

INSIDE: SPECIAL FOUR-PAGE SUPPLEMENT ON GAY LIBERATION

With Eyewitness Account From San Francisco

Reconstruct
the
Fourth
International!

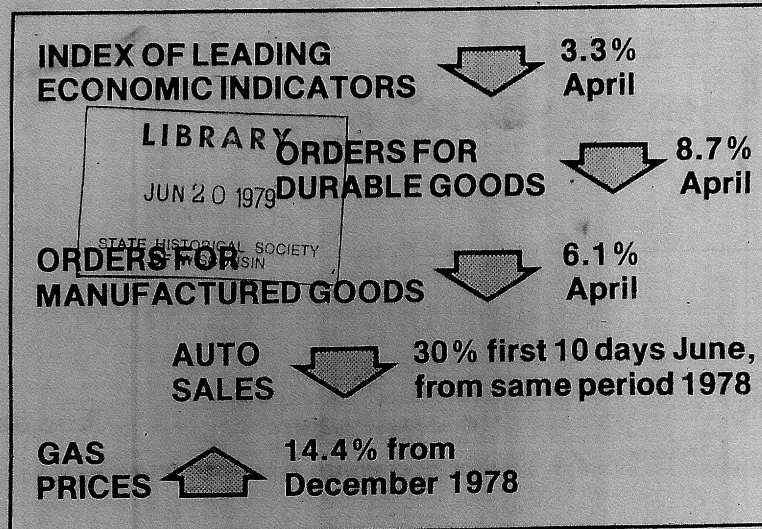
TORCH

Newspaper
of the
Revolutionary
Socialist League

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JUNE 15-JULY 14, 1979

RECESSION HITS HARD



Many Jobs Will Be Lost

By SUSAN EDMUNDS

In late May and early June, the government announced important economic statistics (see chart). These figures confirm what working people have been feeling for quite some time: The country's economy is in bad shape and it's getting worse. In fact, it's gotten so bad that the capitalists' main economic advisors are using that dread word—recession.

The Carter Administration denies there's a recession, preferring such fancy terms as "economic slowdown" and "period of austerity." Unlike almost all the leading economists, the administration insists that the economy will undergo only a mild downturn. But it is doubtful they believe their own propaganda. Said one high-up government official, quoted in Time Magazine: "The goddam economy is coming apart at the seams."

It is indeed. In the past few months, gas prices have jumped out of sight—up 30 cents and more on a gallon. The higher oil

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First August 8th Brigade Trial Ends



All-White Jury Convicts Felix Castro

See page 7

New Nicaraguan Uprising Shakes Somoza Regime

A massive uprising is shaking the repressive dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza Debayle in Nicaragua to its foundations. The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) has launched its long-awaited national offensive in a drive to topple the U.S.-backed Somoza dynasty.

The offensive began on May 28 with a Sandinista attack on Somoza's forces in the provincial capital of Rivas. In less than two weeks the fighting has engulfed all of the country's major cities and towns.

"The hour to overthrow the brutal dictatorship has arrived," said an FSLN bulletin dated May 31. The statement also called for a general strike and a generalized insurrection. The general strike, begun June 4, has completely paralyzed the capital city of Managua and most other cities.

As of this writing, the Sandinistas control Leon—Nicaragua's second city—Chichigalpa, Jinotega, Matagalpa, and an area along the

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Sandinistas took over Masaya in September 1978 rebellion.

SECCION EN
ESPANOL

**our
readers
write...**

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

Tennessee prisoners fight slave-like conditions

Dear Comrades,
I am writing to ask your assistance in informing the people about conditions that exist here at Ft. Pillow State Prison. They have a thing called the long line, which is where convicts are dressed in striped clothes and forced to perform manual labor while being stood over by guards carrying rifles and shotguns. It is reminiscent of the slave plantation days.

On May 8, members of the long line staged a peaceful sit-down in protest of the inhuman treatment. In retaliation, the guards locked up six of us and charged us with refusing to work and inciting a riot (there was nothing even resembling a riot). I was locked in a cell with a stopped-up commode that had run over and the floor was covered with feces and urine. After several hours, a plumber did unstop the commode and several hours later, I was given a mop (no

soap or disinfectant) and allowed to get up some of the mess. Thirty-six hours later the floor is still wet and the odor is unbelievable.

Today I was told that if I would plead guilty to the charges, I'd be moved to another cell. Pleading guilty would mean being locked up indefinitely and would mean anywhere from one to an additional five years on my sentence. I refused so I'm stuck in this stinking germ-infested cell. I fully realize that this is a move by the state to stop solidarity and political awareness among prisoners and another move to keep me from ever reaching the streets. We are in dire need of outside support and need letters written to Gov. Lamar Alexander, State Capitol, Nashville, Tennessee, protesting the slave-like conditions at Ft. Pillow and the unjust prosecution of us six from the long line.

A luta continua!
James W. Parker

Latin American gays expose growing repression

Dear Torch/La Antorcha:

The Committee of Latin American Homosexuals (COHLA) asks all organizations and persons who sympathize with the struggle for gay rights to send protest letters condemning the atrocious acts listed below.

• In December of 1977 the conservative Brazilian newspaper *Istoe* (not a homosexual publication) published the article, "Homosexuals have come out of the closet." Nine months later, during September of 1978, nine reporters that had worked on that article were prosecuted for "provoking public alarm."

• On February 17, 1979, six members of the *Lampiao* publishing house from the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, were forced to appear at police headquarters. They were charged with "offending public morality." They are waiting to be tried.

• On February 18, 1979, the Brazilian police censored a non-homosexual periodical called *Reporter*. The reason for censoring and closing the periodical was because it had published an article on lesbianism. They were accused of "offending public morality and good customs."

• On April 30, 1979, we re-

ceived a call from the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The Buenos Aires police in the early morning hours of April 28 arrested tens of homosexuals in the "Club Privado" of that city. The arrest was made minutes before closing time. After having been brought to police headquarters, the arrested persons were "persuaded" (we know very well the methods used) to sign a paper confessing that they were homosexuals.

While all this is going on, do the pornographic periodicals and newspapers and films and houses of prostitution of the heterosexual community respect "public morality and good customs?" Why aren't their owners arrested? What morality are the governments of Brazil and Argentina talking about?

We believe that these atrocious acts constitute a violation of the dignity and the elementary human rights of these people, and endanger the democratic rights of the communications media and of all citizens in their respective countries. We condemn the complicity of the governments of Brazil and Argentina in these acts, and

Chile: struggle builds against Pinochet's rule

Below are excerpts from a letter sent—along with the drawing—by a comrade imprisoned in one of Pinochet's hellholes.

Dear Comrades,
We are very happy that exiled comrades are forming fronts of opposition against the dictatorial regime led by Pinochet. Thank you for your help. The revival of the struggle of the Chilean people these days is clear:

• The formation of groups of relatives of political prisoners, of disappeared persons and people who have been executed; the creation of organizations that distribute funds to the unemployed; the establishment of the National Trade Union Coordinating Body; of "Sindicato" (a group of artists and intellectuals of the radio, television and theater).

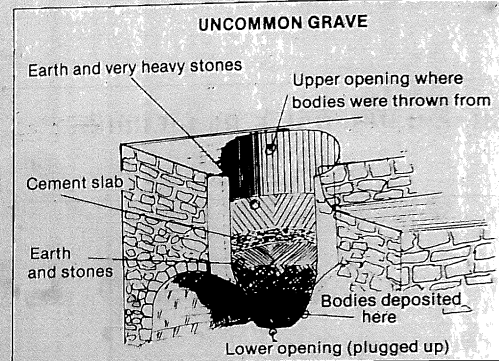
• During 1978, the massive celebration of Women's Day in the Cosmopolitan Theater; of May Day in Pedro Aguirre Cerda Square, without government permission. (Hundreds were arrested. Don Clotario Blets was beaten. Some foreign correspondents were harassed and their cameras destroyed.)

• The pressure of the miners of Chuquicamata (resulting in a declaration of a state of siege; union leaders arrested; banishment of people, arbitrary firings, threats against the workers; deployment of agents of the CNI, the secret police, formerly known as DINA); lunch boycotts in the Huachipato plant, dining room boycotts

in the LAN CHILE works to protest possible layoffs of 1,200 workers.

• Strengthening of the level of combat of the revolutionary left (and with it, an increase in the number of political prisoners: we are 308 in the Penitentiary, and 50 women comrades are in the Correctional). In 1978 hundreds were detained as a

with the date of their death and of receipt of their bodies at the Legal Medical Institute. After investigations, the director of the institute declared that he had never received those bodies nor had he made out certificates claiming otherwise. (Sergio Diez had shown false documents before the UN.) And now those bodies show



result of massive acts of opposition against the regime.

Today the dictatorship is passing through one of its worst moments, and that's why it's letting loose an escalation of repression against the people; that's why it's forcing union elections in the private sector without letting the workers freely choose their representatives. The elected union leaders can't take part in politics or have a political past. Afterwards they are forced to swear that their work will be strictly trade union work, without politics.

The discovery of a Nazi-style extermination oven is the last straw. Here are the facts: A few days after September 11 [the day of the military takeover in 1973—Ed.] Jose Maureira Lillo, his four sons from the Maguayan foundry and some other workers were taken prisoner in 1975; Sergio Diez, a representative of the dictatorship, read before the United Nations assembly a list of 64 deceased comrades, among them the Maureira family, together

up in an abandoned lime pit in Lonquen. Their relatives had searched for these missing persons without results. Everywhere government officials denied holding them. This development is terribly serious for the military junta: lying to the UN, falsification of public documents, etc.

In spite of the repression, we are not ceasing to condemn the regime through letters to friends outside the country, so they can publicize what is happening here. We are constantly facing threats by the guards as they carry out raids to subdue Section 5, where the political prisoners are held. Sometimes our lives are hanging by a thread, as we try to hide important documents that we prepare in order to send them abroad. I believe it's important that we try to stay in touch and that we send you news from Chile. A revolutionary and comradely embrace for all my Chilean brothers and sisters and for all our friends.

(Name withheld)
From the Penitentiary of Santiago, Chile

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REC

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prices have pushed the annual inflation rate to at least 13%. Real wages—that is, the actual value of goods and services—a paycheck can buy—were down 10 percent in April alone. Hospital major cities are closing. Services are getting cut to the bone. Literally thousands and thousands of workers stand to lose their jobs in the next year.

The economists officially predict a recession as a drop in the National Product (GNP—the total of goods and services produced in a country) for two quarters (six months) in a row. The GNP did decline

Auto Industry Chrysler

By a REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

The auto industry is in a recession. Sales are way down. The second half of May that's the worst. There's a recession developing. Companies are under pressure. They're competitive on the world market and meet the U.S. pollution standards. They've created a need for huge profits. They need those profits.

What does that mean for Chrysler? On May 29, Chrysler announced that the Assembly plant in Hamtramck, Michigan, will close the summer of 1980. The Union estimates 8,000 workers will be laid off. Chrysler workers are already being laid off from Main. Four hundred from Dodge Truck expect to be laid off for nine months and more. The UAW's new Pension Benefits (SUB) fund has been supposed to ensure that a worker's seniority get over 90 percent a year after being laid off. Dodge Truck expect to be laid off with the SUB fund last year. Chrysler plants have been laid off at its Flint Truck plant. There have been UAW's target company this year. Increasing layoffs, SUB funding working conditions and laid off during a recession will be a year after being laid off.

What is the UAW leaders' response? On June 3, the UAW called a closing. Three thousand auto workers attended. UAW leaders promise to keep the plant open. The closing of its Jefferson Avenue plant is "everything possible" amount of effort and a tax break for Chrysler workers with less than 10 years of seniority.

Except for Dodge Main, talking about the layoffs thousands of autoworkers are upset—to channel our anger and letters to Congress. UAW has warned lower-level officials. He's afraid workers and a law to regulate plant closings.

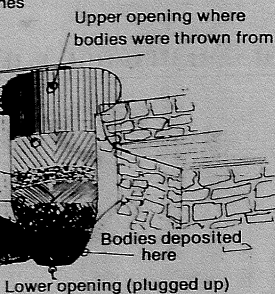
The problem is bigger than Chrysler and Ford and GM. The industry is the same thing the economy. The problem is capitalism into the capitalist system built that throw millions out of those out of work and the forced to work harder—that's the works. If there is a problem then there is a big problem then.

Well, big problems are coming downhill fast. For years the mills, the railroads and searched for quick returns everything is falling apart, and to do anything about it. The c-

builds et's rule

to with the date of their death and of receipt of their bodies at the Legal Medical Institute. After investigations, the director of the institute declared that he had never received those bodies nor had he made out certificates claiming otherwise. (Sergio Diez had shown false documents before the UN.) And now those bodies show

COMMON GRAVE



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(Name withheld)
From the Penitentiary of Santiago, Chile

ES readers write

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omers Six... El Centro Six... Walla
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ld in Revolution
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or in Struggle
% guidelines... Inco strike... CETA
Anti-gay policies

ent on Gay Liberation follows p. 10

RECESSION HITS HARD

(Continued from page 1)
prices have pushed the already-high inflation rate to at least 13 percent. Real wages—that is, the actual amount of goods and services somebody's paycheck can buy—were down 2.6 percent in April alone. Hospitals in the major cities are closing. Social services are getting out to the bone. And literally thousands and thousands of workers stand to lose their jobs over the next year.

The economists officially define a recession as a drop in the Gross National Product (GNP—the amount of goods and services produced in the country) for two quarters (six months) in a row. The GNP did decline in the

first quarter of 1979, and statistics show that it probably will again this quarter, ending June 30. That's why there is so much talk of a recession.

How bad will it be?

But while almost all the bourgeois economists agree that we're entering a recession, few agree on how serious it will be. Some insist it will be mild; others claim it will be deeper. We cannot predict with certainty just how bad the recession of 1979 will prove to be. However, if we look at the last

recession (late 1973-1975), we can get some idea of where the economy is headed today.

The last recession was the worst economic crisis in the U.S. since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Industrial production declined 14.4 percent and official unemployment figures showed eight million workers without jobs. To head off a full-scale crisis and the fightback it would bring, the government pumped more money into the economy through increasing the federal budget deficit and making it easier for consumers to borrow money.

This policy both increased inflation and caused greater spending on the part of working and middle-class

people. With prices going up and the value of the dollar going down, a lot of people started buying goods on credit. They figured that, even with interest, they'd still come out ahead. It was this borrowed money that created a demand for things like houses, cars, washing machines, smaller appliances, clothing, etc., and buoyed up the economy.

But while consumer spending boosted the economy, massive debts were piling up that would have to be repaid. By the beginning of this year, consumer debts totalled \$1.7 trillion, an increase of over 50 percent in the last three years. As one credit-card newsletter recently wrote: "Never before in the history of our time have there been so many cards, so many lines of credit that exceed people's ability to pay."

In other words, for the past several years, the economy has been propped up mainly by people borrowing from their future earnings. This could not go on forever. Many people have just been unable to keep up on loan repayments. The number of personal bankruptcies has increased eight percent over last year. And the number of debt delinquencies (people not paying back debts they owe) is also sharply on the rise.

In addition, inflation has gotten so bad that few people are prepared to pile up new debts. So sales are falling. For example, in the first 10 days of June, auto sales were down a full 30 percent over last year. Since the auto industry is tied to the rubber, glass, trucking and other industries, auto sales have a big impact on the entire economy.

Economic foundation in decay

The end of the four-year consumer-spending binge is the most immediate reason for today's economic crisis. However, there is a more fundamental cause.

