The Political Paper of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the U.S.N.A.

PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin

VOL. 2 NO.4 FEBRUARY 15,1975



DONATION 10¢

NATIONALIZE ENERGY INDUSTRIES!

Each day the burden of the fuel crisis grows more intolerable. Gasoline prices have risen 30% since 1973 and fuel oil prices are up 40%. This has been paralleled with the greatest leap in profits the oil companies have ever known. As we wait for the situation to grow better, it actually grows worse. No one can accept the solutions that the Ford government or the Democratic Party have proposed, for they both spell more profits for the oil companies and more hardships for the masses of people.

Ford's solution is to raise the tariff on imported oil \$1.00 per barrel to have started February 1 and \$3.00 per barrel by April 1. He claims the increase in oil prices will be off-set by tax reductions, but actually 57% of the tax relief will go to those making over \$25,000 a year. The Library of Congress estimates that the cost of the energy bill for a family of four will climb to \$723.00 more a year As he heaps dollars in the pockets of the oil companies, Ford proposes a cut in the badly needed social security, food stamps and child nutritional programs. Is there some alternative way out of this mess besides the Democratic solution of printing more bogus money?

There is a definite step we must take, a step which will regulate the prices of badly needed energy, a step that will curtail the gigantic profits of the oil monopolies and increase the benefits that the working people so sorely need. That step is the nationalization of the fuel industries and particularly the large oil companies. We must force the government to take over the oil companies with minimum compensation, regulate the prices and run these industries in the interests of society. This government has time and time again harped on the fact that it is free and democratic. But we must demand that the government move in the interests of the working people. Fuel is a basic necessity. We must have it to get to work, to warm our homes and to cook our food. We cannot allow the oil profiteers to continue to impoverish our lives; the nationalization of the oil industry would allow equitable and inexpensive distribution.

The nationalization of oil is not a sort of mini-socialism, nor do we see the as creeping of crafts of Tipping off bits of power". The nationalization of oil is a reform for which a revolutionary struggle can be waged. It is a reform in which the struggle for socialism can be introduced. It is a reform which allows the working class to challenge the defunct programs of the Ford admin-

istration; a reform which gives the working class an opportunity to raise its consciousness and organization. If the bourgeoisie attempts to use this issue in its own interests, the working class must maintain its independent position. We want nationalization in the interests of the working class, not in the interests of the capitalists!

The inherent crisis of capitalism can only be solved with the elimination of capitalism. Today the first step in the struggle to eliminate capitalism is the revolutionary struggle of the working class to both strengthen its position in society and its organization. The revolutionary struggle itself is a series of onslaughts against the programs and policies of the capitalist government which center around particular reforms. The nationalization of the energy industries is such a reform. We can no longer stand by while the capitalist lackies in the Ford administration hold the hand of the oil companies or while the capitalist leader at the Democratic opposition only wish to slap their hands. Destiny is upon us, now is the time for the working class to step forward in the political struggle against its enemies.

NATIONALIZE THE FUEL INDUSTRIES!!

UAW RALLY IN WASHINGTON

CAMPAIGN PROMISES INSTEAD OF JOBS

Despite massive snowstorms and long distances, 10,000 workers converged on the Washington D.C. Armory for the UAW's Emergency Unemployment Mobilization Rally to "put America back to work!" But what was initially billed as a national March on Washington to demand jobs and an end to the recession was reduced by the UAW leadership to an hour and a half Democratic mini-convention. The rally began at 1:30; by 3:00 the workers, angry and disappointed, were back on the buses headed out of Washington.

What went wrong?

Clearly, the UAW leadership did everything possible to limit the demonstration. Militant workers who came expressly to march on the Capitol were shamelessly betrayed and delivered into the hands of Democratic politicians. The sell-out leadership of the UAW turned the march for jobs into a march for votes.

