice Burger hugging Senator Hugh Scott loudly proclaiming "It Worked-- Thank God the system worked." By now those who had been watching the proceedings over the past few days had been barraged with a literal flood of such statements proclaiming the wonderful deeds of the "system", "congress", and the "constitution". This barrage was especially strong for those unfortunate enough to hear Howard K. Smith, of ABC News, follow Nixon's resignation speech with a solemn recital of the 25th amendment.

Yes, the monopoly rulers have been working overtime in the month of August launching a tremendous propaganda blitz with their television networks, radio stations, newspapers, magazines, and literally anything else they can get people to read, hear, or see. Time Magazine and Newsweek strike out the theme in their "special issues" over and over again: "A triumph for the system." Newspaper editorials, columnists, and network newsmen applaud the "orderly transition of power" and make longing pleas for national unity and restraint. A front page column in a local Chicago paper raves about the "international acclaim" for American justice and democracy as they quote words of praise from puppet state leaders throughout the world. And suddenly Gerald Ford, eight months ago a moderately known congressman, who was often referred to as a guy "who played too many football games without a helmet", becomes the toast of the ruling class. Now, it's "calm, simple, and honest Jerry", capable of making breakfast with a toaster, who will easily lead us out of corruption and ease the pain and strife of the past.

Along with these lavish words of praise for American justice and democracy come the countless number of theories on the motivations of the corruption of Richard Nixon. A Chicago local "talk show" had three different analysts put forward their views. One stated that the "old Nixon" of the 50's never really changed and that

he was always a "shifty-eyed lying crook". Another said he was a fine political statesman until 1972 and his landslide electoral victory when he got illusions that he could do anything he wanted. Finally, there was the view that he listened too much to his arrogant domestic advisors Haldeman, Ehrlichman, and Mitchell, and began to "lose touch" with the American people so that he made bad decisions concerning the American economy and other domestic issues.

Blame Nixon?

The US ruling class is desperately trying to sum up the saga of Richard Nixon and Watergate. They know that the further exposure of their corrupt government has only added fuel to the fiery anger of the people over the general functioning and breakdowns of this system. They're going all out to sum up and analyze the resignation of Richard Nixon because they want to cover up what people are learning more and more-- that this monopoly capitalist system is rotten. This is their opportunity, they hope, to blame the growing ills of the society on the distracting issue of Watergate and the corrupt Richard Nixon. And to try to put over that the congress and American democracy won't stand for corruption and lies-- that it exorcises the corrupt ones. Now that he is gone, Time magazine tells us, we can all come together and "let the healing begin."

The Revolutionary Student Brigade agrees with some of what was said on that local TV show that analyzed Nixon. Nixon certainly was a "shifty-eyed lying crook" in the 50's as well as the 70's, he probably did have some illusions of power, and he certainly had no contact with the people. Even more than that, he was a mass murderer who launched wars of aggression abroad, attacked working people at home, and was a racist chauvinist dog as well. But this doesn't make him any different from the rest of his class-- the Rockefellers, Morgans, Duponts, Kennedys-- in short, the criminal monopoly rulers who run this country. For monopoly capitalism, regardless of who is President-- a Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, or Ford-- always causes wars of aggression, crises of different proportions, mass exploitation,



On April 27th thousands of people in Washington D.C., Chicago, and Los Angeles marched to throw Nixon out of office. Above, demonstration in Chicago.



The ruling class is trying to blame the growing problems of this system on the corrupt individual, Richard Nixon. He's corrupt, but so is the entire ruling class and their bankrupt monopoly capitalist system.

national oppression, and degradation. It's because this system is based on making profit ripped out of the sweat, blood, and labor of working people, here in the US as well as abroad, for a small class of monopoly rulers who own and run the factories, banks, government, schools, and all other major institutions of this country.

The corruption of politicians or the spying and interference with other politicians' campaigns did not start with Nixon, and it will not end with him either. Mayor Daley in Chicago, for example, has been making a career out of corruption and graft for 40 years. Nor has the ruling class and its politicians become suddenly morally indignant at bugging telephones, covering up crimes, or lying; all of them have far more barbarous crimes on their bloody hands to cause furor and turmoil around something like that. To find the root cause for all the turmoil and confusion around the exile of Richard Nixon to the surf of San Clemente we must look beyond the fact that Nixon was a corrupt individual and analyze the social conditions in which he was operating.

Richard Milhouse Nixon was chief of state of a ruling class and system that is facing grave and serious problems. For this whole monopoly capitalist system has run into one stonewall after another in its search for greater and greater profit. And it has been increasingly exposed and weakened by people throughout the world as it has staggered from one defeat and crisis to another. Once marked in the post World War II era by its huge profit producing empire that dominated countries and colonies throughout the world, the US monopoly capitalists have seen their dominant position in the world eroded and hammered away. A brief explanation of the decline and decay of the monopoly capitalist system will help us see the root causes of the tremendous turmoil that has unfolded around Dick Nixon.

At the recent United Nations session on "Raw Materials and Underdevelopment", numerous spokespersons for underdeveloped countries spoke of the plunder caused to their people by the US monopoly capitalist system. And they spoke of the developing unity of these Third World and underdeveloped countries against the US superpower. The recent Arab oil embargo and the daily reports of nationalization of US investments are clear examples that this is indeed occurring. And a larger and larger stonewall is being raised by these countries to hold back US plunder of them for cheap labor, markets, and natural resources. In recent years, the fire of revolution and peoples war has blazed in Third World countries on many continents, from Indochina to the Philippines, to Guinea-Bissau, to Palestine. These fights are protracted, and the US rulers have shown they will desperately try to hold on to these lands for profit-- whether it be the terror bombings in Indochina, the marines landing in Santo Domingo, or the coup in Chile. But the victory of the Indochinese people, the impending victories of the people of Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and Mozambique, and the growing revolutionary struggles throughout the Third World are clear indicators that the banners of revolution and liberation from imperialism are moving forward more and more. All of these struggles greatly weaken our common enemy, the imperialist ruling class, and they inspire us all with their determination, strength, and courage.

The European and Japanese economies are also beginning to prove to be stonewalls for the US rulers in their drive for greater profit. These countries have rebuilt their war-ravaged economies of 30 years ago and are tak-

ing increasing steps to becoming independent of the US superpower. As the US monopolists are quickly finding out, to their dismay and loss of profits, the "free" markets they once controlled are now being challenged and often undersold by their smaller imperialist competitors. The US rulers have been forced to devalue the worth and domination of the dollar, in relation to foreign currencies, so that the cost of their products will be less, making them more competitive. They have also thrown up tariffs, import quotas and taxes, in attempts to undersell their competitors. But the US superpower is quickly finding out that these "solutions" are very short term. And their ability to dominate these once war-ravaged economies is coming to an end. England's entry into the Common Market and the recent European and Japanese independent deals with the oil exporting countries are further examples of the growing independence these countries are developing from US monopoly capital.

The growing problems and weakening of the monopoly rulers are far from only being foreign affairs, as the US rulers fearfully face an awakening giant which wields a mighty stick: a young but developing workers movement. Recent months have seen workers in city after city intensify their fight with the owners of the dollar. Rank and file caucuses, organizations, and newspapers which link the fight in the plants to the fight against the entire



The monopoly capitalists are being weakened by the developing movement here in the US. Above: Celebration of Mayday, International Workers Holiday, in Cincinnati, Ohio. 1974 has seen the country's largest strike wave in the last 30 years. Below: Students in Iowa City, Iowa protesting the racist frame-up of James Hall.



system, are beginning to develop and give the rising workers movement a revolutionary direction. And great victories have been won. The Farah strikers with supporters all across the country won a long militant battle in the Southwest. The mineworkers strike and defeat an oil rationing program in West Virginia, and strike in support of African Liberation in Alabama. In the Bay Area, California, thousands of people of all nationalities unite to fight brutal repression in the Black community-- against both the racist Zebra manhunt and the murder of young Tyrone Guyton. Veterans along with supporters march and fight 3000 strong in Washington D.C. and link the struggle of veterans with the fight against the entire system. And a new student movement starts to emerge, as major struggles breakout around outbacks in Berkeley and the University of Connecticut, and the struggle to throw Nixon out is raised on many campuses by groups like the Revolutionary Student Brigade as part of the overall fight against the ruling class.

The young and rising movement here in the US will go through many twists and turns on the road to revolution. But already we can see it has begun to strike hard blows against the ruling class. As this movement develops and more conscious unity is achieved, much harder blows will be struck--and ultimately, over the long run, this movement will spell the final doom for the robbing thieves who run this country.

