

JUN 23 1978  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF WISCONSIN

## Imperialist War or Workers' Revolution?

On May 27, 15,000 to 20,000 people gathered in front of the United Nations building in New York City for a demonstration against nuclear weapons and the arms race. The action was sponsored by Mobilization For Survival. It was the culmination of many smaller mobilizations in the U.S. and around the world.

There were marchers from Rocky Flats, Colorado, where thousands recently marched against the bomb. Others came from Bangor, Washington, where on May 21 additional thousands protested a Trident submarine base. Anti-nuclear groups

like the Palmetto and Clamshell alliances turned out. And there were labor groups, including AFSCME Local 1930, District 65, and the National Association of Social Workers. Large international contingents also attended from Australia, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, West Germany, and other countries.

The demonstration points to the tremendous growth of

the anti-nuclear movement in Western Europe and the U.S. over the last two years.

### EDITORIAL

Hundreds of thousands have demonstrated to demand that humanity be freed from the nuclear cloud of death.

This latest protest took place during a five-week United Nations Special Ses-

sion on Disarmament, which opened on May 23. The UN gathering gained a lot of support, publicity, and popular enthusiasm. The day before, petitions with 700 million signatures calling for a ban on nuclear weapons were handed to the UN secretary-general.

While the UN talks disarmament, both the U.S. and Russia are **stepping up** their missile and nuclear stock-

piles. Under the cover of the SALT talks, U.S. imperialism has developed the capability of producing on short notice thousands of small, cheap cruise missiles, which can penetrate any known air defense and rain down so many nuclear warheads as to obliterate the populations of entire nations.

The U.S. has also developed the technology for the ultimate capitalist weapon, the neutron bomb. Through intense radiation, this fine product of Western technology wipes out people very efficiently, while leaving property intact. The bomb

(Continued on page 16)

### DETROIT:

## Young Workers Battle Nazis and Cops



"Get out Nazis!" Workers and community residents picket Nazi bookstore in Detroit.

EYEWITNESS REPORT  
By Randy Collins,  
Detroit Branch, RSL

DETROIT—For over three days in May, hundreds of people from the northwest side community of Brightmoor fought a pitched battle with the Detroit cops. The fighting started when Mayor Coleman Young sent in dozens of cops to protect the new headquarters of Detroit's Nazi Party from destruction by Brightmoor residents.

Just one month earlier, the Nazis had been evicted from a storefront on the southwest side, following protests and picket lines. But the fascist lice just

moved their base of operation to Brightmoor. Brightmoor is a working-class community that is predominantly white, though a substantial number of Black people live there.

The Nazis opened their new headquarters at 20807 Fenkell Avenue on the morning of Saturday May 20. They had plastered the windows with racist leaflets and posters calling for the murder of Blacks and Jews. One poster showed an oven and read "Jew dwarfs. There is an oven in your future."

Just hours after the Nazi store opened, people from the community set up a picket line. This picket line. (Continued on page 4)

## MASS REBELLIONS SHAKE LATIN AMERICA

BY TONY CURZO

A wave of popular rebellion is sweeping over Latin America. In country after country, workers, peasants, and youth are launching mass demonstrations, armed seizures of land, and powerful general strikes. The battles are becoming a serious threat to the repressive military dictatorships that rule most of Latin America.

The collapse of Latin America's economy is behind this tremendous increase in struggle. The world economic crisis has seriously cut back Western markets for the area's agriculture, raw materials, and semi-processed goods. The drop in export prices and volume has had a devastating effect. Huge increases in

the price of oil have also been a big drain. Virtually all the countries are saddled with enormous foreign debts, owed mostly to U.S. banks. Peru owes a staggering \$7.6 billion. Mexico is more than \$30 billion in the red. Brazil owes \$33 billion.

**sección  
en  
español**

To stay afloat in the imperialist world market, Latin America's capitalists have cut back the workers' and peasants' living standard. Their purchasing power has been cut by half or more. Millions of workers have been laid off. In the main industrial countries, unemployment is between 25 and 30 percent.

In Central America, official statistics put rural unemployment between 40 and 45 percent. This compares with a U.S. rate of 25 percent unemployment during the Great Depression.

The economic situation is perhaps most desperate in Peru. Last January, the military dictatorship of Francisco Morales Bermudez could not meet a minor \$16 million loan payment to the Wells Fargo Bank. As a result. (Continued on page 10)

## SMASH THE NAZIS!

Skokie, Illinois, June 25

On June 12, the Supreme Court approved the Nazi march through Skokie, Illinois, scheduled for June 25. The RSL is determined to stop the Nazis. We call on all revolutionaries, all anti-Nazi and trade-union militants, and all oppressed people to come to Skokie on that date. The RSL is building a revolutionary contingent to participate in the planned anti-Nazi demonstration. For more information, call (312) 226-5915.

**SWP's Liberalism  
Betrays the Struggle  
see p. 12**

# our readers write...

Send letters to:  
TORCH, PO Box 562,  
N.Y., N.Y. 10036

## Brutality at Rosharon Prison

Dear Comrades:

I am a prisoner confined in the Texas Department of Corrections here at Rosharon, Texas. I like reading your paper very much and I never miss an issue, except of course when they're denied to us, which is quite often. I'm also a "writ writer" and very active in the struggle for prisoners' rights. As I'm sure you're aware of, a "writ writer" is considered to be a piece of dirt by the prison officials and thus treated as such by them. I wish to relate to your paper several incidents that I have been the recipient of.

On August 1, 1977, while working in the fields for the keepers, I was called away from my squad of fellow prisoners, told by two different guards that I wasn't working hard enough to suit them. When I protested that I was working as hard as I could, I was then put in handcuffs behind my back, held at bay by one guard with a gun pointed at me, and beaten, kicked and stomped by the other guard, as my fellow prisoners watched the scene. Of course when my family found it out, they sent the FBI to investigate. They came to talk to me about the incident, I gave them a sworn statement of what took place, as did six of my fellow inmates that weren't too afraid to talk, as were all the others who saw it. The FBI took the statements, informed me that I would probably be retaliated against by the keepers, and left. I have heard nothing from the feds since, so evidently they never made any kind of charges from the

incident, and the two guards were let off scot free. It did not take long for me to feel the effects of the keepers' retaliation for telling the feds of their brutality. The first thing that happened was the abuse of my personal mail. For a period of several weeks all the mail from my family, (who are in fact on my correspondence list) was denied to me and the letters I tried to write to them were re-

## "Lawyers figure the hustles"

PS, a prisoner at the federal penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, sent in the statement below on lawyers. He is speaking from his own, hard experience. He was framed for a crime he didn't commit; his lawyer, whom he paid an enormous sum of money to defend him, sold him out in the trial. The lawyer later admitted to PS that he made a deal with the prosecuting attorney—the prosecutor would get a conviction, and PS's lawyer got support for his campaign to be state prosecutor.

In the garden of Eden, before the first lawyer slithered under the gate, there was but one basic type of law, e.g., Divine law.

On the map of life of the average person, the lawyer appears all over the landscape. The lawyer is a member of a professional monopoly, and he is also the expert that is hired by other experts. Hardly a hustle worthy of a name can be conducted without a lawyer among the conspirators.

turned to me by the mail officer. When I asked the assistant warden here why my mail was being denied, he said those letters were not from my family, but from secret people trying to write to me under my family's names. Can you really believe such a flimsy excuse from him to deny my contact with my family? Of course it was all a "made up" excuse by the keepers to deny my mail. I wrote the director to see if he would help me and no help what-so-ever was granted from him. Finally, through the help of a state senator and a wellknown TV news reporter who is a friend of my family, I was able to obtain "some" of the letters that were denied. The rest were "accidentally" lost.

I have a great deal of faith in the power of your paper and of our fellow comrades who are not confined by the keepers as so many of us are, so please print my letter so other men who are in a "hell-hole" like I am will know they are not alone in the suffering at the hands of the capitalists' keepers, and if we unite to fight for our rights, we will get them.

"Sincerely, comrades,"  
Michael L. Garrett  
Rosharon, Texas

Mystifying the public by manufactured complexity, the essential strategy of the experts is normally achieved by hiring a lawyer to write the fine print, in which is hidden the barbed wire that protects the hustle from the citizenry.

In fact, whenever some new complexity is added to his world, the average man can be fairly sure of two things: first, a new way to hustle him has just been born; second, the lawyer will do more business—one lawyer representing the hustlers, and another offering his services to the victims of the hustle.

In our modern era, the boom in expertism has vastly increased the need for lawyers. London lawyers used to charge by the number of words used, and the principle, if not the practice, appears to be still in force, for the great majority of documents that the average man cannot penetrate—from his life insurance contract to the obscurities of the tax

## Reader writes on Bakke case

Dear Comrades,

Applause, applause, at last, at last, it's finally good to find someone with the correct position on the Bakke case. It's good to find some people that can see through the fog of lies and misconceptions that the bourgeoisie and their lackeys are circulating in their press and media, etc., and the poor misguided "revolutionaries" that can't see their hand in front of their face much less have anything close to the correct position on the Bakke question.

Not only does the RSL show that the Bakke case is an attempt by the ruling class and their courts to steal away the gains won by Blacks in the latter part of the '60s and early part of the '70s, but you also explain that the Bakke case if ruled on in favor of Bakke will also be a blow to women and gay people as well. The thing that impressed me the most

is you did something that no one else has done and that is call for jobs for all in the correct way. So many other people have not raised the demand for jobs and education for all or they did it in such a way that they relegate to a back burner the fight against Bakke as a non-essential issue.

Like the League for a Revolutionary Party who told me at the Bakke march "that the affirmative action strategy has not only undermined the possibility of solid and lasting gains for Blacks, but it has prepared as well the potential for struggle among the exploited rather than against the exploiters..." It seems the LRP has forgotten that it was the oppressed that fought for some sort of affirmative action since Blacks and women are last hired and first fired.

Now I know that this is a double-edged sword. At the same time Blacks, Latins and women get a small toe-hold in the door, it (the ruling class—Ed.) is using that to divide the workers by saying that these jobs are being stolen from white workers who fought for some job security through the seniority and union agreements. But as I said before that the RSL has been the only revolutionary party to not only call for support for affirmative action and to guard against union busting at the same time and in the correct way. And I'm happy to at last read it.

I'm sending you a check for ten dollars in support of your fund drive, I know that it's not much but it is all that I can afford at this time.

Comradely,  
Larry Txabi  
Newport News, Virginia

## Revolutionary Woman: "Who Am I?"

The following poem was written by a prisoner in the Texas Department of Corrections at Rosharon. It was inspired by the "Woman Be Free" article in the February 15-March 14, 1978, issue of the Torch/La Antorcha.

Am I that woman Put on earth for man?	Is my husband? Am I that woman
Am I that woman Who is part of man?	Who is the lowest On the paying job?
Am I that woman Who suffers the plague?	Am I that woman Who puts out?
Am I that woman Who is a Good looking woman?	Am I that woman Who can't/while he can?
Am I that woman Who is a good wife?	Am I that woman Who knows no self defense?
Am I that woman Who is a good mother?	Am I that woman With a child That I don't want?
Am I that woman Who's a good housekeeper?	Who am I? Who am I?
Am I that woman Who's a good lay?	Am I that woman Without that child That I want?
Am I that woman Still learning To be seductive?	Who am I? Who am I?
Am I that woman Who is sick or perverted?	Am I that woman Who on her death bed Still asks.....
Am I that woman Who knows not Her own sexuality?	Who am I? Who am I?
Am I that woman Who's survival	Who am I? Who am I?

—PALLAS—

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# GAY LIBERATION THROUGH SOCIALIST REVOLUTION



## UNITE AGAINST GAY OPPRESSION!

BY CHRIS HUDSON  
& BRUCE GLAUBER

June 28 marks the ninth anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion—the first outbreak of militant struggle in the U.S. against capitalism's oppression of homosexuals.

On June 28, 1969, cops raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar on Christopher Street in New York's Greenwich Village. They busted several men, but instead of meekly surrendering, some of the prisoners started fighting back.

As the cops dragged the struggling gays to a paddy wagon outside, hundreds of gay men and women, many of them transvestites, crowded around. They started hurling coins, beer cans and bottles at the police. The frightened cops barricaded themselves and their prisoners inside the bar. Two or three men outside ripped a parking meter out of the pavement and started breaking down the door. Only the arrival of police reinforcements rescued the cops inside.

The next night hundreds of angry gay men and women took over the streets around the bar. For hours they taunted and fought the cops. Later that week hundreds of gays marched in a militant mass protest—the first time this ever happened in the history of the U.S.

The Stonewall Rebellion began a decade of struggle. More and more people were ready to say: "I'm gay and I'm not going to hide it. I won't be pushed around any more." In a few years, the gay liberation movement spread to cities all across the U.S.

Through militant struggles, important gains were won. Police raids and entrapment were cut back some. The number of places where one could be openly gay without fear of arrest grew. Most of all, people began to come out of the closet—to stop hiding their gayness. Though the majority were still forced to hide, the ability of some homosexuals

to be openly gay greatly increased gays' self-respect, which the whole society had worked against.

Despite these gains, homosexuals today are facing greater and more orga-

**The Revolutionary Socialist League will be sending contingents to gay pride demonstrations around the country. We urge everyone to come to these demonstrations and join us! For more information, call:**

**CHICAGO:**  
(312) 228-5915

**LOS ANGELES:**  
(213) 661-5135

**or meet us on Sunday, June 2, at 4:00 p.m. around Hollywood Blvd. and Argyle.**

**SAN FRANCISCO:**  
Call the Los Angeles number for information about the June 25 march.

**NEW YORK:**  
(212) 869-9239;  
**or meet us on Sunday, June 25, at noon at Sheridan Sq. and Christopher Street.**

**In addition, the Detroit branch of the RSL is trying to organize a united front demonstration. For more information, call: (313) 341-1250.**

nized attacks. The capitalist state and the right-wing forces are trying to turn the clock back—back to the days before Stonewall.

Police attacks, like the raids on Latin gay bars in Chicago last year, are increasing. In Boston, 100 gays were arrested by undercover cops who pretended to be gay for the purpose of entrapping them.

In the courts, more and more lesbians have their children stolen from them by the capitalists' sexist "justice."

In cities across the U.S., right-wing politicians, church leaders and cops

have organized against gay rights. Gay rights laws have been wiped out in Dade County, Florida; St. Paul, Minnesota; Wichita, Kansas; and Eugene, Oregon. Now California state Senator John Briggs is trying to get gays banned from teaching. A similar law has already been approved by the Oklahoma state legislature.

Alongside these forces, the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan are organizing. Both groups call for exterminating all homosexuals.

Today the gay liberation struggle is at a crossroads. The current right-wing attacks are driving many gays back into the closet. Others are demoralized, because after years of fighting, they see many of the gains being stripped away.

All people seriously committed to gay liberation are asking how to fight back. How can the right-wing threat be defeated? How can the fight for gay rights be revitalized?

### Why the attacks on gays?

First, we must understand that gays are not the only people under attack by the right wing and the state.

Black and Latin people face a mounting wave of racist attacks. The Bakke case, the activities of the Klan and Nazis, the cop murders of Black and Latin youth are all part of the attack. Undocumented workers are being threatened with deportation and forced to live in fear. Women, too, are being hit. The right to abortion is being taken away and, at the same time, child care is being cut back.

Second, these attacks are all organized by the same people. In the front lines are right-wing sections of the middle class—the labor aristocracy and demoralized poor white workers. And behind them stands the capitalist class, trying to prop up its decaying system by attacking oppressed people.

Third, the attacks on gays

and other oppressed groups are part of a general attack on the working class. Coal miners had to strike for three months just to save their union from destruction. Tens of thousands of steelworkers have been thrown out of work. Thousands of state and municipal workers in California face layoffs. Across the country the capitalists are hitting workers of all races and sexes with cuts in essential services.

But the capitalists aren't strong enough today to take head-on the best organized workers in the big unions. Instead they are focussing the onslaught on the least organized and most oppressed workers, who are more vulnerable to attack. The attacks on Blacks, women and gays are part of this. The majority of people in these oppressed groups are workers. By hitting these groups today, the ruling class hopes to weaken and divide the workers—softening up the whole working

class for a frontal assault tomorrow. The right-wing attacks, therefore, have a vital role to play in the capitalists' strategy.

### Gay leaders chase liberals

While the right-wing forces have been growing, what have the leaders of gay rights struggles been doing? For the last several years, most of these people were working to get gay rights laws passed. In all, 37 cities adopted gay rights laws. But in the majority of cases, gay leaders did not organize a militant mass struggle for these laws or for gay rights in general. And they don't try to convince other working and oppressed people that the fight for gay rights was in their interest.

Instead, the gay leaders worked behind the scenes, getting liberal politicians to sponsor and vote for gay rights measures. And in order to win this support, the gay leaders rejected any thing that might offend these "respectable" liberals' sensibilities. A truly militant struggle would make the liberals nervous—so that had to go. The message to the predominately white, male liberal politicians was supposed to be: We're just like you—we just happen to be gay. So transvestites, transsexuals, Black and Latin gays, lesbians were all shoved into the movement's closet.

The gay leaders tried to win gains by making an alliance with the liberals. But for all that gay rights laws are being repealed left and right and the attacks on gays are on the rise. Meanwhile, what do the gay rights leaders say needs to be done? More of the same—more lobbying, more cajoling and pleading, and, at all costs, more respectability...

In fact, the liberals are part of the same capitalist class that is attacking workers and oppressed people all across the board. They have no

(Continued on page 17)



# Young Workers Battle Nazis and Cops

(Continued from page 1) which quickly grew to over 200, was a cross-section of Brightmoor: motorcycle club members, young workers, local businesspeople, older women, whites and Blacks. Some came out to demonstrate because they hate the Nazis' racist fifth, some saw the Nazis as unwanted intruders in their community, and many didn't want their children exposed to the Nazis' lies.

Soon after the picket line started, police were called in to protect the Nazis and their headquarters.

By Saturday afternoon, a showdown was brewing. One young white worker kicked in a broken storefront window, and then grabbed the first Nazi to come out of the headquarters and slammed him into the wall. The cops jumped in, saved the Nazi and busted the worker.