Opening speaker Doug Fraser, UAW V.P. in charge of Chrysler, stated, "This is just the first rally. We'll come back again and again if people in power don't realize our seriousness and desperation." Leonard Woodcock, UAW President, declared that by spring

250,000 workers will be ready to march if the Ford administration does not take immediate action. These words must not be forgotten by the workers, and a real march must be made, bringing the demands of the workers directly to the halls of Congress. Woodcock further stated that "the auto industry will recover when the economy recovers" and put forward the following program for economic recovery:

1) Subsidized lower interest rates to stimulate the housing industry;

2) An emergency tax cut for immediate relief with tax reforms to follow;

3) Unemployment reforms extending coverage to 52 weeks or for the duration of crises; and eventually National Health Care and Social Security Reform.

"If the private sector can't provide jobs, the government must", Woodcock concluded.

Following Woodcock, Walter Mondale, 1976 Democratic Presidential hopeful outlined a "brief history of American politics" — in 1930 and in 1958, Republican administrations, unable to provide jobs were ousted in favor of Democrats. The message was clear: if Ford cannot provide jobs, the Republicans must once again be replaced by a Democratic admin-

istration. Woodcock and company clearly tried to buy off the militant crowd with political personalities and campaign-style promises, culminating with the speech of Ted Kennedy who offered a variation on the same theme -- only the Democrats can save the economy through legislative reforms.

Very conspicuously, no one mentioned that in every instance economic recovery did not result solely from the election of democrats, but ultimately was accomplished by war. Thus, nothing new was added to the proven formula that for the imperialists, war is the only solution (Cont. on p. 4)

What's Inside

Food Riots		0	•		•	•		p.,	2
Indian Peoples	•			٠			•	p.	2
Stewart-Warner								p.	2
L. A. Busing .			•					p.	3
New Orleans Tra	ns	it	- 0	i ta	-il	0		n	2

POLICE PREPARE FOR FOOD RIOTS IN LOS ANGELES

"I don't know if we're going to have food riots or not ... but the potential, because of the economy, the inflation and the recession is such that the department has got to be prepared." (L.A. Times, 1-23-75) So spoke Police Comdr. Frank Brittell of the Metropolitan Division of the Los Angeles Police Department. Mr. Brittell, also indicated that it was by order of Police Chief Edward M. Davis that this new program of training police offiers to deal with food riots has been instituted. He goes on to say, "a lot of officers on the streets now weren't here during the 1965 Watts riots, there's been a tremendous change in personnel and we're trying to update our material." (L.A. Times, 1-23-75) So it appears that the LAPD is preparing themselves to meet the crying demands of the working class for food, jobs, decent housing, and equality with more up-to-date methods of brutality. The "new personnel" of the LAPD may not remember Watts, 1965, but we do. And we remember that the tactics of the police were beatings, destruction, and murder of men, women and children. How can you update those tactics? The only way is to make them more widespread, and attack everyone who appears to represent a threat!

The following day that this statement was issued, Chief Davis denied that the police were training for food riots, but he reaffirmed that a new training program had been instituted about a month ago when "we thought it expedient to anticipate from the rapidly changing economy, some form of protest coming about within the county or city." (L.A. Times, 1-24-75)

These new programs testify to the fact that the government will handle the resistence of the working class with violence. These new programs can only mean a step closer to a fascist dictatorship, when the rights and freedoms of all people will be done away with. The government and their capitalist bosses create the crisis; we resist and they retailiate with violence and brutality.

We have witnessed numerous steps that the government has taken in the past years to enable them to consolidate their fascist dictatorship. We need only look to the various ways in which the President can declare a national emergency and put the country in a "state of seige". If we do not protest the beginnings of this fascist drive, we will be in no position to defeat it. We must answer every step of the bourgeoisie toward fascism with resistence, with organization and with unity. We must build a United Front Against Fascism from below, uniting all who can be united against this onslaught!

BUILD A UNITED FRONT AGAINST FASCISM!