The entire foundation of the economy—the factories and mills, the means of transportation and communication, the cities and housing—is rotting away. Many of the steel mills, for example, are over 50 years old, and can't compete with steel from Japan and Germany, where most of the mills were built in the post-World War II period. Similarly, the rail system in this country is just a mess, adding to the cost of goods that have to be transported.

In order to produce goods more efficiently, the bosses would have to modernize and replace already-existing plant and equipment. The mills and factories would have to be renovated, the highways and railroads fixed up, and the cities rebuilt.

But for decades the capitalists have not invested enough of their profits in modernizing the factories. Since U.S. imperialism dominated the world, the capitalists could dictate terms that would favor their goods on the world market, even when they were not produced as efficiently. In addition, as technology has gotten more advanced, the amount of capital needed to replace worn-out machinery has skyrocketed. For these reasons, the capitalists instead have sought more speculative investments in the hope of turning a quicker profit.

Today, with the economy entering a period of recession, the capitalists and their government are moving even further away from the kind of overhaul the factories, transport system and cities desperately need. For example, orders for durable goods (a category that includes orders for new plant equipment and machinery) were down 8.7 percent in March, the steepest

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Auto Industry in Crisis Chrysler Announces Mass Layoffs

By a REVOLUTIONARY AUTOWORKERS
COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENT

The auto industry is in serious trouble. Gasoline prices are soaring. Sales are way down—a full 20 percent lower in the second half of May than in the same period last year. There's a recession developing. At the same time, the companies are under pressure to develop automobiles that are competitive on the world market, get better gas mileage and meet the U.S. pollution control standards. This has created a need for huge profits at a time when it is harder to make those profits.

What does that mean for workers?

On May 29, Chrysler announced that its Dodge Main Assembly plant in Hamtramck, Michigan, would close in the summer of 1980. The United Auto Workers union (UAW) estimates 8,000 workers will lose their jobs. Thousands of Chrysler workers are already on layoff—including 1,200 from Main. Four hundred from Trenton Engine have been laid off for nine months and the Supplementary Unemployment Benefits (SUB) fund has run out. (The SUB funds are supposed to ensure that autoworkers with at least one year's seniority get over 90 percent of their usual wages for a year after being laid off.) Second shift workers from Dodge Truck expect to be permanently laid off in July—with the SUB fund lasting only through August. All Chrysler plants have been hit. Layoffs threaten the entire industry. Some Ford plants are working on and off. GM has laid off at its Flint Truck plant. Cadillac sales are down 30 percent. There have been no layoffs because GM, the UAW's target company this contract year, is stockpiling in expectation of a strike this September. Autoworkers face increasing layoffs, SUB funds that are running out, worsening working conditions and a contract that will be negotiated during a recession with the companies crying poor.

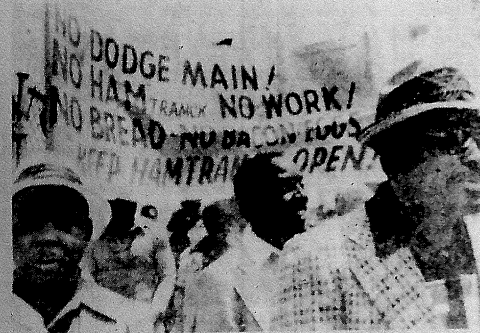
What is the UAW leadership doing about this?

On June 3, the UAW called a rally to protest the Main closing. Three thousand autoworkers and their families attended. UAW leaders promised to do everything possible to keep the plant open. When Chrysler announced the closing of its Jefferson Avenue Assembly plant in 1974, "everything possible" amounted to an intense lobbying effort and a tax break for Chrysler. That plant stayed open but workers with less than five years seniority lost their jobs.

Except for Dodge Main, the UAW leaders are hardly talking about the layoffs that are hitting or will hit thousands of autoworkers. They'll talk when workers get upset—to channel our anger into non-threatening protest and letters to Congress. UAW Vice-President Marc Stepp has warned lower-level officials against too many demonstrations. He's afraid workers will get too rowdy. Lobbying and a law to regulate plant closings won't help much.

The problem is bigger than Dodge Main. It's bigger than Chrysler and Ford and GM. What is going on in the auto industry is the same thing that's happening throughout the economy. The problem is capitalism. Economic crises are built into the capitalist system. Recessions and depressions that throw millions out of work, the hunger and worry of those out of work and the pain of those still working and forced to work harder—that's all built into how capitalism works. If there is a problem they take it out on the workers. If there is a big problem they try to beat us harder.

Well, big problems are coming. The economy is going downhill fast. For years the capitalists let the plants and the mills, the railroads and the cities rot, while they searched for quick returns on their investments. Now everything is falling apart, and they don't have the capital to do anything about it. The only way out is for us to take



Dodge Main workers protest threatened plant shutdown.

over the society and run it ourselves. We need to have a working-class revolution to throw out the bosses, the foremen, the cops and politicians. We need to take over the banks, the factories, the means of transportation—everything—and run it all in our own interests. Together we can reorganize society to meet people's needs, not to provide profits for the bosses.

We know that the majority of workers don't believe it's going to be necessary to do this—yet. And many of those who think it's necessary don't believe workers will ever be united enough to do it. We also know that we have to fight now to hold on to as much as we can. But to defend all our jobs, we must build unity—between autoworkers of different plants and corporations, between workers of different unions and industries, between workers who are working and those who are unemployed. The key to this struggle is building a revolutionary leadership—a party—of the working class. This leadership must be built in the trade unions. It must be built among non-union and unemployed workers, and in the communities and prisons. It must be built among women, Blacks, Latins, Arabs, gays and other oppressed people. This leadership will organize around and fight for the working-class solution to the misery of capitalism. It will explain two things: That the only way out is to overthrow capitalism and that when workers become organized and conscious of the need for revolution, we can do it.

What demand can we fight around that will build unity between all sections of the working class and teach the need to overthrow capitalism?

We believe that "30 Hours of Work for 40 Hours of Pay—Jobs for All Workers" is one such demand. Every worker—employed and unemployed, man or woman, gay or straight, of every nationality—needs a job to survive. The strongest fight we can build will be around jobs for all.

Autoworkers can and should fight to keep Dodge Main open. We should take around UAW Local 3's petition that says that. We can and should fight to beef up our SUB funds and extend them to workers with less than a year's seniority.

But we will be fighting a losing battle if we limit our fight to demands that appeal to autoworkers. We must fight for the demand "30 for 40—Jobs for All" so that we can unite the whole working class. And we must tell no lies. Capitalism cannot provide a job for every worker. To end layoffs, to win "30 for 40," to be able to lead decent lives and really be free, we will have to overthrow capitalism. □

Racist and Sexist Terror on the Rise in Boston

By SHARON PARRELL

Racist terror is on the rise again in the Boston area.

• Since April, 11 Black women and one white woman have been brutally murdered in a wave of rapes and killings in Roxbury and Dorchester. One week in May saw a new murder almost every other day, causing one Dorchester woman to comment: "It's open season on women. Anyone with a gripe against his wife or girlfriend figures now's the time to do something about it."

• The only Black resident of an all-white housing project in South Boston, a young mother, has received numerous threats since moving in under a voluntary desegregation plan. A month ago, the word "n-----" was scratched on her car. On May 28, despite "round-the-clock police protection," her newly-repainted car was firebombed.

• An Iranian student was stabbed to death in Brookline on May 18 by a gang of white youths who thought he was Latino.

• Three white youths armed with tire irons tried to smash in the door of a Black family in Hyde Park. When the homeowner fired a shotgun in defense, he was arrested for assault and battery with intent to murder. No charges have been brought against the youths.

• The Boston City Council recently promised \$40,000 in federal funds to a project set up by the South Boston Marshalls to train white youth in the

use of firearms, under the guise of "job training in the field of security"! The paramilitary South Boston Marshalls, a home-grown version of the



March condemning Boston murders.

Ku Klux Klan, have organized racist violence against busing and defended Anita Bryant during her visit to Boston. One of their leaders, James Kelley, already earns \$17,500 a year on Boston mayor Kevin White's staff.

As capitalism falls apart, racist and sexist violence continues to grow. Many people are looking for ways to fight back. In Boston, several groups are leading responses to the attacks. What are the different strategies for combatting racist terror?

In late April, several feminist and community groups held an angry memorial march of 1,000 for the murdered women (there were then seven). The solutions proposed were to set up crisis-intervention centers, and to call for more cops and "police protection." But tragically, the next five murders showed that crisis centers don't stop murders. And calling for more cops is worse than doing nothing. Cops are the most vile, racist and sexist thugs loose on the streets today. "Police protection" didn't keep the Black woman's car from being firebombed. It didn't protect the Black family in Hyde Park. In fact, it is the victims who are usually arrested while the racists are protected.

The All-African People's Revolutionary Party, a Black nationalist group, called for all-male, all-Black defense patrols. Blacks should defend their communities from racist and sexist attacks. But Black women must be in the forefront of this struggle, not kept out, kept home and kept down. In addition, it is crucial that all anti-racists—whether white, Latin or Black—coordinate forces for a common defense against

racist and sexist attacks.

Some left groups in the area attempted to organize responses to the attacks. But their actions have been largely isolated, as they have failed to put forward a strategy to unite enough forces to win. Supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade organized a protest of the arrest of the Hyde Park homeowner. But by not calling on other groups to unite in a strong demonstration, their isolated action enabled the cops to arrest nine demonstrators.

The Committee Against Racism and the Progressive Labor Party sponsored a number of actions against racist attacks. But they have driven away potential allies in this fight by claiming that Black defense guards "foment race war" and attacking those who disagree as "flunkies" and "police agents."

The Revolutionary Socialist League has participated in many of these actions and has worked to convince people to adopt the strategy of united action. We call for the united action of every group and individual willing to fight racist and sexist attacks by whatever means necessary. All those who agree with "COPS OUT OF THE COMMUNITIES —SMASH RACIST AND SEXIST ATTACKS" should join forces to organize militant, multi-racial defense guards of men and women which can draw broader layers of the working class into this fight. If we can unite around this common struggle, our political differences can be discussed without breaking our ranks in the face of the enemy. Isolated actions undertaken by small groups will not be able to really beat back the racists. In the coming months, further organized terror by the racists will make this even more of a life-and-death question. □

Letter From Boston

PL Splits Brandeis United Front

Dear Torch:

I would like to report on recent events in Boston concerning the fate of attempted joint work between the RSL and the Progressive Labor Party (PL). This joint work has taken place within the Committee Against Racism (CAR), a mass organization controlled by PL.

Following from the political struggles within the Brandeis Divestment Movement (BDM) strike and occupation (see *Torch*, April-May 1979), an opposition faction was formed and organized into a CAR chapter, which included two supporters of the RSL. The initial attitude of the group was conducive toward joint work. The local CAR organization begrudgingly accepted the situation and the two RSL supporters were allowed to join CAR. At first, the joint work proceeded effectively. The group put out numerous leaflets, continued intervention in the BDM, sponsored an anti-draft forum with speakers from CAR and RSL, participated in PL-CAR's May Day march, produced an article for the student paper, and sparked a raging political debate on campus.

But there were forces at work undermining the unity of the group. The presence of supporters of a revolutionary party other than PL, close enough to PL to talk to

its rank and file support, was too much for the PL-CAR hierarchy to handle. They began to wall off their rank and file from any outside influence and, when this failed, provoked a split in the Brandeis chapter. The RSL supporters were not allowed to sell the *Torch* at the May Day march, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to eject an RSL supporter for selling the *Torch* at a local demonstration. Relations within Brandeis-Waltham CAR became increasingly hostile. The CAR organizer at Brandeis began moving to quash the RSL and provoke a split, but he was only supported by one other person out of a group of nine. The main point of political disagreement was the question of national liberation and how to deal with the liberation movements of specially oppressed groups (such as women and gays), and the question of the united front. At a local CAR steering committee meeting, the local CAR leader (an important figure in the national PL-CAR hierarchy) attacked the RSL and Trotskyism, based on a caricature of the *Torch*, saying the RSL was poison and to stay away. This writer defended the RSL, pointing out the caricature of the attack, refuting its distortion of certain *Torch* articles and calling for the united front. The CAR leadership,

shocked that someone stood up to them, dropped the attack.

Brandeis-Waltham CAR had been planning a forum on the auto contract dispute to build for CAR's summer project in Detroit. It was decided by a vote of seven to two to invite an RSL speaker, an autoworker from New York. The initial response of PL-CAR was to wall off its cadre and boycott the forum,

but, realizing the forum would go on in any case, they decided to send speakers. The CAR speaker went first, giving an innocuous talk about CAR, the UAW and the summer project, ending with an appeal to join CAR. He was followed by the RSL speaker who gave a detailed description of the struggle in auto and called for a united front against the auto bosses. She was fol-

lowed by the PL speaker, who viciously attacked and slandered Trotskyism and the RSL, based on a comic book history of Trotsky (complete with quotes from the Moscow purge trials), accusing Trotsky of being a "bourgeois agent" out to destroy the revolution, and accusing the RSL of being out to attack and undermine PL. This attack was made under the guise of a "self-criticism" for allowing the RSL around PL-CAR and ended with an ultimatum that these "Trotskyite dogs" would no longer be allowed in CAR, an ultimatum that was carried out two days later at a CAR picnic by threat of physical force.

The floor was opened and a heated debate ensued; a series of RSL speakers countered the attack by PL. Jim Kelly responded to criticism leveled at his *Torch* article on Alice Peurala [May 15-June 14, 1979—Ed.], speaking about the stratification of the working class and the orientation to its most oppressed layers. RSL speakers spoke about the need to unite the working class, especially around the auto contract dispute, the ultra-left childishness and lack of political seriousness on the part of PL, the comic book nature of PL's attack, etc. One comrade pointed out the conflict between Trotskyism (Continued on page 13)

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Gun Batt BLA

By ADELE LOH

On May 26, a robbed Ku Klux Klan members attacked a E test march in Dec bama. The KKK s throwing rocks an but then they got out of their parked started shooting. like the '50s all Only this time marchers shot b one-minute gun ba 75 shots were firec them by the cop three Black mar two Klansmen wo

Growing violence against Black

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On the day after t ing, the KKK held Decatur's city hall members from fou armed with sticks, lead pipe, and guns

Chica Racis

By LAUR

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But a UICC faculty the Selective Index when the administr He found that ACT/S whether or not a stud or what kind of grade

racist and sexist attacks. Some left groups in the area attempted to organize responses to the attacks. But their actions have been largely isolated, as they have failed to put forward a strategy to unite enough forces to win. Supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade organized a protest of the arrest of the Hyde Park homeowner. But by not calling on other groups to unite in a strong demonstration, their isolated action enabled the cops to arrest nine demonstrators.

The Committee Against Racism and the Progressive Labor Party sponsored a number of actions against racist attacks. But they have driven away potential allies in this fight by claiming that Black defense guards "foment race war" and attacking those who disagree as "flunkies" and "police agents."

The Revolutionary Socialist League has participated in many of these actions and has worked to convince people to adopt the strategy of united action. We call for the united action of every group and individual willing to fight racist and sexist attacks by whatever means necessary. All those who agree with "COPS OUT OF THE COMMUNITIES — SMASH RACIST AND SEXIST ATTACKS" should join forces to organize militant, multi-racial defense guards of men and women which can draw broader layers of the working class into this fight. If we can unite around this common struggle, our political differences can be discussed without breaking our ranks in the face of the enemy. Isolated actions undertaken by small groups will not be able to really beat back the racists. In the coming months, further organized terror by the racists will make this even more of a life-and-death question. □

Front

lowed by the PL speaker, who viciously attacked and slandered Trotskyism and the RSL, based on a comic book history of Trotsky (complete with quotes from the Moscow purge trials), accusing Trotsky of being a "bourgeois agent" out to destroy the revolution, and accusing the RSL of being out to attack and undermine PL. This attack was made under the guise of a "self-criticism" for allowing the RSL around PL-CAR and ended with an ultimatum that these "Trotskyite dogs" would no longer be allowed in CAR, an ultimatum that was carried out two days later at a CAR picnic by threat of physical force.