The rest of the afternoon and evening were marked with similar incidents. The police came in force and sealed off the block around the Nazi storefront, but hundreds of white and Black workers and youth stayed in the area until well after midnight.

## The next day...

The anti-Nazi fightback began on Sunday with another picket line led by younger people from the community. In the early afternoon, four Nazis slipped out of their headquarters. They were spotted and jumped on by angry residents. One of the Nazis had to be taken away in an ambulance.

At this point, the cops moved in, driving people off Fenkell Avenue for a block. A pregnant woman was shoved to the ground by a cop and later lost her baby. A nine-year-old youth was arrested for loitering.

As the protest swelled to over 600 people, angry demonstrators taunted the cops—and then turned to throwing stones and bottles. The cops responded by trying to arrest one or two people at a time. But the cops were forced to back off many of the arrests because people surrounded the cops, shouting and protecting the person being arrested.

By this time, the sentiment of the community swung against the cops as well as against the Nazis.

## Sunday evening...

The rocks and bottles continued to fly at the police lines until late in the evening. The cops retaliated by isolating groups of two or three, beating them severely, and arresting them.

Then the pigs singled out two supporters of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) who had been passing out their newspaper, *Challenge/Desafio*. The cops arrested one of the PLPers for refusing to walk across the street. A large number of anti-Nazi fighters rushed the cops, freed the prisoner, and started running away. But the PLP supporter tripped and the cops grabbed him. One cop pulled his head back and another began kicking him in the face.

People started back to help him but the cops pulled out their guns and said: "The next person to move is dead." Everyone froze and the cops dragged the PLP supporter away.

By Monday, Brightmoor had become a war zone. A picket line was set up around 4:00 p.m., but the pigs were all over the place. There were cops patrolling side streets and alleys, cops on top of buildings, and cops hiding several blocks away. The picket line never got large enough to take on the cops directly.

The Brightmoor Community Council, a group of local businesspeople and home owners, called for a meeting in the local community center on the next night, Tuesday.

The Revolutionary Socialist League and some people in the community spent the evening organizing people to

really organize the community. But at this point the local businessmen turned to Paul Boatín. Boatín is the UAW bureaucrat who earlier had sabotaged the anti-Nazi struggle in southwest Detroit. (See last month's *Torch/La Antorcha*—Ed.) Boatín and his allies from the International Socialists

RSL, which was active in the fightback from the beginning, put out a leaflet following the Tuesday meeting, pointing to the road forward. In it we wrote:

"The Nazis have been on west Fenkell for over a week now—long enough to begin infecting the area with their poison. It's not enough to wait to evict them. **THEIR ORGANIZATION HAS TO BE SMASHED.** They have to be driven off the streets whenever they appear. All the people who trashed the office and fought the Nazis and the cops a week ago were right! They are the only ones who can lead a movement beginning in Brightmoor and spreading across the city—to destroy the Nazi org-



Detroit cops stopped angry protesters from smashing up Nazi bookstore.

come to the meeting. We emphasized the need to get the cops out of Brightmoor to let people deal with the Nazis. We also stressed the need to defend **everyone** who got arrested over the week-end.

## The community meeting...

The meeting drew over 250 angry people from Brightmoor and around Detroit. Local businessmen and politicians chaired and controlled the meeting. Their goal was to cool off the struggle against the Nazis.

They tried to keep the meeting under their thumbs by explaining the steps that they were taking to get the Nazis evicted. When the chairman of the meeting admitted that it had taken three and a half months to evict the Nazis from southwest Detroit, the young workers from Brightmoor who had fought the cops for two days started shouting: "We want them out now!"

One older white woman demanded to know why nothing was being done to get the cops out. Her son pulled up his shirt and showed the jagged scars on his back where the police had beaten him on Sunday. "What about the cops?" The idea caught on rapidly as person after person got up and demanded an end to the brutality of the police.

It looked as though the meeting was going to be taken from the hands of the young

businesses and used to and Communist Labor Party called on people to give their "leaders," the businessmen, a chance—to give them to Saturday to try the legal road. Just one short week—a week to kill the militancy in Brightmoor.

Boatín ranted on, DO NOT SAY BURN OUT THE NAZIS other buildings may be burned, too DO NOT SAY VIOLENCE. The meeting ended in that way, with Boatín and friends at the microphone and the most militant people walking out in disgust.

The RSL and some other left organizations tried to rally the militants for a picket at the Nazi storefront but it didn't work. Most people were confused and disoriented by the meeting and unable to see a clear road forward.

Since that Tuesday night meeting, Brightmoor has been pretty quiet. While the cops beat on people and arrested over 50 militants, the businessmen, union bureaucrats, and fake leftists worked double time to channel the Brightmoor uprising into a "safe" legal fight to evict the Nazis. This demoralized the hundreds of Brightmoor residents who want the Nazis driven out now.

While all the respectable people play around with court suits, they have bought the Nazis precious time to spread war in the neighborhood. The Nazis have had time to spread their poison and to begin organizing the workers and youth throughout the city to fight the Nazis.

"But to crush the Nazis all of us who want to fight them will have to get organized. We are fighting not only the Nazis, but also against the cops, the courts and the politicians who protect them. What we need to build is a **community defense organization** made up of all the people who want to smash the Nazis and the people who had to shout down the businessmen at last week's community meeting. The businessmen want to rely on the cops and the courts to get the Nazis out. We need to organize all the fighters into a community defense organization which can crush the Nazis!"

"The anti-Nazi fighters of the Brightmoor area need to develop ties across the city. A community defense organization will need to get information out to workers and youth around Detroit about the Nazis and the cops so that they can begin building anti-Nazi teams in their plants, schools, and neighborhoods. This way we can broaden who we can mobilize for actions against the Nazis, and begin to organize the workers and youth throughout the city to fight the Nazis.

"The point is that the cops, the courts and the political leaders of Detroit will never crush the Nazis. It is up to us, the workers and youth, to do it. What we have to do is get organized as a community defense organization which can spread across the city to fight the Nazis."

## Tupelo: Cops, Klan Work Hand in Hand

On June 10, 600 people, mainly Black, marched in Tupelo, Mississippí. The march was organized by the United League of North Mississippi (ULNM) as part of a 12-week-long boycott against local white merchants. The ULNM is demanding an end to racist hiring practices and an end to police brutality.

Within minutes after the marchers dispersed, about 150 Klansmen and supporters began a counterdemonstration. While the Klan's Imperial Wizard was giving his speech, a young, white, David Ohmes, shouted: "The Klan stands for hatred... you call yourselves Christians." Several Klansmen immediately went after him, but the police beat them to the punch. They knocked Ohmes to the ground, arrested him, and charged him with inciting to riot. The police then arrested a newspaperman taking pictures of the incident and booked him on the same charge.

Later at the police station, a Black official from the federal Justice Department, Fred Crawford, was assaulted by a white racist. Both were arrested. The white was released without bail. He left with his son who just happens to be a former captain in the Tupelo police forces. What happened to Crawford wasn't reported.



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Then the pigs singled out two supporters of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) who had been passing out their newspaper, *Challenge/Desafio*. The cops arrested one of the PLPers for refusing to walk across the street. A large number of anti-Nazi fighters rushed the cops, freed the prisoner, and started running away. But the PLP supporter tripped and the cops grabbed him. One cop pulled his head back and another began kicking him in the face.

People started back to help him but the cops pulled out their guns and said: "The next person to move is dead." Everyone froze and the cops dragged the PLP supporter away.

By Monday, Brightmoor had become a war zone. A picket line was set up around 4:00 p.m., but the pigs were all over the place. There were cops patrolling side streets and alleys, cops on top of buildings, and cops hiding several blocks away. The picket line never got large enough to take on the cops directly.

The Brightmoor Community Council, a group of local businesspeople and homeowners, called for a meeting in the local community center on the next night, Tuesday.

The Revolutionary Socialist League and some people in the community spent the evening organizing people to

really organize the community. But at this point, the local businessmen turned to Paul Boatín, Boatín is the UAW bureaucrat who earlier had sabotaged the anti-Nazi struggle in southwest Detroit. (See last month's *Torch/La Antorcha*—Ed.) Boatín and his allies from the International Socialists



Detroit cops stopped angry protesters from smashing up Nazi bookstore.

come to the meeting. We emphasized the need to get the cops out of Brightmoor to let people deal with the Nazis. We also stressed the need to defend everyone who got arrested over the weekend.

## The community meeting...

The meeting drew over 250 angry people from Brightmoor and around Detroit. Local businessmen and politicians chaired and controlled the meeting. Their goal was to cool off the struggle against the Nazis.

They tried to keep the meeting under their thumbs by explaining the steps that they were taking to get the Nazis evicted. When the chairman of the meeting admitted that it had taken three and a half months to evict the Nazis from southwest Detroit, the young workers from Brightmoor who had fought the cops for two days started shouting: "We want them out now!"

One older white woman demanded to know why nothing was being done to get the cops out. Her son pulled up his shirt and showed the jagged scars on his back where the police had beaten him on Sunday. "What about the cops!" The idea caught on rapidly as person after person got up and demanded an end to the brutality of the police.

It looked as though the meeting was going to be torn from the hands of the local

businesses and used to and Communist Labor Party called on people to give their "leaders," the businessmen, a chance—to give them to Saturday to try the legal road. Just one short week—a week to kill the militancy in Brightmoor.

Boatín ranted on, DO NOT SAY BURN OUT THE NAZIS, other buildings may be burned, too. DO NOT SAY VIOLENCE. The meeting ended in that way, with Boatín and friends at the microphone and the most militant people walking out in disgust.

The RSL and some other left organizations tried to rally the militants for a picket at the Nazi storefront but it didn't work. Most people were confused and disoriented by the meeting and unable to see a clear road forward.

Since that Tuesday night meeting, Brightmoor has been pretty quiet. While the cops beat on people, and arrested over 50 militants, the businessmen, union bureaucrats, and fake leftists worked double time to channel the Brightmoor uprising into a "safe" legal fight to evict the Nazis. This demoralized the hundreds of Brightmoor residents who want the Nazis driven out now.

While all the "respectable" people play around with court suits, they have bought the Nazis precious time to settle down in the neighborhood. Already the fascist fifth have made some friends in the community by setting up drinking circles.

The Detroit branch of the

RSL, which was active in the fightback from the beginning, put out a leaflet following the Tuesday meeting pointing to the road forward. In it we wrote:

"The Nazis have been on west Fenkell for over a week now—long enough to begin infecting the area with their poison. It's not enough to wait to evict them THEIR ORGANIZATION HAS TO BE SMASHED. They have to be driven off the streets wherever they appear. All the people who trashed their office and fought the Nazis and the cops a week ago, were right! They are the ones who can lead a movement—beginning in Brightmoor and spreading across the city—to destroy the Nazi organ-

ization.

"But to crush the Nazis, all of us who want to fight them will have to get organized. We are fighting not only the Nazis, but also against the cops, the courts and the politicians who protect them. What we need to build is a community defense organization made up of all the people who want to smash the Nazis, all the people who had to shout down the businessmen at last week's community meeting. The businessmen want to rely on the cops and the courts to get the Nazis out. We need to organize all the fighters into a community defense organization which can crush the Nazis!

"The anti-Nazi fighters of the Brightmoor area need to develop ties across the city. A community defense organization will need to get information out to workers and youth around Detroit about the Nazis and the cops so that they can begin building anti-Nazi teams in their plants, schools, and neighborhoods. This way we can broaden who we can mobilize for actions against the Nazis, and begin to organize the workers and youth throughout the city to fight the Nazis.

"The point is that the cops, the courts and the political leaders of Detroit will never crush the Nazis. It's up to us, the workers and young people, to do it. What we have to do is get organized so that we can work together like one huge fist to smash the death blow to the Nazis!

## Tupelo: Cops, Klan Work Hand in Hand

On June 10, 600 people, mainly Black, marched in Tupelo, Mississippi. The march was organized by the United League of North Mississippi (ULNM) as part of a 12-week-long boycott against local white merchants. The ULNM is demanding an end to racist hiring practices and an end to police brutality.

Within minutes after the marchers dispersed, about 150 Klansmen and supporters began a counterdemonstration. While the Klan's Imperial Wizard was giving his speech, a young, white, David Ohmes, shouted: "The Klan stands for hatred...you call yourselves Christians." Several Klansmen immediately went after him, but the police beat them to the punch. They knocked Ohmes to the ground, arrested him, and charged him with inciting to riot. The police then arrested a newspaperman taking pictures of the incident and booked him on the same charge.

Later at the police station, a Black official from the federal Justice Department, Fred Crawford, was assaulted by a white racist. Both were arrested. The white was released without bail. He left with his son who just happens to be a former captain in the Tupelo police forces. What happened to Crawford wasn't reported.

# Workers Battle Nazis and Cops

The protest swelled to 100 people, angry demonstrators taunted the cops and then turned to throw stones and bottles. The cops responded by trying to beat one or two people at a time. But the cops were forced to back off many of the protests because people surrounded the cops, shouting and protecting the person arrested.

At this time, the sentiment of the community is against the cops as well as against the Nazis.

## Monday Evening...

Stones and bottles continued to fly at the police until late in the evening. The cops retaliated by beating groups of two or three people severely, including some of the protesters.

The cops singled out the reporters of the Pro-Labor Party (PLP) and had been passing out a newspaper, *Challenge*. The cops arrested the PLPers for refusing to walk across the street. A number of anti-Nazi protesters rushed the cops, making one prisoner, and running away. But a supporter tripped the cops grabbed him, pulled his head down and another began hitting him in the face. The protesters started back to the store but the cops pulled out their guns and said: "The person to move is you. Everyone froze and the cops dragged the PLP person away.

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Boatin ranted on, **DO NOT SAY BURN OUT THE NAZIS,** other buildings may be burned, too. **DO NOT SAY VIOLENCE.** The meeting

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## PROPOSITION 13 APPROVED:

# "Taxpayers' Revolt" Serves Bosses

BY SUSAN EDMUNDS

On June 6, California voters approved Proposition 13. Proposition 13 was a voter initiative which mandated a drastic cut in the tax on residential, commercial and industrial property. Under the provisions of Proposition 13, annual property taxes will be reduced to one percent of the value of the real estate—approximately a 60 percent reduction. The new tax rate will go into effect on July 1.

On the face of it, Proposition 13 looks like a positive measure for working-class and middle-class people who own their own homes. In fact, these people provided the mass base to get Proposition 13 approved. Skyrocketing inflation and mushrooming taxes have put the squeeze on their standard of living.

But while the new tax rate will ease things somewhat for working-class and middle-class homeowners, the passage of Proposition 13 is a tremendous attack on the working class as a whole. It is particularly an attack on the most oppressed workers: Blacks, Latins, women and

all workers who do not own their own homes.

Property taxes have accounted for over one-third of California state revenues. With the new tax rate, \$7 billion less will flow into state coffers in the next year alone. This will mean:

- A predicted 50,000 state and municipal workers throughout California will be laid off. For example, 8,700 workers in Los Angeles will get the axe by June 30.

- Since layoffs will be on the basis of seniority, Black, Latin and women workers—who were last hired—will be first fired.

- Social services are going to be chopped to the bone. Cutbacks in education, health care and other essential services will be implemented immediately.

- Since the rich can always send their children to private schools and pay astronomical health care costs, the greatest impact of the cutbacks will be felt by the workers and oppressed people.

- Various other taxes, like sales taxes, are going to be raised. For example, the state is planning an increase in the tax on haircuts and hotel rooms. And various California cities are planning to increase local income taxes and raise the collection fee for garbage.

## Windfall for the capitalists

Proposition 13 was billed as the "taxpayers' revolt," the "little people" against big government. In fact, Proposition 13 is one of the best things to happen to the capitalist class in years.

First, Proposition 13 means a big economic wind-

fall for the capitalists. Around two-thirds of taxable real estate in California is owned by corporations, giant agribusinesses, and

landlords. Lower taxes on these interests will increase their profits tremendously.

Second, Proposition 13 provides the cover for a new



Workers seek unemployment benefits while armed guards stand inside locked office.

## Undocumented Workers Under Attack:

# Right to Health Care Threatened

BY CARL ROMAN

LOS ANGELES—Recently Los Angeles County Supervisor Peter Schabarum made a proposal to the Board of Supervisors which would seriously threaten the right to public health care services for undocumented workers here.

Under the admission procedure advocated by Schabarum, patients who are not citizens would be required to prove the legality of their residency. Those who cannot would be requested to fill out immigration-verification form WR-6, which would be forwarded to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). If the INS says the immigrant is not in the country legally, Medi-Cal coverage would be discontinued.

Most undocumented workers have incomes below the poverty level, and are in need of public health services. Generally, however, they will avoid any public service—no matter how badly they may need it—since obtaining it frequently leads to government investigation, spying, harassment, and possible deportation.

## Undocumented workers ripped off

Schabarum's reactionary proposal uses the common false idea that undocumented workers do not pay local, state, or federal taxes, and yet draw heavily on local social welfare programs. This racist idea that undocumented workers are "free loaders," "burden on the taxpayers," etc., was exposed as a complete falsehood by a recently published commission report entitled "The Economic Impact of Undocumented Immigrants on Public Health Services in Orange County." (Orange County, California, had a residency requirement for public health services.) Due to the commission's report, this has been

dropped.)

The commission study estimates that Orange County's approximately 57,172 undocumented workers pay more than \$83 million in state and local taxes and more than \$11.9 million in property taxes. **The commission concluded that the total taxes paid by undocumented workers to the county alone are far greater than the amount they receive back in the form of social services.** An additional finding was that soon after Orange County began forwarding informa-

wave of capitalist attacks on the workers' living standards. With the U.S. economy heading for a deep crisis, the capitalists are trying to drive down real wages, cut benefits, and slash social services. The ruling class hopes to make the workers pay to shore up the decaying capitalist system.

But the capitalists are afraid that the attacks may lead to a tremendous upsurge in the fightback of the workers. As a result the capitalists try to attack the workers in a way that does not spark a wave of struggle.