REGIONAL AUTONOMY FOR INDIAN PEOPLES

The year 1975 found world capitalism in the midst of its worst crisis since the 1930's; the rising fight back of the working class is being greeted with increasingly fascist oppression by the USNA imperialists. This is clearly seen in the battle which began January 1 when fifty armed men, women and children of the Menominee Warrior Society seized an abandoned 200-acre estate with a 64-room mansion "legally" owned by the Chicago-based Alexian Brothers of the Roman Catholic Church.

However, the Indians have challenged this "legality" on the basis of U.S. Code 25, Section 280, which states that abandoned church lands shall revert to their prior Indian owners. This property has been vacant for 10 years. The Menominee Warrior Society is demanding that it be converted into a health care center to meet the pressing health needs of the Indian peoples. On February 3, the Alexian Brothers agreed to sell the property to the Menominees, and the Indians then evacuated the mansion.

The State reacted to the take-over by surrounding the estate with police, cutting off all utilities and refusing to allow in either food or medicine. When gunshots were exchanged, Governor Pat Lucey called in 200 M-16 armed National Guardsmen to replace the police. Col. Hugh Simonson, commander of the National Guard, stated that his objective was "to remove the people from the abbey without anyone getting hurt." Protected by the national guard, local business men have been organizing fascist vigilante gangs which are threatening to lynch the Indians.

The bourgeoisie has given wide publicity to these gangs throughout the

upper Midwest, where robbery of Indian lands has been a way of life to the giant railroads, and coal and lumber companies. In recent years the Indian people throughout the USNA have been wag ing a militant legal struggle for control of reservation lands and resources. Clearly, the bourgeoisie has no intention of honoring the treaties it forced on the Indians. This was made clear in a recent court decision in Lincoln, Nebraska. Federal District Judge Warren K. Urbom stated that conquest of the Indian tribes by the army made them subject to the legislative actions of Congress, "a treaty is placed by the Constitution of the United States on no higher plane than an act of Congress, so if a self executing treaty and an act of Congress, be in conflict, the more recent governs." Thus, Judge Urbom has provided the legal basis for increased oppression of the Indian peoples, behind which lurks the fascist lynchrope.

As class conscious workers, we must support the just struggles of the Indian peoples. History bears grim testimony to the murder of the Indian peoples and the plunder of Indian land. It is our duty to forge a unity with all peoples oppressed by USNA imperialism and all sections of the Anglo-American working class. The demands of the Indian peoples for their land and their democratic rights can only be won by the struggle of a united working class against all USNA imperialist oppression. In the spirit of internationalism, we demand the return to the Indian peoples of their land and sovereignty. We demand regional autonomy for the Indian peoples as well as regional autonomy for the Southwest and Freedom for the Negro Nation and Puerto Rico!

DOWN WITH USNA IMPERIALISM!

STEWART-WARNER

WHY WORKERS DIDN'T STRIKE

Engaged in the class struggle, the workers must not be mechanical. We must constantly be aware of the conditions, time, and place and carefully analyze our tactics.

An example of this is the contract negotiations between Stewart-Warner, a large factory in Chicago and Local 1031 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. In this instance, a strike, which to many seems the only desirable outcome of a contract negotiation or seems the focal point of all workers activities against the imperialists, was not called for by the workers.

The result of the negotiations was a 3 to 1 vote to accept the contract. Did the workers "like" the contract? No! The contract stands as just another in a history of sell-outs engineered in advance by the Company and Union misleadership. Few workers on either side of the vote would disagree.

The veteran labor lieutenants of the IBEW isolated the negotiation committee from the rank and file. But the negotiating team realized that their only support could come from here. They voted by a majority to hold a plantwide meeting to discuss the negotiations and rally support for their demands. President Perlin shrugged this off as an "antic" of disruptors and the meeting was never called. Perlin also threatened to reduce the 67 man negotiating committee to 5 for the next negotiation.