As the ruling class is increasingly attacked and exposed and the monopolists find it increasingly harder to rip profit out of the people's sweat and labor, the bankrupt monopoly capitalist system starts suffering more and more breakdowns. The irrationality of the system becomes more apparent as problems and crises arise which the rulers cannot control and which the people bear the brunt: energy crises, meat shortages, and stubborn skyrocketing inflation. Of course the monopoly rulers don't sit back in this situation. They launch attacks to increase their plunder and stabilize their system. This means more wars of aggression in Africa and Indochina, attempts to gain domination over the European countries through control of the Mideast and oil exporting countries, and heavier attacks on the American people with wage freezes, no-strike agreements, cutbacks and stepped up repression. For all of these attacks, the entire US ruling class stands condemned and hated by the people throughout the world. And for these attacks the masses of people in their millions will ultimately rise up and wipe these robber barons off the face of the earth.

Splits And Turmoil In The Ruling Class

Throughout the reign of monopoly capitalism, struggle and fighting goes on within the ruling class as to what policies and maneuvers are the best to increase their plunder and stabilize their system. The policies and maneuvers that different monopolists want implemented can be caused by many different factors: the sections of the economy in which their money is invested, areas of the world in which their capital is most heavily placed, or simply differences in opinion as to which tactical methods will best hold back revolution and increase profit. These struggles may be over how to proceed with the economy-- whether to use wage controls, what to cut back, and so forth. It might be over policy towards the liberation struggles in Africa, Indochina, or the Mideast. Or it might be over relations with the NATO countries, Japan, China, or the Soviet Union.

As the crisis of the whole imperialist system intensifies and the monopoly capitalists find themselves with more and more problems, increased confusion develops within their own ranks as to how to actually proceed. The struggle and turmoil among them becomes much sharper. The Rockefellers, DuPonts, Mellons, etc. are aware that they are staring in the face of an oncoming crisis, and become more desperate and determined to control the government strategy and policies to stabilize the system in which their lifetime fortunes of plunder are wrapped up.

The RSB

The Revolutionary Student Brigade is a nationwide organization, made up of all nationalities united to fight our common enemy, the monopoly capitalist system, whose very existence is rooted in the exploitation and oppression of people in the US and throughout the world.

We in the Brigade are determined to build struggle that will consciously fight and expose this bankrupt imperialist system, and we will fight with and support the struggle of oppressed people both at home and abroad in their battles against it.

The brigade is united around two principles; 1) Support for national liberation struggles such as the NLF-PRG in South Vietnam, and 2) Support for oppressed people at home.

We know that the road ahead will have many twists and turns, but we also know that students have a long, powerful history as a fighting force against exploitation, and for justice and revolution. We in the Brigade are confident that if we go out actively among the students and practice in the true interests of the people, we will help build a revolutionary student movement, and be a part of the over-all revolutionary movement that will ultimately defeat US imperialism.

This growing struggle over strategy and control is not carried out in a large room where the Rockefellers, Mellons, Harrisons and other monopoly owners fight, argue, and then agree on how to proceed. Some of it is carried out in the Congress and in the Democratic and Republican parties. While much of it is carried out by a great number of mergers, deals, splits, and backstabbing through the use of politicians, lawyers, exposés and leaks to newspapers and whatever else can give them the upper hand. It is in this context-- a ruling class marked by growing splits and turmoil in the face of growing problems and the overall crisis of their system-- that "plumbers" are hired to spy and harass other political campaigns.

But, to the (no doubt) great pain of Richard Nixon and his financial backers, the Watergate "plumbers" got caught and publicly exposed one summer night by a hotel guard. Now certain sections of the ruling class were going to use this issue on him-- both to weaken him and advance their own strategy and control. So greater and greater exposés unfolded around Watergate about Nixon and his advisors. For instance, Bernstein and Woodward, the two Washington Post advisors credited with "uncovering" Watergate have readily admitted they could not have investigated anything if not for the hundreds of anonymous tips and leads they got from people who obviously knew the inner workings of the government. Nixon found himself under growing attack as scandal after scandal was exposed. All of his advisors and henchmen were forced to resign and even Spiro Agnew was found to have broken tax laws in the 60's and was unceremoniously dumped into the arms of Frank Sinatra.

We should cast away all illusions that those who were behind the scenes attacking Nixon were doing so in the peoples' interests. This was a fight for power and control of a troubled and crisis ridden monopoly capitalist system. Those who cut the strings on the Nixons, the Agnews, Mitchells, etc. desperately want us to see them as the upholders of justice, democracy, and truth. And if we believe and follow those views we will be disarming ourselves from the future attacks that these barbarious rulers must launch.



"Great Partner of the World," Nelson Rockefeller, the vice-presidential nominee who's blood-stained hands reach from the coal mines of Colorado, to the oil fields of the Middle East, to the prison walls of Attica.

An example of one of the forces undoubtedly involved in the rulers' heavy struggle will bear this out. The Rockefeller section of monopoly capital, with their proud new vice president, was no doubt deeply involved in the struggle centering around Nixon. The men who led the investigation that swept Agnew out of office were Elliot Richardson and George Beall-- both long-time associates and advisors of Nelson Rockefeller. And while some of Rocky's associates were in Nixon's cabinet, they're all over the new Ford team: Goodell, Kissinger, Laird, and the returning Elliot Richardson (fired by Nixon in the famous "Saturday Night Massacre"). And now Rockefeller himself, one of the most powerful monopoly rulers in the country, has moved into a position of being one of the direct rulers of the state. Anyone who states Rockefeller fights for the interests of the people is spreading illusions that will guarantee our slaughter. For the Rockefeller family, principle owners of Standard Oil, US Steel, Bethlehem Steel, and the Chase Manhattan Bank (to name but a few) hasn't earned a dollar that hasn't been ripped out of the blood, sweat, and labor of working people. The Rockefellers' bloodstained hands reach from the coal mine s of Colorado, to the oil fields of the Middle East, to the prison walls of Attica.

The tremendous furor and struggle that unfolded around Watergate was a result of the splits and turmoil within the ruling class as brought on by the developing crises and problems of the entire system. But, there was also another major development around Watergate which should not be overlooked and which made it differ from many of



the past power struggles of the rulers: their inability to hide their fighting and turmoil from the people. For the struggle that developed around Watergate got way out of hand for the rulers' own good. Their confusion, scandals, and decadent rule were spilled out for all of us to see. Day after day on television, radios and newspapers, the people read and heard of payoffs to ITT, "milk deals", and secret bombings of people in foreign lands. We heard them state how they truly feared the people, as John Dean spoke to their panic at the sight of a demonstration or mass protest. And the people heard and read of the tapes in which the rulers never talked of the welfare of the people, but only of maintaining themselves in their ruling positions. The people were not shocked by much of this-- but they were getting a better view of the criminal rule of monopoly capital. And this the monopoly rulers never want us to see, because they fear the people learning and understanding the truth of how this monopoly system really functions. This open infighting, spilling out for the public to see, was yet another example of the breakdown and crisis of monopoly capitalism. And it was a very good development for the people, for it was further exposing and weakening our monopoly capitalist enemy.

Kick Em While They're Down

And, greatly adding to and developing the growing weakness and exposure that the furor around Nixon was causing the entire ruling class, was the fact that the people began to actively take advantage of their open splits and turmoil. A militant mass movement, involving thousands, began to build to throw Nixon out and link the struggle to the fight against the whole ruling class. Numerous progressive and revolutionary organizations, groups, and individuals seeing the fight to throw Nixon out as an effective means of weakening the monopoly capitalists-- throwing them into greater turmoil and exposing their whole rotten system-- actively took up, developed, and led many of these struggles. We in the Revolutionary Student Brigade (then the Attica Brigade) actively took part in this struggle as our national campaign around the slogan "Throw the Bum Out --Organize to Fight". While mistakes were certainly made, we can proudly look back and see that on many campuses and cities we helped mobilize thousands of people in struggle against Nixon as part of the fight to weaken and expose the whole ruling class.

Earlier this year, on March 15th, Nixon came to Chicago to speak to a corporate president luncheon. Three thousand people protested in the rain outside as Nixon scurried out the side door of a hotel with the help of over 800 police. After that, the chief of state of US monopoly capitalism feared to show himself among the people, barely sticking his head out of the confines of the White House, San Clemente, or Bebe's yacht. Ford, as the travelling representative of the Nixon administration, quickly found that his presence didn't command much more respect.

In San Jose, California, he and the Republican State Convention found over 1,000 people fighting to throw Nixon out and attacking the entire ruling class. In Providence, Rhode Island, Ford and Melvin Laird found themselves under a shower of eggs and choice vegetables. On numerous campuses effigies of Nixon were burned in mass protests, and in Iowa City over 1,000 students dumped "Nixon" into the Iowa River. In many other cities, "Workers Committees to Throw the Bum Out" were formed and demonstrations were held that built the fight to throw Nixon out as part of the overall struggle against monopoly capital.