Proposition 13 gives the capitalists a ready-made cover. Instead of a direct assault that could lead to a mass revolt against the capitalist class, the capitalists can now hide behind the "will of the people." They say: It's not our fault that we have to roll back social services and lay off workers. The "people" insisted on it.

This has already been (Continued on page 16)

ally have not received the communicable-disease vaccines routinely administered to infants in the U.S. For this reason, the undocumented worker often arrives in the U.S. with health problems requiring treatment. And since these workers continue to live in poverty while in the U.S., they are highly susceptible to new illnesses.

If the Schabarum proposal is passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, many residents will in fact be denied access to health care, and preventable

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## L.A. Garment Workers Win Union Contract

A rank-and-file-initiated organizing effort in Los Angeles' garment industry won an important victory in May. The organizing drive broke through a traditional barrier by bringing the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) into a cutting service shop for the first time. Todd Rutkin, Inc., an independent contractor of cutting services employing about 15 workers, became the first such shop in Los Angeles to be unionized. Cutting services receive bolts of whole fabric from the clothing manufacturers, cut them to pattern design, and return them for assembly into finished clothing.

Previous efforts to unionize these shops have always failed because owners, faced with the cut-throat competition typical of the industry, have preferred to close down temporarily rather than unionize and risk bankruptcy or economic reprisals from the large clothing manufacturers on whom they depend.

The Rutkin shop is a somewhat less fragile operation than most, and its owner is a leading member

of the garment bosses' economic fraternity. Most important to the workers' victory, however, was their unity, militancy, and determination to win a union contract. The organizing effort was marked by periodic work slowdowns and shop-floor negotiating sessions in which workers demanded more pay, equal pay for equal work, a cost-of-living escalator clause, and a variety of fringe benefits.

The three-year contract, while weak compared to other industrial contracts, represents a large advance for workers who previously had no seniority, no vacation or holidays, no medical insurance, and wide wage differentials. Under the contract, Rutkin workers receive one week's paid vacation and three paid holidays (to increase to five by the end of the contract) a year, Blue Cross, and wage increases ranging from 25 cents to 75 cents an hour. A cost-of-living clause was not included, pointing to the need to re-open negotiations on wages before the contract expires. □

tion to the INS, the federal government instituted alien deportation proceedings against some of the Medi-Cal applicants!

A group of doctors from the University of California at Irvine charged that serious illnesses were going untreated because undocumented workers feared deportation. Physicians told of patients who had not sought medical treatment for polio or preventable communicable childhood diseases because of this fear.

So the Schabarum proposal's public health implications are deadly serious. According to the Orange County study, the majority of undocumented workers are young adults from Mexico's rural areas, where poverty and limited facilities preclude adequate health care. This means they usu-

diseases will go unchecked and untreated. Pregnant women who are undocumented—thousands of them give birth here each year—will also be barred from public health treatment. Without immunization and prenatal care, these expectant mothers run a higher-than-average risk of delivering a handicapped child.

Clearly the interest of all working people is to smash Schabarum's racist proposal. Any procedure which limits the effectiveness of public health programs jeopardizes the lives of thousands of undocumented workers and their families.

**Defend undocumented workers' rights to free public health care and services! Free medical care for all working people! Stop the deportations!** □





## INTERVIEW WITH BRIGADE MEMBER:

# Free the August 8th Brigade!

### Jury finds AIM militants innocent

Native American Indian activists Paul Skyhorse and Richard Mohawk were found not guilty of murder by a jury on May 24, one year after their trial began in Los Angeles and three and a half years after their arrest.

A white cab driver was beaten and stabbed to death in 1974 at an American Indian Movement (AIM) camp north of L.A. Although Skyhorse and Mohawk were present in the camp at the time of the killing, no evidence ever tied them to the murder itself. Three people who admitted to being involved in the fatal attack were granted either immunity or short prison terms in return for testifying against Skyhorse and Mohawk.

Skyhorse and Mohawk are now out of prison, but they are not yet free. Mohawk still faces charges of possessing heroin (while in jail), arson (in connection with an AIM takeover of an abandoned Nike missile site in Illinois), robbery, and escape. Skyhorse faces charges of robbery and escape.

These men are guilty of only one "crime"—fighting for Native American Indian rights. That is why the state so desperately wants them behind bars.

**FREE SKYHORSE AND MOHAWK!**

### Zionists railroad Sami Esmail

On June 7, Sami Esmail was convicted by the Israeli government of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). For this "crime," Esmail was sentenced to 15 months in prison.

Sami Esmail is a U.S.-born Palestinian and a graduate student at Michigan State University. While at the university Esmail was a spokesperson for the rights of Palestinian people.

On December 21, Esmail went to Israel to visit his dying father. As he stepped off the plane, he was busted by the Israeli cops. Esmail was then brutally beaten and tortured. He was forced to stay awake seven days in a row. The Israeli cops did all this to try to get Esmail to "confess" to being a member of the PFLP.

The racist government of Israel didn't even pretend that Esmail was involved in any actions in which they could say threatened Israel. This is a clear case of victimizing a fighter for Palestinian rights. Israel wants the imprisonment of Esmail to be an example for all of those who would defend the rights of the Palestinian people. **FREE SAMI ESMAIL!**

### Prisoner seeks new trial

Randy Gometz, a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution (FCI) at Petersburg, Virginia, will go to court on June 9 in an effort to win a new trial. Gometz was framed up for "assaulting" three guards at the FCI at Ashland, Kentucky.

Gometz was framed because he fought the Ashland prison administrators. The keepers threw Gometz and other prisoners who were organizing into segregation. In segregation, the prisoners organized hunger strikes that were supported by three-fourths of the people in segregation. Gometz fought the Ashland administration in other ways. For example, he testified at the trial of another prisoner, to try to keep the state from framing him.

After the trial, the prison keepers wanted to "get even" with Gometz. They tried to put him in a cell that was filled with toilet water and all kinds of filth. When Gometz refused to go into the cell, seven guards armed with axe-handles and black jacks beat Gometz unconscious. Then three of these guards filed assault charges against him.

Another prisoner wrote to the *Torch/La Antorcha* to ask all of our readers to support Gometz's fight against the frame-up. He says: "The fact that Gometz has been attacking the system constantly for the past four years, and has pending trumped up charges of assault, means he won't get a shred of justice unless the masses are informed of the proceedings." All interested readers should write: **the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee 37203**, to protest the frame-up of Gometz.

### Parole Jomo Kenyatta Now!

On April 10, Jomo Kenyatta (a/k/a John Reed), a prisoner at the Federal Correctional Institution at Ashland, Kentucky, was denied parole. His parole date, originally set in June, was first set back, and then taken away completely. This is another case of the prison big shots harassing a prisoner for standing up for his rights.

In October of last year, Kenyatta was charged with possession of marijuana. He had none, so the charge was withdrawn. Instead, Kenyatta was charged with refusing to obey an order. For this charge—a total lie—he was thrown into segregation for a week. Then, in March, his June parole date was set back to July. Now the keepers are taking away his parole.

Kenyatta needs your support. Letters of protest can be sent to: **United States Department of Justice, United States Parole Commission, Washington D. C. 20537**

—FH

The trials of the August 8th Brigade are scheduled to begin in August. Members of the brigade, eight Latin and two Black prisoners, were indicted on charges stemming from the Napanoch prison rebellion of August 8, 1977. (See *Torch/La Antorcha*, February 15-March 14, 1978, for a full report on the rebellion.) The charges include first-degree rioting, first-degree attempted coercion and first-degree assault.

Several months ago, Brigade members were transferred to Green Haven prison. Since then they have been constantly harassed by the guards. One brother, Felix Castro, is being denied a special diet for his ulcer. Another brigade member, Hector Semidey, is being framed for supposedly assaulting a guard.

One of the Latin prisoners, Luis Torres, was paroled pending the outcome of the upcoming trial. The following are excerpts from an interview the *Torch/La Antorcha* did with Luis.

**T:** Could you describe the kind of treatment at Napanoch and Green Haven that the guards give the prisoners?

**L:** I can give you something about that, yes. Some of the inmates ask for medical treatment, the officers don't give it to them. They try to call the officers, the officers don't come to them. Sometimes we're passing to another block, the officers hassle us. Some of the guards see you and lock you up for nothing—say you're out of place. That's all the prejudice they got inside the institution with the guards to the inmates. That's why you see inmates fighting with the guards inside, because they're always going to make a lot of hassles for us. We came to the conclusion that with this oppression against us, we got to force ourselves to do something inside the penitentiary.

**T:** Were the 10 brothers who were indicted singled out because the guards thought they were the leadership of the prisoners, or was it just completely random?

**L:** Yeah, it was like you were the leader. First they got 43 inmates. After that, some got superintendent's procedures, some got good time taken away from them and some were transferred. And then 10, like me, Felix Castro, and the others had charges from the courts. And they put charges to us like crazy. They put me up for assault, they put me for destroying state property, and inciting to riot. But I was only defending myself from any pigs that came around me. They had the state guard out there. The National Guard was there too. There were orange-clothed officers. They were throwing gas, tying prisoners up like dogs taking them to the cells and pushing them inside the cells.

**T:** What are the demands that you think the people have to

struggle for?

**L:** We have to see that we are all of the same race. We have to agree that our struggle is for the liberation of Puerto Rico, liberation from U.S. imperialism, from the imperialist oppression of the Puerto Rican and Black people who suffer many abuses. We have to unite with all the struggles that we can. Our struggle is to free our race, our country, our world. Because if we don't liberate ourselves, who is going to free us? The U.S. will continue to oppress people, and we cannot allow it to continue; we have to struggle against this government.

**T:** Is there anything you want the readers of the *Torch/La Antorcha* to do, either to support Puerto Rican liberation, or the struggle of the August 8th Brigade?

**L:** Yes, if they could extend a hand. It isn't important what they do, if they do what they can, if they find ways to help us. If they can support other organizations that are helping us, spread information about the struggle, this would help us all to go forward.

**T:** Could you say something about your own commitment in all of this?

**L:** I feel like a new man, like a child raising something he really loves. I was born to be a revolutionary. All my life, I have had a dream, for my people, for my country, I keep on in my hometown in Puerto Rico. In 1967 there were 3,000 people fighting. The National Guard and the regular police came down, and some of the brothers got hurt. My hands got broke. And I was born to be a revolutionary and to give my life for the people, to die for my brothers.

**T:** Is there anything you would like to say to the brothers still in prison, Felco, Scorpio, Felix and the rest of them?

**L:** To my brothers in the penitentiary, I would like to say I wish them all my best and my love. To each one of them, I will do my best until each one of them is out.

The brigade is continuing to fight the racist guards and brutal prison conditions that sparked the rebellion at Napanoch. They need your support. Letters of solidarity and contributions to the defense fund can be sent to: **Torch/La Antorcha, PO Box 524, New York, NY 10037**. Everything will be forwarded to the August 8th Brigade.

## HOW TO FIGHT THE TORCH BANNINGS

Many prisoners are writing us to say that they haven't received their copy of the *Torch/La Antorcha*, and what can they do? On our end, we will be participating in a class-action suit filed by the National Prison Project in federal court against bannings of political literature in prisons. And we are in constant touch with lawyers to spread the struggle against the ban on our newspaper. In May, a prisoner won a suit against the banning of political literature in West Virginia (*Parker vs. McKenzie*, No. 76-2083, U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit, May 1, 1978). This decision stated that authorities must show an ACTUAL THREAT, not just adverse political beliefs, in order to invoke the security provision, and that the final authority must be someone not directly connected with the prison.

If you don't receive your *Torch/La Antorcha* in any given month, these are steps you can take that have proven effective:

- 1) Demand a WRITTEN explanation from the prison administration.
- 2) Send a copy of their response to us for our attorneys' use.
- 3) File a suit "pro se" (in your own name) in District Court every single time the paper is withheld.

Suits may be filed in "forma pauperis," which means you have no money and the state must pay all costs of the suit. The suit can specify that the *Torch/La Antorcha* is for educational purposes, does not incite or encourage violence, is not obscene, and is concerned with politics. The denial of the *Torch/La Antorcha* is a violation of a prisoner's rights under the first amendment, as well as the *Torch/La Antorcha's* right to free speech.

Aside from outright bans, the keepers are using more sneaky ways to withhold the paper from prisoners. For example, a prisoner at Attica hasn't received his paper for four months straight. The keepers claim that the paper never arrived at the prison! This is just bullshit—we carefully mail out the paper every month to every subscriber. And it stretches the imagination too far to think that the post office just happened to lose it each time.

If you don't receive your paper for several months running, and the keepers claim that the copies never arrived, let us know. We will then send out one copy by certified mail. The keepers will be forced to either give the paper to the prisoner, or put an open ban on it. If they do the first—great, the prisoner has the paper. If they come out in the open with a ban, we will then have a clear-cut basis to fight back.

# GREEN HAVEN PRISONERS FIGHT RACIST GUARDS

Victory! On May 24, 1978, a Dutchess County, New York, grand jury refused to indict Yusuf Abdul Alim (a/k/a Albert McQueen), a Sunni Muslim prisoner at the Green Haven Correctional Facility. He had been charged with attempted murder, assault and possession of a weapon.

As we reported in last month's *Torch/La Antorcha*, the prison keepers and the state were trying to frame up Yusuf for the April 12 stabbing of a guard, Bertrand Ross. Ross, according to the keepers, was stabbed at 9:05 a.m. in the corridor of the east side of the prison.

At the grand jury hearing, Yusuf testified that at that time he was locked in a cell in H-block. Two prisoners supported Yusuf's statement before the grand jury: Hector Semidey (Scorpio), and Eddie Pacheco. These two brothers are themselves currently under indictment as members of the August 8th Brigade for charges related to the prisoner uprising at the Eastern Correctional Facility in Napanoch, New York, last August 8.

The day after the grand jury refused to indict Yusuf, he was arbitrarily and with no notice transferred out of Green Haven and sent to Sing Sing. There he is locked in the segregation unit, kept in his cell 24 hours a day, denied access to the law library, and continually harassed by the keepers. Meanwhile, the prison administration claims that he is in general population!

## Two prisoners die

But the repression and brutality continue at Green Haven. One prisoner, Pedro Juan Arroyo, died of malnutrition on May 3. Then on May 10 a fire broke out in the cell of a Sunni Muslim brother. A statement sent to the *Torch/La Antorcha* by the Sunni Muslim Community at Green Haven reports what happened:

"Musa Abdul Mu'min (a/k/a William Peterson), had been confined to the Special Housing Unit (SHU), for reasons that he allegedly caused a disturbance while housed in the hospital observation cell. He had been in this observation cell only a short time before being transferred to the SHU. Peterson was detained in SHU for approximately one and one-half months.

"On Wednesday, May 10, 1978, at approximately 5:00 a.m. there was a fire in Peterson's cell. Two officers were on duty at the time of the fire. Peterson was removed from the burning cell at approximately 5:20 a.m., and taken to the facility hospital. At approximately 5:40 a.m., deputy superintendent in charge of security J. Keenan, arrived in the institution. Peterson was then removed from SHU, and taken to St. Francis Hospital at

6:00 a.m.

"Peterson was removed from St. Francis Hospital, and taken to the Albany Medical Center (Special Burn Unit), where he was treated. Approximately 4:10 p.m., on May 10, 1978, William Peterson died."

Right after Musa's death, a prisoners' action committee was formed. It organized a silent vigil on Friday, May 12, in the mess hall. Not one prisoner spoke the entire time, and few even ate. The guards started freaking out and one turned on a radio to make some noise. However, other guards made him turn it off, fearful that the prisoners would take some action.

Since then, prisoners circulated a petition addressed to Governor Hugh Carey. Every prisoner at Green Haven signed. It calls for an investigative committee to go over the facts of Brother Musa's death, and to gather evidence to indict various prison officials for negligent homicide. In addition, it calls for a review of all prisoner deaths at Green Haven in the last three years. The petition also raises the following questions:

"There appears to be something strange regarding the report circulated throughout the facility (Green Haven Correctional Facility) regarding the death of one Bro. William Peterson. It is acknowledged, that many who knew Bro. Peterson personally, knew in fact that he did not 'smoke,' and that he was removed from this (Green Haven Population) population to undergo psychiatric treatment. How then, we ask, was he permitted to burn himself to death in an area two times more controlled than an active courtroom? Furthermore; it is known that the 'segregation unit' is under twenty-four-hour surveillance. And, secondly, we further acknowledge that officers conduct hourly inspections of each inmate housing in 'segregation unit'.

"There are many questions circulating throughout this facility, and these questions are practical common sense questions. Why didn't officers stationed in 'segregation unit' respond to inmates screaming for help? Why did officers prolong responding to pleas for help? Why

wasn't the hourly inspection of inmates conducted at 5:00 a.m.? Why were other inmates removed from their cells prior to assisting Bro. Peterson who, in fact was on fire? Why did officers refuse to help Bro. Peterson once it was discovered that it was his cell on fire? Why did it take half an hour before acknowledgement was given concerning a fire situation in segregation unit? Who gave Bro. Peterson matches? How did Bro. Peterson acquire sufficient materials to start a fire in his cell? Did officers under promise of promotion start the fire? There are just too many questions unanswered which need immediate answering.

## Guards commit murder

Brother Musa's death was no accident. It was outright murder by prison guards. This is the belief of many of the Green Haven prisoners, and of members of Musa's family. In fact, one explanation going around the prison is that Musa accidentally discovered a KKK guard meeting and was killed to keep him quiet.

New York State's prison system is filled with viciously racist KKK guards. For example, at the Eastern Correctional Facility at Napanoch, there were 35 known and suspected Klan mem-

bers working as guards and supervisory personnel as of last summer. Many of these KKKers have since been transferred to Green Haven. Their aim is to harass, intimidate and even kill Black, Latin and political prisoners. Just recently a Green Haven prisoner reported to the *Torch/La Antorcha* that four Latin members of the August 8th Brigade were stopped by a group of guards claiming to be Klansmen. The racists threatened that the brothers were "the next to go."