It was around this time that the Company interrupted its stony silence to issue a libelous, threatening letter to all employees.

The Company announced there would be lay-offs following negotiations. They skillfully blamed this on the "inefficiency" of workers who were bringing their rate of profit down and workers who were voicing their demands against the Company-thereby forcing them to stockpile out of fear of a strike. The stockpile and loss of sales were the direct result of the crises of over-

(Cont. on Span. p. 4)

MARXIST-LENINIST LITERATURE

NOW AVAILABLE FROM

PROLETARIAN PUBLISHERS

P.O. BOX 3774 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60654

For more information about the Communist Labor Party USNA or about the People's Tribune write:

P.O. BOX 3774 CHICAGO, ILL. 60654

P.O. BOX 72306
WATTS STATION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

P.O. BOX 170 BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11217

P.O. BOX 24241 BAYVIEW STATION SAN FRANSCISCO, CAL.

LOS ANGELES

FIGHT FOR BUSING!

The struggle for equal and quality education for the working class is fast developing into a main battleground of the class struggle. The issue, centered around the busing controversy, is in essence a fight against segregation, a fight for the liberation of the Negro Nation and a fight against fascism.

Historically the fight for the independence of the Negro Nation has been expressed through the struggle of the Negro people for equal rights. In the Anglo-American nation the form that this struggle has taken recently is the fight of the Negro national minority for quality education and busing. The fascist attacks on this struggle are objectively attacks on the entire Negro People's National Liberation Movement throughout the United States of North America.

The struggle is beginning to take shape in Los Angeles. The capitalists are attempting to divide the class by attacking the national minority workers. The Negro national minority are being labeled as "murderers", "dope-pushers", "gang leaders", and the Mexican national minority as "illegal gate crashers" taking away the jobs of "U.S. citizens".

Los Angeles has a cruel and bitter history of segregation in general and school segregation in particular. The L.A. Unified School District has a history that rivals that of the worst segregation in the Negro Nation. Over 300.000 students have been forced into segregated, poor quality schools. These schools are ill-financed, with not enough books, good teachers or classes. These schools are generally overcrowded, some on halfday session, some are not earthquake proof and often have the least transportation available, the most corporal punishment (whippings, etc.) and are prey to big-time dope dealers and criminal elements.

Latest statistics show that in 1973 L.A. had 272 segregated schools; in the last 2 years, this figure may have risen over 300. In a school district of 711 square miles and 650,000 students, 94.2% of the Negro national minority, 66% of the Mexican national minority, and 66% of the Asian national minority students are also in segregated schools. 80% of the Anglo-American students go to schools with less than one Negro per class.

The bourgeoisie has gone to great lengths to paint L.A.'s school segrega- real visible effect, but is a stop-gap tion as "de facto" (by accident or hous- measure to prevent busing in L.A. ing pattern) rather than "de jure" (forced by law as in the Negro Nation). So-called "de facto" segregation is sim- Negro People's National Liberation Moveply a myth conjured up by the bourgeoisie to stop integration of the schools and to wash their hands of the issue by placing the blame on the so-called "racism" of the Anglo-American workers. The history of L.A. and that of virtually every major city whether in the Negro angrily jammed school board meetings, Nation or in the "North" has been that of the systematic, planned brutal white chauvinist segregation of the Negro peo-

In the early history of L.A., the Negro migration to the city resulted in Negroes at first living in clusters rather than all concentrated in one areaalthough many lived in the area around Central Avenue. The many more Negroes who came to L.A., especially in the

1920's, to escape the bitter poverty of their homeland were prey to the capitalists. The California courts openly upheld "restrictive covenants" which forbid Negro national minorities to rent, buy or occupy homes or apartments in certain areas.

