



THE KUKLUX KLAN: ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF RACIST TERROR

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Reconstruct
the
Fourth
International!

TORCH

Newspaper
of the
Revolutionary
Socialist League

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 7 / 25¢

JULY 15-AUGUST 14, 1979

THE BIG OIL RIP-OFF

Carter, Companies Try to Blame OPEC

The big oil swindle is on. The big oil companies—Exxon, Mobil, Texaco, Gulf, Amoco, Shell and Chevron—have created a phony gas crisis to force an end to government regulation of oil, drive up gas prices, and make billions of dollars in windfall profits.

At the same time, the Carter Administration, the oil companies and the entire capitalist class are blaming the "crisis" on anything and everything they can point a finger at.

Today, Carter is saying the rise in gas prices is the fault of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries). But before OPEC raised oil prices on June 28, the government and oil companies were giving other reasons. They said the shortages were

caused by the Iranian Revolution cutting crude oil imports. They claimed that the crisis was the result of U.S. workers being too wasteful and greedy. They also contended that the problem was the result of a shortage of refinery capacity. Gasoline and heating oil could not both be produced in sufficient quantities, so we had to choose, they said.

These stories are all a pack of lies. The current oil crisis is the work of the handful of rich and powerful men who control the oil industry. Their own figures, from the American Petroleum Institute, show this.

First, there is definitely **not** a shortage of crude oil imports: The volume of imports is nearly pine
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Nicaraguan People Settle Accounts With Somoza



Sandinistas on the attack in Managua.

After 43 years in power, the Somoza family's dictatorship in Nicaragua is about to collapse. On July 8, General Anastasio Somoza Debayle announced he would resign as president of Nicaragua. As we go to press, he remains holed up in a fortified bunker in the capital city of Managua, clinging to the last shreds of political power. His rubber-stamp Congress waits under house arrest in a nearby hotel for his formal statement of resignation.

Meanwhile, the offensive launched by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) on May 28 continues to sweep the country. The Sandinistas captured the town of Sebaco June 30. They took control of Jinotepe and San Marcos on July 6. Leon, the second largest city in Nicaragua, fell to the Sandinistas the following day. National Guard units loyal to Somoza in Esteli and Matagalpa are surrounded by

Sandinista forces. Although fighting continues around Masaya and Rivas, and Somoza's troops still control parts of Managua, the collapse of Somoza's regime is certain.

The fall of Somoza will be a humiliating defeat for U.S. imperialism. The U.S. ruling class set up the Somoza family as its puppets in Nicaragua in 1936. Ever since, Nicaragua has been a fortress for U.S. imperialism in Central America and the Caribbean. For instance, Nicaragua was the staging ground for the U.S. invasion of Cuba in 1961.

But even the U.S. govern-

ment has been forced to admit that Somoza is finished. On June 21, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance called for the replacement of the Somoza government at a meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C.

He did so only after the Sandinistas announced the formation of a Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction on June 17. When eight Latin American rulers signaled their support of this provisional government by breaking diplomatic relations with Somoza's regime, the U.S. had no choice but to abandon its old ally.

Since then, the U.S. has met defeat after defeat in its efforts to retain control over Nicaragua. Vance's original proposal to the OAS called for an "OAS peace-keeping force" to enforce a ceasefire in Nicaragua and back up a

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**SECCION EN
ESPANOL**

**our
readers
write...**

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

Florida prisoners protest execution of Spenkellink

Dear Torch,

A lot of tempers rose to the boiling point here when they had the execution of John Spenkellink. And for a bunch of guys locked in a cell they all sure raised hell. There were fires in the hall and people were throwing jars and bottles at the guards, and demanding to fight them. But the guards didn't open anybody's cell doors and couldn't even be baited to come down the hall. Prisoners are not happy when the state is the killer of one of their own kind. Instant unity was achieved on that issue. About 200 prisoners in 24-hour confinement status were banging on their steel doors and doing all of this protest.

John Spenkellink was executed at 10:12 a.m. Florida time. Even though he was dead his little finger was still pointing at his murderers. It's a fact. I guess now that they picked John to kill, because he was white, they will also try to use that as an excuse to kill off Blacks, Indians, and everyone else. Because here I notice that because I'm white I get a break sometimes. But Blacks don't. And you can believe guards are racist for the most part. It shows every now and then quite clearly.

I have been receiving the Torch so far and am glad to get it!! Around here getting such materials is rare! I have noticed a few more people who are politically aware

around here. But there are not many who are in one area. Such people are split up and scattered around.

I have been considering the formation of a union. But I have to very carefully check out all of the legal issues. You can bet it would require court action to be allowed, if at all. It's always the same old sad story. You can't get or keep anything around here unless you take it to court and win. And the courts are part of the system which is pro-imperialist. At the present rate, it is totally stripping away the proletarian workers' meager savings in order to keep them dependent upon the corrupt government. It's got to be changed. It is the workers who must run the government not the government them.

I urge you to keep up your fine work. The Torch is a paper the people need. Many may not see it as that just now, but the times will worsen and they will come to know the truth the hard way. Though I am not out in the mainstream of society now, I am aware of some of the issues of occurrence there. People are starting to take that second look at the beast that lives in Washington. The powerful octopus of government will one day be swept away in the tide of its own doing.

In struggle,
[Name withheld]
Florida State Prison

Struggle in South Africa grows more intense

The following letter is from a group of South African students in exile in southern Africa.

Dear Comrades,

... The struggle in our country continues with more intensity. Efforts by the regime to extinguish fires of resistance have openly failed. The white-minority racist regime has tried to dilute the real character of our struggle by initiating some meaningless concessions to the Blacks. These moves have however benefited only the few middle class elements and businessmen. The working class has not witnessed any changes in their exploitation. The regime has so far failed to remedy the ills of its chaotic capitalist system. The impact of the Iranian revolution has resulted in the scarcity of fuel. Prices of basic commodities like maize, eggs, butter, milk, cheese, sugar, etc., have drastically gone up. On the other hand, unemployment among Blacks has rocketed to higher proportions. The Wiehanh Commission proposals which were once portrayed as reforms have recently been exposed to be nothing less than a drive by the regime to restrict and regulate the activities of Black labour unions. The Black working class has taken enough of these attacks. Spontaneous revolts cannot be completely ruled out at this point.

On the cultural front, the internationally-condemned regime has managed to attract unprincipled Black American entertainers and professional boxers to parti-

cipate in its Apartheid schemes. With the bankrupt Isaac Hayes having left, the Temptations are currently on the circuit. One John Tate has recently taken part in a Bantustan-boosting campaign backed by boxing promoter Bob Arum in Bophuthatswana. These politically corrupt individuals and groups having defied the opinion of their people have also been condemned by Blacks here. Our people are refusing to accept the fabrication that these activities reflect the attitude of the U.S. people towards our struggle for self-determina-

tion. Campaigns by workers, students and revolutionaries in your country to internationally isolate our enemy are receiving prominent attention among our masses. Collaboration between the mass-opposed Apartheid regime and the U.S. ruling class has openly revealed the similarity of their interests.

There is no doubt that the minority-settler regime and its backers will be crushed since time and history are on our side.

With Communist Greetings,
Yours in common struggle,
[Name withheld]

Indiana prisoner charges brutality

Dear Friends,

I'm writing in regards to the recent brutality lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. I want to relate an experience I encountered in this prison system in hopes of obtaining further info on this lawsuit, as well as legal assistance in the anticipated lawsuit I desire to initiate. While incarcerated at the Federal Correctional Institution in El Reno, Oklahoma, during August 1978, myself and two other prisoners were caught in an escape attempt by correctional staff. Though we had no weapons nor offered any resistance whatsoever, a band of officers quickly came to the scene armed with pick handles. My two companions and I were immediately handcuffed after first removing all of our clothes. Then without provocation of any sort, the officers began to beat and prod us with the pick handles. As we fell to the ground, the officers began kicking us while still swinging their pick handles. This continued

for about five minutes, at which time the three of us were bloody pulps, bruised and dazed with pain. We were then marched across the large prison yard grounds, still totally nude, with the officers still prodding us with pick handles and occasionally slapping us in our faces with open hands.

We were then placed in disciplinary cells without any clothing or bed linen. Every time we requested clothing, linen or medical attention, we were told to shut up and that we were lucky to be alive. For the next seven days we made repeated requests but to no avail. Subsequently, we were all transferred to different federal prisons, but all during transit I was kept in isolation and held incommunicado at all my holdover stops prior to reaching U.S.P. Terre Haute last September. Since then I've been kept in segregation, locked in a cell approximately 23 hours a day or more. Upon my arrival here I was still denied medical attention to the head injuries I'd received in the brutal beating which led to a heated dispute with a medical officer here. This incident has been used by the prison court here to keep me here in segregation since last September, plus referring me for transfer to the notorious Marion Control Unit. Since I'm financially poor and uneducated at matters of law, I've been unable to secure an attorney nor present my situation to the courts due also to my status preventing me from use of even the limited prison law library.

I would appreciate your printing my letter in your newspaper in hopes that those in a situation to lend legal assistance will contact me about this matter and further to inform the public of the brutality within the federal prison system.

Sincerely yours,
Warren A. Peters-El
Terre Haute, Indiana

"The RSL has won my respect"

Dear Torch,

I am active in the Gay Rights movement and the growing struggle to stop police/landlord attacks on prostitutes. While many "leftist" groups pay lip service to these causes (when pressured), few do anything to build the fight against the right-wing offensive. They'd rather see us in the closet or the confessional.

I notice RSL members at every demonstration, at every meeting, trying to build a strong, united movement. The RSL has won my respect. Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Robert D'Avanzo
New York

**A person
A woman
A man
A son
A daughter
We are all people.**

By Rebecca, age 9

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TRUCK
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By WILLIAM FALK

As the gas shortage spread across the country this June, it was the independent truck drivers who most graphically expressed the frustration and anger of millions.

The truck drivers crippled the nation's transportation system in a four-week strike. At its peak, the strike included 75,000 of the country's 125,000 independent drivers. The truckers were striking against the increase in diesel fuel prices and against lines and limits on purchases that had begun to appear at truck stops.

Overall, there were work stoppages in 37 states. The strike stopped over half of all food shipments and 40 percent of non-food traffic. Food shipments were the most affected because the independents normally carry 80 percent of them.

All across the country, the truckers set up blockades at truck stops, fuel terminals and truck docks to stop traffic and publicize their demands. In some cases, several hundred truckers formed barricades of trucks blocking major interstate highways. In Alabama, two scab drivers were killed, and shots were fired at moving trucks in many other states. At least 10 state governors called out the National Guard.

The truckers' actions received widespread support. Farmers told surprised TV correspondents that they didn't blame the truckers. Workers in the cities, despite a few food shortages and many traffic jams, generally said the same thing. When truckers drove into New York City they were cheered. One newspaper columnist complained that no one was condemning the "lawless actions" of the truck drivers. Direct action, he moaned, has now been accepted as an alternative to elections.

Owner-operators going broke

The independent truckers who were on strike are not members of the Teamsters union. They are "owner-operators" who borrow money from a bank to buy a truck and then haul goods for set fees. They pay for their own fuel, insurance, and government licenses, as well as the mortgage on the tractor-trailer.

Typical monthly costs are \$1,500 to the bank, \$500 for insurance, \$700 in licenses and \$2,000 in fuel. Total profits generally range from \$150 to \$250 a week.

The independents are at a disadvantage in competing with the large companies that hire drivers. The independents pay \$.75 to \$1 a gallon for diesel oil while the companies can buy fuel in

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Prisoner Brutality

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TRUCKERS HALT SHIPMENTS OVER FUEL PRICE HIKES

By WILLIAM FALK

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The independents are at a disadvantage in competing with the large companies that hire drivers. The independents pay \$.75 to \$1 a gallon for diesel oil while the companies can buy fuel in

quantity at under \$.60 a gallon. A truck that costs an independent \$65,000, costs a company \$40,000 when it purchases a fleet of trucks. To carry nearly anything besides food, an independent must give a 25 to 50 percent cut to a company with an Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) permit.

Although independents often work 60 to 80 hours a week, many of them still can't meet their payments. About 20,000 independent truckers went broke just in the first six months of 1979.

In response to the economic squeeze on them, made worse by the gas shortage and price hikes, the independents struck. While there was no one clear set of demands, what various trucker organizations and spokespeople said they wanted can be summed up in a few main points:

- Elimination of the time-consuming gas lines by allocating all the fuel needed to truck stops;
- Roll-back of diesel fuel prices; and/or

- ICC trucking-rate increases to offset rising fuel costs (the ICC sets minimum rates, but because of competition these become the standard rates);

- Single national load and truck length limits at the highest figures now used. Several years ago the ICC gave states permission to raise the weight limit on trucks to 80,000 pounds. Ten states did not do this, however, and have lower limits;

- End the 55 m.p.h. speed limit.

Frightened by the strike,



Truckers and supporters gathered at Five Points in Levittown, Pennsylvania.

President Carter made some concessions. On June 29, he offered a seven-percent increase in the ICC rates, support for legislation mandating the 80,000 pound limit nationally, and a plan to reduce farmers' diesel fuel supply and send fuel to truck stops instead. At the same time, he threatened to use armed escorts to protect scab drivers on the major highways.

Carter's program wasn't accepted by the truckers, but the strike ended in early July anyway. "People have gone

back to work as they are forced into the situation of going bankrupt," explained Mike Parkhurst, one of the strike leaders.

Truckers set fighting example

Although the strike was not really defeated, the fact that the truckers felt forced to resume work says a lot about their situation. The independents are sort of a

cross between workers and small businessmen. Their work and working conditions are like those of regular hired drivers. But since they own (sort of) their own rigs and contract for jobs, they are like small businessmen. Although they are usually up to their ears in debts to banks and finance companies, they have a feeling of independence. Each trucker believes that he/she can be one of the few who "make it" rather than one of the thousands who go broke and return to driving a truck for an hourly wage. In fact, it is the room to "make it" and avoid becoming just workers that the truckers were fighting for in the strike.

Despite this, all workers should support the independent truckers' fight. They are fighting against the capitalists who are attacking everyone. The truckers' strike was the biggest organized revolt against the government/oil company conspiracy. If the government had been able to defeat the truckers, things would then be worse for all workers.

But workers should do more than support the truckers. We should learn from them. The truckers organized themselves and pulled off militant and effective actions that scared Jimmy Carter and the entire ruling class. The truckers' strike showed what organized and militant strike action can do to fight the government and the capitalists. Workers, just by working together in the shops and factories, are more organized than the independent truckers. Also, many workers are in unions that give them tremendous potential power. We should follow the fighting example of the truckers, and utilize our strength to beat back the capitalists' attempts to make us pay for their growing economic crisis. □

Levittown: "No Gas, My Ass"



A protest by striking truckers at Levittown, Pennsylvania, on the weekend of June 23 grew into a two-day gas riot as residents from the working-class suburb joined the demonstration. Over 200 were hurt, including 40 cops.

When a convoy of truckers hit the Five Points intersection early Saturday evening, the cops met them with guns drawn, dragged them out of their cabs and beat them up. Local residents started throwing rocks and bottles at the cops. Speakers appeared on the backs of trucks. People made signs saying: "No gas, my ass." The demonstrators wrecked all four gas stations at Five Points.

Sunday, most of the protesters were

youth. In a place like Levittown, no gas means you can't go anywhere. Young people revolted because they felt like they were prisoners in their houses.