To smash these racists is going to take an organized fight—both behind the prison walls and on the outside. It is the same fight that is needed to drive the Nazis off the streets of Detroit, Chicago, or any other place they raise their ugly heads. It is the same fight that is needed to beat back right-wing attacks on gays, on the right to abortion, on the right of workers to organize and strike.

A coalition has been formed to support the prisoners at Green Haven. On June 6 representatives of various prisoner rights and left groups including the RSL met and formed the Emergency Committee to Demand Rights for Green Haven Prisoners. The committee is planning a demonstration on July 1 at the prison. For further information write to RSL, PO Box 562, New York, NY 10036.

# CAPITALISM: NO CHOICE FOR WOMEN

BY ADELE LOHMAN

Last year, 1,270,000 legal abortions were performed in the U.S.—2.8 abortions for every live birth. These figures seem to prove that this many women exercised their choice not to have children. But did all these women have abortions because they didn't want children? And did all the women who had babies really want them? Do women have a choice in this society?

Those women who had abortions would have preferred not to get pregnant in the first place, and a lot of women who gave birth never intended to get pregnant. But there are no decent contraceptives that are both safe and work all the time.

### Women have no choice!

Working women who want children have abortions because they can't afford to lose their jobs. Mothers who would like to have more children have abortions because they can't feed another mouth.

### Women have no choice!

Women are taught that their only purpose in life is to have children; so they have them. Women are taught by their religion that birth control and abortion are sins; so they have a baby every year.

### Women have no choice!

The federal government cut off funds for Medicaid abortions. So when poor women get pregnant, they have babies. It's hard for teenage women to get birth control, so they get pregnant. It's even harder for teenagers to get an abortion; so they become mothers.



**I worked for three dollars a day. I want freedom. All my life I want freedom. We all cry for freedom!**

### Women have no choice!

Welfare mothers can't get abortions in most states, but in many cases they're told that their checks will be cut off unless they get sterilized. Some poor and minority women who sign a lot of papers when they go to a hospital to give birth aren't told that one of the forms they signed was a consent for sterilization.

### Women have no choice!

Women in capitalist society have no control over

our lives. From the day we're born we're told to get married and have children and to pick a guy who can support a family. And we're supposed to be happy cooking and cleaning and staying home.

But what if a woman gets pregnant and doesn't want to marry the guy, or he can't support a family or doesn't want to? She can have an abortion—if she can get one—or she can be a welfare mother. Or if she can get a decent job, she can be a

working mother doing two jobs with no time to have any life, and always worrying if her kids are okay while she's at work.

What would life be like in a society where women have a real choice? What would it be like under socialism?

There would be free health care for everyone, including abortion on demand, under the best medical conditions. With plenty of money and facilities for research, medical science could develop contraceptives that work for sure and don't harm women's health. Women would be able to control their bodies.

And not only their bodies. Women would have control over their lives. From the day we're born we'd know we could be anything we want to be and have any job we want. People would work shorter hours, so they'd have time to live. Women wouldn't be dependent on a man for our bread and butter. If we lived with anyone, it would be by choice.

If a woman wanted children, she wouldn't have to worry about supporting them. She'd get maternity leave from her job, both before and after giving birth. All working mothers would get free childcare. Women—and men—who want to take care of children would get paid for that, just like people get paid for teaching school. People would get paid to cook and clean, because these are jobs which are necessary and important.

In a socialist society that's how it would be. Women would have a real choice.



## ZAIRE:

# U.S. Imperialism Out of Africa!

BY CLIFF GORDON

Western imperialism, led by the United States, has launched a military, political and diplomatic offensive to shore up its waning influence in Africa. Beginning on May 19, the U.S. airlifted nearly 3,000 French and Belgian paratroopers into southern Zaire. Since then, the imperialists have taken further steps to protect their control over the region.

On June 6 in Paris, five leading Western imperialist powers reached initial agreement on a strategy to defend their interests in Zaire. The U.S., West Germany, France, Britain, and Belgium decided to place the country more directly under their control. Mobutu Sese Seko, the neo-colonialist dictator of Zaire, will remain president. The imperialists, however, have decided to strip him of any independent authority. As a condition for further economic and military support, Mobutu must submit to imperialist-appointed "advisers" who will have total power over the Zairian government.

The imperialists are also organizing an "African peacekeeping force." Military contingents from Morocco, Senegal and Gabon are currently replacing French troops occupying Zaire. The "peacekeeping



French troops terrorize Zairian civilians.

force" is a Western-controlled colonial police to guard against Russian penetration and suppress revolts by the Zairian people.

These moves are part of a general shift in the strategy of Western imperialism. The Western powers are losing ground in Africa to the national liberation movements and to the rising influence of Russian imperialism. In the maneuvering over Zaire, the Western imperialists are laying the groundwork for naked military intervention in Africa to protect their crumbling empire.

A new round of fighting over control of Zaire's Shaba province provided life cover for the first phase of this strategy. In mid-May, several thousand troops of the Congolese National Liberation Front (CNLF) left their camps in Angola and invaded Shaba province. Shaba, the southernmost province of Zaire, is rich in copper, cobalt, diamonds, uranium and other valuable minerals. By May 13, CNLF troops had captured Kolwezi, the provincial capital and key mining center of Shaba's wealthy copper zone.

With his own army putting up little resistance, Mobutu appealed to the Western imperialists to bail him out. Within a few days, the imperialist troops had chased the CNLF out of Kolwezi.

The imperialists tried to disguise their intervention as a "rescue operation" to save white Europeans from massacre at the hands of the CNLF. This is typical imperialist hypocrisy. White refugees have reported that some of the Europeans were shot down by the very same French Foreign Legion and Zairian troops sent to "rescue" them! Moreover, the capitalist press barely mentioned the atrocities committed by the European and Zairian troops against the Black people of Kolwezi. At least four Zairians died for every white killed. Most of the deaths occurred during the French/Belgian counter-attack on Kolwezi, or in the period of reprisals that followed.

Despite their claims, the French and Belgian troops were sent in to guard the imperialist mining interests and to save Mobutu's regime from collapse. Shaba is one of the richest mineral-producing areas at the disposal of Western imperialism. Although Mobutu nationalized the Belgian-owned mines in 1966, this did not end the Western corporations' domi-

nation over Zaire's resources. Through marketing agreements and by furnishing Mobutu with high-priced European management teams, the corporations continue to rake in a lion's share of the huge profits generated by the mines.

In addition to their economic motives, the imperialists have an even more basic political stake in keeping Mobutu in power. His regime is a key link in the Western-controlled network of neo-colonial African states. Since Mobutu was put in power by the CIA in 1965, he has cooperated with the U.S. in keeping central Africa free of Russian influence. Mobutu has also actively fought the developing liberation movements in southern Africa.

## CNLF: Neo-colonial mercenaries

Opposing the Mobutu regime is the CNLF. The CNLF claims to be a national liberation movement fighting in the interests of the Zairian people. A look at the CNLF's history, however, explodes this lie.

The CNLF is made up of former colonial police and their families who worked for Belgian imperialism when Zaire was known as the Belgian Congo. When the Congo became independent in 1960, the Belgian mining companies in Shaba (then called Katanga) engineered a right-wing rebellion under Moïse Tshombe. Tshombe's aim was to split off Katanga from the rest of the Congo and rule it as the private empire of the mining concerns. The backbone of Tshombe's rebel army were white South African mercenaries and the Katangan colonial police force. General Mbumba, now the leader of the CNLF, was one of Tshombe's ranking officers. The murder of Patrice Lumumba, the prime minister of the Congo Republic, is among the better-known crimes committed by the Katangan rebels in the service of imperialism.

After Tshombe's uprising was defeated, the police fled with their families across the border into Angola. Here they enlisted in the Portuguese army to help fight the

(Continued on page 17)

## JAMAICA:

# WORKERS SAY "NO" TO IMF

### A FORWARD REPRINT

(On May 9, the People's National Party (PNP) government of Jamaica announced the terms of a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), including a 43.6 percent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar over the next year—Ed.)

Since the IMF agreement, workers have been having sleepless nights. At one stroke, the price of everything went skyhigh. Basic items—cooking gas, kerosene oil, rice, flour, salt-fish—jumped highest. Some rose over 60 percent.

This is just the beginning. The IMF wants more devaluations, cuts in health, education and social programs, and even more taxes to "balance the budget."

### The IMF cannot work

The IMF is a tool of U.S. imperialism set up to "stabilize" capitalism. But it has met resistance from workers everywhere. In Peru and Egypt it caused riots and demonstrations.

Last year, Manley (PNP prime minister) got a \$74 million loan, but devaluation, price rises, \$10 guideline, production plan and layoffs only made things worse. This year it is a \$250 million loan.

Manley says that though,

the terms are harsh, the IMF was the best way. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP—rival capitalist party) agrees. According to Seaga (JLP leader), nothing is wrong with the IMF strategy of licking the workers, strengthening the police and army and forcing up capitalist profits. This is just what they did between 1962-72. Then unemployment more than doubled, tribalism grew, police brutality was rampant, and foreign capitalists were allowed to take out of the country as much as they wanted.

It is only because Seaga and Shearer want people's support that they pretend to be against the IMF terms and call for them to be renegotiated.

### Workers fight back

The working people are fighting back. On April 17, the ghetto masses took to the streets. For six weeks, Salada workers have been struggling against layoffs. Workers at JOS, Goodyear, Flour Mills, Cement Company, Belleview and elsewhere have stepped up their struggles, demanding wages that will allow them to live.

At JOS, truck loads of heavily-armed police came to mash up the strike. This is the most recent example of the brute-force tactics Manley uses to keep down the

workers. Even the smallest sign of protest is to be met with ruthless repression. Marches and public meetings have already been banned. This is Manley's last chance to make capitalism work, and he thinks workers are not supposed to interfere.

### The real alternative

Workers must reject the IMF. This means rejecting capitalism. As long as capitalists force down our working conditions and take millions out of the country, we will always be in crisis. It is only when workers take over the factories, land, supermarkets and all industries that the fruits of our labour will be used in our interests.

To be successful, we must be organized. We must build a revolutionary party. This is what RML is doing. In this crisis we must:

- 1) Organize a militant campaign against rising prices;
- 2) Call a one-day general strike or sick-out against the IMF;
- 3) Call a mass-boycott of JOS to protest against fare increase;
- 4) Organize workers defence-guards to resist capitalist attacks.

The RML calls on all trade

unions, PNP Youth Organization, and all left-wing groups to join us in organizing these actions.

On May 13, the RML carried out a mass distribution of our leaflet "No To IMF! Only Answer: Workers Control!" It was well received by the workers, small farmers and higglers. People said, "Workers must control now! Manley and Seaga sell we out!" People were running us down to get their copies and ask questions as to how they could help fight the IMF. Our leaflet also featured on JBC Radio and TV News. The truth cannot be ignored! □

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# Anti-Shah Demonstrations Continue In Iran

BY PAUL BENJAMIN

On May 9 the Iranian people rose up against the brutal dictatorship of Shah Mohammed Pahlavi. Demonstrations swept across 34 Iranian cities and towns, including a general strike in Teheran, the national capital, on May 15.

## Rebellion spreading

The May revolt was the latest in a series of uprisings over the past six months. The first demonstrations took place in the city of Qom on January 9. Since then, demonstrations have broken out every 40 days, following the traditional period of mourning for those killed in the last wave of protests.

On February 18, 200,000 demonstrators took over the city of Tabriz. They set fire to over 100 banks and destroyed the local office of the shah's rubber stamp Rastakhiz (National Resurgence) Party. (The Rastakhiz is the only legal political party in Iran.) At the same time, workers shut down factories owned by General Motors, Union Carbide and other imperialist corporations. Then on March 30, a new uprising swept through 55 Iranian cities and towns. Demonstrators attacked imperialist-owned banks and corporate offices in Rezayeh, Isfahan, and Zargand.

The shah has sent troops

industry. These reforms led to an economic boom which lasted 10 years.

In 1974, the government counted on huge oil profits to launch a \$69 billion industrialization program. Instead, oil revenues fell while prices shot up 30 percent in 1975. By 1976 the government faced a \$4 billion budget deficit.

In addition, the shah's land policy ruined Iranian agriculture. Ten years ago Iran exported food on the world market. But productivity declined on the government-run estates after the land reform. Moreover, the government raised the price of fertilizer and farm machinery while cutting the price it paid independent farmers for their produce. As a result, thousands have been driven off the land, while today basic foods like wheat and rice are rationed.

## Workers in struggle

These disasters forced the workers to revolt. In 1975 and 1976, workers in textile factories and other plants staged a series of militant strikes. In response, the government passed laws condemning strike organizers to death, and all strikers to imprisonment. But militant workers forced the government to grant concessions, including raising the minimum wage in 1975 and again



Anti-shah demonstrators stomping pro-shah thug last winter in Washington, D.C.

merchants against the government.

Now workers, peasants, merchants, religious leaders and leftist forces have united in a shaky alliance against the shah. In particular, the Shia Moslem clergy have emerged as leaders of the opposition movement. The Shias are a minority within the Islamic world, but are the dominant religious sect in Iran. In 1963 the shah expropriated the enormous landholdings of the Shia mosques, ended their domination of the schools and courts, and forced their leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, into exile. Despite government repression, the Shia clergy still command wide influence among the Iranian masses, especially among the peasants who have been forced into the cities.

Khomeini claims that Shia leaders want to overthrow the shah and restore constitutional rule in Iran. In fact, the Shia leaders are reactionaries who have refused to cooperate with revolutionaries against the shah. The reason for this is simple—a revolutionary workers' movement would threaten Khomeini's own ambitions in Iran.

## Mosques want power

Khomeini wants to restore the 1906 constitution, which gives religious leaders a veto over any legislation passed by an Iranian parliament. His movement calls for restoring land to the mosques instead of distributing land to Iran's two million landless peasants. It calls for driving women out of an active role in Iran's political and economic life and back into feudal subjugation. In other words, the religious leaders are using the masses' struggle for freedom to regain their former power and privileges.

A second opposition group is the recently formed Union of National Front Forces. It is composed mainly of liberal intellectuals and politicians. These people want to stabilize capitalist rule in Iran by cutting down the brutality and cor-

ruption of the shah's dictatorship. They have called for freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and free elections. But they have denied the shah's charges that they are cooperating with revolutionaries in Iran. Instead, they hope the U.S. ruling class will eventually pressure the shah into granting the reforms they demand.

But the U.S. is still giving full support to the shah's government. It has painted the opposition as religious fanatics opposed to land reform and the emancipation of women. At the same time, it has tried to cover up the vicious repression in Iran, and build up the shah as a crusading reformer dedicated to modernizing Iranian society.

The U.S. counts on the shah to defend U.S. interests in the Middle East against a

mass anti-imperialist movement and Russian expansion into the area. For 25 years, U.S. imperialism has joined forces with the shah to turn Iran into an imperialist fortress in the Middle East. The U.S. sells Iran over \$4 billion in arms every year and maintains 30,000 military advisors in Iran. U.S. government aid agencies and private corporations have poured over \$3 billion into Iran's economy.

Now the rebellions in Iran are threatening to wreck U.S. plans to police the Middle East through the shah and his army. But the working-class opposition movement lacks a revolutionary party to lead the fight against the shah and U.S. imperialism. This has allowed the Shia clergy and the liberal capitalists to gain control of the struggle.



**For 25 years, U.S. imperialism has joined forces with the shah to turn Iran into an imperialist fortress in the Middle East.**

and tanks into Iranian cities to suppress the revolts. Over 500 people have died in battles with the military, while thousands more have been wounded or imprisoned. But the shah has been unable to smash the opposition movement. A new round of demonstrations will probably erupt around June 20, the 40 days after the May rebellion.

These revolts demonstrate the true nature of the shah's program for turning Iran into a "modern" society. Fifteen years ago, the shah ordered a "white revolution" to modernize Iranian society. He carried out land reforms aimed at setting up large mechanized farms. He granted tax credits and protective tariffs to build up Iranian

in 1976.

The shah also tried to buy off the workers by setting up a phony "workers' participation plan" in 1975. According to this plan, major corporations were supposed to sell up to 49 percent of their stock to workers and farmers. In fact, the government actually bought up the stock to "hold in trust" for the workers. This gained the workers nothing, while it angered the Iranian capitalists and scared off foreign investors.

Finally, the shah tried to turn the masses' anger away from the government by blaming merchants, "hoarders and profiteers" for rising prices. His campaign against the merchants succeeded only in turning the

## IRANIAN STUDENTS BUSTED IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO—On May 16, Chicago police arrested 173 people participating in a demonstration against the shah of Iran. Most of the demonstrators were supporters of the Iranian Students Association (ISA). The arrests were the result of joint work by the Chicago police and SAVAK, the shah's secret police force. Eleven protesters were charged with battery, and the rest were turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for deportation hearings. The INS was later forced to release the 162 demonstrators after they all refused to give their names to the government.

The arrests were provoked by an agent of the shah known as Farshid Maham, a leader of the International Organization of Patriotic Iranians. Maham walked through the demonstration shouting pro-shah slogans and threatening physical retaliation against the demonstrators. The Chicago police arrived immediately and Maham fingered 11 people for

the police to arrest on charges of battery in over 50 other incidents. Maham has worked with Chicago police to harass left-wing Iranians.

SAVAK is working with the Chicago police to try to get militant Iranian students deported. They are trying to provoke incidents which will give the immigration authority grounds to send them back to Iran. If they are deported, the anti-shah fighters will be thrown into jail where they will be tortured and probably killed.

Even if SAVAK cannot get the Iranian students deported, it can find out their names in order to harass their families in Iran. The Chicago police are only too glad to help by trumping up charges against ISA supporters at every opportunity.

These attacks on the ISA must be fought by all workers. Immediately, this means demanding that the Chicago police stop harassing ISA supporters and drop all charges against the 11 militants. □



## ZAIRE:

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BY CLIFF GORDON

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These moves are part of a general shift in the strategy of Western imperialism. The Western powers are losing ground in Africa to the national liberation movements and to the rising influence of Russian imperialism. In the maneuvering over Zaire, the Western imperialists are laying the groundwork for naked military intervention in Africa to protect their crumbling empire.