On April 27th, over 10,000 people marched in Washington D.C. against the rule of Richard Nixon while thousands more marched in Chicago and Los Angeles. At the demonstration in Washington, 3,000 people rallied in a contingent called by the Brigade and militantly attacked the US Justice Department building. The contingent was

protesting the growing cutbacks in education and other programs and against police terror and repression in Third World communities. This was a further reminder to the ruling class that it was not Nixon alone who was under attack, but the entire monopoly capitalist system.

The Impeachment Trap

Of course, the ruling class desperately tried to keep this movement from developing. They fear the people building struggle and learning that it is only the mass, militant struggle of the people that forces social change. They desperately try to channel our righteous anger into their courts, their politicians, and their elections. Throughout the whole "Nixon crisis" we were constantly told by the politicians, the network news, and the newspapers that the fate of Richard Nixon lies in the impeachment process; that we should continue to go about our everyday work and let the tools of the monopoly capitalists-- the courts, Congress, and judicial process-- decide the guilt or innocence of Richard Nixon. The ruling class worked mighty hard on building up the whole impeachment process. They went "all out" to isolate and Judge Richard Nixon and his henchmen as corrupt and power hungry individuals, and they went "all out" to restore the dying faith in their decaying monopoly capitalist system.

So the seemingly endless hearings went on...as day after day, the number 1 news stories were the Deans, Magraders, and Haldemans charging and denying the scandal of Richard Nixon-- followed by the loyal servants of the rich and the press's new heroes: "cute" Howie Baker, Bible quotin' Sam Ervin, and the tearful Lowell Weicker; all expressing statements of contempt and shock that individuals would "abuse the privileges of power" in this way. This was accompanied, of course, with their endless comments and speeches about the proper functioning of American Truth and Justice.



1,000 people out to protest Ford's presence in San Jose, California.

The "liberal" elements of the ruling class-- the Kennedys, McGoverns, Bakers, and Rodinos-- always try to channel the anger of the people away from the mass struggle to where it is safe for the ruling class. These forces always come out and try to hold us back whenever the people start to build a movement, as we saw during the Black people's struggles of the 60's, the anti-war movement, and getting rid of Nixon. And their strategy is always the same. They speak to our genuine feelings and desires for peace, justice and democracy, and they try to channel us away from building the fight and struggle of the people and into "the vote", the courts, and letters and petitions to Congress. In addition to holding our struggle back, these lying deceivers try to set us up for future attacks and slaughter by spreading the illusion that we can rely on this system for justice, democracy and well-being-- when in fact this system must attack the people for its very basis is the profit wrenched out of the working people.

Peter Rodino is an excellent example of how the ruling class will speak of truth and justice with one hand and attack working people with the other. Six months ago, Rodino was little known by anyone other than the Newark mobsters. Suddenly in the last few months he's the new



JUSTICE UNDER IMPERIALISM right: Ruchell Magee-- convicted 11 years ago for robbing a pimp of \$10. Ruchell has been kept in solitary confinement for the last 7 years for his rebellions against this justice. The attempt is now on to railroad him into a life term. The struggle to "free Ruchell" is now building in San Jose. Meanwhile-- left: the Lompoc "jail" where a number of henchmen of the ruling class (Magruder, Hunt, etc.) are serving their 6 mo. "terms"-- complete with 18 hole golf course, cattle raising, and horseback riding.



Mr. Justice with dozens of pictures of him and his gavel. Throughout the Judiciary impeachment hearings, Rodino spoke of the tremendous wonders of American Justice and democracy and how this was one more example of it. He even took pains to compare his committee favorably to some Roman emperor "Justinian" of the 7th century B.C. But Rodino's prattling of justice and fairness is a cover to delude us into thinking the system is open, fair, and just. For, behind the talk of "justice", Rodino is the loyal servant of the monopoly capitalists.

For instance, Rodino and Ted Kennedy (another liberal who speaks of peace and justice to win over our reliance on the system that nets him millions) are presently sponsoring the Rodino-Kennedy Bill in Congress. This bill gives congressional blessing and makes "law" the present oppressive immigration process for "illegals" from Mexico. They are lured into immigrating by the corporations and agribusiness, given green identification cards, and forced to work in intolerable conditions-- only to be deported as soon as there are no jobs and their labor is unprofitable. The green identification card system is also a means for police to immediately stop and harass any Chicano person they want-- especially political activists. This is the "justice" of the ruling class that the Rodinos and Kennedys stand for: the legal and just right of the monopoly capitalists to attack and exploit the lives and labor of working people.

But all the talk of judicial process, restraint, and fairness by the ruling class and its mouthpieces-- the Ervins and Rodinos, the Newsweek and Times, and the Cronkites and Chancellors-- was not tricking the people. Their hearings and legalities were not covering up the continued exposures of this corrupt and rotten ruling class and were not holding back people's growing anger against this rotten system. In recent months, Nixon's support among his financial backers eroded more and more as they saw the turmoil around him further threaten their rule and deepen the whole crisis of their system. With the release of the now-celebrated tapes linking the Chief of State with the use of the CIA for cover-up purposes (so what else is new?) the monopoly capitalists became firmly united around dropping him. This was not because they were now convinced he was a lying crook, but because their 100% loyalties are to this bloodsucking system of profit and they could see that the continued struggle around Nixon with its exposures of corruption and scandals was going to greatly weaken that system. So the last of Nixon's financial backers and supporters "jumped" his rapidly sinking ship (most notably Paul Wiggins and the Bank of America), and in a matter of days the tearful and humiliated Nixon was off to San Clemente.

As Nixon's helicopter flew from the White House, the desperately united ruling class was already far into its propaganda blitz that this was American Justice and democracy's "finest hour"; that it had hounded out the corrupt individual, and that now was a time for national restraint and unity. We should all get behind Jerry Ford who will lead us out of the troubled past.

Victory! The Struggle Moves Forward

These are, of course, more lies and further attempts by the ruling class to create illusions about their monopoly capitalist system. For, in looking back, we can see that rather than being American democracy's finest hour, the entire US ruling class has been further weakened and exposed as corrupt and decadent rulers. And the resignation of Richard M. Nixon was indeed a victory for the people for it further showed the growing inability of the monopoly capitalists to rule over the people.

The imperialists had to get rid of Nixon because their impeachment process and songs of justice and democracy had failed to fool the people and "coverup" the corrupt nature of their system. They knew that they could not continue with these hearings and trials over the next few months with the continuing exposés and scandals. The monopolists also had to get rid of Nixon because they feared the rising movement to throw Nixon out-- a movement that was not limiting itself to Nixon the individual, but was linking up this fight with the struggle against the whole rotten system. And the monopoly capitalists had to get rid of Dick because of the continuing overall offensive of the people against imperialism and the ever deepening crisis of this system. For wars of aggression against growing liberation struggles, wage controls, and attacks on the onrushing strike wave are difficult for the ruling class to launch when they are continually in an openly split and corrupt state.

Throughout the world the struggle against the exploitation and plunder of imperialism is moving forward. The African peoples' impending victories in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Angola, the recent general strike in England, and the massive strikes and movement in Portugal are all clear examples of how the peoples' struggle is an advancing world-wide. And the recent turmoil and major shake-ups in the governments in the governments of England, France, Germany, Portugal, Israel, and Greece are clear examples that, like here in the US, the different ruling classes are in turmoil and confusion over how to proceed in their crisis situation.

Here in the United States the struggle against the monopoly-capitalists must be stepped up and continue to move forward. The support for liberation struggles throughout the world, the farmworkers' fight, the fight against national oppression, against women's oppression, the struggles against the "no-strike" deals, repression, and cut-backs all must continue to develop. We all should be greatly encouraged by the continuing weakness, exposure, and decline of our monopoly capitalist enemy-- and we should continue to take advantage of their decline and Kick 'Em While They're Down! We all should be greatly encouraged and inspired by the growing strike wave which is ripping at the very heart of the monopoly capitalists. We, in the Revolutionary Student Brigade, look confidently to the future, knowing that the people have just won a great victory and will continue to move forward to ultimately wipe this bloodthirsty ruling class off the face of the earth and bring an end to the criminal rule of monopoly capital.

Letters CONT'D

Brothers and Sisters of the RSB:

As one who has been involved in building the veterans movement, I feel I must comment on an article which appeared in the April issue of FB! titled "Vets Wage War on VA". While the article correctly pointed out a number of attacks presently being made against the veterans, it presented the group, the American Veterans Movement, as a group that wanted to honestly unite veterans to fight the attacks. Actually the AVM and their leader Ron Kovics is not at all interested in building a veterans movement and linking it up to the fight of other people against exploitation and oppression. It mainly wants to chain the growing anger of veterans into Congressional lobbying and liberals such as Kennedy, who's money backs them up.

Now recently I was at the series of demonstrations called by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/ Winter Soldier Organization in Washington DC, and I must say that the RSB played a very good and active role throughout the four days there. In talking to members of the Brigade it was clear that they have seen that their April vets article was wrong and misleading. I do think you could put a short note about it in your paper to inform your readership, and maybe this letter could be a means for doing that. Let me close by stating that many of us involved in the vets movement have a great deal of confidence in the Brigade and look forward to working with it in the future.