The city refused municipal services to the Negro national minority. Around World War II when many Negroes came here to work the industrial supply industries and to go to training camps, the bourgeoisie forced them into tightly segregated slum housing. In the 1950's the capitalists sabotaged a federally-funded housing project that would have broken to a degree, the segregated housing pattern. This was done by getting a referendum on the ballot to reserve the land for a stadium for the L.A. Dodgers. In the mid-1960's, the bourgeoisie forced passage of Proposition 14 which repealed California's fair housing law. This proposition was later held unconstitutional by the courts.

The segregated schools in L.A. are not simply the result of housing pattern The L.A. Board of Education has promoted segregation and consistently undermined the Negro national minority's struggle to integrate the schools. One of its segregationist tactics has been its policy which guarantees that each school is located in the heart of certain "attendance areas" which are all Negro national minority, all Mexican national minority, etc. In certain of the "open attendance" schools, the Board of Education has never provided transportation for Negro national minority children, reserving busing for over 30,000 Anglo-American students in the suburbs. The Board has granted "seniority transfers" to teachers which have siphoned off more experienced teachers. Just in the last few months, L.A. has agreed to a "voluntary" integration program of teachers after the courts ordered integration of teacher staffs. The effect of this "voluntary" program will be that only new, inexperienced teachers will be assigned to minority schools.

Another device recently used by the capitalists to maintian segregated schools is the so-called "community control" or "decentralization" of the schools. The Board of Education, state and federal governments have put money schools on the pretense of making them separate but equal to Anglo-American schools. The money has had no

The intense motion generated by the ment in the 60's, forced the bourgeoisie to make high sounding declarations for "integration". However, no steps were ever taken to implement any school integration program. Finally, the workers, mainly Negro national minority, who had held marches, and fought through such organizations as the NAACP, United Civil Rights Council, and the ACLU went to

In 1970, on the basis of overwhelming evidence, the L.A. Superior Court ordered the integration of the L.A. Unified School District. Immediately, the bourgeoisie released a flood of white (Cont. on p. 4)

NEW ORLEANS

WORKERS

Last December 18, the New Orleans bus and streetcar drivers, 800 strong, went on strike for a wage and bene fits increase and a more adequate grievance procedure. This is the first transit strike in New Orleans since 1929. It represents the increasing militancy of the working class in the South. This strike is also significant in that it has brought down a flood of repression and revenge from the local bourgeoisie and imperialist hirelings against not only the strikers, but against the entire working class of the city of New Orleans.

The bus service is operated by New Orleans Public Service Inc. (NOPSI), a large monopoly which includes the electric and gas service in the city. The New Orleans City Council has historically colluded with NOPSI to raise utility rates, raise bus fares and everything but wages.

The drivers presently earn \$4.125 per hour and are asking \$5.54 per hour. NOPSI feels they should be satisfied with their "generous offer" of \$4.37 per hour. Before the early 1960's, NOP-SI drivers were all Anglo-American minority. Today, 70% of the drivers are Negro. NOPSI has taken advantage of this fact to lower the wages for all the drivers. This was of course an attempt on NOPSI's part to divide the drives along national lines. During the present strike, they are making every attempt to foster such division but they are not making headway.

Because wages are lower in the Negro Nation, owning a car is out of reach for many thousands of New Orleans residents. Therefore, the people depend heavily on public transportation. NOPSI officials have taken the lead in moaning over the hardship the strike has caused the workers, the school children, the poor, and the elderly. Day after day, the newspapers and TV carried statements from NOPSI about the heartlessness of the greedy striking bus drivers. But through the other side of their mouths, they sing another tune. NOPSI President William McCollam, Jr. has issued the following threat: "Whatever reasonable settlement we ultimately bargain for must come out of the pockets of the public, and especially of our electric customers." (1-19-75, New Orleans Times Picayune)

NOPSI is leading the way, followed by a whole choir of opportunists singing the same song. New Orleans Mayor Moon Landrieu says that although the City Council holds regulatory power over NOPSI, they will not put pressure on NOPSI to settle the strike. And, although NOPSI is losing money on the strike, they have compensated for this by raising the utility rates. The New Orleans City Council gives them the "legal" right to do this.