A new round of fighting over control of Zaire's Shaba province provided the cover for the first phase of this strategy. In mid-May, several thousand troops of the Congolese National Liberation Front (CNLF) left their camps in Angola and invaded Shaba province. Shaba, the southernmost province of Zaire, is rich in copper, cobalt, diamonds, uranium and other valuable minerals. By May 13, CNLF troops had captured Kolwezi, the provincial capital and key mining center of Shaba's wealthy copper zone.

With his own army putting up little resistance, Mobutu appealed to the Western imperialists to bail him out. Within a few days, the imperialist troops had chased the CNLF out of Kolwezi.

The imperialists tried to disguise their intervention as a "rescue operation" to save white Europeans from massacre at the hands of the CNLF. This is typical imperialist hypocrisy. White refugees have reported that some of the Europeans were shot down by the very same French Foreign Legion and Zairian troops sent to "rescue" them! Moreover, the capitalist press barely mentioned the atrocities committed by the European and Zairian troops against the Black people of Kolwezi. At least four Zairians died for every white killed. Most of the deaths occurred during the French/Belgian counter-attack on Kolwezi, or in the period of reprisals that followed.

Despite their claims, the French and Belgian troops were sent in to guard the imperialist mining interests and to save Mobutu's regime from collapse. Shaba is one of the richest mineral-producing areas at the disposal of Western imperialism. Although Mobutu nationalized the Belgian-owned mines in 1966, this did not end the Western corporations' domi-

nation over Zaire's resources. Through marketing agreements and by furnishing Mobutu with high-priced European management teams, the corporations continue to rake in a lion's share of the huge profits generated by the mines.

In addition to their economic motives, the imperialists have an even more basic political stake in keeping Mobutu in power. His regime is a key link in the Western-controlled network of neo-colonial African states. Since Mobutu was put in power by the CIA in 1965, he has cooperated with the U.S. in keeping central Africa free of Russian influence. Mobutu has also actively fought the developing liberation movements in southern Africa.

## NEO-colonial mercenaries

Opposing the Mobutu regime is the CNLF. The CNLF claims to be a national liberation movement fighting in the interests of the Zairian people. A look at the CNLF's history, however, explodes this lie.

The CNLF is made up of former colonial police and their families who worked for Belgian imperialism when Zaire was known as the Belgian Congo. When the Congo became independent in 1960, the Belgian mining companies in Shaba (then called Katanga) engineered a right-wing rebellion under Moïse Tshombe. Tshombe's aim was to split off Katanga from the rest of the Congo and rule it as the private empire of the mining concerns. The backbone of Tshombe's rebel army were white South African mercenaries and the Katangan colonial police force. General Mbumba, now the leader of the CNLF, was one of Tshombe's ranking officers. The murder of Patrice Lumumba, the prime minister of the Congo Republic, is among the better-known crimes committed by the Katangan rebels in the service of imperialism.

After Tshombe's uprising was defeated, the police fled with their families across the border into Angola. Here they enlisted in the Portuguese army to help fight the

(Continued on page 17)

## JAMAICA:

# WORKERS SAY "NO" TO IMF

A FORWARD REPRINT

(On May 9, the People's National Party [PNP] government of Jamaica announced the terms of a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund [IMF], including a 43.6 percent devaluation of the Jamaican dollar over the next year—Ed.)

Since the IMF agreement, workers have been having sleepless nights. At one stroke, the price of everything went skyhigh. Basic items—cooking gas, kerosene oil, rice, flour, salt fish—jumped highest. Some rose over 60 percent.

This is just the beginning. The IMF wants more devaluations, cuts in health, education and social programs, and even more taxes to "balance the budget."

## The IMF cannot work

The IMF is a tool of U.S. imperialism set up to "stabilize" capitalism. But it has met resistance from workers everywhere. In Peru and Egypt it caused riots and demonstrations.

Last year, Manley (PNP prime minister) got a \$74 million loan, but devaluation, price rises, \$10 guideline, production plan and layoffs only made things worse. This year it is a \$250 million loan.

Manley says that though

the terms are harsh, the IMF was the best way. The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP—rival capitalist party) agrees. According to Seaga (JLP leader), nothing is wrong with the IMF strategy of licking the workers, strengthening the police and army and forcing up capitalist profits. This is just what they did between 1962-72. Then unemployment more than doubled, tribalism grew, police brutality was rampant, and foreign capitalists were allowed to take out of the country as much as they wanted.

It is only because Seaga and Shearer want people's support that they pretend to be against the IMF terms and call for them to be renegotiated.

## Workers fight back

The working people are fighting back. On April 17, the ghetto masses took to the streets. For six weeks, Salada workers have been struggling against layoffs. Workers at JOS, Goodyear, Flour Mills, Cement Company, Belleview and elsewhere have stepped up their struggles, demanding wages that will allow them to live.

At JOS, truck loads of heavily-armed police came to smash up the strike. This is the most recent example of the brute-force tactics Manley uses to keep down the

workers. Even the smallest sign of protest is to be met with ruthless repression. Marches and public meetings have already been banned. This is Manley's last chance to make capitalism work, and he thinks workers are not supposed to interfere.

## The real alternative

Workers must reject the IMF. This means rejecting capitalism. As long as capitalists force down our working conditions and take millions out of the country, we will always be in crisis. It is only when workers take over the factories, land, supermarkets and all industries that the fruits of our labour will be used in our interests.

To be successful, we must be organized. We must build a revolutionary party. This is what RML is doing. In this crisis we must:

- 1) Organize a militant campaign against rising prices;
- 2) Call a one-day general strike or sick-out against the IMF;
- 3) Call a mass-boycott of JOS to protest against fare increases;
- 4) Organize workers defence-guards to resist capitalist attacks.

The RML calls on all trade

unions, PNP Youth Organization, and all left-wing groups to join us in organizing these actions.

On May 13, the RML carried out a mass distribution of our leaflet "No To IMF! Only Answer: Workers Control!" It was well received by the workers, small farmers and higglers. People said, "Workers must control now! Manley and Seaga sell we out!" People were running us down to get their copies and ask questions as to how they could help fight the IMF. Our leaflet also featured on JBC Radio and TV News. The truth cannot be ignored! □

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# Anti-Shah Demonstrations Continue In Iran

BY PAUL BENJAMIN

On May 9 the Iranian people rose up against the brutal dictatorship of Shah Mohammed Pahlavi. Demonstrations swept across 34 Iranian cities and towns, including a general strike in Teheran, the national capital, on May 15.

## Rebellion spreading

The May revolt was the latest in a series of uprisings over the past six months. The first demonstrations took place in the city of Qom on January 9. Since then, demonstrations have broken out every 40 days, following the traditional period of mourning for those killed in the last wave of protests.

On February 18, 200,000 demonstrators took over the city of Tabriz. They set fire to over 100 banks and destroyed the local office of the shah's rubber stamp Rastakhiz (National Resurgence) Party. (The Rastakhiz is the only legal political party in Iran.) At the same time, workers shut down factories owned by General Motors, Union Carbide and other imperialist corporations. Then on March 30, a new uprising swept through 55 Iranian cities and towns. Demonstrators attacked imperialist-owned banks and corporate offices in Rezaieh, Isfahan, and Zaran.

The shah has sent troops

industry. These reforms led to an economic boom which lasted 10 years.

In 1974, the government counted on huge oil profits to launch a \$69 billion industrialization program. Instead, oil revenues fell while prices shot up 30 percent in 1975. By 1976 the government faced a \$4 billion budget deficit.

In addition, the shah's land policy ruined Iranian agriculture. Ten years ago Iran exported food on the world market. But productivity declined on the government-run estates after the land reform. Moreover, the government raised the price of fertilizer and farm machinery while cutting the price it paid independent farmers for their produce. As a result, thousands have been driven off the land, while today basic foods like wheat and rice are rationed.

## Workers in struggle

These disasters forced the workers to revolt. In 1975 and 1976, workers in textile factories and other plants staged a series of militant strikes. In response, the government passed laws condemning strike organizers to death, and all strikers to imprisonment. But militant workers forced the government to grant concessions, including raising the minimum wage in 1975 and again



Anti-shah demonstrators stomping pro-shah thug last winter in Washington, D.C.

merchants against the government.

Now workers, peasants, merchants, religious leaders and leftist forces have united in a shaky alliance against the shah. In particular, the Shia Moslem clergy have emerged as leaders of the opposition movement. The Shias are a minority within the Islamic world, but are the dominant religious sect in Iran. In 1963 the shah expropriated the enormous landholdings of the Shia mosques, ended their domination of the schools and courts, and forced their leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, into exile. Despite government repression, the Shia clergy still command wide influence among the Iranian masses, especially among the peasants who have been forced into the cities.

Khomeini claims that Shia leaders want to overthrow the shah and restore constitutional rule in Iran. In fact, the Shia leaders are reactionaries who have refused to cooperate with revolutionaries against the shah. The reason for this is simple—a revolutionary workers' movement would threaten Khomeini's own ambitions in Iran.

## Mosques want power

Khomeini wants to restore the 1906 constitution, which gives religious leaders a veto over any legislation passed by an Iranian parliament. His movement calls for restoring land to the mosques instead of distributing land to Iran's two million landless peasants. It calls for driving women out of an active role in Iran's political and economic life and back into feudal subjugation. In other words, the religious leaders are using the masses' struggle for freedom to regain their former power and privileges.

A second opposition group is the recently formed Union of National Front Forces. It is composed mainly of liberal intellectuals and politicians. These people want to stabilize capitalist rule in Iran by cutting down the brutality and cor-

ruption of the shah's dictatorship. They have called for freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and free elections. But they have denied the shah's charges that they are cooperating with revolutionaries in Iran. Instead, they hope the U.S. ruling class will eventually pressure the shah into granting the reforms they demand.

But the U.S. is still giving full support to the shah's government. It has painted the opposition as religious fanatics opposed to land reform and the emancipation of women. At the same time, it has tried to cover up the vicious repression in Iran, and build up the shah as a crusading reformer dedicated to modernizing Iranian society.

The U.S. counts on the shah to defend U.S. interests in the Middle East against a

mass anti-imperialist movement and Russian expansion into the area. For 25 years, U.S. imperialism has joined forces with the shah to turn Iran into an imperialist fortress in the Middle East. The U.S. sells Iran over \$4 billion in arms every year, and maintains 30,000 military advisors in Iran. U.S. government aid agencies and private corporations have poured over \$3 billion into Iran's economy.

Now the rebellions in Iran are threatening to wreck U.S. plans to police the Middle East through the shah and his army. But the working-class opposition movement lacks a revolutionary party to lead the fight against the shah and U.S. imperialism. This has allowed the Shia clergy and the liberal capitalists to gain control of the struggle.

## IRANIAN STUDENTS BUSTED IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO—On May 16, Chicago police arrested 173 people participating in a demonstration against the shah of Iran. Most of the demonstrators were supporters of the Iranian Students Association (ISA). The arrests were the result of joint work by the Chicago police and SAVAK, the shah's secret police force. Eleven protesters were charged with battery, and the rest were turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) for deportation hearings. The INS was later forced to release the 162 demonstrators after they all refused to give their names to the government.

The arrests were provoked by an agent of the shah known as Farshid Maham, a leader of the International Organization of Patriotic Iranians. Maham walked through the demonstration shouting pro-shah slogans and threatening physical retaliation against the demonstrators. The Chicago police arrived immediately and Maham fingered 11 people for

the police to arrest on charges of battery. In over 50 other incidents, Maham has worked with Chicago police to harass left-wing Iranians.

SAVAK is working with the Chicago police to try to get militant Iranian students deported. They are trying to provoke incidents which will give the immigration authority grounds to send them back to Iran. If they are deported, the anti-shah fighters will be thrown into jail where they will be tortured and probably killed.

Even if SAVAK cannot get the Iranian students deported, it can find out their names in order to harass their families in Iran. The Chicago police are only too glad to help by trumping up charges against ISA supporters at every opportunity.

These attacks on the ISA must be fought by all workers. Immediately, this means demanding that the Chicago police stop harassing ISA supporters and drop all charges against the 11 militants. □



**For 25 years, U.S. imperialism has joined forces with the shah to turn Iran into an imperialist fortress in the Middle East.**

and tanks into Iranian cities to suppress the revolts. Over 500 people have died in battles with the military, while thousands more have been wounded or imprisoned. But the shah has been unable to smash the opposition movement. A new round of demonstrations will probably erupt around June 20, 40 days after the May rebellion.

These revolts demonstrate the true nature of the shah's program for turning Iran into a "modern" society. Fifteen years ago, the shah ordered a "white revolution" to modernize Iranian society. He carried out land reforms aimed at setting up large mechanized farms. He granted tax credits and protective tariffs to build up Iranian

in 1976.

The shah also tried to buy off the workers by setting up a phony "workers' participation plan" in 1975. According to this plan, major corporations were supposed to sell up to 49 percent of their stock to workers and farmers. In fact, the government actually bought up the stock to "hold in trust" for the workers. This gained the workers nothing, while it angered the Iranian capitalists and scared off foreign investors.

Finally, the shah tried to turn the masses' anger away from the government by blaming merchants, "hoarders and profiteers" for rising prices. His campaign against the merchants succeeded only in turning the



# Mass Rebellions Shake Latin America

(Continued from page 1)  
sult, U.S. imperialism cut off access to the hard cash that Peru needs to buy goods abroad. Since the Peruvian economy depends on overseas sources for 60 percent of its supplies, it is quickly grinding to a halt

Stores, factories and government vehicles were put to the torch. A child was killed and 100 persons arrested in

were fighting against government policies which have greatly increased the cost of living. On May 26 the stu-

living around Baranquilla blocked a major national highway and fought it out with the cops. Throughout the country more than 500 businesses were torched or damaged, and dozens of vehicles were put out of action

• In Brazil, more than 50,000 workers went on strike beginning May 12 in defiance of the military dictatorship's ban. This was Brazil's first major work stoppage since 1968. The strike, led by the autoworkers, affected more than 20 large companies. As usual the government declared the strike illegal, but this time it did not dare repress it by force, as it has always done in the past

These are only a few of the most outstanding examples. The picture is the same in most of the region. Guatemala and El Salvador are being rocked by peasant struggles for land. In the Dominican Republic mass demonstrations—and U.S. pressure—stopped efforts by the Balaguer regime to steal the May elections. Ecuador's military rulers, fearing the same possibility have unleashed a wave of repression to keep the workers and other oppressed layers

from raising their heads, before, during, or after the July 19 elections.

At the same time that this powerful wave of rebellion is sweeping the hemisphere a big shift in the political makeup of the area's governments is taking place. The Latin American bourgeoisies are backing away from military dictatorships and moving toward civilian rule. The liberal wing of the capitalists is coming more and more to the fore

## What are the liberals up to?

The liberal politicians don't want the situation to get out of control. They figure, correctly, that the popular upsurge is not contained, it could turn into a continentwide movement against the capitalist system. The liberals realize that continued heavy repression won't stop the eventual explosion. In fact, it will make that explosion all the more cataclysmic and hard to control. So they want to ease up. They hope to put themselves at the head of the masses; to limit their struggles to a program of "democratic" reforms within the system, and to isolate the socialist revolutionaries.

The shift to civilian governments of one form or another is a

(Continued on page 11)



Nicaraguan masses denounce dictator Somoza at funeral of slain opposition leader.

As the price for more imperialist loans, the U.S.—acting through the International Monetary Fund (IMF)—imposed a program of stiff economic cutbacks. On May 14, Morales Bermudez started implementing the IMF cuts by removing price subsidies from foodstuffs and other necessities. The results were immediate increases from 50 to 120 percent in the prices of essential goods. This came on top of an 80 percent inflation rate, recent tax increases and currency devaluations.

This latest government attack touched off a hurricane. Peru's workers took to the streets in violent clashes with the regime. In many places barricades went up, made of whatever materials were at hand. Traffic on major arteries was cut. The workers launched frequent and sustained attacks against the government's troops and cops. Three key cities—Arequipa, Cuzco, and Trujillo—went out on a general strike. Altogether, there were street clashes in at least 28 cities and towns.

## Nationwide general strike

The workers' struggle forced the hand of the union bureaucrats. They called a nationwide general strike for May 22 and 23. During the strike the workers shut the country down tight, and they continued to take on the cops and the army in the streets. After two days, the bureaucrats ended the strike. But the heroic workers of Arequipa held out for another week. At least 49 persons were killed during all the clashes. More than 2,000 people were arrested.

Similar rebellions are taking place in much of the hemisphere, and for the same reasons.

• In Nicaragua, the workers, peasants and students continue to press for the overthrow of the 42-year-old Somoza dictatorship. On May 24 and 25, thousands of people fought government troops in the town of Esteli

the biggest revolt since last January's general strike.

• In Colombia on May 19, half a million government workers went out on a 24-hour general strike. They

denied of the National University and other schools took the struggle into the streets in hard encounters with the police.

On the same day workers

Tomas Borge is one of many leftist political prisoners being held by the bloody dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza in Nicaragua. Borge, a leading member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), was captured in February 1976 after an intense search by Nicaraguan police and the Special Brigade Against Terrorist Actions. For many months after his arrest, Borge was held in complete isolation. Then, in a document written by Borge and smuggled out of prison last year, he described the incredible tortures to which he had been subjected during seven months of the secret interrogations.

"There wasn't any part of the body where they didn't beat me," he wrote, "including the face and testicles. They fractured, at least, two of my ribs. I didn't sleep, or if I did, it must have been during the short minutes that they left me alone. Food, I was not given any, and the water was rationed to a glass every 24 hours. They would not allow me to go to the bathroom. I urinated on the floor, while they beat me. . . . In this new stage, the torture consisted in remaining on my feet. I lasted in that position approximately one month. My feet became monstrously swollen. When the swelling began to burst my skin, they let me rest for about three days.

But he did not talk! The government's torturers wanted to know the locations of FSLN "safe houses," where the guerrillas hold

meetings and often live. Yet despite their most barbaric attempts, they could not break the will of Tomas Borge.