In Struggle, GF, Lexington, Kentucky
(We agree with the above criticism.
For more information on the vets movement, see page 20.)

DC VETS DEMO CONT'D

stration building around the demand for decent benefits for veterans. There, a 100 foot "shit list" was unveiled—a list of comments and demands that had been collected during the previous months from hospitals and "benefit" centers.

Throughout the four days the veterans and other fighter used the Capital Mall as their headquarters, using it for daily sun up meetings, as well as to sleep. This too, became an arena of militant struggle as the police consistently tried to harass and intimidate the people there. For instance, one night the police came on horseback and squad cars to harass all there, and try to net them to leave the mall.

But the veterans, workers, and students had come to Washington to fight for their demands, and on numerous occasions they turned the tables on the armed guardians of the state, militantly defeating them in struggle—sometimes in hand to hand fighting.

For instance, on July 3rd there was a demonstration around the demand "end all aid to Thieu and Lon Nol" which saw a march of around 600 start out from the campus to a rally site at the Capital. As the march started out, the police who were becoming increasingly fearful of the growing numbers and militancy of the rallies attempted to stop the march from proceeding. They launched an attack at the march, riding motorcycles into the crowd and swinging

IN NEWARK STEPPING UP THE FIGHT

As we go to press there are reports from Newark of rioting and demonstrations of over a thousand people against police brutality. And Mayor Gibson has banned all demonstrations and "gatherings" of over three people in order to "protect the people". These militant actions are another example of the struggles that the people of Newark have been launching in recent months. One of the most notable being the recent victorious four year rent strike at the Stella Wright Housing Project. The following article is about another fight that the people of Newark are currently waging.

On August 9th the city authorities of Newark announced the cutting of 3,500 youths, aged 14 to 21, from the federally financed summer job program called the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC). While resistance to these attacks was beginning to be built, the city government went one step further, announcing the complete termination of the program weeks before its scheduled ending—putting 8,000 more people out of work, many with only partial payment for their work, and some getting none whatsoever.

The summer job programs for youths had been originally installed by the federal government in response to the massive, militant struggle that Black people waged during the sixties. In Newark, of course, this was marked by the Newark rebellions and riots of 1967. In a city like Newark, where most industry has left town in search of "cheaper" labor and there is incredibly high unemployment, there is a crying need for decent jobs. And while the jobs the NYC provided were far from decent, they did enable youths (many of them Black and Puerto Rican) to make some money during the summer and help their folks' income. But with the monopoly capitalists falling into greater crisis and having ser-

3-foot long clubs. But the people heroically fought back—pulling a number of police from their motorcycles and beating them into the ground. After a five to ten minute fight, the march broke through the police line and with NLF flags flying, proceeded to the Capital—where militant solidarity was proclaimed with the courageous Indo-Chinese people.

The four days ended on Thursday, July 4, as over 3,000 people marched and rallied around the five demands which had been fought for throughout the week. The people heard speeches from VVAW/WSO, the Workers Committee to Throw the Bum Out, Gary Lawton—a Black political prisoner who's in VVAW/WSO, and Cambodian patriot, Sokhan Ching. One of the highlights of the rally were provided by some ex-prisoners of War—when they spoke of the friendship that the Vietnamese people held for the American people and their solidarity with our struggles against the common enemy, the U.S. ruling class.

The four days of action saw the people successfully and militantly bring their demands to Washington, and many lessons on building mass struggle were learned. It saw many veterans, workers, and students come down to Washington determined to fight and build the struggle of the veterans and link it to the overall fight against the system. And it saw their political strength and militant unity defeat the state's conscious

ious problems generating profits, they're trying to turn back the programs and gains won by the struggle that people launched in the past by attacking job programs such as the Newark Youth Corps.

But the City Hall of Newark has found a serious fight on its hands since the cutbacks have come down. A number of students, parents and active political groups have already carried out a number of actions against the city authorities for a decent job program, and are beginning to build a major struggle around them. Among those groups actively involved are the Congress of African Peoples, the Black Panther Party, the Revolutionary Union, Ibarra (a Black anti-imperialist student group) and the RSB.

Throughout the first week after the original laying off of 3,500 there were hundreds of people involved in mass picket lines down at City Hall. The city council tried to hold back the developing struggle by meeting with a 50 person delegation representing the protesters in an attempt to channel the people's anger into one of their committees. The people soon saw through the city council's tactics and phoney promises, and began to see the need for taking more forceful action. After some internal political struggle it was agreed to heighten militantly the struggle for the job program.

So, on August 16th, the day of the announcement of the complete termination of the NYC, many people were ready to react boldly and quickly. A march of 400 people went to the Newark Federal building and saw 200 go inside to confront the US attorney on what the hell had happened to the funds for the program. He was forced to come outside to give an explanation to all 400 people. And when he promised them a "special investigation", the people let him know he was a liar and that they had far better ideas than to rely on his "investigation" to get a program.

Since that day the struggle for the program has continued to move forward. The people have gone right to the homes of the program's head, Clyde Mitchell, as well as Mayor Kenneth Gibson's,

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attempts to intimidate, harass, and crush their struggle. While the July 1-4 actions were of political importance to the fight of veterans, it was also a great advance and inspiration to the many, many people involved in the fight against monopoly capitalism.

THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF WILL DEFEAT THE SHAH!

Periodically, Fight Back will interview different groups and individuals who are involved in building the revolutionary movement to defeat imperialism-- to learn more about the different groups, struggles, and to gain from the experience that they have attained. Recently, Fight Back interviewed a member of the Leadership body of the Iranian Students Association. In their own words the "ISA in the U.S., is a member of the World Confederation of Iranian Students (national union), an anti-imperialist, anti-reactionary, democratic organization of Iranian students."

Why is the Persian Gulf an important strategic area for the different imperialist countries to control?

The important thing one needs to look at in terms of the Gulf is the role of oil in the world and how the Gulf relates to that. The industrial countries due to their lack of sufficient resources in their own countries, especially Europe and Japan, are in need of the oil that is located in the Persian Gulf. About 400 billion barrels of oil are located in the Middle East-- some 360 billion of that are located in the Gulf area which constitutes about 57% of the total reserves of the world. So the international oil cartels and corporations have great interest in keeping that oil running and using that oil as some sort of weapon against their enemy, whenever needed. So ever since oil was found in that area the imperialists have systematically tried to colonize and dominate the people of the Persian Gulf-- to control their labor and their rich natural resources.

When did the U.S. start intervening in the Persian Gulf and what has been the resistance?

Essentially the U.S. started occupation or colonialization of the area after WWII when England was dealt a severe blow and the U.S., coming out of the war much stronger than it had gone in, was now able to take over England's role as number one imperialist power. The particular infiltration of the U.S. in Iran came when the national government, headed by Dr. Mossedeq, which had been fighting for nationalization of oil, and had tried to expell the British, was overthrown in a coup d'etat that was financed by the CIA. The Shah was given his power again and the U.S. systematically helped in building up his police force, especially Savak (secret police), and army etc.

During the period 1941-1953 before the coup, the people of Iran had gone through a period of relative democracy-- a time when they had been involved in great political struggles and the consciousness was very high.

When the Shah was installed into power, his first move was to declare martial law and wage a bloody campaign against the movement that was developing against his rule. There were massive protests, thousands of workers went out on strike and dem-

onstrations took place of over 100,000 people. But unfortunately the movement's leadership was not consolidated enough and the Shah's regime, through fierce repression and terror was able to hold back the storm and retain his power.

Since then, the people of Iran have continued to wage a long and relentless struggle against the Shah's regime. And the movement has gone through many different stages.

"Kennedys White Revolution Fails"

In the early 1960's the movement of Iran was developing once again, into one of mass rebellions and protests. To hold back the rising wave of struggle and the severe economic crises that had also developed, the Shah initiated a plan designed by the Kennedy administration called the "White Revolution". This was a program of shah reforms, with big publicity, that went through so-called land reforms, profit sharing-- and did nothing but try to spread the illusion that things were better. These "White Revolutions" were part of the strategy that Kennedy tried to have implemented in Third World countries to increase their dependence on U.S. imperialism and hold back the people's revolutionary struggles.

But as the economic crises deepened and there were increasing shortages in food and other basic necessities, the people were awakening to the phoney reforms-- a complete propaganda scheme. On June 5, 1963, tens of thousands of people horded into the streets wherein the Shah's army opened fire and 15,000 demonstrators were killed. This marked a real turning point in the Iranian resistance movement. The political movement had now seen and experienced enough. The old reformist-parliamentarian tendency in the movement, which had dominated the movement until this



Fighters of the Dhofar People's Liberation Army in training. The ruling class and the Shah have tried to crush the liberation struggle in Dhofar, but they are being thoroughly defeated in their attempt.

point, was rejected with the realization that only through revolution could the people's needs be attained. Slogans advanced in political movements following June 5th, such as "White Revolution is a Lie, Red Revolution is a Must," were indicative of the rejection of parliamentarist lines.