By 10 p.m. there were more than 2,000 people at Five Points. When the crowd set a junk car on fire in the intersection, the cops charged with their billy clubs and blackjacks and their dogs. People driving through the area were pulled from their cars and beaten.

It took police from 34 towns, including 60 Philadelphia cops with an armored truck, to win the battle of Five Points. But the authorities were still scared that the rioting could spread. By early in the week, as if by a miracle, there was plenty of gas in Levittown.

Detroit Workers Fight Hospital Closing

By MIKE HOLZ

DETROIT—The only hospital in this majority-Black city that gives medical care to anyone—regardless of ability to pay—may close this fall. Mayor Coleman Young and the Common Council want to sell Detroit General Hospital (DGH—also known as Detroit Receiving Hospital) to the state of Michigan. The state plans to turn the hospital into a mental health care facility.

Detroit General Hospital treated over 65,000 emergency cases last year. Many people go to DGH emergency because they know it's the only place where they will be given treatment. The other major public hospitals are already overcrowded. And the brand new \$200 million Medical Center in the center of Detroit, one of the most up-to-date medical facilities in the world, will not give medical treatment to the city's poor. You must have insurance or money to enter.

On April 17 and again on May 11, hundreds of DGH patients, former patients, DGH workers and city residents, filled the Detroit Common Council public hearings concerning the hospital. Speaker after speaker told of having their lives saved by the hospital staff. One woman told of having a heart attack on a downtown street. If DGH had not been open, she said, she would not be alive today.

DGH workers will also suffer if the hospital is changed to a state-run mental hospital. At least 1,000 of the 1,573 workers will lose their jobs, their city seniority and pensions. In response, AFSCME Council 25 officials have formed the Concerned Citizens for Detroit Receiving Hospital. The group involves citizen groups, local politicians, churches, medical students and doctors. The group is gathering signatures on a petition calling for a vote on the hospital takeover by the state. This approach is not getting very far, since the Detroit politicians and bosses are determined to make budget cuts that most hurt working and poor people.

State and federal money for Detroit is being cut to the bone. At the same time, giant companies, such as Chrysler and GM, are extorting tax breaks from the city, and other companies are moving out of town. Income and property tax revenues are leaving the city with these companies.

So the Detroit politicians are trimming the city budget. In addition to closing the hospital, the city is replacing its three-person sanitation

trucks with one-person trucks in order to reduce costs. Sanitation will get worse and 220 sanitation workers will lose their jobs.

Meanwhile, federal CETA funds are being used to hire more cops. And the cops are paid well: \$17,000 a year for recruits and \$22,000 a year after four years on the job. There are 5,600 cops; 2,300 have been hired in the last four years.

Mayor Young says that the key to a good life for everyone in Detroit is to give the corporations enough breaks to get back on their feet and create jobs. But his budget cuts show that he really puts the interests of the corporations and the ruling class first and the needs of the working people last.

When push comes to shove, Cole-

man Young's plan is the plan of Henry Ford and the local ruling class. While hundreds of millions of dollars are put into Henry Ford's Renaissance Center downtown and the Medical Center, more city and Chrysler workers face layoff, and the hospital that serves the poor is being closed. Meanwhile, the police force is being beefed up to deal with the unemployed workers and poor people who have no place in the bosses' plan.

As the economy moves into recession, the reform strategy of pressuring liberal politicians, such as Coleman Young, will run into a dead end. The only way to get anything from the capitalists is to threaten them with a movement of thousands and hundreds of thousands of workers. Many AFSCME Council 25 workers have worked to build the fight to keep Detroit General open but have not had much success getting their fellow workers to join in this struggle. A big reason for this is that many workers, who know that the threat to their jobs is real, do not see anyone putting forward a real solution. Pressuring politicians with phone calls will not turn the situation around. In addition, other workers do not yet believe that their jobs are in jeopardy.

The time is now to put out the call to fellow workers, the city's unemployed Chrysler workers, youth and the people who will suffer a loss of health care if Detroit General closes, to join in a common, bold and militant fight for jobs for all and free, quality health care.

The organizing can begin at the AFSCME picnic on Belle Isle on July 28. At the picnic we must begin to organize people to publicize a march and demonstration to go along with the rally planned for September 8. This rally must involve the Detroit General workers in the decision-making for how we will fight to keep Detroit General open. □

UAW MILITANTS ORGANIZE MARCH ON GM

Autoworkers for a Better Contract (ABC), a coalition of rank-and-file activists in the United Auto Workers union (UAW), has called for a Unity Day March on the opening day of the 1979 auto contract negotiations. The date of the demonstration: July 16; the place: General Motors headquarters in Detroit, where the contract talks are being held. The main demands are: Jobs for all; stop the layoffs; 30 hours' work at 40 hours' pay; guaranteed SUB pay; defend the gains of women and minority workers; and a 20 percent pay hike in '79.

ABC members have been trying to get motions passed in their locals to endorse the demonstration. For years no UAW local has endorsed any demonstration unless it was approved by the top UAW leadership. But this is beginning to change due to increasing pressure from rank-and-file autoworkers. So far, two locals—869 at Warren Stamping and 140 at Dodge Truck—have passed motions to support the Unity Day March. To ensure that all of the 869 membership was mobilized for the demo, members even set up a voluntary union committee to write a leaflet and make preparations for the 16th.

The ABC is a coalition of a number of groups and caucuses in the UAW, including the Revolutionary Socialist

League/Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee, the Detroit Marxist-Leninist Organizing Committee (Anti-Dogmatic Trend), the Revolutionary Communist League, the Communist Party (M-L) and several others. Many independent militants are also active in ABC.

Never before have so many different groups and individuals united against the auto companies and the union tops who serve them. And never before has a committee met this far ahead of the September contract expiration.

More than 100 activists from many UAW locals in the Detroit area attended an ABC dinner and rally on June 23. The meeting opened with a showing of "With Babies and Banners," a documentary film about the fighting role women played in winning the 1937 Flint sit-down strike. After the dinner and film, autoworker activists spoke about the serious issues facing the UAW and what has to be done to build the struggle.

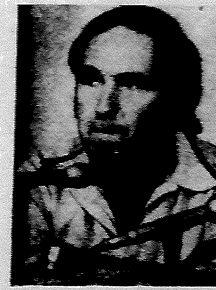
ABC has the potential to build unity in the struggle against layoffs, plant closings and deteriorating working conditions. We urge all caucuses and individuals to join the coalition and fight against another sellout by the Solidarity House gang. □

COURAGE AGAINST RACISM WEBER

By BRENT DAVIS

Blacks, women and workers won a victory June 27 when the Supreme Court overturned the Weber decision by a five to four vote. The Supreme Court okayed affirmative action programs that include quotas to desegregate the skilled trades. The ruling will expand or extend affirmative action programs. But it set back the growing racial assault on them.

The case comes from



Brian Weber after decision

suit by Brian Weber, a white worker at Kaiser Aluminum plant in Gramercy, Louisiana. Under pressure from Blacks and women, Kaiser and the United Steelworkers agreed to an affirmative action plan in 1974. The plan set up a training program for the skilled trades and guaranteed that half the trainees would be Blacks or women.

Before the program began, white males held 98 percent of the skilled jobs. At that point when Black workers Kaiser got four percent of the skilled jobs (women still had none), Weber sued. He claimed that whites' rights were denied because two Blacks who had less seniority than Weber got into the program while he didn't. Weber is part of an organized racist campaign to wipe out even the smallest step toward equality.

Decision is partial victory

The Supreme Court decision reverses the lower courts, which had ruled in Weber's favor. The Court's decision says that affirmative action programs, including quotas, are legal. It preserves the right of corporations and unions to voluntarily negotiate an affirmative action program even when there is no proof that the discrimination was conscious.

The Court decision is not a 100 percent victory. It puts the fate of affirmative action



CETA workers fight City Hall

Fifteen hundred city workers hired under the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) marched on city hall in New York City on July 10. They were protesting Mayor Ed Koch's announcement that 14,000 of the 28,000 CETA city jobs are to be eliminated over the next few months.

Several unions representing CETA workers joined forces for the demonstration. Contingents were present from Teamsters Local 237, District Council 37, and AFSCME Local 1549. In past years, labor bureaucrats like Victor Gotbaum of DC 37 refused to defend CETA workers. These sellout leaders are not to be trusted any more today than before. However, the fact that they are now coming out in defense of CETA workers shows the tremendous pressure they face to fight Koch's drive to weaken the city workers' unions with mass layoffs.

Lettuce growers use thug tactics

California lettuce growers are resorting to gangster tactics in an effort to break the six-month strike by the United Farm Workers (UFW). The strike, which began January 19, is the longest in UFW history.

On June 11, 1,000 UFW members working at 10 ranches under union contract walked out in a

one-day work stoppage in solidarity with striking UFW workers. They formed caravans to spread the protest to other non-striking ranches in Monterey County. As they arrived, they were attacked by scabs armed with knives, lead pipes and tire irons. After a pitched battle, Monterey County sheriff's deputies jailed 125 UFW members, but not a single scab. Three days later, a scab crew ambushed a small group of UFW pickets near Salinas. Meanwhile, negotiations that resumed June 5 ended without any real advances. The growers are now offering a 35-percent wage increase over the life of the contract, instead of the 7-percent annual increase they offered before the strike began. But they are demanding concessions on mechanization, job combining, and "management rights."

In brief...

On July 10, public workers in New Jersey began a wildcat strike against a sellout contract settlement. The next day, state officials admitted that 13,000 out of 32,000 clerical and administrative workers had joined the walkout. Union members declared that close to 90 percent of the workforce was on strike. The walkout began after officials of the State Employees Union and the New Jersey Civil Service Association voted 50 to 43 to accept a 5.5-percent wage hike in the first year of a two-year contract and a 6.5-percent raise in the following

year. Some union leaders who voted no are urging workers to continue the walkout.

On June 27, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) has the right to represent shipyard workers in Newport News, Virginia. Last winter workers struck for three months after voting for the USWA in union representation elections. Tenneco, which owns the shipyard, has refused to recognize the USWA, claiming election "irregularities." The NLRB decided that the company's objections were "without merit." However, Tenneco is now appealing the ruling to the federal courts.

On August 5, a blues benefit will be held in Chicago to support Bennie Lenard. Lenard, a Black worker at the International Harvester plant in Melrose Park, a Chicago suburb, was the victim of a racist attack by Melrose Park police in January 1977. He suffered permanent damage to his right eye and shoulder as a result of the beating from the police. Lenard is now taking legal action against racist cops and hospitals in Melrose Park. He needs funds for legal and publicity expenses. People can help out by attending the benefit at: B.L.U.E.S., 2516 North Halsted, Chicago, on Sunday, August 5, from 6 p.m. to midnight. Tickets cost \$3 at the door.

—PB & CG

man Young's plan is the plan of Henry Ford and the local ruling class. While hundreds of millions of dollars are put into Henry Ford's Renaissance Center downtown and the Medical Center, more city and Chrysler workers face layoff, and the hospital that serves the poor is being closed. Meanwhile, the police force is being beefed up to deal with the unemployed workers and poor people who have no place in the bosses' plan.

As the economy moves into recession, the reform strategy of pressuring liberal politicians, such as Coleman Young, will run into a dead end. The only way to get anything from the capitalists is to threaten them with a movement of thousands and hundreds of thousands of workers. Many AFSCME Council 25 workers have worked to build the fight to keep Detroit General open but have not had much success getting their fellow workers to join in this struggle. A big reason for this is that many workers, who know that the threat to their jobs is real, do not see anyone putting forward a real solution. Pressuring politicians with phone calls will not turn the situation around. In addition, other workers do not yet believe that their jobs are in jeopardy.

The time is now to put out the call to fellow workers, the city's unemployed Chrysler workers, youth and the people who will suffer a loss of health care if Detroit General closes, to join in a common, bold and militant fight for jobs for all and free, quality health care.

The organizing can begin at the AFSCME picnic on Belle Isle on July 8. At the picnic we must begin to organize people to publicize a march and demonstration to go along with the rally planned for September 8. This rally must involve the Detroit general workers in the decision-making for how we will fight to keep Detroit General open. □

ORDER NOW!

A handbook by the Revolutionary Workers Committee and the RSL for the 1979 auto contract struggle. \$1.

Order from: Haymarket Books, PO Box 8062, Chicago, IL 60680



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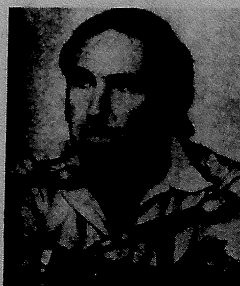
—PB & CG

COURT RULES AGAINST RACIST WEBER SUIT

By BRENT DAVIS

Blacks, women and all workers won a victory on June 27 when the Supreme Court overturned the Weber decision by a five to two vote. The Supreme Court okayed affirmative action programs that include quotas to desegregate the skilled trades. The ruling will not expand or extend affirmative action programs. But it does set back the growing racist assault on them.

The case comes from a



Brian Weber after decision.

suit by Brian Weber, a white worker at Kaiser Aluminum's plant in Gramercy, Louisiana. Under pressure from Blacks and women, Kaiser and the United Steelworkers agreed to an affirmative action plan in 1974. The plan set up a training program for the skilled trades and guaranteed that half the trainees would be Blacks or women.

Before the program began, white males held 98 percent of the skilled jobs. At the point when Black workers at Kaiser got four percent of the skilled jobs (women still had none), Weber sued. He claimed that whites' rights were denied because two Blacks who had less seniority than Weber got into the program while he didn't. Weber is part of an organized racist campaign to wipe out even the smallest steps toward equality.

Decision is partial victory

The Supreme Court decision reverses the lower courts, which had ruled in Weber's favor. The Court's decision says that affirmative action programs, including quotas, are legal. It preserves the right of corporations and unions to voluntarily negotiate an affirmative action program even when there is no proof that the discrimination was conscious.

The Court decision is not a 100 percent victory. It puts the fate of affirmative action

in the hands of the very corporations that created "illy-white skilled workforces in the first place. This allows different corporations to make cosmetic changes or roll back affirmative action as they see fit. That is, it gives the capitalists more flexibility. And it will not stop the corporations from practicing blatant discrimination when they feel they can get away with it.

A chance to take the offensive

The real impact of the Weber decision depends on what working-class organizers do with it. The ruling class is moving to the right and stepping up its attacks on the working class and oppressed people. As it does so, it will continue to undermine affirmative action. But the Weber decision gives us a chance to take the offensive a little bit. For example, the RSL, its supporters and others are working in the Autoworkers for a Better Contract to take up the fight for affirmative action in the upcoming auto contract. And militants in steel face the expiration of the Consent Decree (the affirmative action program in steel) this year

300 Black and Latin Youth Demand Jobs

By CLIFF GORDON

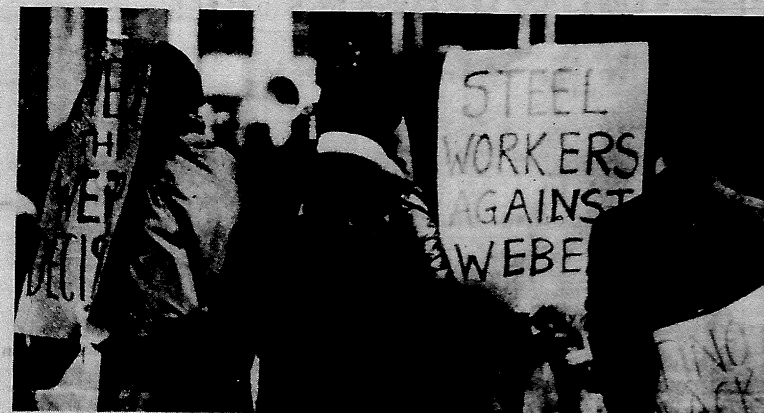
BROOKLYN, New York, June 21—A militant demonstration for jobs stopped traffic at the height of the evening rush hour today. Some 300 Black and Latin youth took part in the action, organized by the Brooklyn-based Black United Front.