Shortly after the publication of his letter from prison, Borge joined with other Sandinista prisoners in a hunger strike demanding an end to his isolation and a transfer from the underground dungeon of the Loma de Tiscapa in Managua to the so-called Model Prison in Tipitapa. After a hunger strike of 50 days, Borge was transferred, but remained in isolation. A second hunger strike, in July of last year, ended with his hospitalization. Still the Somoza regime will not budge.

## Smash capitalism in Nicaragua!

The Somoza regime is afraid of Borge and of the other leftist political prisoners it holds. The Nicaraguan masses are beginning to move, and a strong political consciousness is growing among the working class and oppressed small farmers. To allow the Sandinista prisoners to circulate among the general prison population would be an invitation to prison revolts, linking up with the strike wave and demonstrations which continue outside the prison walls.

The real enemy of Borge and his comrades is not just the brute Somoza, bad as he is, but the capitalist system which backs him up, and allows Somoza-style regimes to exist in many parts of the world.

The fight to free Borge-

must be part of an anti-capitalist struggle of the Nicaraguan masses, led by the Nicaraguan working class. The present class-collaborationist leadership of the FSLN is not capable of building such a fight. To them, Borge is a symbol for their "anti-Somoza" campaign—a campaign to dump the butcher without upset-

ting the murderous class system he stands on. This is a deadly incorrect strategy, and must be exposed, at the same time that we call for the immediate, unqualified release of all the Sandinista prisoners.

**Tomas Borge Must Be Free!**  
**Forward to the Socialist Revolution in Nicaragua!**

*"There wasn't any part of the body where they didn't beat me, including the face and testicles. They fractured, at least, two of my ribs. I didn't sleep, or if I did, it must have been during the short minutes that they left me alone. Food, I was not given any, the water was rationed. I urinated on the floor, while they beat me. . . ."*



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(Continued from page 10) another is very strong. For example, after 10 years in power, Peru's military has called for a constituent assembly to meet June 19 to turn the reins over to a civilian government. Bolivia's generals will soon do the same after 14 years of military rule. Of the 10 Latin republics in South America, all but three are having new elections this year. The picture is the same in Central America and the Caribbean.

The major exceptions are Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. These regimes are resisting the trend to civilian rule. But several have been forced to make a pretense of reestablishing some political rights.

Behind the liberals' maneuvers stands U.S. imperialism. The U.S. owns the bulk of Latin America's mines, factories, and wealth. It also controls most of the region's trade, credits, and technology. Like the liberals, the U.S. fears that the wave of struggles may get out of control. A revolutionary workers' movement could threaten the U.S. hold over the hemisphere.



Cuzco, Peru, during recent general strikes.

Continued unrest and economic crisis could also push some elements of the bourgeoisie or the middle classes to break with the U.S. and bring in Russian imperialism.

The Russians already have a toe-hold in the region. Peru's "left" military dictatorships have accepted Russian aid and bought Russian arms since 1973. It is not hard to imagine a new Peruvian regime coming to power which—under the threat of bankruptcy and social revolt—might opt to repudiate the debts to the U.S. and invite the Russians in. The U.S. does not want another Cuba in this hemisphere, which it considers its own back yard.

To forestall these dangers, the U.S. has been working hand in hand with the liberals. This is the meaning of Carter's much-ballyhooed campaign of "human rights" as it has been applied to Latin America. Carter has been putting a good deal of pressure on the military dictatorships.

### Imperialism plays "nice guy"

Revolutionaries and militants should not be indifferent to the campaign of the U.S. and the liberal capital-

ists in Latin America. The Latin masses should take advantage of every opening that this campaign offers them. The less repression, the easier it will be for the workers, peasants, and other oppressed layers to organize themselves and fight for their needs.

But no one should have any illusions in the U.S. or its liberal allies. Their campaign for "human rights" and "democratic rule" in Latin America is a fraud from beginning to end. In the first place, the move to civilian rule is often purely cosmetic. In most cases the generals are simply taking off their uniforms. A fixed election here and there, and there you have it! A "democratic" Latin America! In El Salvador, Guatemala, and Paraguay this is what has happened. And this is what will be happening in Brazil, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

Second, and more important, U.S. imperialism is the parent of the military dictatorships there. It was the U.S. which fomented the coup in Brazil in 1964; invaded the Dominican Republic in 1965; was behind Pinochet's overthrow of Allende in Chile in 1973; and so

been, that of the Latin American liberals has not been much cleaner. These ladies and gentlemen are themselves recent supporters of the military gorillas. The overwhelming majority of them welcomed Pinochet in Chile; backed Somoza in Nicaragua; quietly worked with Balaguer in the Dominican Republic; and so on. The reason is simple: like their U.S. big brothers, the Latin liberals are capitalists. When the masses have come knocking at the gates of their shops and villas, these people have never had any qualms about employing the most ruthless repression to turn them back.

### No faith in the bourgeoisie!

For the umpteenth time, U.S. imperialism and its liberal allies in Latin America are trying to corral the workers behind the illusion of democratic rule. If the workers fall for this tired old trick, they will only be putting their heads in the guillotine again.

There is no real long-term basis for bourgeois democracy in Latin America—an area that is systematically plundered by imperialism. Once the masses realize that the civilian capitalist regimes offer no way out of their oppression; once these regimes can't rein them in anymore, the local capitalists will bring back the hangmen, the torturers, the CIA-trained death squads.

The workers must not forget the most basic lesson taught by Latin American history: no faith, whatsoever in the bourgeoisie, no matter how "left" or "democratic" sections of it may appear.

The bourgeoisie and all its wings—whether liberal or conservative, or radical nationalist—is much too afraid of the masses to break with imperialism. Though it is often in contradiction with the imperialists, it turns to them without hesitation when capitalist rule is threatened at home. Its opposition to imperialism is never uncompromising. It is temporary, partial, fleeting, and at bottom therefore, completely counterfeited.

The only road forward for the workers is the seizure of power. They must smash the treadmill of oppression, misery and death by taking the reins of society in their own hands. □



Two victims of Brazilian anti-communist death squad.



### Black workers strike in South Africa

As the second anniversary of the Soweto revolt approaches, the class struggle in South Africa remains strong. On May 22, Black miners in Welkom rebelled against miserable working conditions, launching a seven-hour battle with the apartheid regime's riot police. At the same time, Black bus drivers in Vereeniging struck for higher wages. Finally, Black and so-called Colored workers at an engineering plant walked off their jobs demanding better working conditions, higher pay, and union recognition. These struggles show that Black workers in South Africa are continuing to fight back against the white racist regime.

To smash this resistance, the Vorster government is carrying out a new crackdown. On May 30, soldiers surrounded Black townships in Soweto, Alexandra and Cape Town and arrested hundreds of workers entering or leaving. On June 5, police invaded the Crossroads squatters' camp near Cape Town and arrested more than 50 workers. The government is trying to prevent a celebration of the Soweto uprising. On June 16 last year, hundreds of thousands of workers and students held strikes and demonstrations to mark the event. Vorster fears that a new series of rebellions may be in the offing.

### Chilean hunger strike spreads

On May 9, six men and 60 women in Chile began a hunger strike against the Pinochet dictatorship. They are demanding that the government release information on the fate of their relatives, who are among 2,500 people who have "disappeared." These people are in reality among the many political foes of the regime who have been secretly arrested, tortured, and murdered by Pinochet's secret police. The hunger strike set off a worldwide protest against the Chilean government. Hunger strikes are going on in at least 20 countries. In the U.S. alone, they are taking place in Portland, San Jose, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Tucson, New York, Boston, and Washington, D.C.

In recent months the Chilean government has taken steps intended to soften international condemnation of the regime. On March 9 the government reduced the "state of siege" to a "state of emergency." On April 5 it announced that it would allow 224 political prisoners to go into exile. On April 9 it declared an amnesty for political prisoners arrested during and after the 1973 coup.

The government granted this so-called amnesty only to hide the real nature of its brutal rule. The amnesty applies only to those who were tried or faced charges in Chilean courts. It bans further legal proceedings to force disclosure of information on the thousands of Chileans who were kidnapped and secretly imprisoned or murdered. And it "amnesties" the cops from possible charges for killings, kidnappings or beatings. Pinochet hopes that these phony reforms will end the international pressure against his regime. The current campaign shows that he is mistaken.

### China/Vietnam war in the making?

On May 24 the Chinese government condemned Vietnam for racist attacks on the 1.5 million Chinese living in Vietnamese territory. The Vietnamese government in turn has attacked China for big-power chauvinism and interference in Vietnamese internal affairs. Both of them are right. Once again two so-called socialist countries in Southeast Asia are at each other's throats. Behind their accusations lies a power struggle between China and Vietnam for control of the wealth of Southeast Asia.

Despite their socialist rhetoric, both of these countries are capitalist states in which the ruling class exploits the labor of the workers and peasants through its control of the nationalized economy. Like all capitalist rulers, the Chinese and Vietnamese leaders want to increase their power and wealth at the expense of weaker neighbors. The Vietnamese rulers maintain 50,000 troops in Laos and are fighting a war with Kampuchea (Cambodia). They would like to swallow up both Laos and Kampuchea in a "Southeast Asia Federation" under Vietnamese control. At the same time, the Vietnamese fear that China is trying to reassert its own traditional domination of the region. To counter the Chinese, Vietnam is relying on Russian imperialism. The Russians are only too eager to further their own imperialist designs on both China and Southeast Asia. Vietnam has given them a naval base on its territory in return for economic and military aid.

The Chinese fear the rise of a Vietnamese empire which would compete with them for control of Southeast Asia. So they are giving aid and political support to Kampuchea in order to counter the Vietnamese.

The workers and peasants of Southeast Asia are the real victims of this imperialist rivalry. Three years ago they won a heroic victory against U.S. imperialism. Now their state-capitalist rulers are threatening to use them as cannon fodder in a new series of wars to determine who will emerge as the capitalist top dog in the area.

—PB



BY PAUL ALDRIDGE & RON TABER

On June 7, Mayor Albert Smith announced that the Nazis had been given a permit to march in Skokie, Illinois. The decision marked another step in the long, legal battle over the Nazis' plans to demonstrate in this predominantly Jewish community. On June 12, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to issue a stay, clearing the way for the Nazis to march in Skokie on June 25.

Already, a coalition of Jewish organizations has obtained a permit to counterdemonstrate against the Nazis. Organizers of this action estimate that over 50,000 demonstrators will turn out. The Revolutionary Socialist League and the Black and White Defense Committee are mobilizing a revolutionary contingent to help stop the Nazi march.

The march in Skokie highlights the growing visibility of the Nazis over the last few years. Meanwhile, the struggle against the reactionary forces has also grown. In Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Philadelphia and other major cities, militant actions against the Nazis have been organized. As yet, however, the anti-Nazi forces have not developed a unified strategy for smashing the vultures.

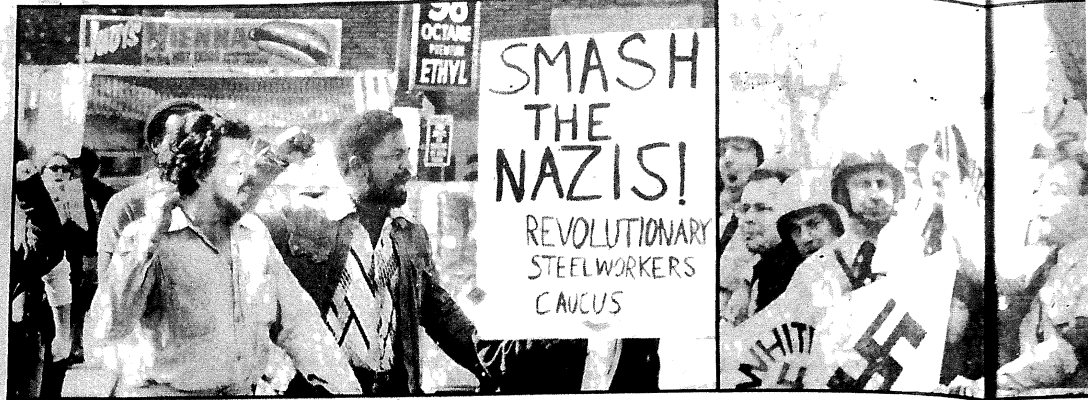
The question of anti-Nazi strategy is important for all working and oppressed people. It will determine whether or not a fighting movement is built that can stop the Nazis from building their organization and spreading their racist, anti-working-class lies. In addition, it will have a major impact on the growth of the broader struggle against the capitalists.

### Workers key to anti-Nazi fight

During the last period, the Revolutionary Socialist League has fought for a revolutionary strategy to destroy the Nazis. This approach is based on the principle that the working class must lead this fight.

The Nazis are the capitalists' last resort in the attempt to maintain their dying system. Today, the Nazis are few in numbers and are only capable of isolated attacks on their victims. But the threat they pose is much greater. As the capitalists are driven to the wall by the deepening economic crisis, they will turn more openly to the Nazis with funds and support. This, plus a mass of demoralized people ruined by the crisis, will enable the Nazis to build a mass movement. Eventually, the capitalists will try to put the Nazis in power. Once in power, the Nazis would use the most barbarous methods to protect the property and profits of the capitalist class.

They would try to exterminate the Jews as Hitler did during World War II. They would force Blacks into a new



# For A Working-Class Strategy To Fight the Nazis

## How the SWP's Liberalism Betrays the Struggle

slavery. They would attack and destroy all working-class organizations and leaders. The living conditions of the working class would be driven down to a bare subsistence level. Finally, the Nazis' rise to power would bring on a new period of war and mass destruction. To prevent a Nazi victory, we must build a mass working-class movement that can crush the Nazis and the capitalist system they serve.

### Organize anti-Nazi defense guards

In developing a strategy for building this movement, the RSL has outlined two related tasks. First is the need to physically confront the Nazis. In the trade unions and in the working-class communities, defense squads must be organized and trained to deal with any attack by Nazi hoodlums. But these defense organizations must do more than defend people from Nazi attacks. The Nazi organizations must be destroyed. This means that the defense squads must drive the Nazis off the streets. Nazi meetings must be broken up and their offices shut down. The Nazis must be denied any opportunity to spread their filth.

Along with this defense work, the anti-Nazi movement must fight for a working-class program that points to a way out of the capitalist crisis. The Nazis attract people who are ground down by the economic crisis and see

no alternative. They accept the Nazi lies and blame Blacks, Latins, Jews and other minorities for the destruction of their living standards. By fighting for a program of jobs, decent housing, education, expanded social services and other things that we need, the anti-Nazi movement can win many of these people away from the Nazis. They can be won to the working-class struggle against the capitalists.

### Organize inside trade unions

A key part of the anti-Nazi struggle is a fight to win the trade unions to the struggle against the Nazis. The unions are the largest working-class organizations in the United States. They have tremendous resources and power. If the unions mobilized for the anti-Nazi struggle, the masses of unorganized and unemployed workers could be easily brought into the battle and the Nazis would be quickly smashed.

Militants must demand that the present leaders of the unions take an active role in mobilizing the union movement.

They must organize among the rank and file in the unions to force the labor movement into action against the Nazis. The unions, in a united front with community and left organizations, would represent an overwhelming force against the Nazis and other right-wing forces.

Throughout this work revolutionaries must fight to convince the workers that they must rely only on their own strength and organization. The capitalists and the rotten union leadership will try to tell the workers that they are incapable of defending themselves. They want to trick the workers into relying on the cops, the courts and the liberal politicians to protect them. These lies must be fought.

This is the outline of a revolutionary strategy for fighting the Nazis. However, it is not the only strategy that is being put forward. Workers must take a hard look at the other strategies and decide whether or not

they can actually eliminate the Nazi threat.

### SWP debates strategy

In the May 26 issue of the Militant newspaper, the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) explained their strategy for dealing with the Nazis in Skokie. Responding to a call by Chicago-area Jewish organizations, the SWP offered to support the Skokie counterdemonstration. Along with this, they initiated a debate on how the Nazis can be most effectively opposed.

The article, written by the managing editor of the Militant, began with a discussion of the Nazis' plans to march in Skokie. Next, the article discounts the existing Nazis as a long-term threat. The article states: "given their identification with Hitlerism and German nationalism, Nazi outfits such as Collin's (the leader of the Nazis based in Marquette Park—Ed.) are unlikely to be the nucleus of a major fascist movement in this country. American fascists will combine white chauvinism with red, white, and blue super-patriotism."

Despite this, the SWP recognizes that the Nazis have "committed serious acts of violence against Blacks, socialists and others." This means that "opponents of the Nazis must mobilize to fight these terrorist attacks and demand that the criminals responsible for them be arrested, prosecuted and locked away."

The article then goes on to criticize the Jewish United Fund for relying on legal maneuvers to stop the Nazis from marching in Skokie. The SWP correctly points out that laws which are supposed to be used against the Nazis will in fact be used against left-wing and anti-Nazi organizations.

The next part of the article takes on the American Civil Liberties Union for representing the Nazis in the court fight over the march. While the SWP does not deny the right of the Nazis to march, they try to convince the ACLU that its resources would be better spent defending workers and other oppressed people from attack by the



Cops make an arrest in Chicago anti-Nazi demonstration.

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# Mass Strategy Against the Nazis

## SWP's in struggle

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"intimidate and demoralize" the Nazis through peaceful demonstrations. In other words, the SWP tells workers and other oppressed people that the Nazis aren't really much of a danger and in any case the workers should limit themselves to peaceful demonstrations and rely on the capitalist state to protect them.

### SWP courts liberals, labor hacks

For the SWP there is a reason for this mealy-mouthed approach. Under the militant words, the SWP's approach is to coax liberal politicians, community leaders and labor bureaucrats to form coalitions to organize demonstrations against the Nazis. To do this, they have to keep the anti-Nazi fight as respectable as possible.

As a result, they try to pose the anti-Nazi struggle only as a struggle for democratic rights—which most liberals are for—rather than a class battle led by the working class—which the liberals are against. If the SWP told the truth about the Nazis, they would have to expose the ties between Nazism and capitalism. More importantly, they would have to explain that a lasting defeat of the Nazis is linked to the overthrow of the whole capitalist system. Obviously, such talk would scare away the liberals, who defend capitalism. Consequently, the SWP sacrifices the interests of the working class to its attempt to slide up to the liberals.