Since 1963, new revolutionary groups have begun to develop and come forward. And while it has been a difficult process for these groups to build ties with the masses under the Shah's fascist rule-- they have begun to do so and important advances are being made. Peasant resistance is heightening and workers struggles and strikes are breaking out more and more. With the growth of these new revolutionary organizations that can give leadership to the people's movement, the increasing exposure of the fascist Shah as a puppet agent of imperialism, and the rise of anti-im-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Kent Students Attack Shah

Recently, at Kent State University summer graduation, Iranian ambassador A. Zahedi was the guest speaker. Zahedi has worked side by side with the Shah since the coup in 1953. The Brigade led a picket line at the graduation exercises and distributed leaflets to all attending of how the Shah's regime is a puppet of the U.S. imperialism which attacks the people of Iran as well as the people of many of the Persian Gulf countries. The leaflet, which was distributed throughout the week and at the graduation ceremony, sparked a good response from many students, a number of whom were angry that the university would be giving a fascist an award for "his work towards peace." At the graduation itself, a banner was unfurled by the Brigade, saying "DOWN WITH THE SHAH OF IRAN-- PUPPET OF US IMPERIALISM", and a few arrests occurred

PROTESTS SET FOR SEPT. 21

Recently, the struggle of the Iranian people has intensified and there has been a tremendous increase of strikes-- some in crucially important industries. The Shah's regime is desperately trying to hold back these struggles. Recently thirteen workers were shot while picketing, and there are reports of a representative of the rank and file being arrested by police, then tortured and killed.

The ISA has called for demonstrations in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Austin, Texas, on Sept. 21st, to protest these acts of repression and to build further support for the Iranian people's struggle against the Shah and U.S. imperialism. For more information, contact the ISA at ISA-US, PO Box 400 F, Berkeley, California 94704, or the National Office of the Brigade.

when some students started chanting and heckling the ambassador-- holding up his speech.

...Fighting to Victory

ship positions in PAIGC.

Despite their years of effort, the Portuguese imperialists have been smashed in Guinea-Bissau, and are facing increasingly larger and serious problems from the Portuguese people as well. The imperial wars and the inflation and unemployment they spawn have been a burden on the backs of the working people of Portugal, and they have developed a fierce hatred for the Portuguese colonialist war of aggression. This growing unity of the Portuguese and African peoples' struggles against their common enemy had become increasingly evident in recent years by the hundreds of thousands of draft resisters who have kept the military academy operating at 1/5 of its capacity, and the large number of soldiers already in the service who have deserted or refused direct confrontation with liberation fighters.

Due to their colonial defeats and the resistance to the unpopular war and growing hatred directed at the entire fascist system in Portugal, the Portuguese ruling class was forced into a new tactic to try to hold back the growing people's movement and try to re-establish some semblance of control in their colonies. On April 25th, 1974 the "Armed Forces Movement", a military led by Gen. Spínola, overthrew the fascist Caetano regime and instituted several democratic reforms hoping to cool the people's anger and militancy, and attempting to change the rule in Africa from outright colonialism to neo-colonialism. Spínola wanted a "political solution" in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Angola, since a military one was impossible to win, and



Mozambique women in training. Recent offensives by Mozambique Liberation Forces (Frelimo) have nearly forced the Portuguese colonialists completely out of their country.

called for these nations to be a "federation" with Portugal, offering so-called "self-rule", but retaining control of foreign affairs, defense, and finances in order to maintain economic exploitation of Guinea.

The coup represented a real victory for the Portuguese people, and in Lisbon, indicating the mass movement that was the real cause behind the democratic shift, over 500,000 people took to the streets in celebration and "Mayday" demonstrations. The new government, while allowing these demonstrations, didn't want things to go far, and tried to put political restrictions on the slogans for the demo, but the people overwhelmingly defied the ban that the police were unable to enforce. And the struggle has been moving forward, as massive strikes have raged through the cities, and many demonstrations have been held demanding complete independence for the African people. This in turn has been answered by increased repression and threats of return to fascism from the Portuguese rulers, who have banned all "political demonstration for African independence.

The continuing and ever advancing struggle in Guinea-Bissau, Angola, and Mozambique, and the solidarity of the people in Portugal have snatched further concessions from the weakened imperialists: on Aug. 4th Gen. Spínola was forced to recognize the independence of Guinea-Bissau and announce his support for its entrance into the UN.

As their hopes for control of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau are being destroyed, the retreating colonialists are desperately trying to keep the strategically important Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Guinea-Bissau from slipping through their slimy fingers. In negotiations with Portugal, the PAIGC has consistently supported the right to independence of these islands, which in the past have been the only place where South African planes could land to refuel on the way to Europe, and are in a vital position as a military base for attempts in the future of imperialist intervention in Africa (all of whom actively recruit students on campuses). This can also be clearly seen when one looks at the list of investments that the universities have (for reserve capital, they say)—one inevitably sees a large amount of stocks and money invested in the banks and corporations of different colonial regimes in Africa.

In an effort to cover up their activities and defeat in Africa, the US imperialists have been pushing the idea that Portugal stands alone in the world

as a 19th century capitalist country and is right to finally give up her "old-fashioned" colonies and enter the 20th century. This is a typical story from the lying thieves who have ceaselessly supported Portugal's colonial and war efforts, and are being thrown out of more and more 3rd world countries.

The victory of the Guinean people has been an inspiration to people all over the world, and has helped move forward the struggle of the people of Portugal against their fascist ruling class as well as the other African peoples' battles for independence. The Portuguese people's mass support for the African revolutionaries is also in turn helping to consolidate the imperialists' sure defeat in Africa. This Sept. 24th, Guinea-Bissau's independence day, is an important opportunity for people around the world to give support to the African nations that are moving closer to final victory over colonialism and imperialism, and to further expose and move forward the fight against US monopoly capitalism. In conjunction with this, a number of revolutionary and progressive groups in this country, including the Brigade, are planning events and actions on numerous campuses aimed at exposing the US role in Africa, and celebrating the African people's growing victories.

OCT 27 RALLY

On October 27th in New York's Madison Square Garden, thousands of people of all nationalities will rally, demanding independence for Puerto Rico. Seized during American monopoly capitalism's first major imperialist war, the Spanish American War, the Puerto Rican people have long resisted the chains of colonial and imperialist domination. The date of the rally, Oct 27, is the 106th anniversary of an uprising against the Spanish colonialists. Since that time, the independence movement has grown on the island, twice erupting into armed insurrection. Recently, strike waves have swept the industries (85% US owned), and increasingly large demonstrations have demanded independence from the U.S.

The RSB, at its national convention, unanimously voted to become one of the many co-sponsors of this rally. We join with the Puerto Rican people in their just struggle against domination and exploitation from US imperialism.

For more information contact:
The Puerto Rican Solidarity Day Committee, PO Box 318, Cooper Station, New York, New York 10003, or the National Office of the Brigade.



"If the Portuguese government is still holding out on the three fronts of the war which it is fighting in Africa, it is because it can count on the overt or covert support of the USA... (but) no power in the world will be able to prevent the total elimination of Portuguese colonialism. The dialectic of colonial repression has proved that today no colonialist oppressor can overcome peoples who are determined to win their freedom." Amílcar Cabral

Amílcar Cabral was one of Africa's and the world's great revolutionary leaders. He helped found the PAIGC in 1966 and was murdered by the agents of Portuguese colonialism and US imperialism on Jan. 20, 1973. Cabral would indeed be proud to see how the African people's struggle has continued to win victories.

Berkeley cont'd.

rushed to the Chancellor's office and began a sit-in. But when the police were able to force themselves between the demonstrators and the growing picket line outside, people left the building.

On the following day thousands of students gave their response to the closing down of the Crim school and marched over to join the picket line of those protesting the attacks on ethnic studies. Together, 4,000 strong, chanting "No More Cuts on Ethnic Studies, No More Cuts on Crim! We are United, We Will Win!" They marched over to Havilland Hall, battled police for control of the entrance and were able to get 400 students into the building. After occupying the building for a while, students marched out and linked up with the thousands outside and militantly marched across the campus, where another rally was held.

It was unfortunate that classes were ending at this time and this proved to be the final response to the Crim and Ethnic Studies issues for the school year. But great advances were made in the fight around these issues and the struggle around them will continue in the fall. And, in looking back, it can be seen that the entire struggle marked a real step forward for the student movement at Berkeley-- as many, many, students learned important lessons.

For while the basis of unity of the struggle around the Crim school was solely support for the school, progressive and revolutionary forces led the struggle, and linked connections between various issues in exposing the role and nature of the monopoly capitalist enemy.