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(Continued on page 13)

Gun Battle in Decatur, Alabama

BLACK MARCHERS CONFRONT KKK

By ADELE LOHMAN

On May 26, armed and robed Ku Klux Klan members attacked a Black protest march in Decatur, Alabama. The KKK started out throwing rocks and bottles; but then they got the guns out of their parked cars and started shooting. It looked like the '50s all over again. Only this time the Black marchers shot back. In a one-minute gun battle, 50 to 75 shots were fired, some of them by the cops, leaving three Black marchers and two Klansmen wounded.

Growing violence against Blacks

The Klan attack was not an isolated incident of the KKK running wild. It was part of the growing racist violence against Blacks in the South.

The May 26 march was organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to protest the frame-up conviction of Tommy Lee Hines. Hines, a retarded Black man, is serving a 30-year sentence on charges of raping a white woman. He has two more trials coming up on rape and robbery charges. The Hines case has become a symbol of the racist "justice" that the U.S. is famous for around the world.

On the day after the shooting, the KKK held a rally on Decatur's city hall lawn. Klan members from four states, armed with sticks, pieces of lead pipe, and guns, listened



Alabama state troopers guard KKK march in Decatur.

to their leaders rant and rave against Blacks, Jews and communists. At the rally, head Klansman Bill Wilkinson announced: "I will not let any Klansman or Klanswoman attend a rally unarmed any more." He also told his members to work with the cops, not against them. He knows the police are on the side of the Klan. His group, the Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, has recruited a lot of cops in the last year.

When SCLC held a mass rally the following night and announced another march on June 9, the KKK swore

they wouldn't allow Blacks to march again in Decatur. At this point, Alabama Governor Fob James stepped in. He released a statement that said he would back local officials in their efforts to enforce the law. He was scared of another confrontation between Black demonstrators and the Ku Klux Klan.

As 1,500 Blacks marched through Decatur on June 9 there were 500 cops to keep them separated from 150 Klan members. Local cops, sheriffs' deputies and state police, all in full riot gear, stood shoulder to shoulder several rows deep to make

sure the march remained peaceful.

On May 26 the authorities had been perfectly willing to let the KKK bust up a Black demonstration. They turned down SCLC's request for more police protection when they knew the Klan was piling up rocks and bottles to throw at the Black marchers. They didn't give a damn how many Blacks got hurt. They hoped the Black marchers would get scared



KKKer shot in Decatur gun battle.

and go home, and that would be the end of it.

But when Blacks defended themselves, arms in hand, everything changed. All of a sudden Decatur was in the headlines. If there was a confrontation on June 9, the TV networks and all the media would be there to record what happened. The governor wanted to avoid that at any cost. So he ordered the cops to "prevent violence" and look neutral.

SCLC opposes self-defense

The SCLC didn't want a confrontation either. Dr. Abraham Woods, head of the Birmingham SCLC chapter, said in an interview in the *Birmingham News*: "Our problem is to keep Blacks non-violent. . . . But there are always some weak people in every organization. . . ." By weak people he means anyone who believes in armed self-defense. But it is the SCLC leaders that are acting weak.

Two days after the May 26 KKK attack, Decatur police arrested a Black man, Curtis Lee Robinson. He was charged with the attempted murder of wounded Klansman David Lee Kelso. Eyewitnesses say Robinson, who is being held on \$3,000 bail, wasn't carrying any gun. SCLC leaders protested Robinson's arrest and said it was a concession to the KKK. But they made damn sure to let the world know he wasn't one of their members and they didn't even know him! The SCLC leadership wants peaceful protests. They want protection from the police and justice from the courts.

But the cops and the courts are on the same side as the Ku Klux Klan—the side of the ruling class.

Klan terror is growing in the South, and the only way to stop it is by meeting their force with force. Blacks and all anti-racists need to organize armed self-defense. That's the only way to drive the Klan off the streets and back into the sewers where they belong. □

Chicago Students Defeat Racist Admissions Policy

By LAURA WADEBAY

Our side has won a victory against ruling-class take-backs in education. On April 27, a militant demonstration by students and supporters forced the administration of the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle (UICC) to drop its plan to start using a "Selective Index" to screen out women, Black and Latin students.

The Selective Index is a formula for ranking applicants to UICC on their scores on the American College and Scholastic Aptitude tests (ACT and SAT). Currently, high school students applying to UICC can get in if they're in the top third of their graduating class. This is the case whether a student is in the top third of the graduating class of an all-Black school in Chicago, or an all-white school in an elite suburb. Because of the racist policies of the Chicago School Board, and because women are not encouraged to do as well in school as men, male students from English-speaking backgrounds in mostly white schools generally get a better education than everyone else. The UICC administration says that the large number of "unprepared" students currently at Circle from the Chicago public schools are dragging down the quality of education.

But a UICC faculty member did a study on the Selective Index formula two years ago, when the administration first brought it up. He found that ACT/SAT scores don't predict whether or not a student will stay in school, or what kind of grades she or he will make.

The only thing the scores show is whether the student comes from a rich background or a poor one. The more money, the higher the scores. Nothing else jibes. He also figured out that, if the Selective Index had been in effect then, 40 percent of the Black and Latin students and 25 percent of the women on campus at that time would not have made it in.

UICC administrators first came up with the Selective Index two years ago, but backed off when students and faculty denounced it. This time around, the Council on Student Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention (CSRAR) recommended it as part of a package of cutbacks. The CSRAR was set up by UICC Chancellor Riddle to "help the medicine go down." It is supposed to include students and faculty as well as administrators, but so far only one student has been willing to serve on it.

Demonstrations which stopped the Selective Index were held on March 30 and April 27. On April 27, about 500 people, more than half of them Black or Latin, squeezed into the room where the CSRAR was meeting. They chanted, "Stop the Index—Right Now!" and "What Do We Want? Education! What Do We Get? Discrimination!" until 120 Chicago cops, in riot gear led the CSRAR members out of the room. Chancellor Riddle snuck out of the building through a service entrance. The next day, he announced that the Selective Index had been dropped from the CSRAR report and would not be raised again until at least 1981. □

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Somers Six trial begins

Six prisoners are on trial in Connecticut for defending themselves from an attack by racist prison guards at Somers prison last December 17. The Somers Six are charged with several counts of rioting and assault, which could add 30 to 40 years to their current sentences. Like the August 8th Brigade, the Somers Six are being tried in a town where there are no Blacks or Latins on the jury panel. And the judge has ordered their leg irons kept on in the courtroom to prejudice the jury even more.

The six have been held in the control unit (segregation) for months under inhuman conditions. The guards abuse and threaten them with guns on their way to court. One prisoner was told he'd be lucky if he even made it to court.

The guards' contract is about to run out, and they're trying to provoke the prisoners into violent actions. Then they'll ask for more money because their job is dangerous. On June 4, a correctional officer claimed that one of the Somers Six, Malik J.S. Muhammad, a/k/a Ernest Bradshaw, stabbed him twice. With an added charge of attempted murder and possession of a dangerous weapon, Malik now faces 78 to 101 years. **Free the Somers Six!**

INS threatens Nicaraguan refugees

The El Centro Six—Nicaraguan refugees who were being held at the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS—La Migra) Processing Center in El Centro, California—are now all out on bail. They are still awaiting hearings on their appeal for political asylum, and may at any time be deported into the murderous hands of the Somoza regime. At least nine more Nicaraguan refugees in California have been arrested and are being held at El Centro, and the round-up continues. At the very time when the FSLN (Sandinista National Liberation Front) is carrying out its offensive against the Somoza dictatorship, and Carter and other politicians are making statements condemning the Somoza regime for "violations of human rights," the U.S. government is carrying out its own terror campaign to deliver anti-Somoza militants into the hands of the Somoza regime.

The Los Angeles branch of the Revolutionary Socialist League held a demonstration on June 9 against this outrage. We demand: **Freedom, asylum and jobs for the El Centro Six and all Nicaraguan refugees! No Deportations! Smash La Migra! Stop U.S. Imperialist aid to Somoza's military dictatorship!**—(Report from Lois Aarons)

Walla Walla prisoners need support

Three prisoners at Walla Walla, Washington, prison who held 10 hostages for 12 hours on May 9 have sent an appeal to the Torch/La Antorcha. The following are excerpts from their letter. "The enemy is having a field day with us because we have no legal help. (Kangaroo courts in prison, denial without due process of visits, legal materials, and screwing with our mail, etc.) We have no legal aid and face trial soon. . . . We need help. Legal assistance is a must, support committee a must, and letters of protest to President Carter and Governor Dixy Lee Ray and others helpful. We need stamps and/or funds. . . . We repeat they are going to hurt or kill us at the first opportunity. Please help us Brothers and Sisters!" Write to: Carl L. Harp, Robert S. Green Jr., or Robert C. Washburn at Box 520, Walla Walla, Washington 99362.

In brief...

The U.S. has the highest imprisonment rate in the world—215 per 100,000 population. The Netherlands has the lowest, 18 per 100,000. In Denmark, where no one has been executed since 1898, the rate is 28 per 100,000, and a long sentence is anything over three months. In Sweden, the rate is 32 per 100,000; but in 1974, 76 percent served less than four months, with 91 percent sentenced to less than one year. In the same year in the U.S., 74 percent of all prisoners were doing five years to life, and 700 were under death sentences.

Puerto Rican freedom fighter William Morales escaped from the prison ward of New York's Bellevue Hospital on May 28. Morales was supposed to start serving a 29 to 89 year sentence on charges stemming from an explosion in a Queens, New York, apartment last June, in which he lost both hands. Morales's wife, his half-brother and his mother have been summoned to testify before a federal grand jury. The cops hope a grand jury can help them figure out how a handless man, dressed in pajamas, got past all their guards out a barred third-floor window and disappeared without a trace.

Susanna Finley, a supporter of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), will go on trial in Chicago June 18 for taking part in a PLP attack on Nazi headquarters last April 7. The RSL plans to be in the courtroom to support her defense, and urges everyone who can to be there.

Capitalists Kill Spenkelnik

By FRANK HOPKINS

On May 25, the ruling class murdered John Spenkelnik. The murder was premeditated. He was strapped into the electric chair, and three times 2,500 volts of electricity shot through his body. This was the first involuntary execution to take place in the U.S. since the 1960s.

Prisoners at the Florida State Penitentiary at Raiford (where Spenkelnik was killed) fought all week against the execution. A hunger strike was held on May 23. When the execution went on prisoners banged on cell bars, shouted and chanted. Prison officials, scared of even more militant actions, locked down the prison. In the meanwhile, 400 demonstrators outside the prison chanted against the execution.

Six years ago, John Spenkelnik was accused of murdering a traveling companion. Again and again, Spenkelnik stated that this was a case of self-defense. Initially, the state gave Spenkelnik the "option" of pleading guilty to manslaughter and spending the rest of his life in prison. Because Spenkelnik wouldn't make any such deal with the state, they went ahead and stuck him with a murder rap, and gave him the chair.

Florida's Governor Bob Graham has been making a big to-do out of how this

execution will teach more respect for human life. This is a sick joke. Spenkelnik ended up in the chair, not for any murder, but because he didn't take what the state was trying to frame him up with.

The capitalist state isn't going to teach anybody re-



John Spenkelnik.

spect for human life. The capitalist state is out to murder the more than 500 people on death row. This is above and beyond the murders that cops commit all the time in working-class communities across the country. This is besides all the workers who get killed and maimed in industrial accidents. The capitalists and their flunkies have been getting away with murder for years and years—they never had any respect for anything except profits and power.

What the reintroduction of the death penalty does teach is that the capitalist system

has nowhere to go but to hell, and it is trying to drag us all down with it. Our lives are made more and more miserable. Fourteen gay bars get raided in one month in Chicago. Affirmative action programs are getting slashed all across the country. Young people are faced with a new draft and, with the coming summer, the same old bullshit media campaigns about gangs that give the cops an excuse to gun down whoever they want, whenever they want. Our cities are falling apart. You can walk for blocks in the Bronx before you find an apartment building that people are able to live in. And our living standards are going downhill.

The capitalists know we won't put up with this shit. The capitalists know we will be fighting back against our oppression and exploitation. And so the capitalists murdered Spenkelnik, and will try to murder plenty more of our brothers and sisters as an example to us all. They are trying to get us to put up with their rotten and corrupt system.

The only way to stop the capitalists from burning more sisters and brothers is to burn down their whole system. The only way to stop the death penalty is to put the capitalist system to death. Only when working and oppressed people control their own state will we all have control over our own lives. □

All-White Life Sentence

By PAUL ALDRIDGE
SPOKESPERSON
AUGUST 8TH BRIGADE
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

On May 28 at 8:45 p.m., an all-white jury in Kingston, New York, found Felix Castro guilty of first degree rioting and unlawful imprisonment. Castro, a 33-year-old Puerto Rican, was the first member of the August 8th Brigade to be tried on



Felix Castro.

charges stemming from the August 8, 1977, Napanoch prison rebellion. He now faces a life sentence under the New York Persistent Felon law. His trial and conviction is the first step in the state's plan to railroad the whole Brigade into prison for the rest of their lives.

On the day Castro was convicted, over 60 militant supporters of the August 8th Brigade Defense Committee demonstrated in front of the Ulster County courthouse, where the trial was being held. Demonstrators demanded that all charges be dropped against Castro and the rest of the Brigade. Following the demonstration, a brief rally was held which included speeches on the Brigade's defense and songs by a political folk-singer.

As we reported in last month's Torch/La Antorcha, Castro's trial was nothing short of a "legal" lynching. The judge, John "Maximum Sentence" Clyne, is a known right-winger brought in from Albany especially for the Brigade trials. Castro's jury did not include even one Latin or Black juror. And defense motions and objections were consistently denied, while the prosecution was given a free hand during the trial.

Most important, the judge and the prosecutor, Michael Kavanagh, worked hand-in-hand to prevent any mention of the Ku Klux Klan in the courtroom. The Napanoch Rebellion was the climax of a four-year struggle by prisoners to expose KKK terror and organizing among guards at the prison. At the time of the rebellion, there were over 35 known members and sympathizers of the Klan among the prison guards. Clyne's refusal to allow testimony concerning the fight against the Klan

Demonstration to Support the Pontiac Brothers Set for July 22

By BARRYL CLARK

The City-Wide Coalition to Free the Pontiac Brothers, and the Pontiac Brothers themselves, have called for a march and demonstration in Chicago to support the Brothers. The march will be on Sunday, July 22—the anniversary of the 1978 rebellion at Pontiac Prison in which three guards died. As a member of the City-Wide Coalition, the Revolutionary Socialist League is actively working to build the July 22 march. We urge all interested organizations and individuals to join the work.

The Pontiac Brothers are 31 Black and Latin prisoners indicted for the 1978 rebellion. Seventeen of them, all Black, face the death penalty on multiple charges of murder. The others are charged with lesser felonies.

The state is trying hard to frame up and convict these men. They want to use "legal" murder—the death penalty—against the Brothers to intimidate prisoners and anyone else from fighting back against rotten conditions. The state bribed and frightened prisoners into giving "testimony" to the point where the state can't know—and doesn't care—if the indicted men had anything to do with the deaths of the guards.

The Revolutionary Socialist League denounces the attempted frame-up of the Pontiac Brothers. At the same time, we defend the July 22 rebellion. The RSL

says the prisoners had every right to rebel against the degradation and misery inflicted on them at Pontiac. The state and the rotten conditions are responsible for the deaths of the guards.