When the march started out from the House of the Lord Church, many of the young people were shy about chanting. But by the time they reached the main business district, the young men and women were militant and organized. Shouting "We Want Work!" they blocked up Fulton Street in front of the big department stores.

Then they took the action into the stores. At the first one they crowded into the front lobby and opened up the inside glass doors. Many people stopped shopping when they heard the chanting and turned their attention to the demonstration.

At Korvette's, the young marchers blocked the entrance so no one could get in or out. This tactic brought quick results. Korvette's management agreed to hire three or four people. When the news got out, the crowd went wild. It was a small victory, but it showed that militant actions could force concessions from the store owners.

At the last store, McCrory's, all 300 demonstrators went right inside. They



Chicago demonstration held as part of national anti-Weber mobilization on March 28.

and will have a contract coming up in 1980.

At the same time as we struggle for affirmative action, we must also recognize that the capitalists will try to use such programs to fan the racism that poisons the minds of many white workers. For example, on the day the Supreme Court announced its decision on the Weber case, many capitalist newspapers wrote that the Court had ruled in favor of "privileges" for Black workers. This racist lie was designed to convince white workers that the Court had actually attacked their rights.

To counter this reactionary line, revolutionaries must clearly explain to white workers why affirmative action is not a privilege for Blacks. We must explain how Blacks have been segregated, discriminated against, vilified and lynched for centuries. And we must explain why the fight to end the special oppression of Black people is key to uniting the entire working class.

To do this effectively, we cannot limit our struggle to a

fight for affirmative action. The capitalist system is falling apart. Millions are being thrown out of work. We must unite all workers in militant struggle for jobs for all and to end all forms of racial and

sexual discrimination. This way we can smash the capitalists' attempts to pit one section of the working class against the others in a fatal conflict over a shrinking economic pie. □

Goons Beat Up SWP Members in Alabama

By ADELE LOHMAN

Two comrades of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) were beaten and kicked to the ground by 25 company goons on June 7. They were selling their newspaper, the **Militant**, in front of U.S. Steel's Concord coal mine near Birmingham, Alabama, when the attack occurred. Both Eric Flint and Nelson Blackstock were seriously hurt. Blackstock suffered a fractured and dislocated hip.

While about a third of the miners at the Concord mine

are Black, the attackers were all white. And that was no accident. The paper being sold was headlined: "Alabama Blacks Hit KKK attacks." The previous week-end Blacks in nearby Decatur had answered a KKK attack by putting two Klansmen in the hospital with gunshot wounds (see last month's **Torch/La Antorchita**).

There is little question that the bosses of U.S. Steel were involved in the beating of Flint and Blackstock. The good squad came out of the mine entrance in three pick-up trucks. And Blackstock's camera bag, which had disappeared during the attack, was returned the next day by William Myers, general superintendent of U.S. Steel's Southern District mining operations. Myers refused to say how he happened to get the equipment!

The RSL sent the following letter to the U.S. Steel Corporation: "Mr. Myers: We protest the brutal attack on Eric Flint and Nelson Blackstock at the entrance of U.S. Steel's Concord mine on June 7. We hold you and the U.S. Steel Corporation responsible for this assault, a cowardly attempt to intimidate militants fighting against the Ku Klux Klan and the corporate attack on the unions and working people generally."

A letter was also sent to the SWP, which reads in part: "We fully support their right, the right of the Socialist Workers Party and the right of all left organizations to sell literature and in other ways pursue the struggle against the Klan, U.S. Steel, and the general capitalist offensive against the working class."

Protest letters should be sent to: United States Steel Corporation, Southern District Mines, Attention: William Myers, RM-1, PO Box 599, Fairfield, AL 35064.

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At the last store, McCrory's, all 300 demonstrators went right inside. They

crowded in the aisles, chanting at the top of their lungs and stomping their feet. The store manager got scared and said he wanted to talk. It took the organizers about two minutes to quiet everyone down. But then the manager said he would talk only after the store was cleared. One of the organizers smiled and said to the crowd: "You heard what the man said." Instead of leaving, everyone shouted "We Want Work!" for another 10 minutes.

There were plenty of cops in downtown Brooklyn, but they stayed out of the way. In part this was because they knew the young people would fight back if the cops tried to mess with them. They were also afraid the crowd would protect the demonstrators. The streets were full of people going home from work, and everywhere the young people marched, onlookers clapped their hands and joined in the chanting.

Later, back at the church, the demonstrators found out that another store owner had called in offering some jobs. Even though his store had not been a target, he was so scared that he called right away.

To continue the campaign, the young people formed a steering committee of volunteers. They could see that their militant tactics got results. These Black and Latin youths have started a movement for jobs that could grow into the thousands.



Black and white unite at Marion

The federal prison in Marion, Illinois, has been on indefinite lockdown since June 14, following a blow-up in the dining hall which left a guard in critical condition. The authorities claim a prisoner named Rick Goodard pulled a knife and stabbed guard Jack Clark. When several guards attacked Goodard, other prisoners came to his defense. As more guards joined the battle, prisoners defended themselves by throwing their trays, chairs, and even a table. The whole thing lasted only a few minutes, and then everybody went back to quarters.

Goodard is a political activist and one of the few white prisoners who worked to desegregate Marion's dining hall. Most of the prisoners who defended him and fought the guards are Black. The keepers get scared when there's any kind of unity between Black and white prisoners. That's why they transferred Rick Goodard the same day to the federal prison at Springfield, Missouri, and locked down Marion. Goodard will face heavy charges—probably attempted murder. He'll need material, as well as moral, support. Write to: Rick L. Goodard #23615, PO Box 4000, Springfield, Missouri 65802.

13-year-old sentenced to 114 years

A Florida judge sentenced 13-year-old Eve Postell to 114 years in prison—two concurrent 99-year sentences for second-degree murder and burglary, and another 15 years for strong-arm robbery.

This outrage isn't some whim of a cruel judge. It's part of the ruling-class campaign against so-called juvenile crime. Many states have passed laws to try youthful offenders as adults. Capitalism is falling apart. It has nothing to offer working-class youth, except schools that are little more than jails, and no hope of a decent life after they get out. And if they get in trouble with the law, young people are put away in real jails. When he sentenced Eve Postell, the judge invoked a new Florida law that says the court can veto any parole until one-third of a sentence has been served. Postell can't be paroled without court approval for 38 years.

Free Rice and Poindexter

An international campaign is underway to free David Rice and Ed Poindexter, who are serving life sentences in the Nebraska State Prison. Nine years ago the state framed them on charges of killing a cop. The reason: Rice and Poindexter were heads of the Black Panther Party in Omaha, Nebraska.

FBI files obtained recently under the Freedom of Information Act show that federal agents suppressed evidence that would have cleared Rice and Poindexter. They also indicate that some agents may have themselves been involved in the death of the cop and/or in manufacturing evidence to convict Rice and Poindexter. This was part of the FBI's COINTELPRO operation to destroy the Black Panther Party—an operation that included the murder of Panther leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago. David Rice and Ed Poindexter are political prisoners. They must be freed.

In brief...

The state of Connecticut has denied a change of venue to the Somers Six. Louis Roque, Abraham Lee, Ernest Bradshaw, Michael Reynolds, Jerando Castillio and Larry Harper will be forced to go to trial in Tolland County without proper legal assistance. No trial date has been set yet. They face 30 to 40 years added on to their sentences on several counts of rioting and assault, because they defended themselves against an attack by racist guards last December 17. The Somers Six need support. Write to: UFILD, PO Box 4235 YS, New Haven, CT 06520.

Light-heavyweight boxer James Scott TKO'd Bunny Johnson, who holds the British title, on July 1 in a bout staged in the yard of New Jersey's Rahway State Prison. Scott is a Black prisoner serving 30 to 40 years for armed robbery. He has had 15 wins and one draw since he started boxing professionally. But he has a hard time getting matches. Promoters, as well as possible opponents, can't make money on a bout unless it's staged in a big arena. The state of New Jersey won't let Scott fight outside the prison.

Three supporters of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP), known as the Moody Park Three, were found guilty on riot charges stemming from the Chicano rebellion in Houston's Moody Park on May 5, 1978. On May 14, Travis Morales and Mara Youngdahl, who were charged with having bullhorns during the rebellion, were sentenced to five years probation plus a \$5,000 fine for Morales and \$4,000 for Youngdahl. Tom Hirschi got a \$1,000 fine. The prosecutor had asked for 20-year sentences.

—AL

Texas Dept. of Corrections:

"Business As Usual"

"Some days ago some 50 of us prisoners here at Ellis were called to the warden's office and told we were being denied the latest Torch/La Antorcha."

—Ambrosio Mendez

By LEE RAMIE

Hearings in the Ruiz v. Estelle suit, launched by prisoners seeking massive improvements in the hall-choles of the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC), are continuing in Houston. But despite daily exposures of conditions in TDC and past court rulings in the prisoners' favor, the keepers are conducting "business as usual." While it seems likely the prisoners will win the Ruiz suit, there is a huge gap between what prisoners win in court and what TDC will put into practice.

The harsh treatment of prisoners who have testified in the Ruiz case shows that TDC officials have no intention of changing their policies at all. Many prisoners have lost their goodtime, and been thrown into solitary on trumped-up charges. They have also been beaten by building tenders (prisoners acting as guards), who act as goons, pimps, loan sharks and snitches for the keepers. The judge in the Ruiz case has issued several restraining orders against these attacks but TDC ignores them.

Paul D. Brown, a prisoner at the Ellis Unit, is one of the main targets. Brown is an activist, writ-writer and organizer. He testified in Ruiz last year and has written several letters to the Torch/La Antorcha exposing the building-tender system and the abuse of gay prisoners. In early June, he was threatened with knives by two white building tenders (W. Thompson, #244634, and J. Turner, #273725) who, according to Brown, head up a prison KKK chapter. Two other Black prisoners were

stabbed by whites known to be in the Klan.

Brown was recently thrown into solitary for "possessing intoxicating inhalants—lighter fluid he bought in the prison commissary. Despite a serious medical condition (sickle cell anemia), he gets less than one meal a day, has to sleep on the floor and his personal property is denied him. The cell is infested with roaches and has no ventilation. He writes: "June 29, 1979, the officer [N.T. Kelly] who fabricated these two charges...began to verbally attack me...about my testimony in the Ruiz case including various letters of mine published in the Torch/La Antorcha, namely: 'you are a black punk and a punk lover, writing all that shit to that damn Communist paper and going to get your damn brains beat out.'" Paul Brown's case is not isolated. TDC officials wage ongoing war against revolutionary prisoners and any prisoners who fight for their rights. Johnny (Awali) Swift, for example, has been in solitary since December 29, 1974, because of his organizing. Allen Lamar would be eligible for parole but for the loss of goodtime due to his activities.

TDC is also trampling on media correspondence rights won by prisoners in the 1978 Guajardo ruling, which liberalized TDC rules on mail and prisoners' access to the media. Under Guajardo, prisoners are supposed to be able to send and receive media mail sealed. But TDC opens and reads all letters to and from the Torch/La Antorcha, thus allowing TDC to identify and punish the prisoners who are fighting hardest

against the keepers. They justify this by claiming that the Torch/La Antorcha is not a newspaper, and therefore is not protected as media! The same infantile tactic is being used against other left-wing publications and the "Prison Law Monitor."

Attorneys representing the prisoners plan to seek contempt charges against TDC for these and other violations of Guajardo. The hearings will probably be held in July or August, and a representative of the Torch/La Antorcha will testify. □

To Our Sisters and Brothers Behind Bars

Recently many of our friends and comrades behind bars have been making a big sacrifice for the Torch/La Antorcha. You've been sending us money to help pay for the free subscriptions and literature we send to prisoners. We would like to thank you all for the contributions you've been making. These contributions have helped a lot.

We realize that most people in prison make only pennies a day. If that, we regret that we even have to ask for funds from prisoners—our poorest subscribers. That so many of you have contributed dollars to make sure others get subscriptions is a testament to your revolutionary dedication.

Thanks again from the Torch/La Antorcha—every cent has helped. And many more thanks from the prisoners who couldn't afford to pay for their paper, but who can now continue to receive it for free.

BRIGADE DEFENSE EFFORTS BUILD

A trial date will be set for Eddie Pacheco on July 16 in Kingston, New York. Pacheco will be the second member of the August 8th Brigade to be tried on charges stemming from the August 8, 1977, rebellion at Napanoch Prison. On May 28, Felix Castro, also a Brigade member, was convicted of first degree rioting and unlawful imprisonment, and was later sentenced to two to four years added on to his current sentence. Other members of the Brigade include: Andre Nieves, Frank Abney, Lorenzo Perez and Ronald Tacardon.

The August 8th Brigade Defense Committee (ABBDC) is working to build the fight against the state's railroad and against the Klan. The ABBDC is now holding regular public meetings, open to anyone interested in fighting to free the Brigade. The immediate plans of the ABBDC include a demonstration on August 4, which will commemorate the second anniversary of the rebellion. In addition, the demonstration is being organized in



solidarity with the fight against the Klan in Decatur, Alabama, and across the country. And planned for late August is a picnic and raffle.

If you are interested in joining the August 8th Brigade Defense Committee or want more information on the case, please call: (212) 869-9239 or write PO Box 524, NYC 10036.

AL T

CHICAGO—Prisoners are mounting a demonstration of support of the Prisoners' July 22 work first anniversary. The demonstration is against the conditions at Joliet Prison. The demonstration is being held in the rebelion prisoners. One prisoner has been indicted for the demonstration; 17 face the charge if convicted.

The march, which is being held in the City-Wide area, will begin at 1 p.m. and Champlain at South Side. From there, the march will go to King Drive for the Revolutionary League, which is one of the City-Wide groups. The march urges everyone to attend the demonstration. More information can be obtained by calling the City-Wide office at (312) 434-2292, or at (312) 226-5911.

State out to crush resistance

While supporting the state's growing, the state is continuing its attack on the prisoners.

Stru a



Guards at Walla Walla

By FRANK

On May 9, 1979, Carl Harp, Shane Washburn—seized and parole building State Penitentiary took 10 hostages at 10 hours. Harp, Green mandated a federal intervention at the prison. To ensure this hour in front of new the prison keepers demand, the prison hostages. No one was

Conditions at Walla Walla are intolerably bad for the population of the prison suffer with overcrowding, role Hearings" that continued imprisonment the Intensive Security Unit, the whim of the keepers where some prisoners

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ALL OUT ON JULY 22 TO FREE THE PONTIAC BROTHERS!

CHICAGO—Preparations are mounting here for a major demonstration on July 22 in support of the Pontiac Brothers. July 22 will mark the first anniversary of the rebellion against rotten and racist conditions at Illinois's Pontiac Prison. Three guards died in the rebellion. Thirty-one prisoners have since been indicted for the uprising; 17 face the death penalty if convicted.