A good example of one of the ways this was done can be seen from the mock trials, called People's Tribunals, that were held at the large Crim rallies. These trials, which proved to be very popular, attacked and convicted such people as the Gallo Brothers and Toanster boss, Frank Fitzsimmons for their attacks on the Farmworkers, as well as the conviction of a number of other individuals and institutions for their crimes against the people. And the convictions were clearly not because they were bad individuals or mispuided institutions, but because they were part, or lackey's of the imperialist system.

In the course of the Crim school struggle, many, many students also came to support the building movement against the attacks on the ethnic studies department. This was shown by the already mentioned chant that was tremendously popular, "No more attacks on ethnic studies, No more attacks on Crim! We are united, We will win!" And during the entire struggle many Third World students came forward as fighters around both issues and a large number of white students came to see that they, too, must boldly take up the fight against the oppression of Black, Raza, Asian and Native American people.

However, the fight around ethnic studies was not developed in the issue of struggle that it could have been, and it was not linked to the Crim struggle as closely as it should have. This was due to a view of some in the ESDC, as well as some in the Crim school Crim school defense, that



saw the "ethnic studies department as a "Third world" issue, and the Crim school as a "white" issue. This position, which was the dominant position in the ESDC, often kept them from calling any type of mass actions, picket lines, or other means of involving the students in struggle. Because, it was felt, if white people came and got involved in the fight, many third world people would not want to struggle against the attacks on the departments. This also meant that a potentially powerful unity between the struggles for the different schools did not develop into as powerful a storm as was possible.

For the ruling class constantly comes down with attacks on all the people. Some of these attacks come down through cutbacks and national oppression of Third World people. These attacks are coming down on one monopoly capital class and we must unite all the people we can to fight

James Hall cont'd.

Black Student Union. The summer rally saw 40 Black, Chicano, and white students lead a spirited march through the downtown area of Iowa City chanting, "Racism hurts us all, Free James Hall!"

Speeches at the rally by the RSB, Black Student Union, and the Committee to Free James Hall all brought out that the frame-up of Hall was not an isolated "individual" case, but that these attacks always come from this system which constantly tries to intimidate us and divide us along national lines. It was pointed out by the Brigade speaker that the fight against repression and national oppression must be developed as important parts of the fight against the whole imperialist system.

This was only the first mass action and protest to free James Hall, but already breakthroughs and advances have started to occur. Because of what some prisoners (including Hall) have heard about the Brigade's work, they have been invited, and are going, to give a presentation of the film, "A Lutta Continua" (The Struggle Continues) a-

them. To divide the issues into "third world" and "white" creates a false and needless division among the people. And this actually isolates third world people from the overall revolutionary struggle against the ruling class-- stinate that they will only fight against national oppression and not against other attacks that come down on the people. We must build a movement that unites all the people to fight against all the attacks that come down from the ruling class, and a most important part of that fight will be all of us uniting to fight national oppression. Thus, making a fighter for one, a fighter for all, so that we can unite crush this ruling class that constantly attacks and tries to divide us.

The struggle at Berkeley also saw a number of people involved see the need for linking up with students on other campuses in the drive to build an organized student movement that will aid the overall fight against monopoly capitalism-- as a number of students who were involved in the Crim struggle came to the recent RSB convention, helped launch it as a national student organization, and have now started a RSB chapter on the Berkeley campus.

The fight around the Crim school and Ethnic studies will continue in the fall. It now appears that the Black Studies department is indeed being transferred into the College of Letters and Science. By building off the advances that were made in the spring, one hell of a fight can be waged to stop these continued attacks.

about the liberation struggle in Mozambique, to a group of prisoners at the Iowa State Prison. The fight that has started to develop around Hall has also helped the Brigade's other areas of work as well-- a number of students, including the Committee to Free James Hall, worked hard on building for the Third the Bum Out--Organize to Fight rally that was to greet Nixon in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 10th. But, of course, the ruling class dumped the "Tricky One" before the people could get one more shot at him.

The struggle to free James Hall will certainly be a very long and difficult one, but the Committee has gotten off to a good start and already a number of people have learned important lessons about developing the fight against repression and national oppression as important parts of the fight against the monopoly capitalist system. By continuing to bring the issue out to the students, more breakthroughs will be achieved and one hell of a fight could develop to free James Hall.

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MINERS WALK OUT IN ALABAMA: FIGHT OPPRESSION IN U.S. AND AFRICA

1974 has seen the rise of the largest strike wave the ruling class has faced in 25 years. The brigade has been suppressed and encouraged by strike defectors. Fight Back will periodically cover the development of the mining workers movement. We would like to thank the N.Y. N.T. Worker and Turning Point of Birmingham, Alabama—two newspapers dedicated to building a revolutionary workers movement—for the basis of the following article.

On May 22, nearly 8000 Alabama coal miners went out on a one day work stoppage. The action was a protest against the plans of U.S. companies to start importing coal from the white supremacist regime of South Africa.

That same day about 2900 people, mostly miners, staged a rally in front of the Plaza Hotel in Birmingham. The rally was organized by the Coalition to Stop South African Coal, made up of the African Peoples Survival Committee, Revolutionary Union, Black Workers Congress, the Selma Project, and other political organizations. The target for the action was a stockholders meeting of the Southern Company, a major southeastern power and light company. Southern Co. has already ordered 500,000 tons of So. African coal and plans to buy another 2 and 1/2 million tons.

There are several reasons why US power companies are going across the Atlantic for coal. First, even though they have to ship the So. African coal a long way, it still costs about the same as coal mined here. That's because So. African coal is cheap. The Black African miners are paid only about \$3 a day. Under So. African law, Blacks must accept the jobs they are assigned, have no right to unionize or strike, and no political rights whatever.

But even more important, it's a good deal for the giant New York based banks that own the power companies. It's a way for them to funnel more money into the So African regime. These international wheeler-dealers have a big stake in propping up this regime. They have money invested in So. Africa, and they also have a political investment. The governments in white-ruled southern Africa are in trouble. The growing national liberation movements within those countries threaten to break the stranglehold that US and European capitalists have on this part of the world.

For US miners, the plans for coal imports mean almost certain layoffs. But this is not the only reason that thousands of miners hit the streets on May 22nd. Most had come out to show solidarity with their So. African class brothers. "We are fighting for the same things," explained Mrs. John Marchant, a retired miner's wife. "Freedom, the right to a decent life, and the right to control our own lives. The United Mine Workers (UMW) has been brought up with a lot of blood, death and struggle. We have had to fight for everything we have. Now we have to fight again, and the only way we can win, is by fighting."

One of the most significant things about the Birmingham rally is that it took place at all. At first the leaders of the UMW's Alabama District 20 weren't too interested in building it. Later, they picked up only on the question of layoffs and endorsed the rally and walkout. The rank and file, on the other hand, really picked up on the question of building support for the struggle of So. African mine workers.

Another reason for the success of the rally was that its size prevented the cops from breaking it up. Birmingham's police department was famous for harassing and breaking up civil rights demonstrations in the 60's. Today, they're no different. But on May 22nd, people began to assemble two hours before the rally was scheduled to begin, and by starting time, it was 2000 strong! The police were so outnumbered that, instead of breaking heads and dispersing the crowd, they were forced to block off the street and redirect traffic so the speakers could be heard.

The speakers, including Mrs. Marchant, a miner, a man from the African Liberation Support Committee, and a spokesman for the coalition, all stressed the links between the struggle here and the struggle in So. Africa. Don Stone of the ALSC summed up the feelings of the crowd when he said "All the working class people must stand together, all the time, everywhere. Racism in South Africa contributes to the oppression of the working class here."

The demonstration in Birmingham was an important example of this growing unity, as the demonstrations saw Black and White workers militantly join together in the fight. Also, the miners weren't shouting "Buy America", but were linking their struggle with those of the masses of people in South Africa.

The first shipment of So. African coal is scheduled to arrive soon at the port city of Mobile. Plans are now under way to give this shipment the same kind of reception the Southern Company got in Birmingham.

Newark cont'd.

to let them know they want a decent job program, and they're going to keep on fighting for one. Recently, there was a march of 300 on City Hall in which 50 went right on inside to take the damn City Hall over, resulting in skirmishes with the police and a number of arrests.

In response to this growing, militant struggle, the city council has now promised to take up a special investigation of the people with the parents and students in attendance. While this is a good development, the people fighting for the NYC will not sit back and watch the city council's investigators look into the fate of the job program. For through the course of this struggle, the students, parents, and their supporters have learned some important lessons on how to win their demands. The people have seen that having Kenneth Gibson, a Black mayor, does not bring decent jobs or stop the attacks from the ruling



Protests Hit Abel At Two Campuses

Recently I.W. Abel, sell-out president of the United Steelworkers of America, has become the toast of the monopoly capitalists, as he has been honored at two different colleges, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Kent State University, for "labor negotiation breakthroughs". This "breakthrough", called the Experimental Negotiation Agreement or "No Strike Deal", was the selling of the right to strike until 1980 for the steelworkers for a \$150 "bonus" and one or two other "token benefits" which the steelworkers rightfully deserve. The right to strike was valiantly fought for by steelworkers back in the 1930's, and is an important tool and weapon the workers need in their fight against the monopoly rulers.