Trial site moved

On Friday, June 1, the trial site was moved to Cook County (Chicago). This is the location the prisoners and the defense wanted, because this is where most Pontiac prisoners are from. The judge ruled that only Cook County had the physical facilities to handle a trial of this magnitude. The trial itself is not expected to begin for some months.

The City-Wide Coalition is working now—before the trial begins—to build support for the Pontiac Brothers. A massive, united-front effort is needed! Committees have been formed and planning meetings are being held. To find out how to get involved, you can reach the City-Wide Coalition's Outreach Committee at (312) 434-8292. Or you can call the RSL at (312) 226-9915.

MARCH TO FREE THE PONTIAC BROTHERS!
Sunday, July 22, 1 p.m.
March from Jackson Park to Washington Park
(Exact route and other details are tentative, pending permits, etc.)

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All-White Jury Convicts Felix Castro

Life Sentence Possible

By PAUL ALDRIDGE
SPOKESPERSON
AUGUST 8TH BRIGADE
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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Felix Castro.

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prior to the rebellion severely undermined the ability of Castro's attorney to present a strong defense.

While Castro's conviction was a serious setback for the struggle to free the August 8th Brigade, it was only the first battle in what will be a long campaign. Each of the remaining members of the Brigade—Frank Abney, Andre Nieves, Ronald Tacardon, Lorenzo Perez and Eddie Pacheco—will be tried separately, with the next trial probably starting in late July.

To build the fight to free the Brigade, the Defense Committee is pursuing the following three-pronged strategy:

First, Kingston must be put under seige. During Castro's trial, weekly pickets were held in front of the courthouse. Other militant tactics, including demonstrations in New York City and other cities across the country, are also critical to building the defense.

In order to make the Kingston pickets effective, they must be as large and militant as possible. A number of left groups and various other organizations have endorsed the defense and covered it in their newspapers and publications. This has helped to publicize the case and



Demonstrators in Kingston demand freedom for Felix Castro.

should continue. To further strengthen the defense campaign, a united effort of all organizations to build the weekly pickets during the next trial is needed. Active support for the Brigade should also be organized among sympathetic people living in Kingston and the surrounding area.

Second, the struggle to free the Brigade must become a focus of the broader struggle against the KKK. The Klan is a serious danger to all working and oppressed people. Just a few days before Castro was convicted, Klansmen shot two Black

people in Decatur, Alabama (see article, page 5). Over the last few months, the newspapers and television have carried numerous reports on the growth and activities of this white supremacist organization. The struggle to free the August 8th Brigade can be part of building the unity and strength we need to smash the KKK, the Nazis, and other racist and reactionary outfits.

Finally, we must turn the trials of the Brigade into a focus of national attention and build support for the Brigade across the country.

As long as the trials are isolated in Kingston, Clyne and Kavanagh are free to pull whatever kind of crap they please. If we can focus national attention on the case, it may force Clyne and Kavanagh to back off a little from their blatant railroad job. If we succeed in building broad and militant support for the Brigade, we might make the courts afraid to convict the other Brigade members and lay the basis to overturn Castro's conviction on appeal.

The August 8th Brigade Defense Committee, which was initiated by the Revolutionary Socialist League, fully supports the Napanoch rebellion. The Defense Committee is working to educate and organize workers and oppressed people about the struggle at Napanoch, the Brigade's case and the broader fight against the Klan and all forms of capitalist oppression. By building a united working-class struggle, the Brigade can win its freedom and further the struggle for the liberation of all oppressed people.

Send messages of solidarity, contributions and requests for further information to: August 8th Brigade Defense Committee, PO Box 524, New York, NY 10036; or call (212) 869-9239. □

'The outside struggle and the prison struggle are the same'

This interview was done on the last day of Castro's trial.

Torch: Do you feel the defense was given enough opportunity to get its case together?

Castro: No, we had a hard time preparing our defense. We were notified only five days prior to the trial that we were scheduled for trial. We didn't have time to prepare. And my attorney, Bob Bloom, was not able to be in court and represent me. Despite many requests by his assistant, Doug Colbert, who was asking the court to grant us more time for Bloom to be ready to appear, it was denied. The judge forced us to begin trial, even though we were requesting more time. So, Doug Colbert became my lawyer at that time.

Torch: Felix, how do you think the case has gone so far?

Castro: The proceedings have been very unfair. There were only two Blacks out of 90-something people in the jury pool. And no Hispanics, and they were all old people—average age like 59 or 64, and I'm only 33 years old. These people are all a generation or two older than me, so there's a big gap. The only two people who were young or were Black who were prospective jurors were excluded by the prosecutor.

Since the trial started, we haven't been able to get out a lot of testimony that would be beneficial to my defense. The judge has ruled that nothing prior to August 8th will be mentioned in court, only what occurred on August 8th.

Torch: What sort of things in particular is the judge not allowing?

Castro: The harassment and racial overtones that

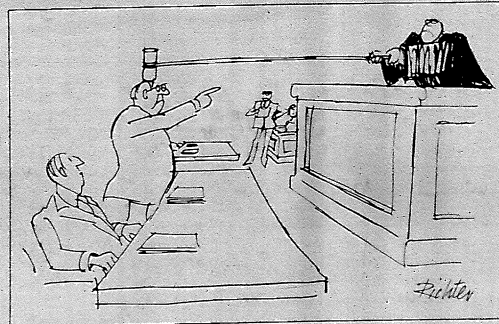
existed in the facility prior to the August 8th Rebellion, the unsanitary conditions that existed in the mess hall and the lack of food, and the racial incidents that occurred before the rebellion.

Torch: What do you think Kavanagh and Clyne's reasons have been for objecting to any testimony about KKK activity in the prison?

Castro: Kavanagh's objection is based on the fact that he wants to get a conviction. If he allowed testimony to be presented to the jury of what were the factors that contributed to the incident of August 8th, then his case wouldn't be as strong—it wouldn't even hold up in court. There are reasons for what occurred. Things don't just occur for no reason.

Torch: What would you say the broader political questions are that should make people on the outside join in the defense?

Castro: Well, we're just working people, we come from the working class. We're all subject to being victimized by this system. We could all become prisoners tomorrow. That's why people should become more aware and support more of the prisoners' struggles, because the prison struggle and the outside struggle are both the same. It's just an extension. But it's probably more aggressive inside, where we're actually confronted with the system's last tool—which is prison. □



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Iran: Arab Workers and Peasants Fight for Self-Rule

By TONY CURZO

The regime of Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran is unraveling. Last February, Khomeini and his mullahs (priests) were swept into power by the Iranian Revolution. But in their attempt to build a religious dictatorship, they have antagonized just about every segment of Iranian society, and are facing increasing rebellion. The latest challenge to Khomeini comes from the Arab people of Arabistan province (which the Iranians call Khuzistan).

On May 29, after armed goons from Khomeini's Revolutionary Guards fired on striking Arab dock workers in the port city of Khorramshahr, the workers struck back. They killed two guards and wounded seven.

In the same city, Arab militants had occupied two buildings in the wake of the revolution. Turning them into Arab cultural centers, they had staged sit-ins to back up demands for Arab national autonomy (self-rule within Iran) and for cultural rights, such as the teaching of Arabic in province schools.

Last May 29, in an attempt to evict them, Khomeini had units of the Iranian navy launch pre-dawn attacks on the centers. Khomeini's forces also attacked another cultural center in nearby Ahwaz.

These attacks sparked a full-scale rebellion in Khorramshahr. Arab workers and youth attacked the governor's office and set fire to the main police station, the government's tobacco factory and the post office. Armed groups of Arab militants set up roadblocks throughout the city of 100,000.

The governor-general for Khuzistan, Admiral Ahmad Madani, declared a state of emergency and brought in 700 additional paratroopers and pro-government militiamen. Tanks and armored personnel carriers appeared on the streets. The clashes continued into the next day, May 31. Altogether, some 200 people were killed and more than 600 wounded.

On June 1, thousands of Arabs marched in Khorramshahr and Abadan. They demanded an end to the attacks on their communities and organizations; the removal of Madani as governor-general; and the prosecution of all those responsible for the two-day massacre. Afterwards, thousands of demonstrators took over a Khorramshahr mosque to back up these demands. On that same day, skirmishes between militant Arabs and Khomeini's vigilantes broke out again.

The roots of this rebellion go back a long way to the forced Iranianization of Arabistan under the shah. Before oil was discovered some 40 years ago, this province was 90 percent Arab. But to assure future Iranian control, the shah sent Iranians to colonize the region.



Unemployed Arab workers in Abadan demonstrate against the government.

The Iranians pushed the Arab population aside and took control of the oil fields and the economy. Arabistan's wealth went to enrich the rulers in Tehran, while the Arabs of the province suffered from the most extreme poverty.

The Iranians tried systematically to wipe out every trace of Arab identity. The Arab language was forbidden. They even changed place names. (For example, Khorramshahr was previously known as Muhammarah.)

Khomeini has continued the policies of his predecessor. He has refused to grant the Arab people self-rule or

recognize their language. And his machine in the province is overwhelmingly dominated by Iranians, many of whom worked for the shah.

Workers' upsurge continues

The rebellion in Arabistan coincides with a general upsurge in workers' struggles there. The five-week-old strike of the dock workers continues. The oil workers are threatening to strike over demands of 50 to 100 percent increases to make up

for recent losses. And a force of 28,000 highly skilled contract workers are engaged in bloody clashes with vigilantes of Khomeini's *komitehs* (secret committees) almost every day. These workers lost their jobs when foreign companies lost their contracts in the oilfields.

The rebellion of the Arab people follows other rebellions by Kurds and Turkmenis. However, the stakes are higher in Arabistan. This is the region where much of Iran's wealth—in the form of oil—is pumped out of the ground. If the rebellion continues, the Arab workers may shut down the oil fields

and the world's largest oil refinery at Abadan. This would be a severe blow to the beleaguered Khomeini regime, and might topple it altogether. As part of the oppressed Arab community, the oil workers can put themselves at the head of all the oppressed nationalities fighting for their rights; and as the most strategic section of the Iranian working class, they can spearhead the struggle of all the workers against the regime.

While Khomeini has come under attack from the workers and the oppressed nationalities, he is also increasingly antagonizing the middle classes, the Westernized bourgeoisie, and the left. The middle classes and Westernized bourgeoisie are angry because Khomeini is trying to build up his own political power at the expense of theirs. For example, he has reneged on his promise of a popularly elected Constituent Assembly. Instead, the assembly will be made up of 40 hand-picked Khomeini loyalists. He is also trying to ram through a secretly drafted constitution that provides him with strong powers.

These maneuvers are provoking a hostile response from key leaders of the Iranian bourgeoisie. The

New Nicaraguan Uprising Shakes Somoza Regime

(Continued from page 1)

Costa Rican border. Most other cities and towns are in a state of insurrection. Unfortunately, the Sandinistas were forced to withdraw from Masaya on June 9 by an overwhelming force of National Guardsmen.

But in the most significant development, the Sandinistas have taken the battle to Managua. Mortars and machine guns have reached within less than four blocks of Somoza's "bunker" and the U.S. Embassy. On June 12, the U.S. had to bring in one of its own military transports to evacuate its dependents, because the roads leading to the Managua airport were in the hands of the Sandinistas.

While the fighting is going on virtually everywhere, major engagements between the Sandinistas and the National Guard appear to be relatively few. The Guard has not been too anxious to go out and engage the FSLN. Meanwhile, the Sandinistas are also avoiding major encounters, preferring to hit the Guard hard and run. For example, in most of the cities the Sandinistas control, they have not yet assaulted the National Guard garrisons.

This represents a shift of tactics for the FSLN, which

in the offensive of last September (and as recently as this past April in Estelí) attempted to square off with the National Guard in conventional war. Even though it suffered no major military defeats, the FSLN came out second best in these engagements, and the toll in civilian lives and property was extremely high.

It is estimated that well over 5,000 people died, and the bulk of five major cities were destroyed, in last September's unsuccessful ris-

ing. According to the well-informed *Latin America Political Report* of April 29, the Sandinistas have criticized this past approach. The current shift of tactics should work to their advantage.

The major factor favoring the Sandinistas in the present offensive is the tremendous spirit of rebellion which has seized all segments of the Nicaraguan masses, particularly the youth.

A couple of incidents reported by Alan Riding in the

June 11 *New York Times* reflect this revolutionary spirit: After the FSLN withdrew from Masaya, Riding was passing through the city. "Hey, gringo!" a young rebel carrying a .38 called out to him. "We haven't been beaten yet!" A woman shouted to another who was waving a white flag: "Put away that handkerchief! We haven't been beaten. We never will!"

While the FSLN has the support of the people, the National Guard has the



Sandinista liberation fighters take positions in Masaya.

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While Khomeini has come under attack from the workers and the oppressed nationalities, he is also increasingly antagonizing the middle classes, the Westernized bourgeoisie, and the left. The middle classes and Westernized bourgeoisie are angry because Khomeini is trying to build up his own political power at the expense of theirs. For example, he has reneged on his promise of a popularly elected Constituent Assembly. Instead, the assembly will be made up of 40 hand-picked Khomeini loyalists. He is also trying to ram through a secretly drafted constitution that provides him with strong powers.

These maneuvers are provoking a hostile response from key leaders of the Iranian bourgeoisie. The

sharpest of these responses has come from Hedayat Matin-daftari, leader of the National Democratic Front (NDF), a left-liberal opposition group. According to the June 4 **Christian Science Monitor**, the NDF sent a letter to Khomeini lashing out at him for "sponsoring an oppressive dictatorship, crushing dissent, suppressing rival ideologies, and forcing people to obey his word." In addition, the chief of the Iranian oil company, a lawyer, Hassan Nazih, attacked Khomeini in a talk before the Iranian Bar Association. Afterwards, the seven members of the oil company's board resigned in a show of support for Nazih. Since then, two provincial governors have also resigned. Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan has also entered the arena, saying that Iran has become a nation "of hundreds of chiefs." He wants to get the priests out of government, streamline the state machine, dismiss Khomeini's *komiteh*, and leave the field open for the capitalist class to run things.

To try to shore up his power, Khomeini is stepping up his attacks on the left. Last April, 42 members of the Iranian People's Fedayee Guerrillas were arrested in Arabistan. They were not released until the end of May. On May 25, Khomeini forces attacked an anti-U.S. demonstration of the Fedayee. They blocked the road to the

U.S. Embassy and, chanting "Death to the Communists!" they jumped the demonstrators.

On May 30 and 31, Khomeini's forces in Ahwaz arrested nine members of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), an affiliate of the U.S. SWP. As of this writing, they are still being held. And on June 1, 100 armed goons prevented SWP leader Babak Zahraie from addressing 7,000 people at Tabriz University.

At the May 25 anti-Fedayee demonstration, one goon, quoted in the **New York Times**, said: "We should kill them all, that's

seen, Khomeini's own power is not secure.

The Khomeini regime is in trouble. Yet there appears to be no other organized force which is ready and able to take over. The workers can use this time to build their organizations and go on the offensive. They can strengthen their workers' councils and trade unions, to defend themselves from Khomeini's attacks, and from the economic crisis that is sweeping Iran.