The march, called by the 31 indicted prisoners and by the City-Wide Coalition to Free the Pontiac Brothers, will begin at 1 p.m. at 63rd and Champlain on Chicago's South Side. From there, the march will go to 54th and King Drive for a rally. The Revolutionary Socialist League, which is a member of the City-Wide Coalition, urges everyone who can to attend the demonstration. More information is available by calling the Coalition at: (312) 434-5292, or the RSL at: (312) 226-5915.

State out to crush resistance

While support efforts are growing, the state is continuing its attacks on the

Pontiac Brothers and their supporters. The Torch/La Antorcha has learned that one of the Pontiac Brothers was badly beaten in late June, and that indicted prisoners housed at Pontiac

were being stripped of their TVs and radios (their own personal property).

Another form the attack is taking is the timing and locations of the trials. The 17 prisoners facing the death

penalty are scheduled for one trial in Cook County—the best location from the defense's point of view. But the 14 other Pontiac Brothers will first be tried downtown, with separate judges.

The leaflet below was written and distributed by prisoners at Pontiac.

This July 22 marks one year since the Pontiac Rebellion. The Department of Corrections will signify how they feel about what happened that day by having all its officers and personnel wear black armbands. The message is very simple and has not changed in 200 years. As long as it's the Black, poor and third world people that is dying, the state rejoices in their victory, but as the tables are turned they cry "massacre." We view what happened July 22 as neither a victory nor massacre; when men and women are deprived of basic human rights and treated as animals, any fool should realize they will eventually turn on their oppressors (or the symbol of that oppression).

Just as the state has not forgotten July 22, neither have we! In fact, we have more reason for remembering than anyone. The conditions we live under are just as oppressive and degrading now as they were one year ago when men in Pontiac Prison were forced to rebel against them. We must show that the state's new and most heinous acts of repression has not nor will they ever break the solidarity and strength that we

have in order to survive this inhumane ordeal called "prison."

We also want the state to know that the false indictments placed against the 17 Pontiac Brothers for murder and the indictments against the 14 other Pontiac Brothers for various charges stemming from the rebellion will not go unanswered or contested. We are well aware of the recent indictments of the Pontiac Brothers, Franzen's takeover and the midnight shipments is meant to weaken and destroy us all and not just the Pontiac Brothers. We are men and we demand to be treated as men and not animals!!

We encourage all prisoners to express their solidarity and strength by "fasting" this coming July 22 along with the Pontiac Brothers and all prisoners of this state. We ask all prisoners in this state not to eat off the state's food lines for the three meals served that day. Show the state exactly how you feel about what they view as a day of mourning.

We too feel grief, not for the dead, ours is for the living who must exist behind these walls 24 hours a day, ours is for the Pontiac Brothers that stand to lose their lives!!!

Unite to win still greater victories!
Free the Pontiac Brothers!!

Struggle Continues at Walla Walla



Guards at Walla Walla patrol the yard during prison takeover on May 9.

By FRANK HOPKINS

On May 9, 1979, three prisoners—Carl Harp, Shane Green and Clyde Washburn—seized the classification and parole building of the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla. They took 10 hostages and held them for 12 hours. Harp, Green and Washburn demanded a federal investigation of conditions at the prison and federal protection. To ensure this, they demanded an hour in front of news reporters. When the prison keepers gave in to this demand, the prisoners released their hostages. No one was hurt.

Conditions at Walla Walla have been intolerably bad for years. The general population of the prison has had to suffer with overcrowding, bullshit "Parole Hearings" that rubberstamp continued imprisonment, and placement in the Intensive Security Unit (ISU) at the whim of the keepers. The ISU cells, where some prisoners are held for

months on end, are about as big as an average bathroom. But this isn't the worst of it. Walla Walla prison is well-known for its behavior modification unit where prisoners are beaten, humiliated and drugged.

In 1977, prisoners struck for 14 weeks against these conditions—one of the longest prison strikes in history. Though the strike won some of the prisoners' demands, the keepers kept control of the prison, so things only got worse for the prisoners.

Since the takeover in May, Harp, Green and Washburn have been thrown into solitary confinement. They are not allowed to see visitors and their mail is censored. At three hearings, these brothers were denied lawyers.

The bourgeois media did its part to defend the prison keepers by making a big deal out of how Carl Harp was sent to prison for being a sniper. This charge was a frame-up and a lie when it was first used to imprison Harp, and now

the media is using it to get people to ignore the prisoners' demands for decent conditions.

The lives of Harp, Green and Washburn have been threatened. The state is trying to shut them up and bump them off. These death threats are serious business. Before the 1977 prisoner strike at Walla Walla, Harp's life was threatened. A good part of the reason why Harp is still around today is that there was a strike—prisoners were unified against the prison keepers, and were receiving a lot of publicity and outside support. Today, things are different. The prison population as a whole is not as together, and there is little outside support for the most recent action.

The RSL supports the brothers in their attempt to fight the conditions at Walla Walla, and we defend them against the harassment and threats of the state. The state is responsible for conditions at Walla Walla in the first place, and wants to kill these prisoners for fighting against those conditions. We strongly encourage everyone to support Harp, Green and Washburn. For more information, write: Solidarity Committee c/o La Nuit, Box 2, Stn. La. Cite, Montreal, PQ, H2X, 3M0.

JULY 8—The struggle at Walla Walla continues. Yesterday, 200 prisoners smashed up a cellblock and did over \$100,000 worth of damage. According to the prison keepers, the prisoners broke toilets and sinks off the cell walls, used them to smash up the cells, and tried to break through a wall into a utility tunnel. It was several hours before a tactical squad was able to force the prisoners into the yard.

The prisoners were demanding showers, which they had not been allowed since mid-June. But their rebellion was also part of the struggle that has been going on at Walla Walla since the events described in the article above. In mid-June a guard was killed and the keepers locked down the entire prison. The 1,385 prisoners were still on lockdown, after 23 days, when yesterday's protest broke out.

The state hopes to slip through convictions in these cases to set the stage for the death-penalty trials later on.

On June 14, at a court hearing in Chicago, dozens of cops flooded the courtroom. Spectators couldn't even see or hear what was going on. When a woman was taken ill, four women spectators with medical training went to her aid. The cops harassed them and eventually threw them out amid protests from other spectators. One supporter of the Brothers, Charles Cooper, was beaten to the ground, his head cracked open, and dragged to an elevator and thrown out—leaving a trail of blood. To cover their tracks, the cops charged him with assault.

Most recently, the warden at Stateville, who was brought in just last fall after the July rebellion there, was fired on June 25. His replacement, Marvin Reed, is Black. His assignment is to "regain control"—that is, to crush all prisoner resistance. Evidently they hope the fact that Reed is Black will help keep the heat off as he does their racist dirty work. □

"Snipes" Fight Back

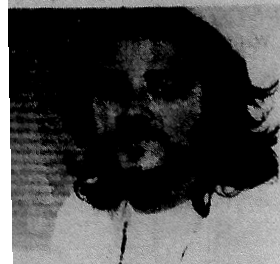
By NATASHA BELL

An uprising by more than 200 sailors at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, some 50 miles north of Chicago, resulted in injuries to at least 11 cops and two sailors. One cop car was demolished; almost all the windows were broken out of two commuter trains; and many shop windows were smashed when rocks aimed at the cops missed their mark. Seventy-two sailors were arrested.

The sailors are 18 and 19-year-old working-class men being trained for the dirtiest jobs in the Navy—as boiler technicians and machinists' mates. They call themselves "snipes." The run-down barracks where they are forced to live have broken doors and windows, and toilets that don't work. The men have no privacy or even secure lockers to keep their personal belongings in. Many anti-Navy slogans are painted across the doors and walls. "It's just like in prison," said one of the men. Meanwhile, Great Lakes commander Captain Robert Colvin complained at a press conference: "The problem is that we're not allowed to keep them incarcerated."

But military authorities come down hard on those who rebel. So far, 18 sailors have been convicted in courts-martial, and 40 more are facing charges. Many of those arrested will get bad-conduct discharges. That means they will have a record all their lives, the same as a prison record. □

EFFORTS BUILD



olidarity with the fight against the Klan in natur, Alabama, and across the country. d planned for late August is a picnic and file.

If you are interested in joining the August 8th Brigade Defense Committee or want more information on the case, please call: (212) 869-9239 or write PO Box 524, NYC 10036.

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March on October 14 for Lesbian and Gay Rights



By PAUL CARSON and
ROD MILLER

On July 6-8, 200 people met in Houston to make final plans for the October 14 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The October 14 demonstration is planned as a nationwide mobilization of gay people to demand an end to the harassment and discrimination lesbians and gay men face. As a display of pride, anger, and determination to struggle for freedom, the National March on Washington can be a major step forward for the gay liberation movement today.

The march comes at a time of growing political consciousness among lesbian and gay activists. For the past several years, gay people have faced steadily escalating attacks. Anita Bryant's crusade to drive all gays back into the closet has been followed by the repeal of limited gay rights legislation in several cities, increased cop harassment in the streets and bars and, most recently, the light sentence for Dan White, murderer of gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk—a clear signal to all anti-gay bigots that attacks on gay people will be tolerated and even encouraged. In response, lesbian and gay militancy has been growing. Gay pride marches have mobilized hundreds of thousands of people in cities across the country, and local lesbian and gay organizations are drawing in new members.

Meeting at a time like this, the Houston conference could have been a major step forward for the lesbian and gay liberation struggle. It could have served to link lesbian and gay organizing on a national basis in order to map out plans for a massive march that would tap the growing anger and militancy of gay people. Such a march could carry forward in the spirit of the San Francisco Rebellion, putting the government on notice that San Francisco was just the beginning. And the march could be a starting point to unite all those who are facing attacks by right-wing bigots, the government, the cops, the courts and the capitalist class as a whole, in support of a common fight against a common enemy.

Unfortunately, this is not the kind of march that those who controlled the Houston conference plan to build. Instead, the march organizers want a tame, respectable and pacifist march, designed to appeal to, and build support for, the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. These leaders hope that a

march which makes few demands and challenges few institutions will be acceptable enough to Democratic Party politicians to wring a few limited concessions from the government. Thus, the main focus of the march is a call for legal changes which would, at best, end only limited aspects of the monstrous web of oppression that the overwhelming majority of lesbians and gays face.

Leaders want respectable march

On its own terms, this strategy is bankrupt. The deepening economic crisis will force the ruling class to step up its attacks on all gay people, including whipping up all forms of bigotry aimed at driving every gay person back into the closet—if not into concentration camps or gas chambers. Those in control of the Houston conference are believers in capitalism. They cling to the desperate hope that if gay people are "patient" enough and "respectable" enough, room will be found for them inside the system. Not surprisingly, the overwhelming majority of these so-called gay leaders are themselves members of (and in some cases leaders of) the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. Their strategy is to narrow the scope and militancy of the march in order to make it acceptable to the Democrats. Their goal is to channel the movement into support for the liberal wing of the Democratic Party—"pro-gay" or "lesser evil" politicians—in return for empty promises and a few meager crumbs. This is the main political line of the current leadership of the October 14 March on Washington.

This line was fought for time and again by the leadership during the three-day Houston conference. Every attempt to express the anger, militancy and needs of the vast majority of gay people was met with bureaucratic suppression. For starters, the conference was stacked. Rather than an open national conference where lesbian and gay activists from all over the country could meet to discuss and debate the issues facing them, participation in the conference was limited to "official delegates" (four from each state), elected at a series of "statewide conventions."

Even with this tight control, conference leaders made every effort to keep political issues—questions of strategy—off the floor of

HOUSTON CONFERENCE DEBATES WASHINGTON MARCH STRATEGY

the conference. Self-appointed "leadership committees" met in advance of the conference to plan agendas designed to keep delegates tied up in endless discussions of procedural matters, "logistics," and statewide and regional caucus meetings. The already limited time provided for discussion of the march demands was cut even shorter, preventing any serious debate over the central issues facing the march. Resolutions endorsing nonviolence and lobbying were rammed through without debate and discussion. An unsuccessful attempt was made to establish a "censorship" committee with authority to review all placards and banners in the march.

The forces opposing this narrow approach were small in numbers. Delegates from the Boston area came to the conference with resolutions calling for a broadening of the demands to take up anti-sexist, anti-racist issues. One of these resolutions called for opposition to growing violence (including organizing to stop the Nazis and Klan and the conditions that give rise to them). The issue of violence against

women, gays and Blacks, Latins and other national minorities, was seen as central, given the wave of murders, rapes and other violence rampant in Boston at this time. Other demands of the Massachusetts delegates centered on job security, affirmative action and welfare rights. These demands recognized the importance of actively struggling around concrete issues that face working-class and specially oppressed lesbians and gay men. The only active support for the demands of the Massachusetts delegation came from the RSL delegates present from Boston, Detroit, Chicago and Los Angeles. An RSL resolution on this issue stated that: "The March on Washington should be clearly oriented to the needs of working-class specially oppressed lesbians and gay men." It went on to state that "the march should reach out to all working-class and oppressed people to encourage their participation and support." Debate on these resolutions was limited to 40 minutes and all were overwhelmingly defeated.

An RSL resolution calling on the conference to support

the defense of our gay sisters and brothers under indictment from the San Francisco Rebellion was kept from coming to the floor. While the conference leadership was eager to make clear their commitment to pacifism, they were just as eager to avoid being forced to vote against a resolution calling for solidarity with our sisters and brothers who fought for gay rights and now face state repression.

The fundamental line of division at the conference was expressed most clearly in an RSL-sponsored resolution on Democratic and Republican party politicians. The resolution stated that: "Democratic and Republican party politicians are our enemies and should not address our rally." Franz Martin, RSL delegate from Los Angeles, presented this resolution to the conference. He explained that it is not merely "right-wing fanatics" who are today attacking lesbians and gays. It is also the government itself. Martin stated that the Democratic Party, which runs the government, is directly responsible for carrying out the attacks on all our living standards, our rights, and our lives. Martin made it clear that it is the capitalist system itself, and the two capitalist parties which preside over it, that

Michigan Lesbians Hold Statewide Meeting

By MIRIAM LEE

On June 9-10, over 90 lesbians gathered in Lansing, Michigan, for the first Statewide Lesbian Political Action Conference (SLPAC). The meetings and workshops were marked by serious political discussion and enthusiasm at the prospect of organizing lesbians.

This conference met a deeply felt need. Lesbians face a unique oppression in capitalist society. We face the oppression that all women suffer in terms of being second-class citizens compared to men. We are also oppressed because we do not fit into the roles assigned to women. We face the oppression of being gay; and in addition, face the fact that most institutions for gay people (bars, baths, community groups) are oriented to gay men. The women's liberation movement has only grudgingly taken up lesbian issues, and the gay liberation movement has been dominated by gay men.

The main theme of the conference was lesbian unity. Discussions revolved around how to build solidarity and unity among lesbians of different backgrounds and political viewpoints. The conference set up an ongoing organization with four stated goals: 1) to assert, ensure, and protect lesbian rights; 2) to build solidarity among all lesbians; 3) to gather and share information; and 4) to organize lesbians throughout the state to achieve our goals.

A number of important political differences came out of the conference. Perhaps the most important one involved the question of strategy: How do we fight for our

liberation?