For the same reason, the SWP has to make sure that the anti-Nazi fight involves no violence—heaven forbid—and that the capitalists' law and order is preserved. There is nothing—not even the Nazis—that scares away liberals and labor bureaucrats quicker than militant struggle on the part of the workers. This is why the SWP says nothing about organizing defense guards to run the Nazis off the street. And it is why they tell the workers to rely on the capitalist police and courts, the tools of the capitalist class, to protect them.

### Snivelling orientation

The SWP's snivelling orientation to the liberals and labor hacks is the key to their whole strategy. They have no intention of building a militant struggle against the Nazis. They want a respectable, peaceful movement which will give them an arena to recruit out of. They have no desire to build a movement that is led by workers who understand who the Nazis are and what they represent. The SWP doesn't want the workers to lead. They want the workers to be cannon fodder in a reformist movement that is controlled by liberal spokespeople, church leaders and union bureaucrats. All the talk about mobilizing the labor movement and educating the workers is a lot of horse-shit to cover up what the SWP is really up to.

With this orientation, it is not surprising that the SWP holds up the Labor-Community-Interfaith Council as an example of the kind of coalition that they want to build. From its inception in Detroit, it has been a barrier to developing a militant anti-Nazi struggle. At every turn, the council has sabotaged any anti-Nazi effort that does not show the proper "respect" for the capitalists' laws and police.

The council was organized in Detroit by a former UAW bureaucrat, Paul Boatin. It includes representatives from several unions, liberal community and religious organizations and a number of left groups. Although the stated aim of the council is to rid Detroit of Nazis, it has opposed any confrontation with the Nazis and rejected the need for defense squads. It also rejected the necessity to broaden the anti-Nazi struggle to include the fight for jobs, housing and other demands. Instead, the main thrust of the council's work has been

to appeal to the Detroit ruling class to outlaw the Nazis and—surprise!—to tell workers to rely on the cops and obey the law.

The results of this strategy were predictable. On February 19, a supporter of the Workers Defense Committee (a committee initiated by the RSL) was stabbed by a Nazi who had sneaked into a council meeting. Apparently this Nazi wasn't intimidated and demoralized.

Despite this incident the council leadership has refused to change its strategy. In fact, the council has condemned militant actions against the Nazis. On March 12, the day after the Nazis' march was busted up in St. Louis, the RSL put a motion before the coalition to support the victory. Boatin ruled the motion out of order. The Nazis, he explained, had to be opposed by peaceful means. And, following this line, the coalition has limited its work to courting liberal politicians and labor bureaucrats, and organizing a peaceful motorcade and one demonstration.

The opening of the new Nazi bookstore on Detroit's northwest side presented the Boatin coalition with another opportunity to show what it could do to defeat the Nazis. Hundreds of workers spontaneously rose up against the Nazis to drive them out of the community (see article, page 1). At a community meeting called a few days after the bookstore was opened and after over 50 people were arrested for fighting the Nazis and cops, the coalition again stepped in to sabotage the struggle. Boatin and his supporters tried to convince angry people from the community to rely on the neighborhood businessmen and the cops to get

rid of the Nazis. Instead of organizing these workers to fight, they held them back. Yet, this cowardly coalition is the SWP's model.

This recent example exposes the real meaning of the SWP's strategy for fighting the Nazis: if the struggle against the Nazis is to be victorious, the reformist strategy of the SWP must be decisively rejected. Under the cover of building a mass mobilization of anti-Nazi forces, the SWP is trying to tie workers and other anti-Nazi fighters to the liberals and labor bureaucrats. As the example of the Labor-Community-Interfaith Council proves, this will not lead to smashing the Nazis.

On the contrary, workers will become discouraged with the pacifist pleadings of the liberals, and the Nazis will continue their dirty work. Rather than being mobilized to fight, workers will be driven away from the struggle—once they see that there is no real perspective for taking on the Nazis.

### Working class must lead

To revolutionary Marxists—as opposed to fakers—the working class is the key force in the anti-Nazi struggle. This means that the working class must lead this fight. Despite what the SWP tries to claim, it has no interest in building a real working-class-led movement. Along with their liberal cohorts, they will do everything they can to see that the struggle is kept within "acceptable" limits. If the SWP is able to convince the anti-Nazi movement to follow their reformist strategy, it will lead it from one defeat to another.

## SWP: ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

The SWP claims to support a militant fight against the Nazis. But actions speak louder than words.

On March 11, anti-Nazi forces won an important victory in St. Louis, Missouri. A planned march and rally by the National Socialist (Nazi) Party of America was broken up by several thousand militant protesters, forcing the Nazis to flee under heavy police protection.

As the *Torch/La Antorcha* reported in our March 15-April 14 issue: "The Nazis were in St. Louis to hold a national convention. They intended their march and rally to be a major show of force. Instead, the uniformed storm-troopers were routed.

"By the time the Nazis' flatbed truck arrived at the start of the planned parade route, thousands of people from this largely German and Polish community had already gathered. Unable to even get off their truck, the Nazis cancelled their march. Instead, they quickly drove through the march route, chanting: "White Power." The angry crowd responded by hurling stones, bottles and snowballs at the Nazis.

"The Nazi truck headed off for Gravois Park, the site of a scheduled rally. But a crowd of over 500 anti-Nazi protesters, led by red-helmeted members of the Revolutionary Socialist League and the Black and White Defense Committee (BWDC), took up pursuit of the Nazis. Again the Nazis were forced to retreat, abandoning Gravois Park to the anti-fascist forces, who held their own rally there.

"While the rally was still in progress, word was received that the Nazis had returned to their hall, eight blocks away. A BWDC speaker called on the crowd to march on the Nazi headquarters. Chanting "Death to the Nazis," hundreds of demonstrators moved out of the park.

"Warned of the approaching crowd, the cops whisked the Nazis from their meeting into 'protective custody' at police headquarters. Scores of additional cops lined the street in front of the Nazi hall. The demonstrators tried to break through the police lines, but were driven back by club-swinging cops, dressed in full riot gear, and police attack dogs. No serious injuries were reported on either side."

What was the SWP's attitude toward these events? On the night before the Nazis' attempted march, the St. Louis branch of the SWP held a meeting entitled "Nazis and Democratic Rights." The main speakers included a representative of the ACLU, a survivor of the Holocaust and the SWP. During the discussion period, supporters of the RSL asked if the SWP was planning to participate in the anti-Nazi demonstration. The SWP spokesperson said, "No," and tried to convince other people at the meeting not to attend. Denouncing the RSL as "sectarian and ultra-left," the SWP spokesperson claimed that we would be crushed by the cops if the Nazis didn't get to us first. If there was going to be a real fight against the Nazis, the SWP didn't want to be anywhere in sight.

As it turned out, the SWP was dead wrong. So how did they report the victory of the anti-Nazi forces in St. Louis? In a tiny three-paragraph article falsely entitled "Nazis Jeered in St. Louis," buried in the back of the March 31 *Militant*, they gave their account of the day's events. The article briefly described the counterdemonstration. When it came to reporting on the role of the RSL and BWDC, the article said: "A small group of twenty-five counterdemonstrators, led by the sectarian Revolutionary Socialist League, broke away from the crowd, and were attacked by the cops."

This "distortion" was not the result of bad information—even the capitalist newspapers carried more accurate reports. The cowardice of the SWP is only outweighed by their dishonesty.



# Ford Workers Wildcat in Romeo

By an  
Autoworker Correspondent

On Thursday, May 11, workers on the first shift at Ford's Romeo Tractor Plant in Romeo, Michigan, dropped their tools and wildcatted. They brought campers, cars and trucks to barricade all plant gates and CBs to keep in touch with each other. Production did not resume until May 22—11 days later.

The wildcat was sparked on the morning of May 11 when management tried to threaten a welder into speeding up his job. As Ford was disciplining him for standing up for himself, word spread throughout the welding section and into the rest of the plant to walk.

Behind the wildcat was four years of speedup, harassment and 900 ignored grievances—four years of building frustration and anger inside most workers. A leaflet the strikers put out said:

"We are tired of the constant harassment by the company. We are tired of being treated like robots so that they can turn us off and on and up and down at their own pleasure. We have been treated unfair through mental and physical action by supervision. We have tried to resolve these problems

through the legal grievance procedure. But all we've got is false promises and little action."

Ford tried to break the wildcat by buying radio time and announcing that the plant would be reopened on Monday, May 15. But workers would not cross the picket lines and the plant stayed shut. More workers started coming down to the picket lines. Demands were drawn up for no disciplinary action to be taken against any hourly employee and that all undue harassment be stopped.

## UAW hacks step in

Ford then fired 17 workers and threatened a court injunction against the strike. At this point, the United Auto Workers (UAW) International stepped in and scheduled a meeting at the Local 155 hall in Detroit, 25 miles from the plant.

At this meeting, the Romeo strikers of Local 400 were prepared to fight a sellout. They rallied at the Romeo plant gate and drove to Detroit in a caravan. The plans were to shout down back-to-work speakers, call a strike vote and return to the picket lines.

But the meeting was set

up by the union leadership to ensure a vote against the strike. Ken Morris, head of Region 1B, chaired the meeting. He used threats of a court injunction and no sup-

When Morris saw the sentiment in his favor, he called a back-to-work vote.

The union hacks promised to act quickly through the legal grievance procedure to



Ford workers on picket line in Romeo, Michigan.

port from the International to make workers afraid of continuing the strike. Speakers were hand-picked by Morris and many of the strike's most dedicated supporters were denied speaking rights.

get the fired workers back. But there had been many promises over the past four years, and strikers left feeling sold out by the UAW.

Sixteen men and one woman are out on the street.

The Romeo workers are preparing to fight these firings using the unity and organization that was built during the strike. A committee of fired workers and supporters was formed called the Romeo Committee to Bring 'Em Back. Workers inside the plant are selling buttons to support the fired workers. They are organizing a strikeable grievance campaign to bring the plant out again. And they are demanding a union meeting to begin the strike procedure.

## Unite behind Romeo workers

But the Local 400 leadership has no intention of calling a strike. The union hacks are stalling, hoping the anger will go away. And many workers are waiting on the International to do something. Strikes and militant shop-floor actions are what is needed to force Ford to rehire all 17 workers. The most militant workers at Romeo must be organizing for such actions. As more workers see the UAW hacks sell their interests down the river, a strategy of militant action will become more popular.

All workers must let the Romeo workers know that we are behind them and will do all we can to aid the struggle. Messages of solidarity and funds can be sent care of: Revolutionary Auto-workers Committee, PO Box 302, Detroit, MI 48221. □

## LABOR IN STRUGGLE



## Murder at \$2,000 a head

In April, 51 workers were killed in West Virginia when the scaffolding on which they were working collapsed. On June 8, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced it is moving against three contracting firms responsible in this massacre. Research-Cottrell Inc. and the two other firms are being fined a total of \$108,300 for safety violations. That works out to about a \$2,000 charge for each man these capitalists murdered.

OSHA says these fines are "close to the maximum" penalty under the law. In other words, even after killing 51 workers for profit, these capitalists will not even face the maximum punishment, light as that is.

OSHA is also "considering" criminal legal action against the firms if they find evidence of "willful neglect." But evidence has already come to light that OSHA itself is just as guilty of this as are the construction firms it is investigating. OSHA inspected the construction site a full year before the so-called accident took place. It issued a report warning of "disastrous consequences" if the scaffolding procedures were not changed. Beyond that, OSHA did not lift a finger to protect the workers. As OSHA continues to ponder the question of "willful neglect," workers are still dying at the construction site. On June 10, a 19-year-old worker was killed when he fell 100 feet to the ground.

## Workers' health inflationary?

Byssinosis is the technical name for "brown lung disease." About 35,000 textile workers are afflicted by brown lung as a result of breathing in cotton dust. Workers who contract brown lung have trouble breathing, cough up wads of cotton dust, and eventually die in agony.

In May, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued new regulations offering some minimal protection against brown lung. These rules required the textile industry to install \$625

million of anti-pollution equipment that would reduce the disease risk to what OSHA considers a "safe" level.

Jimmy Carter, however, used a presidential order to overturn these regulations. Carter opposed the OSHA measures as "inflationary." He proposed letting the textile bosses substitute individual respirator masks in place of more costly central plant equipment.

Under a storm of public criticisms, and opposition from Labor Secretary Marshall, Carter backed off somewhat on June 7. In an apparent compromise, Carter announced he has dropped the respirator mask plan in favor of "engineering controls."

The real importance of the affair is that Carter has made plain the real attitude of the capitalist class toward the lives of working-class people. Workers are just another piece of raw material to be fed into the machinery of production. There is one difference, however. With inflation, the costs of machinery and raw materials are going up. The lives of individual workers, however, are becoming cheaper on a daily basis. Carter's action is an open admission that economic progress under capitalism depends on a steadily higher industrial death rate. Neither Carter's plan nor OSHA's proposal protects textile workers from brown lung. Carter's respirators would result in 26 percent of all textile workers getting brown lung. The OSHA "safe" level would reduce this to 13 percent. Neither side is proposing that brown lung be eliminated. The only point at issue is the number of workers condemned to die.

## NYC workers sold out

On June 5, officials representing 225,000 union city workers reached agreement on a new contract with the government of New York City. It is now being taken to the union membership for a ratification vote.

While the Koch administration had to back off on some of its takeaway demands, the contract proposal would be a massive setback for city

workers if it is passed. The heart of the proposal is across-the-board wage slashing.

The union bureaucrats who arranged this sellout deal are billing the wage increases as eight percent over the two-year period of the agreement. But because each yearly increment of the wage increase is to be delayed three months, the real annual increase comes to between two and a half and three percent. This is half the amount of Carter's five and a half percent annual wage guideline. With prices going up at a 10 percent rate, city workers would find their buying power shrinking faster than ever before under this agreement.

The contract proposal also eliminates the cost-of-living clause. In place of the old formula, workers will be paid a flat bonus of \$750 per year. When the past contract expired, the old formula meant that city workers were getting \$882 per year in cost-of-living adjustments.

## Pregnant woman killed by INS

Since the middle of May, the Texas Farm Workers (TFW) union has led hundreds of people in marches. The demonstrations have been organized to protest the vicious repression on the part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Protests have been held in the Texan towns of Laredo, Progreso and Brownsville, and in the Mexican town of Nuevo Progreso.

The campaign was sparked by the death of Maria Contreras on May 16. Contreras, a mother of 11 children and eight months pregnant, died while being questioned by agents of the U.S. Border Patrol. Her unborn child died as well.

When Contreras, a U.S. citizen, was returning from Mexico she was held for questioning because a young woman riding in her car had no papers. Although she was extremely ill at the time, the border men did not stop their interrogation. Even when Contreras began vomiting they did not stop. They also refused to call an ambulance. Before they were done with her, she died of a heart attack.

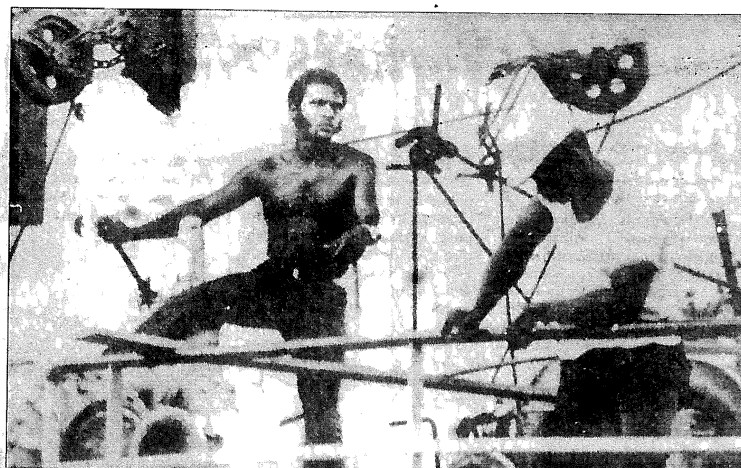
# ILA Officials Charged With Corruption

On June 8 a federal grand jury in Miami ordered the arrest of 22 people on charges of conspiracy to control business activities in several Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports. Among those arrested were several officials of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA). These included Elziah Jackson, president of the Savannah, Georgia, local; Robert Bateman, president of the Charleston local; George Barone and William Boyle, senior union officials in Miami; and Fred R. Field, Jr., the general organizer of the ILA. These and other ILA of-

ficials are charged with accepting bribes to prevent strikes on the docks, and with threatening to cause "labor problems" for businessmen who refused to pay them off.

There's no doubt that the ILA leadership contains both corrupt officials and out-and-out gangsters. For years these types have lined their own pockets with bribes and kickbacks while trying to suppress dock workers' struggles for jobs and better working conditions.

But the ruling class has always gone along with this corruption as long as union



New Orleans dockworkers.

officials were able to control the dock workers. Racketeers took over the union in the 1930s. They were able to do so because longtime ILA President Joseph P. Ryan, a New York Democratic Party power, worked together with capitalist politicians to block any investigations of the union.

It was the dock workers themselves who took the lead in driving out the racketeers. In 1951 they began a wildcat strike which was actually a revolt against the union leadership. Their militancy forced the capitalists to intervene and set up the New York Waterfront Commission to oversee the docks. But as the recent indictments demonstrate, the commission has done little to end corruption in the union.

In the eyes of the ruling class the real crime of the ILA leaders is that they are losing their control over militant dock workers. Last October union President Thomas W. Gleason was forced to call a strike which shut down container shipping on Atlantic and Gulf Coast ports for 60 days. Gleason did his best to sabotage the strike by limiting it to containerized cargo only. But in New Orleans and Baltimore, dock workers defied the union leadership and completely shut down the ports. The Baltimore, New Orleans, and Mobile locals later voted to reject Gleason's settlement, and the Baltimore local followed their rejection with a wildcat strike.