They can fight for a real, elected Constituent Assembly, where all the opponents of Khomeini—the workers, the oppressed nationalities,



Ayatollah Khomeini and Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan.

what the Imam said." Khomeini would like to kill all the left, but he is not in a position to do so. For one thing, the left is armed. In addition, it has the support of most workers because of its record of fighting the shah. Finally, as we have

the women, the middle class — can get together in a common front. Most important, the workers should use this interim period to forge themselves a revolutionary socialist party that can lead in the revolutionary tasks that lie ahead. □

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June 11 **New York Times** reflect this revolutionary spirit. After the FSLN withdrew from Masaya, Riding was passing through the city. "Hey, gringo!" a young rebel carrying a .38 called out to him. "We haven't been beaten yet!" A woman shouted to another who was waving a white flag: "Put away that handkerchief! We haven't been beaten. We never will!"

While the FSLN has the support of the people, the National Guard has the



heavy hardware and the numbers (they outnumber FSLN regulars by a margin of 10 to one). It's therefore hard to predict the outcome at this stage. "So far, it's a stand-off situation which the National Guard must win in the end because it has endless supplies of ammunition," said a foreign diplomat.

But cold diplomatic calculations tend to break down in the face of people who are willing to fight to the death for freedom. While it is true that the Sandinistas may have a hard time getting more ammunition, the National Guard is suffering heavy casualties. It's being told not to go out and engage the Sandinistas. And when it does go out, it can't seem to find them. Yet the Sandinistas appear to be everywhere, striking at will, controlling major cities and rural arteries, joined by additional thousands of workers and youth. Meanwhile, So-

moza is fueling the people's determination to fight, through his senseless bombardment of the cities, his use of napalm on the population and other barbaric tactics he learned from his U.S. mentors.

U.S. imperialism aids Somoza

U.S. imperialism is in a bind in Nicaragua. It doesn't want to be too closely identified with Somoza. It acknowledges that, even if he wins, Somoza will have to be dumped because he has lost control. Every day more U.S. allies in Latin America are calling for his removal.

But on the other hand, the U.S. imperialists are quietly giving Somoza aid (a \$66 million IMF loan, 10 planes sold to Somoza's son, war supplies, etc.) because they have no other way to prevent the Sandinistas from coming

to power.

The U.S. knows that an FSLN victory could be, in the words of the *Agence France-Presse*, "the fuse that sets off Central America." In this region—an area largely dominated by U.S.-backed, Somoza-type regimes—the struggle of the workers and peasants is building rapidly.

Victory to the Sandinistas

In spite of our political differences with the Sandinistas, we support the victory of the FSLN. Such a victory would be a major defeat for U.S. imperialism. It would help shake U.S. control, not only in Central America, but throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. With the U.S. on the defensive and one of its major puppets destroyed, the workers and peasants on two continents would be in a much better position to wage the class struggle and fight for their needs.

We also welcome the Sandinistas' shift in tactics, as shown by their greater emphasis on mobilizing the workers and peasants. However, the Sandinistas are not mobilizing the Nicaraguan masses to enable them to seize power for themselves. Instead, they are using them as a battering ram to put a new capitalist government in power. The workers have to use this insurrection—and the openings provided by an eventual victory over Somoza—to build their own organizations and to fight for a workers' government. □



Viet rulers drive out ethnic Chinese

The Vietnamese rulers are trying to drive all ethnic Chinese people out of Vietnam. And they are forcing these people to pay hundreds of millions of dollars for the privilege. Some 500,000 Chinese have been expelled in the last 12 months. And somewhere between 800,000 and 1.2 million are still awaiting deportation.

To get the Chinese to leave, the Vietnamese government is using every form of harassment at its disposal: loss of jobs, closure of schools, curfews, intimidation by police, cutting off food rations. No one is being spared: Vietnamese married to Chinese, people who have a remote Chinese ancestor, even loyal members of the Vietnamese Communist Party whose only "crime" is to have a Chinese relation are being kicked out of the country. More than \$3,000 in gold is being exacted from each adult as the price of leaving. In one month, says the **New York Times**, the amount collected was "more than half of Vietnam's total estimated exports for all of 1978, \$416 million." This traffic in human cargo has become Vietnam's leading export and foreign exchange earner—edging out coal. The Vietnamese government is expected to earn more than \$3 billion from this "trade."

Since the war with China, the flow of refugees has increased dramatically, with as many as 3,000 people a day leaving in overcrowded boats. With the increased flow, the death rate has climbed from 50 percent to 70 percent, because fewer seaworthy boats are available.

Apartheid chief resigns in disgrace

On June 4 John Vorster, president of South Africa, resigned in disgrace. A government commission had accused him of covering up illegal government projects. These projects were designed to prop up the racist apartheid system both in South Africa and around the world. This was the latest incident in a Watergate-type scandal that is shaking the racist South African government. The secret projects included financing a South African newspaper, the *Cladell*, and turning it into a pro-government propaganda rag. They also involved giving over \$11 million to a publisher in the U.S., John P. McGoff, to drum up support for apartheid.

South Africa's present prime minister, Pieter Botha, is now taking steps to prevent further disclosures about schemes to support apartheid. His supporters in parliament are proposing new laws which would make it illegal for newspapers to report on government corruption or secret police activities without prior permission from government officials!

Although Vorster's career has ended in disgrace, he is getting off all too lightly. Throughout his career Vorster was a hardline supporter of white racist rule in South Africa. In the 1940s he was jailed for his pro-Nazi activities. As Minister of Justice, Police and Prisons in the early 1960s, he introduced repressive policies like detention without trial for opponents of the regime. And as prime minister from 1966 to 1978, he ordered the invasion of Angola in 1975 and the slaughter of thousands of Black militants during the 1976 Soweto rebellion.

In brief...

Workers in the Caribbean nation of **Dominica** have organized a general strike against the government of Prime Minister Patrick John. The strike, which began May 29, has shut down shops, schools and docks throughout the island.

The rebellion began after troops fired on thousands of workers, who were demonstrating against a government proposal for new laws directed against the trade unions and the press. The troops killed one man and injured nine others. In addition, a six-month-old baby was suffocated by tear gas.

Five of the main trade unions in Dominica, representing 18,000 workers, have sworn to continue the strike until John resigns. As we go to press, the strike is still going on.

On June 5, **Basque workers walked off their jobs** in a general strike against the Spanish government. At least six people were injured in clashes with police in the towns of Pamplona and San Sebastian. The strike shut down all of the areas of Euzkadi (the Basque country) controlled by Spain. The workers were responding to the killing of a 24-year-old Venezuelan woman in Tudela on June 3 by a member of the Spanish Civil Guard. The woman was shot during a march by over 2,000 people against the building of a U.S.-supplied nuclear power plant in the Basque town of Bilbao. The protest had been part of a worldwide day of actions against nuclear power plants.

On June 12, **Comrade David M. Sibeko**, Director of Foreign Affairs and member of the Presidential Council of the Pan-Africanist Congress of Azania, was killed in Tanzania. Comrade Sibeko was shot in the head by unknown assailants.

—PB & TC

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Québec's National Rights Under Fire

Conservatives Win in Canada

By BRENT DAVIS

The May 22 Canadian elections reflected the deepening split between the English-Canadian majority of the population and the oppressed French-speaking Québécois people. Joe Clark, head of the Progressive Conservative Party, rode an anti-French wave into office. His program combined Anglo chauvinism with right-wing, "free-enterprise," tax-cutting proposals (like Proposition 13) to try to shore up Canada's sinking economy. (Eight percent of Canadian workers are now out of work and inflation is as bad as in the U.S.)

Clark defeated the incumbent prime minister, French-speaking Pierre Elliott Trudeau of the Liberal Party. During the past 11 years, Trudeau served as the Canadian bourgeoisie's bridge between the Québécois and the English Canadians. In the May elections, he ran on a platform of "national unity" and strengthening the central government at the expense of the provinces.

Canada divides in two

Most English Canadians voted Conservative—making the Conservatives the English-Canadian party. And virtually all the Québécois voted Liberal. In the entire West (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba), Trudeau's Liberals took only two seats. They also got creamed in English-speaking Ontario. But in Québec, the Liberals captured 67 out of 75 seats, while the Conservatives got only two.

The Liberals held their own in the poverty-stricken Maritime Provinces, which include a sizable French-speaking minority, and in certain Ontario districts that are also heavily French. Nationwide, the Liberals outpolled the Conservatives 40 percent to 36 percent, because of the overwhelming support they got in Québec. But because their support was concentrated in one province, they only won 114 seats to the Conservatives' 136, and lost control of the government.

The New Democratic Party (NDP), a reformist socialist organization, increased its strength in the English-speaking West, gaining 18 percent of the total vote. With 26 seats, the NDP controls the balance of power in the new parliament.

The elections have left Canada virtually split in two. On one side is the dominant English-speaking majority, which is determined to keep Canada "English." On the other stands

the oppressed Québécois nation.

The English Canadians are screaming about the language policy of the nationalist Parti Québécois (PQ) government in Québec, which they claim violates English rights. This chauvinist current is everywhere. It erupted in Toronto this past May when crowds booed in a ball-park during the French version of Canada's national anthem. Today Bilingual, Tomorrow French, an anti-Québécois piece of trash, is currently a best-seller among English Canadians. Meanwhile, the Conservative government of Ontario has just killed a bill guaranteeing access to mother-tongue education for the French in that province (a right guaranteed to current English residents in Québec).

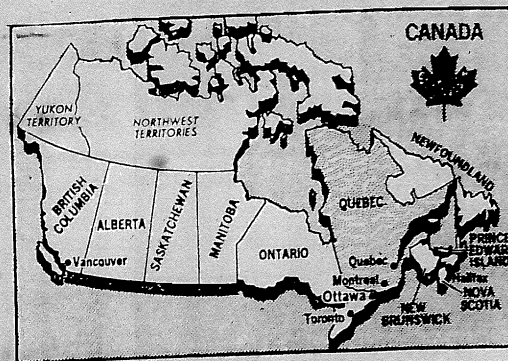
In the elections, the Québécois rallied behind the Liberals. This vote was primarily a defensive response to English Canada's chauvinist attack. Behind the electoral support for the Liberals, who want to maintain the Canadian status quo, there is little political agreement.

The dominant party in Québec is the Parti Québécois,

a nationalist party led by René Lévesque. The PQ beat the Liberals in November 1976 and took control of the provincial government around a program of independence for Québec. The PQ didn't run in the recent national elections because it doesn't accept the English-dominated national government as legitimate.

The election results can be expected to increase nationalist feelings in Québec, now that English Canadians have made clear their desire to slap down the Québécois. And the Lévesque government in Québec is hoping to benefit by holding a referendum for independence in the next few months. However, it's not at all clear that such a referendum will win. Lévesque's Parti Québécois is losing ground in Québec. Current polls show only 20 to 30 percent support for independence.

Three years of PQ rule have exposed the bankruptcy of bourgeois nationalism to the large numbers of Québécois who want national independence. The people who voted PQ in 1976 had hoped that "their government" would put an end to the oppression and exploitation of the Québécois people.



cois people.

But, aside from valid legislation to defend the French language, nothing much has changed. The high unemployment, the unbelievable income differentials between English and French, and the plunder of Québec's wealth remain.

Lévesque has done nothing to attack these problems, for fear of frightening the U.S. and English-Canadian capitalists. Instead, he has worked overtime to convince them that an independent Québec would not lessen their profits, pull out of NATO, or be any kind of danger to

U.S. domination of the continent.

To win over the sympathy of the English-speaking rulers, Lévesque has tried to curb Québec's militant labor movement. And he has progressively watered down his nationalist program: from full and unconditional independence, to independence with free association, to a vague formula of "sovereignty-association."

As bourgeois nationalists, tied to imperialism by a thousand threads, the PQ cannot get rid of Québec's English-speaking rulers and grant the Québécois true self-determination. Its program amounts to exchanging the open colonialism of today for a kind of neo-colonialist domination. If the PQ is successful, the U.S. imperialists and their English-Canadian cousins will continue to dominate Québec, but they will have Lévesque to front for them and provide the illusion of independence. It's no wonder that the Québécois are having second thoughts about the PQ and its strategy!

Québec: an oppressed nation

Québec is an oppressed nation which has been dominated by English Canada for more than 200 years. Like all oppressed nationalities, the Québécois should have the right to freely determine their own fate: whether they will remain in Canada or split off and set up another nation-state. The English Canadians do not have the right to impose a sham unity on the Québécois, based on the oppression and exploitation of Québec.

Yet, by and large, this is what the English-speaking majority is trying to do. The English Canadians want Canada to remain "English," yet they won't give the Québécois their independence or any other national rights. In this context, the Canadian bourgeoisie's repeated calls for "national unity" are calls for the continued colonial oppression of Québec. □

British and Yankee imperialism conquered Québec 220 years ago. The Québécois (pronounced kay-hey-kwah) are descended from the French and are commonly referred to as "French Canadians." They remain a conquered people to this day, suffering under the domination of the Canadian ruling class—almost entirely of English origin—and of U.S. imperialism. Roughly seven million of Canada's 23 million people are Québécois, with five and a half million living in Québec Province. Other major Québécois concentrations are in Ontario and New Brunswick.

Québec today is a colony. The Québécois have no real control over foreign policy, over monetary policy, or over the army (which occupied Québec in the early '70s in an effort to crush the workers' and national movements).

Although 80 percent of Québec's people are French, Canadians of English descent and the U.S. imperialists own almost all the industry and large businesses. The U.S. has invested over \$7 billion. Imperialism is sucking Québec dry of natural resources, especially forests and asbestos. Only three percent of asbestos mined in Québec is processed there.

Québec suffers from an 11 percent unemployment rate, with Gaspé Peninsula having rates up to 30 percent. By comparison, English-speaking Ontario has a seven percent rate. Wages in Québec lag 20 percent behind the rest of Canada and 40 percent behind the U.S.

French is a second-class language in Québec. The English bourgeoisie suppresses its use. Going to English schools gives access to the better jobs. English is the language of the professions and the language of work, of contracts and grievance procedures in many factories. In their own homeland, the Québécois earn only 56 percent as



Québec nationalists celebrate election victory in 1976.

much wages as English-Canadian residents. In fact, among the nine major ethnic groups in Québec, the French are the ones with the lowest income, even though they are the overwhelming majority of the population. Forty percent of Québec's families live below the poverty line.

The Québécois in the rest of Canada suffer as much from discrimination as those in Québec. They have the dirtiest and lowest-paying jobs. And—as with Blacks and Latins in the U.S.—Québécois workers are the last hired and first fired. Except in New Brunswick, they have no guarantee of French education. The Canadian constitution (the British North America Act of 1867) offers no guarantees of French rights outside of Québec.



JUNE 1979



Eyewitness
From

5,000
SPIRIT

The following is an eyewitness account by an RSL supporter, Max, of the May 21 San Francisco uprisings. Since this account was written, government agencies in San Francisco began attempts to crush the spirit of resistance among San Francisco gays and gay men. A "blue riot" police and fire department communique is being set up to "investigate causes" of the May 21 events. In addition, the permanent municipal jury has subpoenaed videotapes of events and may be preparing indictments. Finally, the trials of 19 people arrested on the 21st will soon begin. They are planning a political defense.

On May 21, the people of San Francisco said they had had enough. They said No to the harassment and exploitation of gay people, they said No to a judicial system that has one set of rules for the ruling class and another for poor working people, and they said No to the police who enforce the sex racism and oppression of the government. They did not say "No" passively; they did it vigorously, with every ounce of their strength and risking their lives. By dawn of the 22nd, 15 cops had been burned, hundreds of windows in over 30 buildings had been broken, 59 cops had been injured and a million dollars worth of damage had been done. By morning, San Francisco's establishment was also being tried to pick up the pieces and defuse the anger of the night before—but t

San Francisco . . .

the Family, Church and State," and "I've Got a Rope, You Find a Tree, Let's Go Hang the Bourgeoisies!" As we passed gay bars we urged people to "Join Us." When we passed by the Balconey, a popular gay restaurant/bar, the cook closed the kitchen and left for the streets. He was fired the next morning.