Some conference participants argued that lesbians can achieve freedom from oppression by separating themselves from the rampant sexism of society. They argued that lesbians from all classes should unite, but that lesbians should by and large remain separate from the broader struggles of oppressed people. Other conference participants, including the RSL, argued that sexism is rooted in capitalism and that capitalism must be destroyed to achieve lesbian liberation. Therefore, we argued, while lesbians should organize and fight for their special needs, they should also be prepared to work with other people—straight women, gay and straight men, Blacks, Latins, the working class in general—in a broader struggle for people's needs.

An RSL supporter expanded on this approach at a workshop she led at the conference. Lesbian liberation requires a socialist revolution, she explained. Capitalism will not allow lesbians to live openly and freely, nor will the system allow anyone to develop their capabilities to the fullest. The RSL calls on all sections of the working class and all oppressed people to unite around the struggle for socialist revolution.

The June conference was a promising beginning for the lesbian movement. The next national gathering of lesbians will be at the 4th Michigan Women's Music Festival in Hesperia, Michigan, on August 23-26. The SLPAC expects many thousands of women to come, and will be actively organizing to build lesbian unity. We urge all lesbians to come to the Music Festival and to join SLPAC in their organizing efforts. □

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Fight against oppression

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stands in the way of true gay liberation. These politicians are invited into the gay movement (and into other social movements) in order to gain support for their own election campaigns and for the idea of "working inside the system." They hand out false promises and in return demand that the movement limit itself to narrow demands acceptable to the politicians on Capitol Hill. Martin explained to the conference that the strategy of relying on Democratic Party politicians can only strangle the struggle for gay liberation and lead us to defeat.

The conference leadership was not prepared to allow an issue like this to be debated openly. They were well aware that any lesbian or gay activist won to this understanding would also come to recognize that these so-called gay leaders are themselves enemies of an all-out fight for lesbian and gay liberation. After allowing only one speaker from the floor in favor of the resolution, the conference leadership demagogically appealed to the memory of Harvey Milk and brought the question to a vote. The resolution was opposed by everyone but the RSL delegates and some of the delegates from Massachusetts. (Delegates representing the fake-socialist Workers World Party/Youth Against War and Fascism were among those opposing the resolution.)

Fight against all oppression

There was only one issue around which the left wing was able to mobilize significant opposition to the conference leadership. Phyllis Frye, a transgenderist (a woman born with a man's body, but who feels, lives and dresses as a woman), called on the conference to include "transpersons" (transvestites, female impersonators, transgenderists and transsexuals) in all official march literature and demands. Transpersons have long been excluded from an open role in the gay movement. Their oppression has been viewed as "too controversial" an issue to take up, despite the fact that transpersons suffer the identical oppression that all lesbians and gay men face. Many at the conference recognized this, with one delegate pointing out that transvestites played a leading role in the Stonewall Rebellion. The issue was hotly debated throughout the weekend. The RSL made it clear that the fundamental issue involved was whether we are building a movement that unites all gay people to fight against all oppression or a movement which is tailored to issues acceptable to the Democratic Party, conservative bar owners, and other sources of "wealth and influence."

Despite private professions of support, the conference leadership threatened a split to narrowly head off the strong sentiment of the resolution on transpersons. Instead, a watered-down resolution stating only that men-

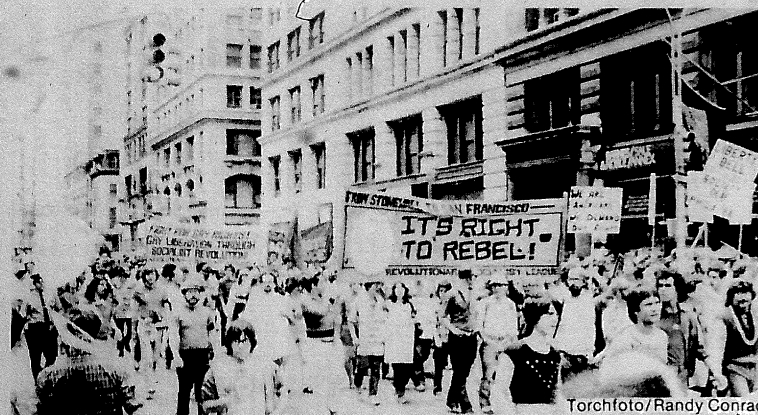
tion of transpersons would be included in future march literature was adopted. Even this was forced through over the opposition of the conference leadership. In the final conference session, Ms. Frye addressed the conference, saying: "At this conference we have learned a great deal. We have seen that there are some among us who fight for liberation and others who speak of freedom with a forked tongue."

Unite in the spirit of Stonewall and San Francisco

Despite the nature of the Houston conference, it was important for revolutionary socialists to be there. We cannot leave the organized lesbian and gay movement in the hands of the Democratic Party. While our forces were small, we made sure that the needs and interests of lesbians, gay men and transpeople were raised. We made sure that voices in the spirit of Stonewall and San Francisco spoke out. But most importantly, we began to build the forces that can challenge the control of the gay movement by pro-capitalist Democratic Party politicians and their allies. The movement is just beginning to grow and become more politically conscious. In particular, lesbians and national minorities and working-class gays have become more visible and active in the movement. We must begin now to expose the lie that the current leaders speak for "all gay people." We must slowly build the forces needed to take control of the movement out of the hands of the reformists and win it to the need to build a revolutionary struggle to smash capitalism—the root of gay oppression.

We are for all lesbian and gay activists working to build the October 14 March on Washington. The RSL will be organizing to do this in the coming months. However, we will make it clear that the strongest way to build the march and the movement which must continue after it, is to organize around a revolutionary program clearly counterposed to the sellout march leadership. We will be working to build a contingent to the march which will aim to unite all those who want to march in the spirit of Stonewall and San Francisco; all those who reject the pacifism designed to guarantee in advance that we will not challenge capitalism's institutions. We will be working to unite all those who are tired of listening to politician's promises—and then returning to life in the closet or to harassment by cops or right-wing thugs in the streets. We will try to unite all those who want to march in order to say loudly and militantly, "Smash all gay oppression!" Finally, we will be trying to bring together all those who see that we must work to build a united movement of all working and oppressed people which fights to achieve liberation from every aspect of capitalism's racism, sexism, exploitation and oppression. Join us! □

Gay Pride '79

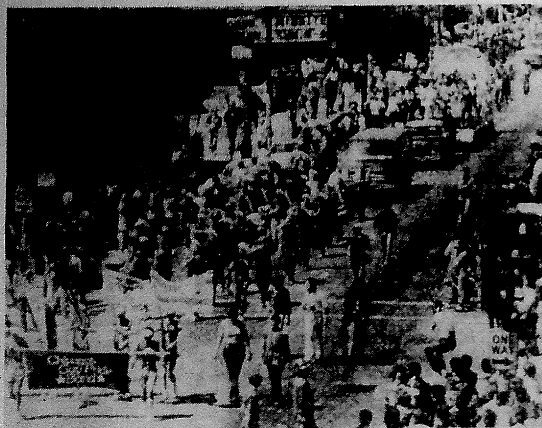


Torchfoto/Randy Conrad

STONEWALL...
Above, New York City, June 24, RSL group in united militant contingent made up of RSL, Gay Activist Alliance and Gay Militant Atheist sections. Nearly 100,000 marched from near the site of the Stonewall Inn to Central Park. Right: RSL contingent in Los Angeles gay pride march, July 1.



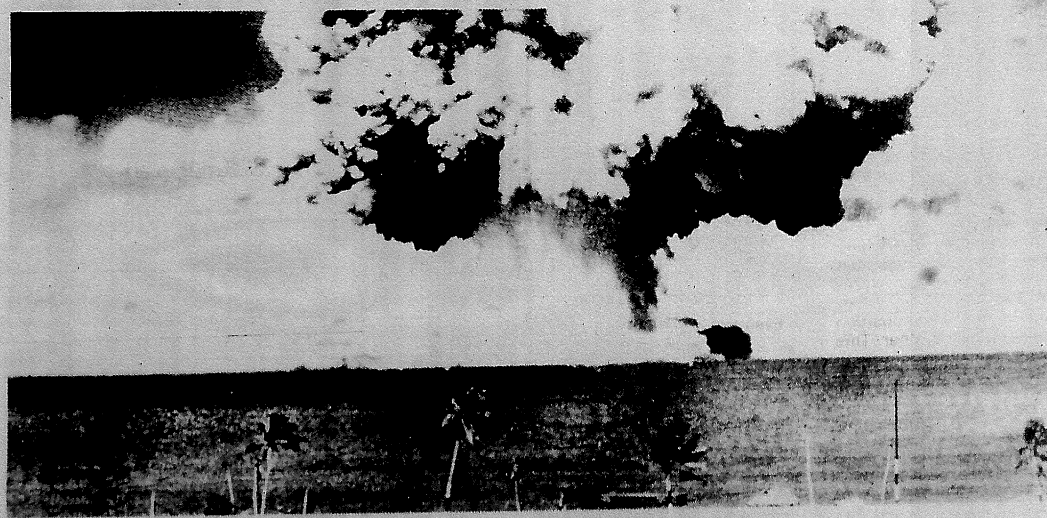
Torchfoto/Lois Aarons



... TO SAN FRANCISCO
Left: June 24 march in Chicago drew over 2,000. Below: RSL section of Stonewall contingent in the San Francisco march which had over 200,000 participants.

Torchfoto/Lois Aarons





SALT II: Imperialist Treaty Masks US/Russia War Plans

By PAUL BENJAMIN

On June 18, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Russian President Leonid Brezhnev signed a second Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II) in Vienna, Austria. They both hailed the treaty as a breakthrough on the road to disarmament and world peace. In fact, SALT II will bring nothing of the sort. The treaty is an imperialist deal between the U.S. and state-capitalist Russia. Its purpose is to try to moderate the rivalry between the two countries in the interests of maintaining their political power and control.

On its own terms, SALT II is a fraud. The treaty states that both governments must limit the number of strategic weapons in their arsenals to 2,250 through 1985. But this "limit" actually allows both sides to add hundreds of missiles and thousands of nuclear warheads to their war machines! (See box for details.)

In fact, while the Russian and U.S. imperialists talk about peace, they are preparing for war. The U.S. capitalists, for example, are talking about fighting a "limited" nuclear war with Russia in which "only" between two and 20 million people would die. Weapons like the MX missiles approved by Carter on June 7 are being designed specifically for such a conflict. To cap it off, Carter has proposed a \$10 billion increase in the military budget.

Right wing attacking treaty

Despite its fraudulent character, the treaty is arousing a storm of controversy in the U.S. ruling class. Right-wing politicians claim that the treaty gives too much to the Russians and is a demonstration of U.S. weakness. Jake Garn, the Republican Senator from Utah, claims that, because the treaty allows Russia 308

heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles and the U.S. none, Russia will have a military edge over the U.S. Garn maintains Russia will use this edge to force the U.S. into political concessions in its drive for world supremacy. Along with other right-wing Senators, he is demanding amendments to SALT II which would force a renegotiation of the treaty.

Actually, Carter and the critics of the treaty are on the same side. They are all agents of the U.S. ruling class. They are all dedicated to defending U.S. capitalism against rivals like Russia and against oppressed people all over the world. And they all favor some kind of arms deal with Russia. The right-wing critics of the treaty simply want to jack up the price Russia must pay for it and boost U.S. prestige by making it look tougher. For example, Paul Nitze, former secretary of defense and an opponent of SALT II, says: "The Soviet leaders respect people of strength of character... after the Soviets are persuaded that we can and will deny them strategic nuclear superiority, we can anticipate the eventual renewal of SALT negotiations on quite a different basis."

U.S. imperialism is weakening

In order to see how SALT II fits into the global strategy of U.S. and Russian imperialism, we should take a brief look at the current balance of forces in world politics.

The U.S. today is the strongest imperialist power on earth. It has the world's strongest economy, dominates the world market and maintains alliances, bases and fleets around the world. But U.S. imperialism is on the decline. In 1975, it got kicked out of Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos. Its allies in Iran, Nicaragua and southern Africa have been chased out

of power or are under siege. Internally, the U.S. economy is falling into recession for the third time in 10 years.

These reverses have allowed the Russian state-capitalist ruling class to gain some ground in its imperialist rivalry with the U.S. The Russian rulers, for example, have increased their influ-

ence in Southeast Asia, and have found new allies in Africa as a result of the liberation struggles in Angola, Mozambique and Ethiopia.

But the Russian gains have not equaled the losses suffered by U.S. imperialism. Like the U.S., Russia has experienced a series of international setbacks. For

instance, in 1972 the Egyptian government turned its back on Russia to make an alliance with U.S. imperialism. This has greatly weakened Russian influence in the Middle East.

Moreover, the Russian economy is in serious trouble. The 1976-80 Five-Year Plan set up the lowest economic growth targets in 35 years. But last year, Russian national income, industrial output and labor productivity all fell short of the very modest targets set by the Plan.

SALT II props up capitalist order

The changes in the world balance of forces have resulted in a dispersal of political and economic power away from the two superpowers into the hands of smaller capitalist rulers. For years after World War II, the U.S. and Russia had almost complete control over their respective empires. They dictated orders to their "allies" and sent in troops if things got out of control. For example, the U.S. invaded Lebanon in 1958 and the Dominican Republic in 1965, while Russia sent troops into Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Today, however, both the Russian and U.S. ruling classes no longer have the control they used to. As a

CURRENT U.S. STRATEGIC ARSENAL	WHAT SALT II ALLOWS	CURRENT SOVIET STRATEGIC ARSENAL
2,060	2,250 maximum All Strategic Nuclear Delivery Systems	2,570
1,046	1,320 maximum All types of MIRVs	795
1,046	1,200 maximum MIRVed SLBMs and ICBMs	725
550	820 maximum MIRVed ICBMs	600
0	Frozen at existing levels Modern heavy MIRVed ICBMs (such as SS-18)	308

SALT stands for the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty. Strategic arms include long-range land-based missiles (ICBMs), long-range missiles launched from submarines (SLBMs) and missiles launched from airplanes, such as the U.S. Cruise missile. Most of these missiles are equipped to carry multiple warheads (MIRVs).

The first SALT agreement was signed in 1972. The second SALT treaty, signed on June 18, requires both countries to limit the number of strategic arms in their arsenals to 2,400 through 1981, and to 2,250 from 1982 until the treaty expires in 1985.

The treaty also sets limits for the different categories of missiles. It restricts each side to no more than 1,320 "launchers" with multiple warheads. This includes planes with long-range missiles as well as ICBMs and SLBMs. The treaty also specifically limits the number of SLBMs and ICBMs to 1,200. And it sets a limit of 820 on land-based ICBMs.

Finally, the treaty includes provisions limiting the numbers of warheads different missiles can carry. ICBMs can carry up to 10, SLBMs up to 14, and missiles launched from bombers can have up to 28 warheads.

These so-called "limits" are phony. First of all, the number of weapons listed under "Current Strategic Arsenal" includes hundreds of obsolete weapons both sides were planning to get rid of anyway. For instance, the U.S. will destroy about 200 B-52 bombers and replace them with more modern weapons. Second, as the chart demonstrates, the "limits" for the different categories of missiles are far higher than the number each side now has in its arsenal. Both Russia and the U.S. will therefore be able to build hundreds of new missiles without violating the treaty. Lastly, each side can stockpile thousands of warheads under the SALT II treaty. Right now the U.S. has about 9,000 warheads, while Russia has about 4,000. According to the New Republic: "Because of submarine and bomber advantages, the U.S. currently has double the total warheads that the Soviets do; in 1985 we will have 12,000 compared to the Soviets' 8,000."