Following in step, the petty bourgeois opportunist leadership of the local branches of the NAACP, the Urban League and other such organizations have announced that they plan to enjoin both NOPSI and Amalgamated Transit Union (Cont. on p. 4)

(Cont. from p. 3)

chauvinist propaganda. The Superintendant of Schools proclaimed, "we're not going to bus'em;", Mayor Yorty predicted "real trouble" if students were bused; Governor Reagan cried the school decision was "utterly ridiculous" and vowed to lead the court appeal. Reagan also forced through some anti-busing legislation in Sacramento. The California Supreme Court recently declared all these laws to be unconstitutional.

Many of the attacks on school integration in L.A. were directed and financed by the fascist arch-criminal, Nixon. He waged a vicious white chauvinist campaign against busing, forced anti-busing legislation through Congress and used the issue in his 1968 and 1972 presidential campaigns. His re-election committees have helped to finance the campaign of reactionaries running for school boards across the country.

The bourgeoisie's drive towards fascism which is daily taking on a real anti-Negro character is being met by the continued and heightened upsurge of the Negro masses and other workers and progressive forces. This is graphically borne out by recent events in the USNA, not only in Boston and Los Angeles. In Long Beach and Pasadena recall petitions against reactionary school board members are being circulated and in San Bernardino integration of the schools is being fought for.

In L. A. some organizations are fighting to get rid of reactionary Board of Education members in the upcoming elections. There's currently a struggle developing around a motion that was heard by the City Council that will cut off all city funds to agencies that discriminate. The purpose behind this motion is to force the Board of Education to adopt integration for L.A. schools, which in L.A., due to its size, means busing. A mass meeting around

school integration was held in L.A. on January 26.

Whatever the form the struggle takes, the struggle of the Negro People against segregation is a struggle for equality - a revolutionary struggle. It must be supported without hesitation by every progressive worker. The battlefield is presently within the existing political structure - the City Council, Board of Education, the courts, etc., and we must fight there.

As in all cases, only a united working class can successfully win this critical battle. This means moving from below within our factories, trade unions, mass organizations of the class and forcing political pressure on governmental officials and bodies. In seizing the issue now, we must fight to develop an independent voice for the working class and while supporting progressive measures, we must not limit the struggle simply to following behind the liberal politicians.

The question of busing is closely tied to the question of good quality education for all working class children. Bad education is not limited solely to national minority children. In L.A., for instance, poor schools are found not only in Watts, but in Bell Gardens. Torrance and Highland Park as well. The story is true thoughout the West and Southwest. School financing in Cal. is weighted heavily in favor of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois children and against the working class.

To a real degree the battle over busing is becoming a life and death struggle for the working class. The ability of the working class to stop fascism depends to a real extent on whether or not the battle is won in favor of busing. The whole working class must rally in support of busing and against segregation, as an integral and essential part of building the united front against fascism.

(Cont. from p. 1) for crisis. Current preparations for war are evident. And history has shown that while the Republicans prepared for war, Democratic administrations have fought the wars. Once again, the Democrats are preparing to lead our "economic recovery". But war is an unacceptable solution to 'the working class.

How was the militant marching spirit of the workers turned into a Democratic campaign rally?

The answer is clear. The rising fight back of the unemployed and employed workers forced the UAW to move; but they could not move without exposing themselves as the other face of the bourgeois politicians, transforming the demands of the workers into campaign rhetoric. In so doing, they ignored the history and insulted the intelligence of the USNA working class. Experience has taught USNA workers that prosperity is temporary, crisis is inevitable; that yesterday's reforms no longer suffice for the present crisis just as present reforms will be inadequate to deal with future crisis. Only the final recourse to war can be counted on.

The question remains: what solution is there for the working class?