When we arrived at City Hall we were 3,000 strong and very angry. City Hall's

responded with "No to Gay Fascists" and "Smash the Church." Only one person was allowed to speak, a radical lesbian who told us "our anger is right" and "it's time to start passing out the candy." (Dan White's lawyers argued that the junk food White ate caused him to kill Moscone and Milk!)

More than an hour had passed since we arrived at City Hall when we began overturning newspaper stands and breaking them. This spurred others on

the stragglers. Finally it was ignited and, as flames shot up, the crowd paused to watch, but only for a while. Seven cars were sitting in a row in front of the State Building. One group moved through, breaking their windows. A second group moved through, throwing in burning newspapers. All were blazing in a matter of moments. The cops looked on, powerless to do anything. Fifteen cop cars were burned during the night.

On the other side of the Civic Center attacks were focused on banks. The first hit was Wells Fargo. Yells of "This is for the people of Chile" were heard as bricks were tossed through its windows. (Wells Fargo has made massive loans to the Chilean Junta.) On Market Street, large concrete trash containers were rolled through the plate glass doors of the Bank of America. By dawn every bank in the area had lost at least some of its windows. To the east of the Civic Center, a tire store had been entered and hundreds of tires were rolled out to feed blazes that seemed to be on every street corner.

Approximately 70 of us were treated for injuries received during the evening. Twenty-six others were arrested. Most injuries were bruises, cuts, broken arms and ribs. One person required brain surgery. Many were injured when they stopped to help fallen comrades. The night holds many stories of heroism. In one instance, the police charged the crowd but a group of deaf gay men, engaged in conversation, were unaware of the advancing police. A hearing man and woman ran back to let them know. The deaf men reached safety, but the woman tripped and the first man stopped to help her up. Unfortunately, the cops

"We support our sisters and brothers. . ."

Two weeks ago, gay people took to the streets of San Francisco. They stormed City Hall and did battle with the police. It was a rebellion in the spirit of Stonewall. The immediate cause was a light sentence for Dan White, the murderer of Harvey Milk. But police harassment of gay people had been on the increase previous to White's sentencing. The rebellion was a rebellion against this harassment and against the oppression gay people face every day.

A Grand Jury has been set up to investigate the rebellion. Some of our sisters and brothers may be indicted. The Detroit-Ann Arbor Organizing Committee for the March on Washington stands behind our sisters and brothers. The courts may claim that the gay people who took to the streets are "criminals." But the only criminals in this case are the people responsible for gay oppression: the police who harass us and arrest us for being gay, the courts who let our murderers get off easy and who take away our children, and all the institutions which systematically try to rob us of our dignity, our respect, and our most basic rights. We support our sisters and brothers who fought back; we are carrying on the same struggle here in Michigan.

—Detroit-Ann Arbor Organizing Committee for the March on Washington

ornate glass doors were almost immediately broken by the crowd. Police rushed through the crowd and in City Hall's back door to prevent demonstrators from entering the building, where the city's Board of Supervisors was still meeting. Rally organizers realized that the crowd neither needed nor wanted to hear speeches about the injustice of the capitalist courts. The day and their whole lives had taught them about injustice. All plans for a rally were abandoned.

We continued to chant as the crowd grew to well over 5,000. Now we were also chanting "Dump Carter, Dump Dianne" (Mayor Dianne Feinstein) and "He Got Away With Murder." The so-called gay leadership became frantic as it became apparent that their "constituency" was ready to tear apart the system they were desperately trying to become a part of. In succession, each tried to calm the crowd and each was booed off the stage. Cleve Jones, a gay Democrat and former Milk aide; Sally Gearhart, a gay Christian; Howard Wallace, a fake socialist; Carol Ruth Silver, a liberal supervisor; and Harvey Milk's replacement on the Board, Harry Britt, were all drowned out after speaking only a few sentences. When Leonard Matlovich and an Episcopal minister who hadn't even begun to speak took the stage, the crowd



On Castro Street before going down to City Hall.

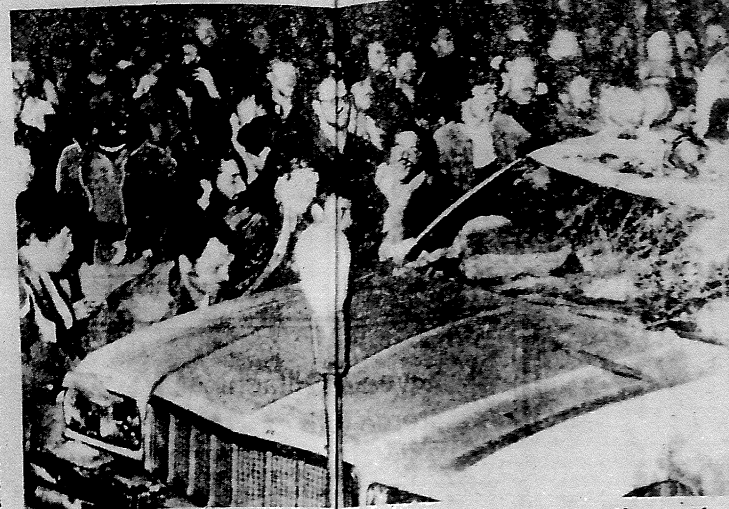
to begin breaking City Hall's windows in earnest. In a matter of moments every window on the first floor and basement was broken and the crowd began working on the second floor windows. At least one city worker was able to smash his own office window and was jubilant at having done so.

Having taken care of City Hall, we turned our attention to the cops. On the southern edge of the crowd, cops were being pelted with bottles and rocks. The cops began to retreat under the bombardment. Two thousand people ran after them, forcing the cops to run even faster to avoid the fury of the crowd. After the cops were dispatched everyone returned to the front of City Hall. We wanted to avoid being divided.

Few in the crowd had any previous experience with street actions but those who had knew what was coming next—tear gas. They began telling those around them to form affinity groups and to wet something to breathe through. Quickly we moved to soak our shirts, ties, scarves, or whatever we had in the reflecting pool. In a few minutes the tear gas did come and part of the crowd was forced to the UN Plaza at the other end of the Civic Center. There demonstrators, including children, were recovering from the gassing when police set upon them with their billy clubs. Police picked off isolated individuals to beat. Women were especially singled out for harsh treatment. One woman was grabbed by a cop who yelled, "You want to make it with me, baby?" before beating her to the ground.

Back in front of City Hall most people avoided the tear gas by staying close to the ground until it passed over. All evening there had been divisions between those who wanted to fight back and those who chanted "No More Violence." As the tear gas lifted it was clear a decision had to be made. Those against violence urged people to remain seated in the face of hundreds of riot-equipped police. Others urged people to stand up and take control of their city. Slowly, in ones and twos, people made their decision as they picked themselves off the ground and stood up proud of who they were. The decision was made: Pacifism was dead.

All around me people who had never fought back before began torching newstands, overturning trash containers, gathering bricks and uprooting parking meters. Several charges were made against a squad car, breaking its windows. Each time the cops clubbed



"Having taken care of City Hall, we turned our attention to the

arrived first and he went home with several broken ribs.

Around midnight I left downtown to find out what was happening on Castro Street. As I walked through the area I experienced a sense of freedom I had never known before. There were joyous groups of people everywhere. Gay and straight, men and women, Black and white, all of us were free. Free from the capitalists' laws, free to be who we wanted in our own city, even though it was only for one night—this time.

When I reached Castro Street, there were only a few hundred people quietly talking and trying to absorb the events of the day. Groups of four patrol cars would pass by periodically, prompting some heckling. Suddenly four cars stopped, and then a second and a third group. Each car disgorged riot-

equipped cops. Soon there were over a hundred cops in the street. They ostensibly had come to close the bars. But what they really wanted was revenge. We had injured 59 of them downtown—three cops had broken legs—and now they wanted our blood. They got it almost immediately. Even though they virtually out-numbered us, we weren't going to accept their invasion peacefully, not tonight. Many people were on Castro Street because they didn't agree with what was happening downtown, but we all agreed the police were not allowed in our neighborhood. We screamed at the cops as they took up positions in the street, challenging us to get close to them. Whenever anyone got too close they got a cracked skull or a broken nose. Then suddenly and without

provoc- lar bar went and fu inside godda faggot done soon At t back o people mousu preseu forcer the B But compi tute th after

STATEMENT BY RSL SUPPORTERS: "We Stand for Total

The following is a statement by Deborah Palmer and Paul Carson, who recently ran for delegate to the July 7-8 Houston organizing convention for the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. Palmer was elected a delegate, and Carson an alternate.

We are running for delegates to the Houston Conference as supporters of the Revolutionary Socialist League. Before the voting, we would like to summarize our attitudes on some of the major questions facing the gay liberation movement.

1) We stand for total liberation. We support any gains gay people can make through passing laws, but recognize that this is a small part of what we need (especially for our sisters and brothers in the closet who are not directly affected by the laws but are deeply oppressed). We will not be free until there is no such thing as a closet, until nobody cares who you sleep with, what you wear, or what you do with your body, until the nuclear family is no longer the expected living arrangement for everyone but people are free to live as they please, until there are no sex roles, and until who you are is not determined by your wealth or power but by human values. This requires turning everything in society upside down—the institutions, the values, the attitudes. While we organize today around certain specific demands, we should keep in mind the ultimate goal—total liberation.

2) We stand for a militant, fighting movement. Nobody is going to give us anything if we don't fight for it. Stonewall was a militant rebellion in which gay people finally decided to fight back

against police harassment. Last month in San Francisco, there was another rebellion in the spirit of Stonewall. Some of these people may face criminal charges. If they do, we think the Houston Conference should adopt a resolution defending them. We do not share the concern of those people

who were out in the streets of San Francisco and saying: We support you, let's get together to fight for what we need.

3) We stand for building unity by fighting for the special demands of the most oppressed gay people, those of us who suffer oppression not only as



who feel that gay people got a "bad image" by destroying property. We have been given a "bad image" a long time ago by the ruling institutions of this society. We will not gain much by pleading to these ruling powers. We are really very nice and very respectable and won't they please stop oppressing us. We are more concerned with reaching out to the people who

gay people but also as women, as Black people or national minorities, as youth, and as working-class people. We feel it was a mistake for the Grand Rapids Conference to recommend dropping demands for lesbian mothers and gay fathers to have custody rights, and for youth to have full sexual rights. We support the rights of transvestites and transsexuals. We do this because

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Thousands March in Chicago Against Police Raids on Bars

CHICAGO—The light verdict against Dan White, murderer of gay supervisor Harvey Milk, in San Francisco, was not an isolated attack on the gay community. Nor was the increased harassment of gays by the SF cops before the verdict was announced. All over the country the ruling class is trying to turn back the clock, to take away the limited gains that were won by the gay movement in the 1960s and early '70s.

This spring, Chicago has experienced police attacks on lesbians and gay men on a scale comparable to the days before the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion. In May, 12 gay bars were raided—with one bar being raided nine times. These raids are not the routine shake-downs for higher payoffs from bar owners.

Cops have stepped up their general abuse of lesbians and gay men on the streets, including entrapment, arrests and beatings. Every section of the gay community—Black, Latin and white, men and women, hustlers, female impersonators, young people and others—has been affected.

The raids peaked over the weekend of May 18-20. At one bar, Carol's Speakeasy, cops forced 550 people into the street. The cops threatened and attacked the gays—both verbally and physically. One man was in intensive care for two days after being beaten up by the cops.

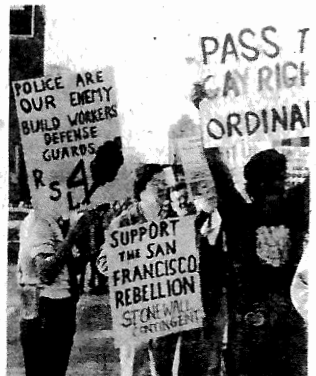
By the end of the weekend, the gay community was seething. On Monday, May 21, the Gay and Lesbian Coalition, an organization dominated by

politically conservative gay activists, called a meeting to discuss the raids. In spite of having only one day's notice, 500 people showed up.

That meeting voted almost unanimously for a march on June 5. From then on, though, a deep split surfaced. On one side were the conservatives in the gay movement, including the bar owners, who worked to keep the march "respectable" and politically acceptable to Mayor Jane Byrne. On the other side were many angry lesbians and gay men who wanted a large, militant march.

The conservatives proposed the slogan: "One Chicago for us, too" (a take-off on Mayor Byrne's recent campaign slogan of "One Chicago"). This slogan doesn't even mention gays or the bar raids! Their leaflet to build the march had no text and they successfully ruled out posters. A motion was barely defeated that would have barred other groups from putting out march leaflets.

The Chicago Organizing Committee of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights (COC) adopted an RSL proposal to build a



Stonewall Contingent at June 5 Chicago demonstration.

Stonewall Contingent to the June 5 demonstration and to put out its own leaflet. "Stop the Raids! We've Had Enough!" said the leaflet. "If you don't believe in begging, but in demanding your rights, and if you want to show your militancy and anger, then join the Stonewall Contingent." Thousands of these leaflets were distributed, helping to bring many people to the march.

The night of June 5, over 2,000 people marched through downtown Chicago, chanting "Freedom Now!" Near the front marched the Stonewall Contingent. The contingent grew to over 100, attracting people with chants of "What's the Fight? Gay Rights! What's the Solution? Revolution!"

At the rally, the militancy of the crowd was so great that an alderman tried to pacify it with promises of a new gay rights bill. But as an RSL leaflet to the demonstration pointed out, militancy and self-defense are key to stopping the attacks: "To beat back the growing right-wing attacks on lesbians and gay men, we have to build a militant fighting movement that will carry on the spirit of San Francisco. In particular, we have to UNITE FOR SELF-DEFENSE. Why did the Stonewall Rebellion in two nights get more done to get the cops out of the bars than dozens of delegations to the chief of police ever could? BECAUSE WE FOUGHT BACK! The message is pretty clear: the nicer we are, the more we get hurt. To defend ourselves we have to be organized, united, and prepared to defend ourselves the only way our enemies understand."

Sincerely,
Deborah Palmer and
Paul Carson



"Having taken care of City Hall, we turned our attention to the cops."

arrived first and he went home with several broken ribs.

Around midnight I left downtown to find out what was happening on Castro Street. As I walked through the area I experienced a sense of freedom I had never known before. There were joyous groups of people everywhere. Gay and straight, men and women, Black and white, all of us were free. Free from the capitalists' laws, free to be who we wanted in our own city, even though it was only for one night—this time.

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provocation the cops charged a popular bar. They blocked the back exit and went in the front breaking windows and furniture. As they clubbed the men inside, they yelled "Get out you goddamn queers" and "Motherfucking faggots, sick cocksuckers." Having done what they came for, the police soon withdrew from the street.

At three in the morning I got a ride back downtown. Here small groups of people were still playing cat and mouse with the cops. The police presence was now huge, with reinforcements called from cities all over the Bay Area.

But the 750 officers were unable to completely clear the area and reinstitute the capitalist rule of law until well after dawn. □

STATEMENT BY RSL SUPPORTERS: "We Stand for Total Liberation"

statement by Paul Carson, who on the July 7-8 demonstration for the Chicago for the Stonewall Contingent was led by Paul Carson an

against police harassment. Last month in San Francisco, there was another rebellion in the spirit of Stonewall. Some of these people may face criminal charges. If they do, we think the Houston Conference should adopt a resolution defending them. We do not share the concern of those people

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3) We stand for building unity by fighting for the special demands of the most oppressed gay people, those of us who suffer oppression not only as

we want to unite all gay people and straight supporters, because some of the most oppressed people will be the most dedicated fighters for liberation, and because fighting for the demands of the most oppressed is one way of showing the values, and the kind of society we are fighting for.