As an arms deal, the treaty represents a compromise. The U.S. conceded Russia superiority in heavyweight ICBMs—the Russians have 308 while the U.S. has none. In return, the U.S. will maintain its superiority in cruise missiles and submarine-launched missiles. By 1985, it will have 736 SLBMs to the Russians' 352, and 135 cruise missiles while the Russians will have none.

result, local ruling class throughout the world more independence to sue their own interests when these conflict with policies of their larger class. For example, the Arab rulers can raise the price of oil regardless of the U.S. energy crisis. Meanwhile, Russia follows a foreign policy often at odds with Russia. As Joseph J. Sisco, U.S. secretary of state for political affairs from 1974 to 1977, and new president of American University, put it in the July 8 New York Times: "Power is more fused, and the United States and the Soviet Union are able to manage developments either in volatile world areas or within own alliances."

This fragmentation of power poses a tremendous threat to the entire capitalist world order. Capitalism is reeling from the oil crisis, economic stagnation, heightened competition, the upsurge in the anti-imperialist and class struggle around the world. The international capitalist class is scared to death of the chance of world war and revolution threaten their system.

For this reason, the Russian and U.S. imperialists want some degree of cooperation to maintain "Detente" (that is, capitalist) or Detente in general and S

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By SUSAN EDMUNDS

Can you name the most industrial power in the world today where:

- Industrial output declined one percent in the first quarter of 1979, possibly signalling a recession?
- The government projects an energy crisis for years to come, and the price of gas now around a dollar a gallon—is expected to climb higher?
- The average working man cannot buy many of the goods she or he needs?
- Most of the elderly on the brink of poverty because their pension and retirement benefits are inadequate, while millions of old people have no source of income at all?
- One out of every three marriages ends in divorce with alcoholism given as the reason in a large number of cases?
- More and more people are dying of heart attacks and cancer—diseases largely due to environmental and social factors?
- The birth rate is declining among the dominant nationalities, but increasing among the oppressed nationalities, causing fears in the ruling circles of a political and social "imbalance"?

If you think we're talking about the United States, you're wrong—but the more you take is understandable. From energy crisis to social decay, every single item applies to the U.S. today. But the country we're talking about is the Soviet Union—a country most people think of as socialist. The people will rule over the vast Russian

instance, in 1972 the Egyptian government turned its back on Russia to make an alliance with U.S. imperialism. This has greatly weakened Russian influence in the Middle East.

Moreover, the Russian economy is in serious trouble. The 1976-80 Five-Year Plan set up the lowest economic growth targets in 35 years. But last year, Russian national income, industrial output and labor productivity all fell short of the very modest targets set by the Plan.

SALT II props up capitalist order

The changes in the world balance of forces have resulted in a dispersal of political and economic power away from the two superpowers into the hands of smaller capitalist rulers. For years after World War II, the U.S. and Russia had almost complete control over their respective empires. They dictated orders to their "allies" and sent in troops if things got out of control. For example, the U.S. invaded Lebanon in 1958 and the Dominican Republic in 1965, while Russia sent troops into Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Today, however, both the Russian and U.S. ruling classes no longer have the control they used to. As a

result, local ruling classes throughout the world have more independence to pursue their own interests even when these conflict with the policies of their larger allies. For example, the Arab rulers can raise the price of oil regardless of the U.S. energy crisis. Meanwhile, Rumania follows a foreign policy often at odds with Russia's. As Joseph J. Sisco, under secretary of state for political affairs from 1974 to 1976 and new president of the American University, puts it in the July 8 **New York Times**: "Power is more diffused, and the United States and the Soviet Union are less able to manage developments either in volatile third world areas or within their own alliances."

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For this reason, the Russian and U.S. imperialists want some degree of cooperation to maintain "world" (that is, capitalist) order. Detente in general and SALT

in particular are key pieces of this joint imperialist strategy. They are using the SALT talks and treaty as a signal to each other that they have not given up on detente.

Rivalry continues despite detente

But such deals and truces do not eliminate the rivalry between the two imperialist giants. Each power maneuvers and jockeys in an attempt to improve its position in relation to the other. This is why the U.S. imperialists are threatening to overturn detente in favor of an anti-Russian alliance with the Chinese government. And it is why the Russians maintain their support to national liberation struggles against U.S.-backed colonial regimes in Africa.

For all the yelling from the right wing, the treaty favors the U.S. This is because Russia needs it more than the U.S. does. The Russian rulers want to maintain detente in order to head off a full-fledged U.S./China alliance. They also need it to continue getting U.S. investments and food supplies to shore up their economy. In the past 10 years Russia has imported over \$60 billion worth of factories, equip-

ment and wheat from the U.S. and its allies.

In addition, the Russian rulers can't afford an all-out arms race with the U.S. The U.S. devotes about six percent of its Gross National Product (GNP—the total amount of goods and services produced by the economy) to military spending. Russia managed to catch up to the U.S. militarily only by spending over 12 percent of its GNP on arms. Now it needs an arms deal to ease the strain on its economy.

Even though the Russians

need the treaty somewhat more than the U.S., for both ruling classes, the treaty is a political necessity. Both recognize that the international stability which followed the creation of their power blocs after World War II is gone for good. Wars and rebellions are breaking out all over. Any one of them could spark a third world war or a world revolution, things neither of them want.

In the midst of the international crisis, the Russian and U.S. leaders are trying to set up rules that will maintain their "spheres of influ-

ence" and keep their rivalry in limits short of war.

Workers must stop rulers' war plans

No one should believe that these deals can bring peace. Militarism and war are built into the capitalist system. The capitalists need huge states to suppress their own people. They need force to crush weaker nations and loot their resources. They need bigger and better armies and weapons to ward off competitors and protect their imperialist empires. As capitalism collapses and class struggle and inter-imperialist rivalries heat up, the rules will go out the window. Each ruling class will fight for survival any way it can.

We can stop them only by smashing the capitalist system and building a new socialist society. Working and oppressed people in the U.S. and all over the world are fighting back against capitalist oppression. We have a common interest in stopping a third world war. We have a common enemy in the rulers who are arming to fight that war. We need to unite our struggles in an international revolutionary movement to finish off the capitalists before they reduce the world to ashes. □



Carter and Brezhnev signing SALT II agreement in Vienna.

"Ours Must Be a Vision of Freedom"

By SUSAN EDMUNDS

Can you name the major industrial power in the world today where:

- Industrial output declined one percent in the first quarter of 1979, possibly signalling a recession?

- The government projects an energy crisis for years to come, and the price of gas—now around a dollar a gallon—is expected to climb higher?

- The average working person cannot buy many of the goods she or he needs and wants?

- Most of the elderly live on the brink of poverty because their pension and retirement benefits are inadequate, while millions of old people have no source of income at all?

- One out of every three marriages ends in divorce, with alcoholism given as the reason in a large number of cases?

- More and more people are dying of heart attacks and cancer—diseases largely due to environmental and social factors?

- The birth rate is declining among the dominant nationality, but increasing among the oppressed nationalities, causing fears in the ruling circles of a political and social "imbalance"?

If you think we're talking about the United States, you're wrong—but the mistake is understandable. From energy crisis to social decay, every single item applies to the U.S. today. But the country we're talking about is the Soviet Union—a country most people think is socialist. The people who rule over the vast Russian

empire claim that their society has put an end to the misery and economic chaos of capitalism. They want people to believe that Russia

things they don't want (and the government wants to get rid of) just to get the item they do want.

For Soviet women—90

The never-ending fight over scarce goods, services and living space makes workers' lives one big pressure cooker. Alcoholism, smoking and high blood pressure are all on the rise, particularly in the cities. Women who want children decide not to have any because they won't have the time or space to take care of them.

is practically a workers' paradise.

Yet a look at the reality—not the claims—shows a very different picture. In fact, a life for working people in the Soviet Union is far from heavenly.

Everyday life a struggle

More than anything else, workers' lives are dominated by a constant struggle to get the necessities of life. Food, clothing and shelter are in short supply.

To buy a loaf of bread, a chicken, sugar, coffee, a pair of pants, or anything else, people have to wait in line for hours.

Sometimes people stand in line for that night's dinner, only to find out that the store has no more meat or bread. Often people must buy

percent of whom hold full-time jobs and do all the shopping, cooking, cleaning, laundry and child-rearing—waiting in line means a life of non-stop work. It is estimated that the women stand on lines several hours every single day, in addition to their jobs and other household work.

Housing in the cities is also incredibly tight. Whole families often live in one room, sharing bathroom and kitchen facilities with other families. Newly married couples live with parents while they wait two years and more for a tiny apartment of their own.

Food, apartments and other necessities can be had—for a price. Alongside the official stores and waiting lists is a thriving black market. It's all a matter of who you know and what you have to offer. For example, a butcher will make sure that

the person in charge of apartments gets meat every week—in return for a higher spot on an apartment waiting list. Goods on the black market are wildly expensive. Tourists report offers of over \$50 for a plain used pair of jeans—which will then be resold for much more.

The standard of living for Russian workers is far below that of most workers in the U.S. Televisions are a luxury item few can either afford or get, as are carpets and other things people in the U.S. take for granted. Meanwhile, out of a total population of 250 million, only five million Russians own cars.

The never-ending fight over scarce goods, services and living space makes workers' lives one big pressure cooker. Alcoholism, smoking and high blood pressure are all on the rise, particularly in the cities. The divorce rate is almost as high as in the U.S. Women who want children decide not to have any because they won't have the time or space to take care of them.

Meanwhile, workers' prospects for the future are even more dismal. Recent articles in the **New York Times**, **Business Week** and other publications show that the Soviet economy is on the skids. Growth rates are now dipping below 3.5 percent a year, compared to 6 percent in the 1950s. And even though production goals set in the 1976 Five-Year Plan were the lowest since World War II, there is no chance they will be met. Growth estimates for the 1980s range from no growth to 2.5 percent at the most.

Behind the cold statistics

are red-hot problems that threaten to sear the Russian economy. One of the biggest is the extremely low productivity of Russian agriculture. One-third of all farm produce is grown not on the state and collective farms, but on the peasants' small, private plots of land. What is so amazing about this is that the plots make up just 1.5 percent of all farming land in the Soviet Union! And the farmers who own this land have to put in a long day's work on the collective farms before they can tend to their own land.

Even with one-quarter of the workforce in agriculture, the Russians must purchase wheat and other foodstuffs abroad. This year alone the Russians will import over \$2 billion worth of food items—including 15 million tons of grain—from the U.S.

Industry notoriously inefficient

In addition to the problems on the agricultural front, Soviet industry is notoriously inefficient. Just as workers must compete for scarce consumer goods, factory managers have to hustle to get the raw materials and machinery to keep the factories running. And there is a black market in these goods too.

The state planners set quotas for how much a given factory is supposed to produce. With this emphasis on quantity, a tremendous amount of waste and loss of quality result. **Business Week** reports the case of a

(Continued on page 17)

	CURRENT SOVIET STRATEGIC ARSENAL
	2,570
	795
	725
	600
	308

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Black marchers confront Klan in Alabama last October.

By PAUL ALDRIDGE

During the last few years, working and oppressed people have witnessed a significant growth of the Ku Klux Klan movement in the U.S. The various Klan organizations are increasingly open in their efforts to recruit to their white supremacist ideology. This widely-publicized recruitment drive has gone hand-in-hand with mounting attacks on Blacks, Latins and other oppressed people.

For over 100 years, the Klan has been the most notorious expression of organized white racism and bigotry in the U.S. Organized in secret and using violent, terroristic tactics, the Klan has fought to maintain the privileges of white Protestants at the expense of Blacks, Latins, Asians, Jews, Catholics, gays, foreign-born workers and their allies in the trade union movement and the left.

Throughout its history, the Klan has consistently supported the most right-wing sections of the U.S. ruling class. Following the Civil War, for example, the Klan provided shock troops for the southern Democratic Party, the political party of the defeated slaveowners. In the 1920s, the Klan split its political support between Democratic and Republican party candidates. It mustered votes, as it does today, for those politicians whose views were most sympathetic to its racist ideology.

The Klan's membership has varied with the location of its "dens." Generally, the leadership has been drawn from professionals like doctors, dentists, lawyers, businessmen and ministers. The mass base of the Klan has consisted mostly of people from the petty bourgeoisie—small businessmen, farmers, professionals—along with racist, white and anti-union workers.

But the Klan has not been an organization of nutty "fringe elements." Leading political figures, such as Hugo Black, an associate justice of the Supreme Court, and Harry Truman, a president of the United States, were both members of the Klan at one time or another. Most likely, large numbers of present-day politicians are secret members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Today, the Klan is one of the most violent and aggressive forces in the growing right-wing movement. Examples of the Klan's recent racist activities are numerous. In Decatur, Alabama, the Klan shot two Black demonstrators on May 26. The demonstrators, led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, were fighting to defend Tommy Lee Hines, a Black man being framed on charges of raping three white women. The Klan has marched in the streets of Decatur armed with lead pipes, ax handles and guns.

In Mississippi, the United League has had to wage a virtual war against the Klan as part of its fight against racist hiring practices of businessmen in the northern part of the state. Black workers and their supporters have armed themselves in defense against Klan harassment, beatings and shootings.

Although the Klan is usually identified with the southern states of the

U.S., historically it has found support almost everywhere—North and South, East and West. Wherever it festers, its defining characteristics have always been white racism and reaction.

To fully understand the threat that the Klan poses, it is necessary to understand the history of these robed racists.

Klan founded after Blacks made gains

The Ku Klux Klan was founded in Pulaski, Tennessee, in mid-1866 by six ex-Confederate soldiers. However, the Klan did not really come into its own until 1867. In April, a meeting in Nashville launched the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. General Nathan Bedford Forrest, an ex-Confederate officer, was elected Imperial Wizard. The new organization was dedicated to "the curbing of lawlessness and Unionism, and above all to keeping the Negro in his place."

The driving force behind the growth and activities of the Klan was the racist fight to overturn the Radical Reconstruction governments established in the South after the Civil War and to take away the rights that Blacks had won after the end of slavery. The victorious northern states wanted to politically weaken the old southern ruling class, the slavocracy, after having dealt it a crushing military defeat. To accomplish this, ex-rebels were disenfranchised and new bourgeois-democratic governments, elected by Blacks and pro-Union whites, were set up. In this period, Blacks organized themselves and played a major role in southern political life. The Klan fought these new governments and their Black and white supporters in the Union Leagues.

From Tennessee, the Klan spread to northern Alabama and then throughout the Old South. At times, it was organized from the top down by ex-Confederate officers who had been friends of Forrest during the Civil War. In other cases, it grew out of existing organizations with similar aims, or sprang up on its own. One of the main vehicles for Klan propaganda was the southern Democratic newspapers, many of which openly encouraged and publicized the terror and organization of Klan dens in the South.

A major part of the Klan's message was aimed at racist whites' fears of a Black uprising. This rising never materialized, but it was the excuse for thousands of lynchings and beatings of Black people. While Klan terror was directed primarily at Blacks, it also hit whites who supported Reconstruction, teachers of Black children and anyone who dared to openly oppose the Klan. Although the Klan drew its membership from all classes, the slavocracy played a major role in mobilizing poorer whites to "maintain the old order" that had existed under slavery.