Of course the steelworkers are already beginning to build resistance against these attacks. In addition to a number of wildcats, they've also gone right to the schools when Abel has been "honored". At U.W.-Milwaukee 200 workers and students militantly protested Abel's award. Called by "Steelworkers Against the No Strike Deal" from Milwaukee and Chicago, the people heard speeches calling for building a fight that would make the "No Strike Deal" a piece of paper and linking this struggle to the fight against the racist classification system that keeps minority workers in many of the worst jobs in the steel mills. Members of the Brigade from Madison, Milwaukee, Iowa City, and Chicago attended the rally.

At Kent State University 60 workers and students came to a picket line called by People Get Ready, a Cleveland anti-imperialist worker's newspaper, and the RSB, which saw Abel fail to show up. At a rally that followed the picketing, the importance of everyone uniting to fight the ENA was stressed. "They call it experimental cause if they get away with it in steel, they'll try to use it on workers in other industries as well." We'll have more about the developing struggle against the No Strike Deal in the future.

class. And they have seen the US attorneys and city council try to channel the people's anger into their committees where they'd be lost and forgotten. And they have seen that it has only been their united, militant struggle that has brought any gains and results. By continuing to build off these advances, the fight for the Newark Youth Corps is shaping up to be one that the ruling class will be sorry it ever had to bring on itself by making the cuts.

Interview (CONT'D.)

perialist struggles around the world, conditions for revolution are moving forward in Iran and a strong basis is beginning to be formed for a war of national liberation.

How does the Shah's regime fit into the U.S. imperialists drive to hold onto control and domination of the Persian Gulf?

The U.S. ruling class knows that the war of aggression they launched and lost in Vietnam further exposed them to the people of the world as a war mongering imperialist aggressor. And with their growing economic problems as well-- they know that they cannot easily intervene politically and economically in the resistance movements that the U.S. puppet governments are facing throughout the world. So they have tried to set up certain strategic local areas-- local gendarmes-- whose job it would be to build up strong militaries and act as cop on the beat for U.S. imperialism.

The Shah and the Iranian military have become the U.S. imperialist's cop in the Persian Gulf, who's job it is to try and hold back the liberation struggles in the Gulf that threaten the U.S. control and domination of the area. Thus the Shah and the Iranian military have received an incredible amount of some of the most sophisticated U.S. weaponry around.

It should be mentioned that in addition to holding back liberation struggles, the U.S. wants the puppet regime of Iran to guard against other expansionist forces, particularly the Soviet Union, which is increasingly trying to move into these countries in the quest for power and control.

How has the regime's role, "cop of the Persian Gulf," been working out?

Well, there are a number of important liberation struggles going on in the Persian Gulf. The area of South Yemen has already had a successful revolution which has driven out imperialist and colonial rule. And a most important struggle is going on in the Dhofar Province of Oman (southern part of the Arabian peninsula), as a war of liberation against the British puppet regime of Qaboos, who is backed by reactionaries of every color and hue, has seen the liberation forces gain over 90% of the country.

It is this struggle that the U.S. imperialists and the puppet Shah regime have been desperately trying to crush, as it is threatening the newly found oil fields in Oman and they fear that it will be a spark to further revolutionary struggles throughout the Gulf. In December of 1973 the regime's military, with U.S. back backing, invaded Dhofar with 30,000 troops. But the reports that we have heard are that while the invasion had some initial successes, the revolutionaries have gained back every inch of ground originally lost. And that the regime's casualties are so high that they are completely pinned down and unable to launch further offensives.

What work does ISA do here in the U.S.?

The ISA started its work in the early 60's and its central task that was put forward, and is still follow-

ATTICA BROTHERS' FIGHT CONTINUES

This September 9, will mark the third anniversary of the start of the courageous Attica rebellion which saw 1,200 Black, Puerto Rican, Native American and white prisoners militantly united to fight against the rotten and horrible conditions in the dumpcan called Attica Prison. The list of thirty-three demands that the prisoners fought so heroically for, were around decent food, medical attention, working conditions, clothing, education, and other basic needs. In addition to these just demands, the prisoners openly declared their hatred for the monopoly capitalist system as they proclaimed their "militant solidarity with the Vietnamese liberation struggle and all other anti-imperialist struggles in the world.

Now, three years later, the same intolerable conditions in the prison, remain. No substantial changes have occurred-- not one of the Brother's thirty-three demands have been implemented--though the state has let everyone know that they put a "color TV" in there. And now the state is starting their trials in which they have sixty prisoners indicted with over 1,300 charges-- trials that the state has already spent \$3 million preparing for. The state is going "all out" to follow up its lethal assault (triggered by Rockefeller), which murdered forty three people,

Attica brothers refusing to back down in negotiations with officials, state officials, during rebellion, Sept., 1971.



ed is two-pronged.

One is to build up active political support of the American people for the Iranian people's struggles. Thus we do mass educational, programs, and other political activities among the American people-- exposing the nature of the regime and the role of U.S. imperialism. In the long run we hope to build up the American people's support for the liberation of Iran like the support that was given here to the Vietnamese people's just struggle.

The second very important part of our work is to organize all Iranian students around anti-imperialist, anti-reactionary line and to politically educate them as to the real conditions inside Iran; to build their consciousness so that they will help the struggle in whatever they can when they go back.

Here in the United States we have always supported all progressive anti-imperialist struggles and move-

with these trials to railroad sixty prisoners. This is to try and intimidate other prisoners as well as all oppressed people from rebelling against their system.

But the state will not succeed. They will never be able to crush the militant support that the Attica Brothers sparked with their uprising. For, rather than intimidating people from building struggle, the Brothers' uprising has been an inspiration to many people-- helping to spark a number of prison rebellions, and uniting thousands of people in demonstrations for their support. This September 14, at Union Square in Buffalo there will be a demonstration and rally in support of the Brothers. The Brigade, along with other forces, will be building for, and participating in, a contingent for the rally that will be proclaiming that it is the "right of all oppressed people to rebel" against this system of plunder and exploitation. With the trials starting, the struggle to free the Brothers must be moved forward-- participation in the rally could be an important step towards doing so.

Friday, September 13, there will be a memorial for the Brothers, 7:30 until midnight, at Union Theological Seminary, Broadway and 120th in NYC.

ments of the American people. We especially did a lot of work around the Vietnam issue.

After the Paris Peace agreements and troop withdrawals the general level of movement in the U.S. went into a deeper level in terms of its activity, declining a bit. As we see it, it is a most important development that the Revolutionary Student Brigade has sprung up and is now filling the leadership gap that was left on college campuses in terms of building the anti-imperialist activity of the American students. With the formation of the RSB and its consolidation as a national organization our job is made much easier as our contacts with the American people will become much deeper. And our common struggle can develop to a much higher level in a quicker fashion. For our organizations can help each other-- both in understanding how this imperialist system functions and in developing the overall struggle to fight it.

Revolutionary Music:

Prairie Fire

Prairie Fire, after two years of singing around the San Francisco Bay Area-- at picket lines, demonstrations, and union meetings-- have finally released their first record, "Out of Gas".

A couple, both full-time workers, Prairie Fire writes their songs from their own experiences, and the experiences of other workers, with the intention of helping to build a revolutionary movement in the United States.

Their new record, a 45 sized 3 rpm, contains three songs, some of the most popularly received where they have played. "Out of Gas", the title tune, exposes the "energy crisis" and points the revolutionary way forward:

"I believe that we are riding with a reckless driver,
In a system that has run out of gas.
And he want's the people to get out
and push,
When the damn thing's breathing its
Last.
We've got to kick out the drivers,
Once and for all,
Give the system a complete overhaul.
With the people at the wheel,
Make breakdowns a thing of the past."

The flip side of the record contains two songs, "We have fed you all for a Thousand Years", a moving song from the workers movement of the early 1900's, and "Slowdown", about an effective tactic used by workers in their fight against the bosses.

These three songs are only part of

the growing repertoire of the couple, who's base of popularity is now expanding far beyond the Bay Area, as they have performed in other areas like Iowa City (at the Brigade's national convention) and the Northwest.

As Woody Guthrie and Cisco Houston did during the 30's, Prairie Fire often composes songs about particular strikes or struggles, to sing at picket lines or rallies. The group considers this one of the most important parts of their work, as they are not out to earn a living off their music, but rather to build a movement against the system.

"We can shake, rattle, and roll in concert halls 'til our spirits are as high as the sky, but it's in the streets, on the picket lines, in direct battle with the bosses that the real war is to be waged and won," Prairie Fire explained, "And there ain't nothing more rewarding than to put a little spark, a little spirit-raising into the brothers and sisters out there in that battle."