4) We would like to take this opportunity to clarify our position on the age-of-consent laws, since this has been a hotly debated issue. Our view is that youth have a right to determine and develop their own sexuality. This means two things. It means that youth should be protected against forced or coerced sex—just as all people should be. We are in favor of rape laws, even though they offer very limited protection. On the other hand, we are for the right of youth who want to have any kind of sexual activity to do so. There is widespread prejudice against youth having any expression of sexuality—we want to break that down. We feel that some of the opposition to the demand to revise the age-of-consent laws comes from a fear that the movement will get a "bad name" and be labelled as "child molesters." We are not afraid of the slanders that will be thrown at us; we are more concerned with standing up for the rights of youth, and of all oppressed people.

5) We want to build unity with the working class and all oppressed people. We think this is the only way to succeed in turning the society upside down and achieving liberation. We should support all struggles against racism; from the movement against the Bakke and Weber Supreme Court decisions to the struggle against the Nazis. We should support all struggles



who feel that gay people got a "bad image" by destroying property. We have been given a "bad image" a long time ago by the ruling institutions of this society. We will not gain much by pleading to these ruling powers that we are really very nice and very respectable and won't they please stop oppressing us. We are more concerned with reaching out to the people who

gay people but also as women, as Black people or national minorities, as youth, and as working-class people. We feel it was a mistake for the Grand Rapids Conference to recommend dropping demands for lesbian mothers and gay fathers to have custody rights, and for youth to have full sexual rights. We support the rights of transvestites and transsexuals. We do this because

END THE REPRESSION OF YOUTH SEXUALITY

The fight for the rights of youth has become a burning issue in the gay movement. The right-wing forces in the country have defined the issue by focusing their anti-gay attacks on youth sexuality. Anita Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign and the Briggs Initiative in California were rallying points for the anti-gay witch-hunt. The right wing wants to force gay people back into the closet by regaining all youth sexuality, and particularly that of gay youth.

The Revolutionary Socialist League believes that everyone fighting for lesbian and gay rights must take a clear and uncompromising stand in defense of young people's right to their own sexuality, in this case, of gay youth. We think such a stand must include the following points:

1) The fight for full rights for gay youth is central to the struggle for gay liberation. As long as youth sexuality is repressed, the closet will dominate the lives of all gay people. The closet starts when society tries to cram young women and men into a strait-jacket of "acceptable" behavior. From a very young age, people are taught to repress any parts of themselves that don't fit this mold—or pay the consequences. The consequences are either to bear society's scorn and attacks, or to hide in the closet. For gay people to be free, therefore, the closet—the "choice" society imposes—must be destroyed in all its forms.

2) We believe that all consensual sex is the business only of those involved. The state has no business regulating in any way expressions of sexuality between consenting persons of any number, sex, or age.

3) The state's attempt to regulate youth sexuality in particular is rooted in young people's position as property of their parents and/or wards of the state. Young people are jailed in schools, economically exploited and denied the most basic political rights. Society maintains this oppression by imposing the idea that young people are not capable of determining their own wants and needs—in particular, their sexual needs and desires.

4) We oppose age-of-consent laws. These laws deny the ability of young

people to determine their own sexual needs and desires. They maintain the status of youth as property, and reinforce the closet for gay youth.

Age-of-consent laws were established to keep young women the property of their fathers—to make consent the option of the parents, not the young woman. Today, society has found age-of-consent laws useful not only to oppress straight young women and their lovers, but also to use against young lesbians and gay men and their lovers. In their present form,

these laws are just a tool in the hands of the sexist, anti-gay courts to use against those who refuse to fit into society's mold.

5) The fact that in this society young people are considered someone else's property—objects—means that they more easily become the victims of rape, exploitation and other forms of sexual abuse. We are for the strongest possible fight against rape and abuse, including the right to self-defense by any means necessary. We support and will fight for stronger laws against

"Gay prisoners have never counted in the gay movement"

Dear Torch:

I read with interest your article, "Workers & Oppressed People Must Support Gay March," on page 8 of your May 15-June 14, 1979, issue. As a Gay person in a federal prison serving time for protecting myself from heterosexuals who had attempted to exploit my Gayness, I was particularly drawn to your article after noticing a certain paragraph which stated what I have been saying all along, and the fact of which has served to alienate me from the Gay movement for several years now. The paragraph stated:

"Who would oppose repealing laws banning cross-dressing, 'solicitation,' or 'loitering'? Who opposes winning the rights of lesbian mothers and gay fathers to raise children? Who opposes abolition of age-of-consent laws? Only those people who want to keep the gay liberation movement 'respectable' and middle-class."

As I have said, I have long been alienated from the Gay community due to the fact of the attitude on middle-class Gay rights. If a Gay person is poor, without money, or in prison, he has never really counted in the Gay movement. I know this from personal experience and from observation of the frustrations of others of my Gay Brothers, Sisters, and Comrades in prison. Few people out there in the Gay community care about what is happening here, and those few who do care often have trouble being heard. Let me elaborate on just exactly what is happening here.

If you are young and in prison, your chances of being raped or sexually assaulted are about 95 percent. If you are Gay as well, the chances are raised to 100 percent for continual rape and sexual assault. These rapes are usually perpetrated by prisoners who profess heterosexuality and who would instead be raping women but for the fact that no women are present to rape. If a prisoner reports the rape to officials, he is automatically locked up in an isolation cell of a punitive type "for protection." He receives no treatment for trauma or shock; he is usually ridiculed by guards and medical personnel for "allowing the rape to occur."

As an alternative to rape, the Gay person and young heterosexual may choose a lover who professes heterosexuality to protect him; however, he must "put out" for this heterosexual and his friends, he must commit acts of prostitution for the financial benefit of this heterosexual and his friends, he must clean up after the heterosexual, wash the heterosexual's clothes, etc.

As a further alternative to rape, the Gay person may kill or attempt to kill the rapists and assailants and thereafter be free from such attacks: I know the beneficial effects of this alternative. However, when he does this, he'd better have a good lawyer, because he is going to get time over it. Scott Winans got 45 years; Bobby Koch got a life sentence; I was lucky enough to have public support and got off with

three years. Even a situation of the most obvious self-defense, unable to be punished by the judicial system, is punished by the prison officials; John Cooper (who, unlike Scott, Bobby, or myself, is a young heterosexual) was transferred to the maximum-maximum security federal prison at Marion, Illinois, for protecting himself from a knife-wielding rapist with a broom handle. (Marion was built to replace the infamous Alcatraz island prison.)

On March 26, 1979, certain interested individuals on the outside, who were angered by the experiences and deprivations that I have been subjected to, formed the Committee to Free Russell Smith (6261 Ciemens—2W, St. Louis, MO 63130). This is all well and good for me; my worthiness I leave to their discretion and refuse to comment on. Nevertheless, my concerns are for the rape victims in prison, both Gay and "straight." When I am freed, there will still be tens of thousands of others who must live in terror of sexual molestation, permanent disfigurement, or permanent emotional trauma, all because no one seems to care what happens to them. Whatever I can do whenever I am freed, I will do; will I be working alone? I often think so. I know that when I filed Smith v. Carlson, Civil No. 77-4009 (E.D. Ill.—pending) contesting the ban on Gay literature in federal prisons (on the grounds that Gay people cause rape and murder in prison), no one came forth from the Gay community to lend support; I know that when I went through my trial on March 7-13, 1978, and was convicted of violation of Title 18 USC 113(a) (Assault with Intent to Commit Murder), and was faced with the allegation that Gay people cannot be subjected to "homosexual rape" (the official term) by heterosexuals, there was no outcry against the stupidity of the terminology, no outcry against the error of the allegation.

Understand that I do not blame the entire Gay community. I blame the middle-class, "respectable" Gays who toady to the heterosexually-oriented American capitalistic system of divide and conquer—those who have somehow kept themselves in the forefront with the prerogatives of dictatorship. I blame those who lead the Gay community for their own profit and fame by picking a popular subject to preach about and say to hell with the poor people, the young people, and the imprisoned people. As for me, my concerns shall be for the poor, the young, and the imprisoned peoples of all sexual preferences, races, sexes, religions, and nationalities. I exclude from my considerations only those middle-class, "respectable" Gay leaders who have already shown where their heads are at.

In freedom,
Russell D. Smith

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I would like more information about the Revolutionary Socialist League.

Contribution to the Prisoner Literature Fund (for free prisoner subs): \$ _____

Please send this blank and check to:
TORCH, PO Box 562, New York, NY 10036

GAY PRIDE WEEK DEMONSTRATIONS

Chicago

June 24, Stonewall Contingent, assemble NW corner Cornelia & Halsted, 1:00 p.m. For more information call (312) 226-5915

San Francisco

June 24, Stonewall Contingent, Market and Spear, 11:00 a.m.

Detroit

June 24, Detroit Organizing Committee meeting at the Gay Pride Picnic 12:30, baseball diamond #3 Palmer Park For more information call (313) 341-1250

JOIN US!

Los Angeles

July 1, Santa Monica and La Cienega For more information call (213) 661-5135

New York

June 24, RSL contingent assemble 11:30, Sheridan Sq. For more information call (212) 869-9239

rape and sexual abuse, including laws against abuse of children who are in no position to consent.

However, we don't consider laws a solution. The entire social system—capitalism—is based on dog-eat-dog competition and exploitation. Capitalism trains some people to think they are better than others—straights to think they're better than gays, men better than women, whites better than Blacks, adults better than young people, etc. And it trains people to "get ahead" by trampling on others, exploiting them, denying their rights and abusing their minds and bodies. The result is rape, wife-beating, child abuse, racist attacks and other horrors that we see all around us. These things will only end when capitalism is destroyed and replaced with a society based on cooperation, not competition. This is socialism—a society run by workers and all oppressed people, a society in which all people will be free. □

Fight

The following speech was given by Elaine Scott at the June 9 rally called by the Los Angeles RSL to support Nicaraguan revolutionaries being held by the U.S. immigration service. See *Break the Chains* on page 6 for details on the defense.

The biggest enemy of the vast majority of working and poor people throughout the world is U.S. imperialism. Not one continent and almost no country is free from this monster. It steals uranium from mines on American Indian reservations and forces the Indians to work in these mines for low wages. The radiation will kill all the miners within 10 to 20 years. It has bombed Vietnamese peasants for 10 years trying to gain control of that country. It steals the rich oil from Angola and Venezuela and the bauxite from Jamaica while the people have no jobs and live in shacks. It keeps Black husbands, wives and children all separated in South Africa because loved ones are considered unnecessary to production. And it sends guns and ammunition to keep butchers like Somoza in power in Nicaragua because, while Somoza gets rich off



Court weakens 7% g

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Now Uniroyal can't claim it m guidelines or lose government c Bommarito no longer has an ex fighting for a settlement that m

rape and sexual abuse, including laws against abuse of children who are in no position to consent.

However, we don't consider laws a solution. The entire social system—capitalism—is based on dog-eat-dog competition and exploitation. Capitalism trains some people to think they are better than others—straights to think they're better than gays, men better than women, whites better than Blacks, adults better than young people, etc. And it trains people to "get ahead" by trampling on others, exploiting them, denying their rights and abusing their minds and bodies. The result is rape, wife-beating, child abuse, racist attacks and other horrors that we see all around us. These things will only end when capitalism is destroyed and replaced with a society based on cooperation, not competition. This is socialism—a society run by workers and all oppressed people, a society in which all people will be free. □

Never Movement"

ven a situation of the most obvious able to be punished by the judicial system, the prison officials; John Cooper (who, bby, or myself, is a young heterosexual) to the maximum-maximum security federal i, Illinois, for protecting himself from a pist with a broom handle. (Marion was the infamous Alcatraz island prison.)

1979, certain interested individuals on the vere angered by the experiences and I have been subjected to, formed the e Russell Smith (6261 Clemens—2W, St.). This is all well and good for me; my ave to their discretion and refuse to vertheless, my concerns are for the rape h, both Gay and "straight." When I am still be tens of thousands of others who or of sexual molestation, permanent dis- rmanent emotional trauma, all because no ere what happens to them. Whatever I can freed, I will do; will I be working alone? I know that when I filed Smith v. Carlson, (E.D. Ill.—pending) contesting the ban on federal prisons (on the grounds that Gay and murder in prison), no one came forth munity to lend support; I know that when ny trial on March 7-13, 1978, and was tion of Title 18 USC 113(a) (Assault with it Murder), and was faced with the y people cannot be subjected to "homo- (official term) by heterosexuals, there was t the stupidity of the terminology, no e error of the allegation.

at I do not blame the entire Gay ne the middle-class, "respectable" Gays heterosexually-oriented American capi- divide and conquer—those who have emselves in the forefront with the pre- orship. I blame those who lead the Gay eir own profit and fame by picking a preach about and say to hell with the ung people, and the imprisoned people. ncerns shall be for the poor, the young, ed peoples of all sexual preferences, ions, and nationalities. I exclude from only those middle-class, "respectable" ave already shown where their heads are

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Fight for Workers' Revolution!

The following speech was given by Elaine Scott at the June 9 rally called by the Los Angeles RSL to support Nicaraguan revolutionaries being held by the U.S. immigration service. See Break the Chains on page 6 for details on the defense.

The biggest enemy of the vast majority of working and poor people throughout the world is U.S. imperialism. Not one continent and almost no country is free from this monster. It steals uranium from mines on American Indian reservations and forces the Indians to work in these mines for low wages. The radiation will kill all the miners within 10 to 20 years. It has bombed Vietnamese peasants for 10 years trying to gain control of that country. It steals the rich oil from Angola and Venezuela and the bauxite from Jamaica while the people have no jobs and live in shacks. It keeps Black husbands, wives and children all separated in South Africa because loved ones are considered unnecessary to production. And it sends guns and ammunition to keep butchers like Somoza in power in Nicaragua because, while Somoza gets rich off

the Nicaraguan resources, U.S. imperialism gets even richer.

U.S. imperialism is the U.S. capitalist class. Those who own the large banks and corporations in this country, and the government that protects them no matter where they go to steal from the workers and poor.

How does this monster, U.S. imperialism, get away with oppressing so many of us? The capitalists are actually few in number, but are able to buy off some of us to help them stay in power. They use the wealth we create to confuse us about what is really going on through the press, radio and the education system. If this does not work, they buy an army to point their guns at our heads. They buy off leaders to deceive us or maneuver to put in power those leaders who agree with them.

And one of their biggest weapons of all is the church that tells us to accept this lousy system because if we fight to overthrow it we will go to hell!

Well, if the capitalists, and U.S. imperialism, especially, have so much wealth and power to deceive us and they are so well organized,

can we ever hope to one day overthrow them? Do we have any weapons on our side?

Yes, we do have weapons, and, in fact, our weapons are much more powerful than theirs, if we can learn how to use them—how to organize our strength and strike the necessary blows!

We are the vast majority

Our biggest weapons are our numbers and our relationship to production. We are the vast majority. We are the workers who run the factories and farms. Without our work the capitalist class can make no profits. We do not need them to produce what we need but they have nothing without us.

Today the capitalist system is continuing to decay. More and more workers and poor people are fighting against U.S. imperialism. These struggles are very important for all working people. Revolutionaries support all struggles against U.S. imperialism as well as against all imperialism. These struggles must be built and spread. Revolution-

aries fight side by side with the workers in these struggles and show them how to fight for real liberation.

Not only must the imperialists of all types be driven out, but all the capitalists, in all countries, must be driven out. Not only Somoza, but all the capitalists in Nicaragua must be overthrown. The workers must seize the factories and run them themselves. Decisions must be made by the workers themselves, to benefit the vast majority.