The kind of "order" the Klan leaders had in mind can be seen in the reign of terror that swept Yorkville County in South Carolina between November 1870 and September 1871. In 10

The Ku Klux Klan: One Hundred Years of Racist Terror

months, the Klan was responsible for 11 murders, several rapes of Black women, and over 600 floggings, beatings, and other assaults. Black and white leaders hostile to the Klan were driven out of the state, beaten or murdered by the white-robed night-riders. Out of a countywide population of 25,000 (half of whom were Black), the Klan recruited approximately 2,000 adult white men.

Black people in Yorkville and elsewhere in the South did not bow to the Klan without a fight. Black and white militias were organized to defend against the Klan. But the militias were held back by the local governments and often disbanded by federal troops. In addition, most of them were not adequately trained by the Reconstruction governments and had difficulty getting arms. As a result, the militias usually proved to be no match for the well-armed, veteran Confederate soldiers of the Klan.

A much more militant form of resistance to the Klan was the torch. During January and February in 1871, Blacks burned 12 farm buildings owned by Klansmen to the ground in Yorkville. Through the summer, over 20 more buildings were set on fire. However, the Klan in Yorkville was not put down until federal troops and prosecutors were sent in by U.S. President Grant.

Jim Crow laws established

Although Imperial Wizard Forrest formally disbanded the Klan in January 1869, it continued its violence until 1872. By that time Reconstruction was on its last legs.

In 1877, President Rutherford B. Hayes withdrew the last federal troops from the South as part of a deal he had made with the more moderate wing of the southern slavocracy. The results of the 1876 election were disputed, and the issue was sent to Congress to be decided. In return for southern support for placing him in office, Hayes agreed to withdraw federal troops from South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida, the last Republican-governed states, and turn over the state governments to the Democrats. Faced with mounting working-class struggle, the northern capitalists believed a compromise with the old southern ruling class was preferable to risking the possibility of Black and white working-class unity.

Over the next 30 years, Black rights were reduced to the lowest level since the days of slavery. Jim Crow segregationist laws were put on the books throughout the South. These laws clearly defined the status of Blacks as second-class, segregated, citizens. With the whole state government enforcing segregation in the South, there was little need for an organized, paramilitary force like the Klan to keep Blacks down. It was not until 1915 that the Klan re-emerged as a significant force.

This resurgence was the result of a number of changes that occurred in the U.S. following the turn of the century. Beginning around 1900, there was a massive influx of workers from Europe. In addition, Black people in the hundreds of thousands began to

migrate from the South to the North to escape Jim Crow, lynchings and crop failures, and to get jobs. By 1920, over 900,000 Blacks had settled in northern cities.

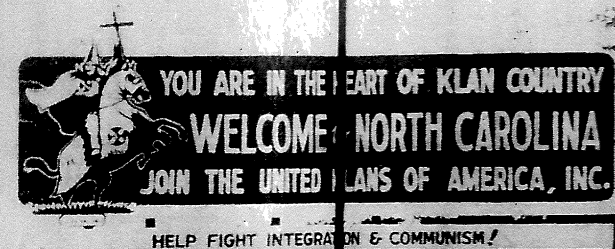
World War I created some openings for Black people. A labor shortage allowed Blacks to get jobs in northern industry. Blacks also served in the army in Europe. During the war, whites rioted against Blacks in several northern cities. When Blacks returned home, they were in no mood to passively accept second-class citizenship.

After the war, the whole country was in chaos. There was massive unemployment. A huge strike wave developed, sparked by an organizing drive in steel and a general strike in Seattle, Washington. To put down the workers' struggle, the government launched a massive Red Scare, whipping up hysteria over the spread of Bolshevism in response to the Russian Revolution of 1917. Throughout

attempted to intimidate anyone who was not "100 percent American." By 1920, the Klan had about 5,000 members in Georgia and Alabama. This year marked the beginning of a tremendous growth of the Ku Klux Klan.

In June 1920, Simmons made a deal with Edward Young Clarke and Elizabeth Tyler to build the Klan. Clarke and Tyler would get a large percentage of the \$10 initiation fee paid by each Klan recruit. Using techniques they had learned in the advertising business, they were able to recruit members to the Klan by the hundreds.

One thing that helped them was the first full-length American movie, *The Birth of a Nation*. This film, produced in 1915, played a major role in romanticizing the role of the Klan after the Civil War. The Klan was portrayed as the defender of white womanhood and all that was "good" in the South. President Woodrow Wilson and the chief justice of the Supreme Court,



this period, race riots continued to erupt. Between 1916 and 1921, there were over four dozen such riots in the U.S.

However, an important change had taken place. Returning Black veterans took the lead in fighting back against the racism and violence of whites. Black organizations like the African Blood Brotherhood and the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) sprang up. Led by Marcus Garvey, UNIA grew to a membership of nearly one million, with 800 chapters in 40 countries.

Revived Klan becomes a national force

It was in this context of working-class struggle and Black militancy that the Klan reared its head. On Thanksgiving Eve, 1915, William J. Simmons, a former Methodist minister, resurrected the Klan on Stone Mountain near Atlanta, Georgia. Simmons' Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., was based on "100 percent Americanism." True to form, this was understood to mean hatred of Blacks, Jews, Asians, Catholics and all immigrant workers.

During World War I, the Klan helped break a strike in the Mobile, Alabama, shipyards. It hunted draft dodgers, marched in patriotic parades and

Edward White, who was a former Klansman, saw the film and praised it. Notices of Klan meetings were often placed next to ads for the movie to draw in potential recruits.

By the end of 1921, the Klan had over 100,000 members. But this was still just the beginning. In 1924, the Klan's membership was estimated to range from four and a half to nearly nine million. The Klan's power was so great that the organization was a major issue at the National Democratic Convention in 1924.

The Klan's political power can be measured in the elections that took place from 1922 to 1928. The Klan was able to control or strongly influence the election of U.S. Senators, state legislators and city officials in over a dozen states. The first Klansman in the U.S. Senate, Earl B. Mayfield, was elected in Texas. He was later followed to the Senate by James Robinson, a Klansman from Indiana. Colorado's governor, Clarence Morley, Georgia's E.D. Rivers and Alabama's Bibb Graves were all active members of the Klan. Scores of Klansmen were also elected to lower levels of government.

In one of its most open shows of strength, the Klan staged a march on Washington, D.C., and demanded that President Coolidge review the parade. Although Coolidge refused, 40,000 robed Klansmen and women, mainly from the northern states, marched through the streets of Washington on August 4, 1925. The following year, 20,000 marched.

Ku Klux Klan: One Hundred Years of Racist Terror

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migrate from the South to the North to
escape Jim Crow, lynchings and crop
failures, and to get jobs. By 1920, over
900,000 Blacks had settled in northern
cities.

World War I created some openings
for Black people. A labor shortage
allowed Blacks to get jobs in northern
industry. Blacks also served in the
army in Europe. During the war,
whites rioted against Blacks in several
northern cities. When Blacks returned
home, they were in no mood to
passively accept second-class citizen-
ship.

After the war, the whole country
was in chaos. There was massive un-
employment. A huge strike wave
developed, sparked by an organizing
drive in steel and a general strike in
Seattle, Washington. To put down the
workers' struggle, the government
launched a massive Red Scare, whip-
ping up hysteria over the spread of
Bolshevism in response to the Rus-
sian Revolution of 1917. Throughout



this period, race riots continued to
erupt. Between 1916 and 1921, there
were over four dozen such riots in the
U.S.

However, an important change had
taken place. Returning Black veterans
took the lead in fighting back against
the racism and violence of whites.
Black organizations like the African
Blood Brotherhood and the Universal
Negro Improvement Association
(UNIA) sprang up. Led by Marcus
Garvey, UNIA grew to a membership
of nearly one million, with 800
chapters in 40 countries.

Revived Klan becomes a national force

It was in this context of working-
class struggle and Black militancy
that the Klan reared its head. On
Thanksgiving Eve, 1915, William J.
Simmons, a former Methodist min-
ister, resurrected the Klan on Stone
Mountain near Atlanta, Georgia. Sim-
mons' Knights of the Ku Klux Klan,
Inc., was based on "100 percent Amer-
icanism." True to form, this was
understood to mean hatred of Blacks,
Jews, Asians, Catholics and all immi-
grant workers.

During World War I, the Klan helped
break a strike in the Mobile, Alabama,
shipyards. It hunted draft dodgers,
marched in patriotic parades and

attempted to intimidate anyone who
was not "100 percent American." By
1920, the Klan had about 5,000
members in Georgia and Alabama.
This year marked the beginning of a
tremendous growth of the Ku Klux
Klan.

In June 1920, Simmons made a deal
with Edward Young Clarke and Eliza-
beth Tyler to build the Klan. Clarke
and Tyler would get a large percentage
of the \$10 initiation fee paid by each
Klan recruit. Using techniques they
had learned in the advertising busi-
ness, they were able to recruit
members to the Klan by the hundreds.

One thing that helped them was the
first full-length American movie, *The
Birth of a Nation*. This film, produced
in 1915, played a major role in
romanticizing the role of the Klan after
the Civil War. The Klan was portrayed
as the defender of white womanhood
and all that was "good" in the South.
President Woodrow Wilson and the
chief justice of the Supreme Court,

1924 marked the high point of the
Klan's power. While it had become a
major force in the deep South, Texas,
Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois,
Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New
Jersey, Connecticut and Oregon, the
reasons for its strength differed from
state to state. In Tulsa, Oklahoma,
and Herrin County, Illinois, the Klan
was used to put down bootlegging.
Businessmen in Muncie, Indiana,
called in the Klan to help clean up a
corrupt Democratic city government.
In Oregon, the Klan was the major force
in an anti-Catholic drive against pa-
rochial schools. In New Jersey, the
Klan attempted to build a campaign
against immigrant workers from Eu-
rope who made up nearly a fifth of the
population in the major industrial
areas. Overall, the thrust of the Klan
continued to be violent racism against
Blacks and hostility to anything "for-
eign."

Opponents of racism organize

The Klan did not go unopposed. But
for the most part, this opposition was
dominated by capitalist politicians,
liberals and organizations like the
American Unity League. The working
class was largely unorganized or
dominated by the racist and conserva-
tive American Federation of Labor.
However, the United Mineworkers
union took a clear and early stand
against the Klan.

One example of militant, working-
class opposition to the Klan took
place in Perth Amboy, in central New
Jersey. Several hundred Klansmen
met in a local hall in August 1923.
Thousands of workers from the sur-
rounding area gathered outside to
stop the meeting. Even when rein-
forced by the state troopers, the police
were unable to control the crowd.

All through the night the workers
attacked the hall and the cops. Dozens
of Klansmen were beaten to a pulp and
their cars were destroyed. Police
patrol wagons containing escaping
Klansmen were overturned and the
racists stomped. It was not until the
next morning that the cops were able
to sneak the remaining Klan members
out of the hall. Even then, known and
suspected Klansmen were chased
through the streets and beaten. De-
feats like the one suffered by the Klan
in New Jersey did a lot to discredit
the Klan.

Toward the end of the '20s, however,
the Klan declined rather rapidly. There
were several reasons for this. One was
widespread fighting and corruption
among the leadership. In 1922, Dr.
Hiram Wesley Evans, a Texas dentist,
became the new Imperial Wizard and
began to force Simmons out of
the Klan. But even before this, the
leadership, particularly Clarke and
Tyler, had come under fire for corrup-
tion and were on the way out.
Demoralization grew among the ranks
of the Klan as leader after leader
scrambled to rip off whatever funds
they could.

Along with this, Clarke was indicted
under the Mann Act for bringing a
woman across state lines for the
purpose of prostitution. The Klan's
strongest northern leader, Indiana's
F.D.R. and the Jews." Combined with
praising Adolf Hitler, this stance did
not help the Klan win many support-
ers.



Brutal lynchings like these were common in the 1920s and '30s.

of kidnapping and assault. Stephen-
son was later convicted and sent to
prison.

Yet another factor was the constant
violence of the Klan. Early in the '20s,
the Klan's violent tactics had won it
respect from prospective recruits. But
by the end of the '20s, much of this
respect had turned into disgust.
Although there is no way of knowing
exactly what the Klan was responsible
for, the violence committed by these
cowards was tremendous. In Texas
and Oklahoma, the Klan was sus-
pected of over a thousand cases of
assault.

In addition to the violence and rot at
the top, supporters became less
worried about the threat of Bolshe-
vism and Black rebellion. By the late
'20s, the labor movement had been
dealt one defeat after another, while
the UNIA had been effectively crushed
by the government. By 1930, the Klan
numbered less than 100,000.

Klan declines in the 1930s

During the 1930s, the Klan was
unable to turn the tide. The massive
power of the working-class upsurge in
the '30s reduced the Klan to little more
than a racist social club. Hundreds of
thousands of workers were drawn into
the fight to build industrial unions in
the basic industries in the U.S. Black
and white working-class unity grew in
the fight to beat back the capitalists'
anti-union drives. The Klan played
some role in supporting the bosses
against the unions. Klansmen distri-
buted Henry Ford's newspaper, the
Dearborn Independent, as part of their
efforts to stop the United Auto Work-
ers' organizing drive at the Rouge
plant. The explicitly anti-working-class
character of the Klan also came out
clearly when it denounced the sitdown
strikes in the rubber industry and in
the auto plants. But much of the
Klan's propaganda and activity was
concentrated on attacking the growing
organizing and demonstrations of the
unemployed. Overall, the main enemy
of the Klan in the 1930s was declared
to be "communism and the CIO."

In addition to opposing the great
organizing drives, the Klan was also
completely hostile to President F.D.
Roosevelt and the "New Deal." The
Klan claimed that the country was
being overrun by the "communism of
F.D.R. and the Jews." Combined with
praising Adolf Hitler, this stance did
not help the Klan win many support-
ers.

James Colescott, a former veteri-

narian, became the Imperial Wizard in
1939 after several years of leading the
Klan's anti-CIO drive. Under the
Colescott regime, the Klan was dis-
credited even further. On August 18,
1940, the Klan held a joint rally with
the German-American Bund, the main
pro-Nazi organization in the U.S.
Association with the Nazis after the
U.S. entry into World War II further
undercut the Klan's ability to grow.
Finally in April 1945, Colescott was
forced to formally disband the Knights
of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., in order to
avoid a federal tax evasion suit.
Although local Klan organizations
continued to function, there was no
national coordination among them.

In October 1946, Dr. Samuel Green,
an obstetrician, attempted to rebuild
the Klan. He had been a Klansman
since the '20s and was Colescott's
right hand man. After the Klan had
been disbanded in 1945, Green had
maintained contact with the Klans in
Georgia, Alabama, Florida, South
Carolina and Tennessee. Despite
mounting pressure from the U.S.
government and some local state
governments, Green was able to
recruit some new members to his
organization, renamed The Associa-
tion of Georgia Klans. Public Klan
meetings and cross-burnings were
held in California, Kentucky, New
York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in
addition to the five other states.

Along with the attempt to rebuild
the Klan, isolated acts of violence
spread in the states where the Klan
was active. But each time the Klan
reared its head, it was met with
resistance. Blacks and whites laughed
and joked about many of the Klan
parades and meetings. White students
from the university in Columbia,
South Carolina, heckled Dr. Green
during a speech and threw stink
bombs at him. Internally, the Klan was
increasingly torn by controversy and
dissent.