Woodcock and company could only present a reform package which ties the workers' fate to Democratic politicians. But the Democrats are no more capable than the Republicans of solving crises that are a part of capitalism itself. Both bourgeois parties as well as their lackeys in the labor movement are united by common class interests -the preservation of the capitalist system, the preservation of vast profits at the expense of hunger, unemployment and poverty for the masses of people. In reality, behind the politicians' sugar-coated promises of reform lurks fascism and war.

But as class conscious workers we must fight for all possible reforms. for the unity of the working class is forged in these struggles. In principle, the program outlined by Woodcock is a step forward; we must fight to insure that this step is taken and that the promises do not remain empty campaign rhetor ic. But we must go beyond the program of Woodcock and demand more jobs, demand the nationalization of education and the energy industries. We must force Woodcock to oppose imperialist war as a solution to the economic crisis. The UAW and all unions and mass organizations must also oppose deportations; we must raise the * call: Stop Deportations -- Open Borders! In these struggles the bourgeois politicians and labor misleaders must inevitabl expose their fundamental opposition to the interests of the working class; only then does it become concretely clear that reforms alone will not suffice -- only the working class can manage society in the interests of society.

JOBS! NOT WAR!

(Cont. from p. 3) from refusing to run the buses. This move would force the drivers back to work and defeat the strike. Not only that, but this action would represent an out and out attack on an important weapon of the working class - the right to strike.

In the face of charges that the strikers are displaying a lack of concern for New Orleans residents, this statement was issued by the bus and streetcar drivers: "We will drive the buses for no wages while negotiations continue, if NOPSI will charge no fares" NOPSI's reponse to this was a shamefaced "NO"! But even before this offer was made, the public was not fooled. The general attitude expressed by the people of New Orleans has been, "Yes the strike is causing us inconvenience, but everyone deserves a decent wage, so we'll stick it out with you."

NOPSI, the city government, the local press, and both the bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie are closing ranks against this particular strike and these particular strikers. They have threatened to hire strike breakers to drive the buses; they are considering using army trucks and school buses to transport people; they have made a vain attempt to divide the drivers along national lines; they are trying desperately to win the public to their side. The bourgeoisie always fiercely resists losing strikes, but is terrified of losing this particular strike. They realize that the bus drivers hold a vanguard position in the working class of New Orleans at this time, and the way this strike goes will determine the motion of the entire working class movement in this city. NOPSI Senior Vice-President M.J. Cade was very clear on this point. When asked for the "real reason" why NOPSI is fighting against the wage increase, Cade said that "they would not give wage rates and benefits to bus operators that would upset the economy and wage structure of the city and his 2,000 other employees." (Times Picayune 1-25-75).

Mayor Landrieu, the city's chief imperialist lackey is trembling with this same fear. Landrieu says "if NOPSI is required to pay what we consider to be exorbitant and inflationary increases to meet the ultimate demands of labor, then what is the impact on the wage scale in the community?" (Times Picayune, 1-25-75).

These fears expressed by local business and government point to the real heart of the issue - the colonial status of the Negro Nation. Cheap labor creates super profits. This is a principal asset that the Negro Nation holds for USNA imperialism. As well as being a source of superprofits, the colonial oppression of the Negro Nation is the key to the division of the Anglo-American working class. For these reasons, the Negro Nation is of utmost importance to the USNA imperialists. They cannot allow any progressive motion in the Negro Nation to go unanswered.

In New Orleans, only 20% of the work force is unionized; in the state of Louisiana, only 18%. The victory of the transit strike will mean exactly what NOPSI and Mayor Landrieu fear - a new surge of life in the working class movement of this city, of other Southern cities and ultimately of the entire Negro Nation. The enemies of the working class point out the fact that New OrleanS bus drivers receive wages which are not that much lower than the wages bus drivers receive in other major Southern cities. So what! We don't want equality. with the rest of the colonial Negro Nation, we want complete democracy and that means complete equality for all nations!

FREE THE NEGRO NATION!!