In addition to songs about particular struggles, they also write and sing songs which expose the system we live under and point the way forward, like "Out of Gas", or songs that have done on the history of women's struggles or on the student movement.

Considering their music to be part of a developing revolutionary culture in the US, that speaks to the struggles and needs of the people, and points the way forward to revolution, Prairie Fire skillfully combines the finest traditions of folk music, the political purpose and feelings of someone like Guthrie, and with the influence of a rock beat.

In their recording, unlike when they are singing at picket lines or concerts and demonstrations, the couple is backed up by a bass, and some percussion.

"Our music is working class music. The working class is a revolutionary class, let's get that straight. We cannot tolerate the existence of the

Prairie Fire



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bosses-- we exist to make revolution, that's the only way the world is going to move forward," they said in a recent interview.

Over the past three months since the record was released, it has basically been passing from hand to hand, and its reputation has been growing as people hear the songs. After their two hour performance at the recent RSB convention in Iowa City, hundreds of records were sold, and as the word of Prairie Fire's record spreads it is beginning to be played on several radio stations across the country. Produced independent of any commercial record producers and distributed by United Front Press, "Out of Gas" sells for \$1.50, with all income going toward the future production of an LP of original Prairie Fire songs.

EDITORIAL (cont'd.)

out the world are hammering harder and harder at this system every day. Their defeat in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, and their impending defeat in Africa are clear examples of the US rulers being hammered at abroad. And the largest strike wave the US imperialists have faced in 25 years is a clear example of how they are being hammered here at home. (For a more detailed analysis of the developing crisis of US imperialism, see page 2, S of the Nixon supplement.)

And the many gains and advances of the recent years have not been lost or forgotten. For as a result of many of the struggles that have been waged-- the Black Liberation struggle, the student movement, and the present rise of the workers movement, and the many national liberation struggles abroad that have continued to move forward-- accompanied with the general functioning and weakening of this system, many, many, have a better understanding that this system is corrupt, rotten, and needs to be changed. And we have also learned from the experiences of struggle in the past. As the new student movement emerges, we have a clearer understanding of the nature of the system's plunder and exploitation, of the fact that the different struggles of the people must be merged into a mighty storm, and that the fight to defeat this system will be long and protracted.

And we have already begun to see this potential for a powerful student movement begin to be realized as a number of important struggles involving thousands of students did develop last year on several campuses. Some of the more notable ones were at Berkeley, Ohio U, and the U of Connecticut. We saw thousands of students fighting in the movement to throw Nixon out at the April 27th demonstration around this struggle in Washington DC, Chicago, and Los Angeles. And participation and struggle was added by students in Farah strike support work, and in the boycott of Rhodesian chrome. We also saw a number of progressive and revolutionary stu-



dent organizations develop, a number of them the RSB, who are determined to build a revolutionary student movement and determined to link it up with the struggles of the people throughout the world.

We should all be quite confident as we look to the future, for while we have had difficulties, they are indeed small compared to the difficulties of the monopoly rulers. It is their system which is in rapid decay, and it is against them that the people of the world are rising up. While the movement here in the US is still in its early stages, it is already growing and beginning to weaken the ruling class. Our movement is young and has a great future-- the raging strike wave, the stepped-up fight against repression, the emerging vet's movement, and the young, rising student movement are all signs of the great storms of rebellion which are approaching the ruling class. There have been many advances in recent years-- we must build off them to build a movement that will strike hard blows at the ruling class enemy, and ultimately defeat the monopoly capitalists.

In Washington DC VETS STRUGGLE BUILDS



Left: Final march of 3,000 people around the demands which had been fought for throughout the week. Right: People fighting against the attacks of police.

The veterans movement is becoming an angry storm that is starting to launch militant struggles against the ruling class. The growing evidence of this fact can be seen from the numerous take-overs and actions against the Veterans Administration (see article below) and the recent series of actions and rallies that were led by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization in Washington D.C.-- four day of demonstrations that saw the people's ranks grow each day, numerous battles with police, and a final militant march and rally of over 3,000 people.

There are about six million Vietnam era vets, about three million of whom served in Vietnam. Most veterans are from poor or working class backgrounds-- many of them never wanted to go into the service, but were drafted, and either could not afford getting out of it or did not want to live in Canada or "underground" in the U.S. Others went into the service to "get out of the neighborhood", to learn a skill, and a few went with the illusion of "defending democracy." But having gone into the service, many began to fight against the racist policies and the dictatorial rule of the officers. And in going to Vietnam, the GI's saw first hand, the ruling class launching a war of aggression-- and many saw that it was the U.S., who had no right being there, and it was the Vietnamese people's fight that was unjust. They waged militant and violent struggle against this war, with GI marches of thousands in Saigon, fraging of "munc ho" officers, and numerous rebellions and refusals to go into combat.

Returning home, the vets found the economy facing them with high unemployment, phoney job programs, filthy VA hospitals for those wounded, and "benefits" for those disabled, cut time and again-- often 50-60% at a time. And it is these issues facing veterans, among others, that many of them have been increasingly fighting around-- often linking it up to the fight against the whole system. Building and leading many of these struggles, has been the Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization-- an organization that developed out of the GI anti-war movement of the late 60's. It was to further develop these rising struggles that the VVAW/WSO called for four days of rallies during the first four days of July in Washington. The five demands that were raised throughout the days of struggle were: universal, unconditional amnesty for all war resisters; decent benefits for all vets; honor the peace agreements-- end all aid to Thieu and Lon Nol; single type discharge for all veterans; and Kick Nixon out. Among the groups who participated and actively built for the 4 days of struggle were the Brigade, the Revolutionary Union, and Outlaw (an anti-imperialist postal workers organization).

Throughout the 4 days there were rallies around each of the five demands at a specific target. For instance, on the second day, a rally was held at the Veterans Admini-

CHICAGO VA TAKEOVER

Chicago--Mon., Aug. 19-- storming into the Regional Offices of the Veterans Administration in Chicago, 50 veterans, students, and workers caught the VA bureaucrats completely by surprise. The demonstrators were demanding 1) End to All Aid to Thieu and Lon Nol-- Implement the Treaty; 2) Universal, Unconditional Amnesty; 3) Single Type Discharge for All Vets; 4) Decent Benefits for All Vets; 5) Unite with the working class--down with the no-strike deal in steel. As people entered the office, VA officials called security guards, who made a few lame attempts to convince people to leave, but the people were organized and strong, and made it clear they weren't leaving until they were ready.

The demonstrators, led by VVAW/WSO, and including people from the RSB, Workers Committee to Throw the Bum Out, the Revolutionary Union, & People's Voice (an anti-imperialist workers paper) hung a banner out the window and began chanting and speaking through a loudspeaker so workers and veterans outside and in the wings of the building could hear.

Before seizing the VA offices, the demonstrators greeted Pres. Gerald Ford in down town Chicago with chants of "The names have changed, the game is the same" and "Kick'em while they're down". In addition, Ford's first public appearance outside of Washington D.C. was met by 20,000 Greeks and Cypriots denouncing the U.S. role in Cyprus, and the way the U.S. supports coups, wars, or anything if it will net them greater profit.

Speaking at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) convention being held in the Chicago Conrad Hilton, Ford appointed Richard Roudebush to be the new VA director. The last VA head, Donald Johnson, was forced to resign last April after being thoroughly exposed as a loyal servant of the ruling class and an enemy of all veterans.

When the news of the new appointment reached the occupied VA offices, nobody got very excited. The demonstrators knew that it made no real difference, because no matter who is the chief bureaucrat, the VA is a part of this whole monopoly capitalist system-- an institution which is designed to spread the illusion that something "special" is being done for

vets. But it really attacks and uses the vets-- and concession from it can only be won by people struggling against it. For instance, VA hospitals are not special hospitals for vets-- they're disgusting, rotten holes where wounded vets are left to rot away from where everyone can see. And recently there have been reports of patients being used as guinea pigs for experiments, and if they are called "insane" and packed off in straight jackets or sent to have lobotomies.

A spokesman for VVAW/WSO also denounced Ford's half-baked proposal for "earned-re-entry". Rather than hailing war resisters as heroes, he noted, this plan would make them look like criminals for refusing to fight the imperialist war of aggression against Vietnam.

After occupying the office for three hours, the demonstration marched downstairs to the lobby. A brief rally was held, and leaflets explaining the demands were eagerly read by both veterans trying to get benefits and workers in the building.

Roudebush responded to the demonstration on national TV calling it "unfair" and claiming that he understood the needs of Vietnam vets and would act in their interests. But that's the same old lie we've been hearing from the monopoly rulers and their politicians for years and years. And we're going to be hearing them squealing it more and more, as the movement in the country fights harder and harder against them.