The fight of the workers and farm laborers has thrown out or weakened U.S. imperialism in several countries. Dictators like the shah of Iran have also been overthrown. However, none of the recent struggles have led to the workers seizing power, so the workers remain oppressed and poor. This is because no revolutionary party has thus far emerged in the development of these struggles. This is something urgently needed.

The revolutionary party is made up of those workers who understand how to fight for the liberation of all workers and oppressed. It must be very democratic. It cannot be an elite group that gives the orders but must be based in the working class.

It must grow from the class and it must prove its ability to lead the struggles of the class. It cannot accept the limits of the system, but must fight all the way for the needs of all workers—especially those workers who have the hardest time surviving under this rotten system.

The Revolutionary Socialist League is building the revolutionary party in this country. Being based in the strongest imperialist country in the world, we must prove to the masses oppressed by U.S. imperialism that we stand with them and at every step oppose and fight to defeat U.S. imperialism.

We try to join with others trying to build revolutionary parties in their countries. We have formal ties with the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica. And we constantly seek to develop ties with those who, like ourselves, are willing to become professional revolutionaries for the liberation of the working class. An international revolutionary party must be built whose main goal is workers' revolution worldwide.

For Workers' Revolution, join us to build the International Revolutionary Party! □



LABOR IN STRUGGLE



Court weakens 7% guidelines

On May 31, a federal court in Washington, D.C., ruled that the government lacks power to deny government contracts to companies that violate President Carter's wage-price guidelines. The decision was a victory for trade unions fighting against Carter's seven-percent wage guidelines in this year's contract negotiations.

Before the ruling, companies seeking government contracts of five million dollars or more had to certify that they were complying with wage-price guidelines. Those who were found in violation of the guidelines faced cancellation of present contracts and rejection of future deals with the government.

This policy gave companies facing union contract negotiations an excuse to turn down wage demands over the seven-percent guidelines. And they provided the government with a means to put pressure on company negotiators who decided it was cheaper to negotiate a settlement that violated the guidelines than to face a strike over union demands.

It remains to be seen how the courts' ruling will affect the rest of this year's contract negotiations. The contract struggle in the rubber industry will provide an indication of what lies ahead. Over 8,000 rubber workers have been on strike against Uniroyal since May 9. Negotiators resumed contract talks on May 29.

According to United Rubber Workers President Peter Bommarito, the union had negotiated a settlement in April with Uniroyal which included wage and pension gains totaling over 30 percent for the next three years. While such a contract would not keep workers even with inflation, it would have violated the government's wage guidelines. Bommarito says that for this reason government officials pressured the company into backing down on the agreement.

Now Uniroyal can't claim it must respect the guidelines or lose government contracts. And Bommarito no longer has an excuse for not fighting for a settlement that meets the needs of

rubber workers. As Bommarito himself said: "The only argument Uniroyal had was the government's threat not to purchase tires. That argument is dead now."

Inco steelworkers win

Canadian steelworkers have won their strike against Inco, the largest nickel company in the world. The 12,000 workers of United Steelworkers Local 6500 went on strike last September after the company offered them a wage increase of four cents an hour. On June 3, the workers approved a contract that includes wage gains of 81 cents an hour (61 cents in the first year of the contract), an unlimited cost-of-living escalator clause, and the first 30-and-out pension plan in the country.

CETA jobs under attack

Over 2,000 New York City workers demonstrated to save their jobs in a protest rally on May 23. The demonstration was organized by District 37 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). It was called in response to U.S. government plans to throw hundreds of thousands of workers employed through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) into the streets on October 1.

Last year, Congress passed restrictions forbidding anyone from holding a CETA job for over 18 months. Between 200,000 and 300,000 workers around the country were scheduled to lose their jobs on October 1 as a result of this policy. This included up to 14,000 workers in New York City alone. These layoffs affect both young workers getting job training through CETA and longtime city workers who were laid off and then rehired with CETA funds.

On June 8, the Labor Department announced it would allow city governments to phase out the layoffs over a year's time. While this will provide some temporary relief for CETA workers, it won't

save their jobs in the long run.

But CETA workers can use the added time to ally with other city workers who are fighting layoffs. In New York, for instance, hospital workers are resisting Mayor Ed Koch's plan to eliminate over 10,000 jobs through hospital closings. Around 2,500 hospital workers held their own demonstration on May 23 to protest against Koch's attacks.

Anti-gay hiring policies banned

Gay workers have won a major legal victory in their fight against discrimination in hiring and on the job. On May 31, the California Supreme Court ruled that public utilities cannot discriminate against openly gay workers in employment.

In 1975, four gay workers who had been fired or refused jobs by the Pacific Telephone Company filed a class-action job discrimination suit against the company. While a Pacific Telephone lawyer claimed the company "didn't and doesn't discriminate against homosexuals," a 1973 company policy statement admits that Pacific Telephone didn't "give favorable consideration" to "manifest [open] homosexuals" or other gay workers who "may create conflicts with existing employees or the public we serve."

A lower court dismissed the suit, saying that gay people don't constitute a class entitled to job protection under the state's constitution. But the Supreme Court ordered the case reopened, declaring that a gay person's act of coming out "must be recognized as a political activity" and cannot be used as grounds for firing or refusing to hire a gay worker. California's labor code forbids companies from discriminating against workers on the basis of their political activities.

Despite this victory, gay workers cannot count on the courts alone to defend their rights. In a similar case, the Ninth District Court of Appeals ruled that gay workers are not "a suspect class" and therefore not entitled to protection from employment discrimination under federal law.

—PB

Visit Exposes State-Capitalist Rulers

Pope Preys on Polish People

By PAUL BENJAMIN

Pope John Paul II, head of the Roman Catholic church, completed his tour of Poland on June 10. Huge, enthusiastic crowds, often of half a million or more, greeted him everywhere. Church officials estimate that at least six million Poles, almost 20 percent of the country's population, turned out to see the Pope.

The "socialist" rulers of Poland did all they could to sabotage the Pope's trip. They refused him permission to visit the industrial region of Silesia, a center of working-class opposition to the regime. They tried to cut down the size of his audiences by setting up roadblocks and ordering students and factory workers to report to work. But these measures met with little success.

Poland has been ruled by governments claiming to be Marxist for over 30 years. All of these governments have persecuted the church, although the level of harassment has varied over time. Yet Catholicism continues to flourish in Poland. Fully 90 percent of the population are practicing Catholics.

So it's no wonder that the U.S. capitalist press had a field day reporting on the success of the Pope's visit to Poland. They gleefully proclaimed that religious faith has been and always will be an essential part of human civilization. They tried to whip up anti-communist sentiment by claiming that communism cannot replace the teachings of religion despite years of repression against the church.

State capitalism in Poland

The Revolutionary Socialist League sees the events in Poland in an altogether different light. We don't believe Poland is a socialist country. Instead, we think the economic system in Poland is a form of capitalism—state capitalism.

In Poland the capitalist class is based on state-owned industry. The factories, mines and other areas of the economy are the property of the state, which is totally controlled by the Communist Party bureaucrats. The workers have no control over the government or the economy. Instead, they sell their labor-power for wages just as workers do in other capitalist countries, while the wealth they produce builds up the power of the state-capitalist ruling class.

But Polish workers and peasants are not only oppressed by their own ruling class. They are also an oppressed nation under the heel of Poland's neighbor, Russia, which is also a state-capitalist country. The Russian ruling class set up a state-capitalist government under its control in Poland



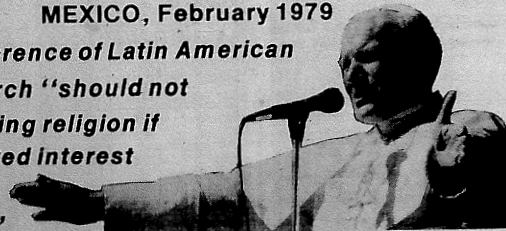
POLAND, June 1979

In Poland, the Pope appeared as a defender of Polish freedom and national independence. He called on the government to "recognize the cause of fundamental human rights." He insisted that the church "must serve people in the temporal dimensions of their life and existence" — in other words, their life on earth — demanding a greater role for the church in public affairs.

MEXICO, February 1979

The Pope told a conference of Latin American bishops that the church "should not have illusions in serving religion if we take an exaggerated interest in the broad field of temporal problems."

And he advised a crowd of 200,000 in Mexico to be satisfied with "the simple joys of poverty."



after Russian troops conquered the country during World War II. Russia still maintains three army divisions inside Poland to back up its stooges in the Polish government.

In large part, the church is a focus for the Polish people's desire for national independence. The Polish people have been fighting for control of their country for centuries. Except for a brief period between the first and second World Wars, they have been dominated by foreign countries for nearly 200 years. Because these powers persecuted the Catholic church as part of an effort to wipe out Polish culture in general, the Roman Catholic church in Poland became identified with the cause of Polish national independence. It continues to play that role for Poles looking for ways to express their hatred of Russian domination.

In addition, when people are oppressed they will look for some vision of a better life, and more humane social relationships wherever they can find them. In a country where "socialism" is identified with a brutal political regime, economic misery, and spiritual degradation, it is not surprising that people turn to religion and the church as consolation.

But the Pope did not travel to Poland to offer solace to people oppressed by capitalism. Instead, he is playing on the religious feelings of Polish Catholics to increase the prestige and authority of the church in Poland and around the world.

Internationally, the Catholic church is in crisis. It is facing mutiny by priests and believers who want the church to take a more active role in fighting for social reforms. The Pope and the

church hierarchy must also combat conservatives who think the church has already gone too far in modifying its religious ceremonies and social doctrines. As a result of these and other pressures, many Catholics are turning away from the church. By making well-publicized trips around the world, the Pope hopes to restore some of the prestige the church has lost in recent years.

Church supports Polish ruling class

In Poland itself, where the church is under the gun, the Pope is demanding religious tolerance and a greater role for the church in public affairs. But despite government harassment, the church supports the ruling class against the workers in Poland just as it does everywhere else in the world.

In 1970 and again in 1976, when workers in Gdansk, Gdynia and Radom shut

down the factories and docks, and took over the cities, the church opposed the mass rebellions against the regime. It was Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, head of the Catholic church in Poland, who convinced them to return to work. In other words, when the government could no longer control the working class, the church stepped in to maintain capitalist stability in Poland.

The church's real role becomes clear once we compare the Pope's speeches in Poland with those he gave during his trip to Latin America in late January and February. In Poland, the Pope appeared as a defender of Polish freedom and national independence. He called on the government to "recognize the cause of fundamental human rights." He insisted that the church "must serve people in the temporal dimensions of their life and existence"—in other words, their life on earth—demanding a greater role for the church in public affairs. And he declared: "There can

be no just Europe without the independence of Poland marked on its map."

But in Latin America the Pope has allied himself with military butchers like the rulers of Chile and Argentina. In return for official government support to the church. So during his Latin American trip he condemned priests who have turned to a "theology of liberation" and who support rebellions against military rule.

The Pope told a conference of Latin American bishops that "this idea of Christ as a political figure, as a revolutionary, as a subversive man from Nazareth, does not tally with the church's catechesis [teachings]." He warned them that the church "should not have illusions in serving religion if we take an exaggerated interest in the broad field of temporal problems." And he advised a crowd of 200,000 in Mexico to be satisfied with "the simple joys of poverty." In other words, where brutal capitalist dictatorships allow the church to function freely, the Pope tells the oppressed people "turn the other cheek."

A big trick

Perhaps the best response to the Pope's two-faced stance came from Garcia Lavienna, a Spanish missionary in Nicaragua who was killed fighting against General Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship. Shortly before his death he said: "I tried to save the situation in a Christian manner, in the pacifist sense of social promotion, but I realized all of this was a big trick."

"Big trick" is right! Religion is one of the main weapons the capitalist class relies on to maintain its oppressive system. The role of religion under capitalism is to justify or excuse the crimes capitalism commits against the workers and other oppressed people. It tries to teach people not to struggle, to accept the fate

(Continued on page 13)

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REC
HIT

(Continued from page 11)
drop in 11 years. Inefficient factories are already closing.

The capitalists are that the recession will make it more profitable to increase production and invest in new equipment. However, economic forecasters expect prices to continue to rise at a brisk pace, particularly in the energy sector, which will have a devastating impact on the economy.

It is not possible to know whether the capitalists can find a new way to keep their system from falling over the edge. One thing is for sure. A

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(Continued on page 13)

RECESSION HITS HARD

(Continued from page 3) drop in 11 years. Old and inefficient factories and mills are already closing down.

The capitalists are hoping that the recession will drive down prices and wages, making it more profitable for them to increase production again and invest in new plant and equipment. However, all economic forecasters expect prices to continue to rise at a brisk pace, particularly oil, which will have a devastating impact on the economy.

It is not possible to say right now whether the capitalists can find a new trick to keep their system from going over the edge. But one thing is for sure. Anything

they come up with can only be temporary. The economy is like a house. You can spruce up the walls and paint it fine, but if the foundation is rotten, that house is going to fall.

This is what's happening to the economy. The system is eating away at its own guts. It is destroying the environment, the productive capacity of society, and the world's most valuable resource—people's lives. The deepening economic crisis will show that our only choice is to organize and fight to destroy the rotten system, or be buried in the rubble when the house comes tumbling down. □

Pope

(Continued from page 12)

which God has decreed for them. And it orders them to love their oppressors as the price for salvation. In these and other ways, the capitalists use religious teachings to maintain their rule.

As revolutionary socialists, we want to smash the

capitalist system. We want to build a new communist society in which people are free to develop relationships of respect, understanding and love for each other, free from the shackles of capitalist wage slavery. As Marxists, we believe that as people gain control over their lives, religious faith will eventually wither away. But we are absolutely opposed to trying to suppress religion by force. And we strongly defend the freedom of every individual to worship in

whatever manner she or he desires.

As a result, we condemn the state-capitalist rulers' attempts to wipe out religion by force. We support the struggles of people in Poland and elsewhere to exercise their religious beliefs. But we condemn the efforts of the Pope and other religious leaders to manipulate the religious feelings of oppressed people in an attempt to shore up the vile and decadent capitalist system. □

PL Splits Brandeis United Front

(Continued from page 4)

and Stalinism as different methods of political organization. This writer pointed out how PL was using the same tactics of bureaucratic maneuvering, baiting and hysteria as the right wing of BDM had used against B-W CAR. In general, these responses constituted an effective counter-attack, but PL was not interested. They had their orders to kick out the RSL, even if it meant destroying the Brandeis CAR chapter. Some of the independent people who came to the forum left confused and cynical about politics as a result of the sectarian child-

ishness of PL's attack.

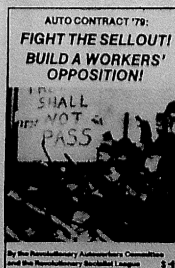
This united work is now permanently split; much was gained from it and there is even more to learn from it. All but two of the nine members of B-W CAR are now more or less sympathetic to the RSL. Important knowledge has been gained about PL's method of organization and operation. Valuable experience has been gained concerning the practice of the united front, as well as insight into the need for and obstacles to uniting the working class. But there is an important lesson still to be learned. Although the counter-attack on PL was effective, it did not, in this

writer's opinion, get to the root of the attack by PL and the conflict between the two parties. What was missing was a systematic and historically documented refutation of the slanders on Trotsky, from which foundation the argument should have been turned into a counter-attack on PL's Stalinism, bringing out clearly the opposition between the two political methods. This would have completely undermined PL's attack and laid a firm foundation for the call for the united front.

Comradely,
Richard Arethorn
Boston

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