There's no reason to believe that the latest govern-

ment attack on the union will end corruption any more than previous government "reform" efforts. But it will allow the ruling class to increase its control over union militants. The Waterfront Commission in New York already has the power to license longshore workers, and maintain the list of eligible workers. This gives the capitalists the power to effectively blacklist union militants who lead wildcat strikes and other actions to defend union jobs and working conditions. As long as the government interferes in union affairs, dock workers face the threat of court appointed officials to run union affairs, and government arbitrated contracts which the courts will defend against strikes and slow downs.

## Kick out hacks and gangsters

In 1951 dock workers proved they could fight on their own to reform their union. Now dock workers must tell the courts to stay out of union affairs while they organize inside the ILA to drive out the bureaucrats and the racketeers.

## Postal Workers Face Uphill Contract Fight

By a Postal Worker Correspondent

Postal workers are facing their toughest contract struggle in years. Collective bargaining agreements covering 600,000 members of the American Postal Workers Union, Mailhandlers Union, National Association of Letter Carriers, and the National Association of Rural Letter Carriers expire on July 20. This is the biggest set of contract negotiations this year.

The postal bosses are demanding more take-aways than ever before. They want to eliminate the postal workers' no-layoff clause, scrap the cost-of-living allowance, and impose even more back-breaking work rules. This is part of management's drive to fulfill their "cost-cutting" program through more job cuts, speedup, and forced overtime.

Job cutting will mean these workers get furloughed down to a few hours of work per week—just enough to disqualify them for unemployment benefits.

To stop these attacks, postal workers must organize for a national strike. The mails must be shut down tight on July 20. Key contract demands should include protection against layoffs and attrition, a full cost-of-living formula and a

rank and file is that the bureaucrats want maximum maneuvering room to engineer a sellout.

So far, the bureaucrats have made vague promises about "substantial" wage increases, a "shorter" workweek, and "tougher" health and safety regulations. But this is just talk. There is no reason to expect that they will fight the bosses' job cutting and speedup campaign any more this year than they have in the past.

## Organize for strike

Time is growing short. Between now and July 20, postal workers must prepare to take on the postal management. Since strike action is illegal, postal workers must also be prepared to deal with the federal government. The Carter Administration has drawn up a 49-page contingency plan which calls for using troops and ROTC cadets to break a postal strike. It also calls for photographing and identifying pickets, posting armed guards in post offices and on mail trucks, and pressuring non-striking union bureaucrats to order their members to cross union picket lines.

Despite these enormous obstacles, postal workers can organize a rejection of the coming contract sellout and build a national strike. Militants can begin by circulating leaflets explaining the main issues of the contract. This patient educational work should be combined with organizing for demonstrations and job actions. Through these activities, rank-and-file committees can be built. As was demonstrated by the recent miners' strike, militant rank-and-file organization and initiative is the key to a serious contract fight.



PO workers cheer start of national wildcat strike, 1970.

provision for union control of work rules. To protect all postal workers, subs, temps and veterans must be made full-time regular workers.

## Hacks plan sellout

However, the union bureaucrats will not wage a serious fight for this type of program. The Postal Labor Negotiating Committee, the official inter-union bargaining team, has already agreed to keep the talks behind closed doors. The only reason for keeping the negotiations secret from the unions'

## Carter backs bosses

Although postal workers are denied the right to strike by law, management is publicly boasting for the first time that they are willing to take a strike. Behind this is Jimmy Carter's demand that postal wage increases be kept below 5.5 percent. Carter and his "inflation fighters," Robert Strauss and Barry Bosworth, are openly encouraging management to take a hard line in the negotiations.

If management wins its demands, many younger postal workers will find themselves unable to earn a living. Subs, temps, and Vietnam veterans have practically no rights as far as management is concerned. They do not have fixed schedules or assignments. And they have no protection against furloughs. Further

## NYC Rigs Exam to Keep Women Out

For the first time in the history of New York City, women were allowed to take the tests to become firefighters. A number of women passed the written test, but the city rigged the physical exams so that not one woman was able to pass.

"In my 20 years' experience this was the most arduous test we've ever given," said Alfred Heil, the assistant personnel director in charge of the test. He said it was "substantially different" from the last exams given in 1971.

Previous tests already included climbing high walls, running obstacle courses, lifting weights and doing situps with a 40-pound weight held behind the neck.

But the city wasn't sure this would be enough to keep women out. They don't want women firefighters. They'd have to spend money

on locker rooms for them and showers and all that. What's more, any firefighter becomes eligible to take written tests for promotion to lieutenant and so on up the ladder. Since nobody could invent a written test that only men could pass, women could wind up in command positions. So the city hired an outside firm to come up with a new physical—one that most women couldn't pass.

Firefighting has always been considered a "man's job." It's hard and dangerous work, and only the strongest can do it. There are some women who can do it if they get the chance, but under capitalism women don't get the chance. We're supposed to be housewives or stuck in shit jobs on the bottom of the ladder. And the ruling class will make us stay on the bottom as long as we let them stay in power.



# EDITORIAL

## Imperialist War or Workers' Revolution?



**Imperialism means war. The question is, will it be their war to enslave the world? Or will it be our war to free it from the imperialists' brutality, and the threat of the ultimate holocaust?**

(Continued from page 1) leaves the enemy area wide open to occupation and resettlement. With this weapon, the U.S. hopes to bring back Hitler's policy of obtaining "living space" (Lebensraum) on the Russian plains.

Russian imperialism has not been sitting still either. Its military budget has expanded six-fold and its ICBMs 30-fold in 15 years. Its nuclear-armed navy is challenging U.S. imperialism for supremacy on the high seas.

Meantime, the other powers are doing their best to keep up. The "nuclear club"

keeps getting larger. It's an open secret, for example, that Israel and South Africa have the bomb. West Germany and Japan may be formally free of nuclear weapons, but they have been refining their weapons technology for years, and have the capacity to produce the bomb quickly, if needed. In this context, it's no accident that West German firms are conducting rocket tests in Zaire.

Revolutionary Marxists feel strong solidarity with the feelings of the demonstrators at the UN and other fighters for disarmament,

We reject the idea that the big powers have the right to stockpile and use weapons which can blow up the earth 16 to 25 times. We see this madness as a built-in feature of the capitalist system in the epoch of decay. Why do the big powers need nuclear weapons? To compete with each other for world plunder, and to blackmail other nations into accepting imperialist domination.

### Socialism or barbarism?

Can there be real world peace and disarmament so long as capitalism and imperialism survive? No way. There is no corner of the earth where the big powers are not competing for the right to dominate and exploit. And now that the world economic crisis is getting worse, the imperialists are preparing once again to launch a world war to redivide the spoils; to determine who is to be the ruler of the whole planet.

The imperialist powers have no intention of curbing the ever-escalating arms race. Neither does the UN. Though numerically dominated by the Third World, the UN has no power to restrain the imperialists. More important, the Third World representatives are capitalists themselves. This makes the UN nothing more or less than the world assembly of thieves, exploiters, and warmakers. The Third World leaders are all tied to this or

that imperialist bloc. They are all integrated into the world system of plunder. And as such, they are some of the biggest consumers of the imperialists' \$380 billion-a-year conventional weapons industry. These lackeys cannot and will not do more than issue pious statements.

The RSL welcomes the rise of a movement against nuclear arms, but we point out that appeals to the imperialists or the UN are a dead end. The only force that can end the arms race is the international working class. It can only do so if it smashes capitalism and imperialism worldwide.

Capitalist disarmament conferences will not prevent war. On the contrary, they have always been used as a cover for war preparations.

This time around the imperialists' fingers on the nuclear trigger add new poignancy and urgency to Leon Trotsky's warning: "Socialism or barbarism." That is the choice humanity faces in the imperialist epoch.

There will definitely be war. Imperialism means war, because it means plunder. The only question is, will it be their war to enslave the world and perhaps annihilate it? Or will it be our war—the war of all the toilers and oppressed of the earth—to free it from the imperialists' carnage and brutality, and from the threat of the ultimate holocaust? The RSL calls on all revolutionaries and militant fighters for disarmament to join with us, to organize for our war: the world socialist revolution. □

### TO OUR READERS

The Revolutionary Socialist League fund drive to raise \$20,000 ends on June 15. As we go to press, \$19,531 has come in so far. With expected late-arriving pledges, we will go substantially above our goal.

One purpose of the fund drive was to raise money to expand our ties with the Revolutionary Marxist League (RML) of Jamaica, fraternal organization of the RSL. At the end of May, John Thomas of the RML completed his U.S. speaking tour. Comrade Thomas's tour was an important step in forging unity between the revolutionary movements in Jamaica and the U.S.

We would like to thank all the comrades and friends of the RSL for making our fund drive and Comrade Thomas's tour a success.

Special thanks to Comrade Thomas and the other comrades of the RML for carrying out the tour when the RML faces many pressing responsibilities on the home front in Jamaica.

## "Taxpayers' Revolt" Serves Bosses

(Continued from page 5) made crystal clear in California. Governor Jerry Brown did not support Proposition 13 before the vote. However, as soon as it passed, Brown said: "It's a great opportunity, although it's going to be a painful and difficult process. I began my governorship with a pledge of no new state taxes. I've carried out that promise... and what I hear out of this vote is that people want more of it." Brown and the "liberal" section of the capitalist class did not want to be held responsible for the cuts. But they are now happily going about implementing them.

Finally, there is another big bonus in Proposition 13 for the capitalists. To fight against the ruling-class attacks, all people ground down by the system should unite to fight for their needs. But Proposition 13 will divide people. It will fuel the antagonisms between the working class and the middle class, as well as among different sections of the working class. Measures such as Proposition 13 will intensify the struggle over who is going to get the crumbs from the capitalists' table. In this situation, ev-

eryone ultimately loses—except the bosses, who laugh all the way to the bank.

### No! to Proposition 13

Workers cannot remain neutral on Proposition 13 and similar measures. As soon as the proposition passed in California there were announcements that similar initiatives would be started in states all around the country.

The Revolutionary Socialist League opposes Proposition 13. We oppose all measures that will slash jobs and social services, while they give the capitalists big tax breaks under the guise of tax relief for small homeowners. Such measures allow the capitalists to attack the workers and oppressed people and divide their forces.

At the same time, rising taxes really are strangling the living standards of many working-class and middle-class people. We must fight for a program that offers real tax relief for these people without attacking other workers and oppressed people.

Otherwise people will get hooked by the right-wing forces and blame the workers, particularly Blacks and Latins, for their deteriorating economic situation. This would weaken the possibility of a strong, unified struggle against the capitalist attacks.

We say vote "no" on all measures like Proposition 13. We demand the following tax measures:

- Abolish property taxes on all residential property valued at less than \$50,000.
- Tax the banks, corporations and agribusiness to fund and expand desperately needed social services. Establish a public-works program, paid for by the banks and corporations, to rebuild the cities and improve social services.
- Cancel city and state debts owed to the rich and

the banks and corporations. The holders of most state and municipal bonds are wealthy individuals and interests. They've been paid back many times over.

A program such as this can unite the working and oppressed masses, who are getting crushed under the capitalists' heel. It is a program that points to a real solution to capitalist misery. □

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Revolutionary Socialist

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Address all correspondence to:  
Torch/Le Antares  
PO Box 10036  
New York, NY 10036

Subscription rates:  
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Members: ..... Free  
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# Unite Against Gay Oppression!

(Continued from page 3)  
stake in gay rights or in fighting gay oppression. When it was useful to their careers to pose as defenders of the oppressed, they were willing to vote for watered-down gay rights bills. But now that the right wing is actively mobilizing and building a base, the liberals don't want to get near issues like gay rights with a ten-foot pole. Relying on these liberals to "defend" gay rights is like turning our backs and asking for the knife to be driven in.

## Where do we go from here?

A successful fight against the attacks on gays must have two main elements. There must be a militant fightback, no holds barred, against every attack on gay rights. And there must be a struggle to build unity of gays and all other working and oppressed people in defense against our common enemy, the capitalist class.

To begin with, we must wage a militant, fighting defense of the gains won by the gay liberation struggle in the last several years. As part of this, we must organize to defend gay men and women from harassment and

attack by cops and right-wing goons.

We must organize militant demonstrations of gay people and other supporters of gay rights for this purpose. Mass leafleting must be carried out at the bars, baths, in communities and workplaces. Rallies must be organized on streetcorners. Tens of thousands of gays must be organized for battle. There are also tens of thousands of straights who would join such demonstrations. Wherever a gay rights law is under attack, wherever an anti-gay law is proposed, there must be a mass mobilization to defeat the right wing.

These demonstrations must not be turned into a platform for the drivel of liberal politicians. And they must not play the liberal game of respectability. We must defend every victim of anti-gay attacks—transvestites, gays busted for public cruising, young hustlers hassled by the cops, etc. We must demand full rights for all gay people.

In addition to demonstrations, we must organize defense squads to defend gay people from attack by thugs. With the right training, and where the balance of forces is right, these squads can take on the cops as well.

To wage a strong fightback, gay people must reach out to our natural allies—other working-class and oppressed people. We have to show that our interests are all the same.

For example, the struggle to defend the gay rights ordinances, the fight to overturn the Bakke decision, and the struggle for free and legal abortion are really the same basic struggle. Demonstrations called around these three issues could begin to unite people around our common interests.

Similarly, it is not only gays who need defense squads. Blacks, Latins and gays all need defense organizations to fight against the attacks by the Klan and the Nazis. Women need defense squads to protect abortion clinics from right-wing bigots. We must work to unite the struggles of all working and oppressed people.

## Unions also under attack

The most important place to fight for a united struggle is in the trade unions. Today the unions are the chief organizations of the workers. They embrace millions of people on a national—even international—

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scale. They are under attack by the same right-wing forces that are attacking gays, Blacks, Latins and women. And they contain millions of people from these oppressed groups.

If the unions were to mobilize their forces for a serious struggle to defend the rights and living standards of all workers and oppressed people, a powerful fight against the right-wing capitalist attack could be launched.

For example, in New York Intro 384, the gay rights bill, is stalled in the City Council. Gay leaders are trying to bend the ears of councilmembers to beg them to pass it. Instead, this fight should be taken into New York City's major unions.

These unions have tens of thousands of gay members. Some of these unions are committed on paper to gay rights. A struggle must be waged to have these unions seriously back Intro 384. Militants can fight for union funds for education campaigns in favor of the bill and for official union rallies to demand its passage. While these efforts would be small at first, they would eventually build up a powerful force for gay rights. This is just one example of how a militant defense of gay rights could be organized and fought for in the trade unions.

Along with organizing around specific struggles, we must do patient organizing among rank-and-file workers, explaining why the struggle for gay rights is in their interest of all workers.

We must explain why the attack on their gay fellow workers is one part of the attack on the entire working class.

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To carry out this work we must fight to build a revolutionary party. Capitalism is facing a deepening crisis. As their system heads for collapse, the capitalists and their right-wing allies are stepping up the attacks on workers and oppressed people. In response, workers and oppressed people are starting to fight back in any way they can.

## Build revolutionary party

Right now, these struggles are spontaneous, unorganized and isolated from each other. If they are to win they must be organized and united. This requires a unified leadership—a disciplined revolutionary organization based in the working class and especially its most oppressed sections. It will take a revolutionary party—a Leninist party—to be able to unite the separate struggles and lead the workers and oppressed people to a successful overthrow of capitalism. The Revolutionary Socialist League is an organization of people working to build such a party. Gays who are willing to dedicate their lives to the fight for gay liberation and the liberation of all working and oppressed people should join with us.

# ZAIRE...

(Continued from page 8)  
national liberation movement led by the MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). After the Portuguese withdrew, the CNLF changed sides and fought for the MPLA and Cuban troops during the civil war in 1975-76.

The essentially mercenary character of the CNLF has not changed. As the Shaba fighting demonstrated, the CNLF has no mass base in Zaire. If it had, the imperialists would not have driven them back with a few thousand outside troops. And no evidence has emerged that the CNLF has even attempted to arm the masses, organize popular militias or take any other steps to start a war of national liberation. In no sense does the CNLF represent a national liberation movement.

In line with the changing balance of forces in Africa, the CNLF has decided to work for Russian imperialism. The Russians are providing the CNLF with arms and military bases in Angola. If the CNLF can grab all or some of Zaire, the Russians will back Mbumba as their own version of Mobutu. The Russians would then have a valuable addition to their existing footholds in Africa, and the U.S. position throughout the continent would be severely shaken.

At root, the fighting in Shaba is an inter-imperialist conflict between the pawns of Western and Russian im-

perialism. The masses of Zaire have nothing to gain from supporting either side in this conflict.

But the most pressing question surrounding the struggle over Shaba is the substantial build-up of Western military forces in Africa. Carter is exploiting the Shaba situation to pave the way for the U.S. to join France in massive, military intervention. He put the 82nd Airborne Division on alert for possible use during the battle for Kolwezi. Since then, Carter has demanded that Congress give him more leeway in sending economic and military aid to African regimes. He is also reviving cold-war rhetoric about "communist aggression."

For U.S. revolutionaries "U.S. Out of Africa" remains the key slogan. The immediate danger is that Carter will use the Russian/Cuban presence in Africa as a pretext to step up military support to white South Africa and the Smith regime in Zimbabwe. This could be followed up by deploying Western troops against the national liberation movements.

At the same time, the growing power of Russian imperialism in Africa cannot be ignored. The Russians seek to replace the U.S. as the dominant exploiter of Africa. While they support certain of the national liberation movements against the U.S., this is out of temporary convenience. Once these movements outlive their usefulness to Russian imperial-

ism, they are just as quick to eliminate them as the U.S. is. In Angola, Cuban troops are being used to make the MPLA regime completely dependent on Russian imperialism. In Ethiopia, Cuban troops and Russian advisors are being used to smash the Eritrean national liberation movement.

Today the U.S. and Russia are using each other's activity in Africa to justify increasing their own involvement. If this trend continues, the national liberation and revolutionary movements in Africa could find themselves ground to bits in the midst of a broader inter-imperialist conflict. In particular, the guerrilla movements in southern Africa could be faced with a deadly choice: either risk destruction by vastly superior forces or submit to the control of one imperialist power or the other—the most likely alternative being the Russians. In Zaire, the potential for mass struggle is already being strangled in exactly this way.

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