In 1949, Grand Dragon Green died in
his home in Atlanta. With his death,
the Klan splintered. His replacement,
Sam Roper, a former Atlanta cop, was
unable to hold the various Klan
factions together. A new outbreak of
Klan violence had begun prior to
Green's death, but it was completely
under the control of independent local
Klans and was quickly stopped.

From 1949 on, the Klan was actually
a collection of independent warring
groups and competing individual lead-
ers. The next major upsurge of the
Klan began in 1954 following the
Supreme Court's decision against
segregation in public schools. This
second resurgence, the Klan today,
and the RSL's strategy for smashing
the Klan will be discussed next month
in the second part of this series. □

THE BIG OIL RIP-OFF

(Continued from page 1)
percent above last year. Crude oil imports from Iran have never covered more than five percent of U.S. consumption—not enough to cause a serious shortage even if it all stopped flowing. In fact, reserve supplies of oil are within one percent of last year's, while consumption has increased less than three percent. **"Stocks of gasoline, heating oil and crude are not seriously low by any measure,"** Business Week reported last April 2.

On the other hand, the oil refineries, controlled by the oil companies, are running at only 80 percent of capacity. This fact reveals the real culprit behind the gas shortage. Even the Federal Trade Commission has had to admit: **"The current gasoline shortage may be contrived."** In fact, the oil companies are withholding oil at every stage of production: in known but untapped oil fields, in wells not operating at full capacity, in pipelines and refineries, and in storage tanks and tankers.

They are waiting for U.S. oil to be deregulated, so they can add \$5 to \$14 to the price of a barrel, bringing it up to the world market price. John Swearingen, chairman of Standard of Indiana (Amoco), put it bluntly: **"Before production is increased, prices would have to rise to the world price level, \$1.50 a gallon for gasoline."** AL-

producing state, 23,000 out of 65,000 wells are shut.

"There is more than enough 'old oil' sitting in the ground that the oil companies refuse to sell. . . . Decontrol of oil prices would eliminate overnight the shortfall of supply. . . ." reported Value Line, an investors newsletter.

In April, Carter announced that he would begin lifting the oil controls in June, ending them by 1981. If Carter's proposal went through, the oil companies stood to gain a clear \$86 billion in "windfall profits." But Congress balked at this blatant giveaway. At this point, the oil shortages started.

With the supply of domestic oil held down, U.S. needs had to be met either from the Middle East countries, which had planned production without anticipating the extra demand from the U.S., or from the so-called spot market. (The spot market is the buying and selling of oil in relatively small quantities for immediate delivery.) In addition to U.S. buyers, Israel and South Africa, both recently cut off from Iranian oil, have been using the spot market heavily. As a result, spot prices have gone as high as \$40 a barrel for gasoline and have stabilized around \$20 a barrel for crude. This also helped drive gas pump prices up. A campaign has now begun to



of all, the gas lines and price hikes started way before OPEC's June 28 price rise. And OPEC's June price rise to an average of \$20 a barrel was a move to catch up to the spot market price. The OPEC ministers are capitalists, after all, and if someone is buying oil at \$20, that's what they will charge. It's a little much to hear Mobil complain about that!

Second, the oil companies profit tremendously by the OPEC price rise. A price increase makes all the oil and oil fields the companies own more valuable, producing a second kind of windfall profits. Furthermore, some of the Middle East drilling companies are still partly owned by the big oil companies. The Saudi Arabian oil company, for instance, is 48-percent owned by a consortium of Exxon, Texaco, Mobil, and Socal (Chevron). As a result, the big companies share directly in the higher charges for crude.

Third, while OPEC sometimes acts militant in response to the anti-imperialist desires of the Arab masses, OPEC is an important part of the world capitalist system and a base of support for U.S. imperialism. OPEC supports the dollar by demanding payment in dollars for all oil, no matter which country is buying it. In addition, half of all the money from oil payments comes right back to the U.S. in payment for manufactured goods. For example, much of that money is spent on weapons.

The richest oil countries are also the most conservative Middle East nations. It was Iranian oil money that created an army that supported U.S. imperialism in Oman and throughout the Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia used oil money to woo Egypt away from an alliance with the Russians and toward

the United States. U.S. power is certainly declining in the Middle East, but it is the Arab masses, not the oil ministers, who are responsible for that good news. In fact, in response to U.S. pressure, Saudi Arabia announced on July 9 that it was increasing oil production enough to make up for any shortfalls. Far from doing battle to the death with the U.S. oil companies, the Saudi rulers are working with them.

Oil stolen from oppressed nations

But behind all the capitalist profit-taking and deceit, there is one kernel of truth: There is only so much oil in the world, and it's being used up. All known oil reserves that can be tapped with current methods will be used up in 38 years. This was the justification for the subsidies and tax breaks given to the oil companies earlier. They were supposedly going to take the extra-high profits and invest them in finding more oil and developing new energy sources.

They didn't. Instead of developing new energy sources, the imperialists, particularly the U.S. capitalists, stole oil from the oppressed nations of the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, and made tremendous super-profits by refining and selling it. Only recently has OPEC even slowed this down a little.

While the oil companies used some of their super-profits to search for new oil sources, they refused to take the time, effort and money to develop any but the most accessible reserves. They knew that by dragging their feet, sooner or later the price would go up and they could reap tremendous profits by doing nothing.

There are other energy sources, however. Canadian tar sands hold 600 billion barrels of oil. U.S. oil shale contains two trillion barrels. Supplies of solar, geothermal and hydro-power are inexhaustible. But it is estimated that it will take over \$200 billion to develop production from oil shale. Other alternatives will take even more.

After years of profit-taking, the oil companies are now trying to develop some of these other options. But they plan to make a killing doing so. They are out to get the money they need off the backs and blood of the working class. This is what the current talk of "necessary sacrifices" and "working together to solve the crisis" is all about. Jimmy Carter calls on us to wage "the moral equivalent of war" against OPEC, only to hide the fact that the solution is to wage a real war on the capitalists who are behind the attacks. □



New Jersey workers protest government's threat to de-control the oil industry.

though the eight largest oil firms made a combined profit of \$9.3 billion last year, they want more. If they get their way, they stand to amass billions of dollars more.

Today, the oil companies are screaming for de-regulation, but that has not always been their song. For 25 years after World War II, the government regulated oil to keep the price of domestic oil several dollars a barrel higher than the world price. It also imposed a strict quota on imports to help maintain this price. In addition, for years the oil companies got huge tax breaks on the profits from domestic oil—the so-called oil depletion allowance. This was supposed to encourage them to search for new oil. The allowance wasn't eliminated until 1974. It is only now that the world price is up and government regulations keep domestic prices lower than the oil companies are demanding de-regulation. And to enforce their demand, they have created the gas shortage.

Here's how it happened: The federal regulations place a low limit on the price of oil from wells that were already producing by 1971. Oil from newer wells can be sold for more. The purpose of these regulations, like the earlier price supports and tax breaks, is to encourage domestic oil production. But instead, the oil companies have closed down or reduced the output of the old wells. For example, in California, the third largest oil

blame the whole gas crisis on OPEC. **"With strong steps we can mobilize the nation around a real crisis and with a real enemy—OPEC. . . . We have a better opportunity than ever before to assert leadership over an apparently insoluble problem, to shift the cause of inflation and energy problems to OPEC, to gain credibility. . . ."** wrote presidential adviser Stuart Eizenstat in a memo to his boss on June 28. Blaming OPEC is a dirty trick. First



Nicaragua Acc

(Continued from page 1)
"transitional government" national reconstruction. This was a thin maneuver to gain U.S. intervention. It was rejected. American rulers' revolts in their own name if they gave support to U.S.

Then on June 29, the regime based on Opposition Front



pro-U.S. Nicaraguans and political opponents oppose Somoza. They wanted the group to take a political tack. Sandinista-backed provisional government plan failed when Opposition Front supported provisional government. On June 29, and declared to compete with it. A rival administration

The U.S. is r... through its allies to preserve Somoza's Guard as a safeguard against workers' uprisings. It continues to arm through Israeli ruling class. The New Israeli shipment of 10 T-28 planes, 3 man tanks, and a recently arrived

In addition, the Venezuelan, Colombian, Dominican Republic operating with the threatening to collapse support to the government unless to preserve the Guard and expand. It includes right-wing leaders friendly to the provisional government's foreign minister Miguel D'Amador. "The only characteristic this mail."

But despite the provisional government itself is stressing wants to maintain relations with the from wanting to

Nicaraguan People Settle Accounts With Somoza

(Continued from page 1)

"transitional government of national reconciliation." This was a thinly-disguised maneuver to gain support for U.S. intervention in Nicaragua. It was rejected by Latin American rulers who feared revolts in their own countries if they gave such open support to U.S. imperialism.

Then on June 27 the U.S. tried to set up an interim regime based on the Broad Opposition Front, a group of

National Guard, it wants to keep most of it intact as a basis for its own rule. It is calling only for a "more equal proportion" between Guardsmen and Sandinistas in a new national army. Workers who fought in and supported the struggle against Somoza need to ask themselves exactly what kind of government these people will set up once they are in power.

The victory of the Sandinista-led forces will be a tre-

year by Somoza's government.

Daniel Ortega Saavedra is the only Sandinista in the provisional government. He belongs to the most right-wing faction of the Sandinistas, the Terceristas, which supports a coalition with the capitalists. The two more left-wing sections of the Sandinistas, the Prolonged People's War Faction and the Proletarian Tendency, have no representation in the government.

Once in power the new government will probably nationalize the Somoza family's huge possessions, which include Nicaragua's 26 largest companies and about 25 percent of the country's best land. But advisory groups set up by the government to reorganize the Nicaragua economy after Somoza is overthrown have already indicated that the rest of Nicaragua's capitalists will be able to keep their ownership of the country's resources. They are recommending that private property "fulfilling social functions" (whatever that means) be "left alone." Even absentee landlords will be able to prevent seizure of their land by returning to the country and promising to put it to "productive use." The workers and peasants are promised only "sacrifice and austerity." In other words, the provisional government wants a return to capitalist business as usual as soon as possible.

But it's doubtful that the victory of the provisional government will mean a quick return to capitalist law and order in Nicaragua. With Somoza gone, the Nicaraguan ruling class will have no army nor strong state apparatus fully under its control. It will face constant conflicts between the Sandinistas (who do have an army) and the more right-wing capitalist leaders, and between the factions within the Sandinistas themselves. Moreover, the workers and peasants who fought Somoza for years (many of whom are now armed), will resist capitalist efforts to reduce them to slavery. The result will most likely be a period of instability that will give the workers and peasants the opportunity to organize a revolutionary struggle against the capitalist politicians who are trying to take Somoza's place. □

menous victory for the Nicaraguan people. It will mean the end of Somoza's gangster regime and a tremendous weakening of the U.S.'s hold over the country. But it will not be a socialist revolution, in which the workers and peasants take over the country and run it for themselves. Instead, Somoza's bloody regime will be replaced by a coalition between the Sandinistas and sections of the Nicaraguan capitalist class opposed to Somoza.

A glance at the membership of the provisional government reveals that the capitalists control it. One member, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, is a wealthy businessman. Two others, Sergio Ramirez Mercado and Moises Hassan Morales, are members of pro-capitalist political parties. A fourth member, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, is the widow of a conservative newspaper editor who was murdered last



pro-U.S. Nicaraguan capitalists and politicians who oppose Somoza. The U.S. wanted the group to head off a political takeover by the Sandinista-backed provisional government. But its plan failed when the Broad Opposition Front repeated its support for the provisional government on June 29, and declared it would not compete with it by setting up a rival administration.

The U.S. is now working through its allies to at least preserve Somoza's National Guard as a safeguard against a workers' uprising in Nicaragua. It continues to supply the National Guard with arms through its ally, the Israeli ruling class. According to the *New York Times*, Israeli shipments of at least 10 T-28 planes, several Sherman tanks, and ammunition, recently arrived in Nicaragua.

In addition, the rulers of Venezuela, Colombia and the Dominican Republic are cooperating with the U.S. by threatening to cut off their support to the provisional government unless it agrees to preserve the National Guard and expand itself to include right-wing political leaders friendly to the U.S. The provisional government's foreign minister, Reverend Miguel D'Escoto, declared: "The only way to characterize this is blackmail."

But despite these attacks, the provisional government itself is stressing that it wants to maintain friendly relations with the U.S. Far from wanting to disband the



Iran: opposition to Khomeini grows

On July 10, 30,000 Iranian Arabs in Khuzistan held a massive demonstration against the Ayatollah Khomeini's regime. On the same day, thousands of Kurds marched on the port city of Mehabad to protest the government's refusal to grant them political autonomy and freedom to teach their language and culture.

Opposition to Khomeini continues to spring up from all sides. On June 22, 15,000 people rallied at Tehran University to demand an elected constituent assembly. The rally was sponsored by the National Democratic Front, a liberal capitalist opposition group. And on June 29, the leftist Fedayeen-e-Khalq organized a demonstration of 50,000 people demanding the release of more than 40 Fedayeen jailed by the Khomeini government. One speaker also called for the release of nine members of the Socialist Workers Party of Iran who have been held without charges since May.

To gain support, on July 5 the regime announced it was nationalizing most major industry in Iran, as a "gift to the barefoot of Iran." In fact, most of Iran's top industrialists have already left the country. By taking over their businesses, the government hopes to restore some order to Iran's shattered economy and crack down on workers demanding economic and political reforms. Khomeini has decreed laws making it a crime to organize strikes or engage in "collectivist activities."

The government is counting on the officers who slaughtered thousands of Iranians under the shah's dictatorship to enforce its crackdown. On July 9, Khomeini declared an amnesty for all "people who committed offenses under the past regime." From now on, no complaints can be filed against members of the armed forces unless they can be proved to have taken part in torture or murder.

Muzorewa pleads for U.S. support

Bishop Abel Muzorewa arrived in Washington, D.C., on July 10 in an effort to drum up U.S. support for his regime in Zimbabwe. In June, the Carter government refused to recognize Muzorewa's government or end economic sanctions against Zimbabwe. The U.S. ruling class is unwilling to support the election swindle which brought Muzorewa to power until it is sure his government can survive.

Last year, Muzorewa agreed to a deal which allowed Black politicians to take power while the white minority ruling class continued to run the country. In April, Muzorewa "won" an election in which voters were marched to the polls at gunpoint and widespread fraud was reported in several provinces.

Now Muzorewa's own supporters are deserting him. On June 20, James Chikerema, a leading member of Muzorewa's United African Congress party, announced he was forming his own party and that eight members of the National Assembly were joining him. Chikerema's action will cost Muzorewa his majority in the Zimbabwe parliament, and further undermine his phony claim to represent the Black people of Zimbabwe.

Moreover, Chikerema is a former ally of Joshua Nkomo, a co-leader of the Patriotic Front, which is directing the armed struggle against white rule in Zimbabwe. A representative of Chikerema's new Zimbabwe Democratic Party said it would "go to the corners of the earth to get peace in this country." It remains to be seen whether Chikerema will go as far as Nkomo's headquarters in neighboring Zambia. Such a move could finish off Muzorewa's puppet government.

General strike topples John of Dominica

A month-long general strike has toppled the regime of Patrick John in Dominica. On June 21, the Dominican Parliament removed John as prime minister, and named as his successor Oliver Seraphin.

In May, John attempted to pass legislation which would ban the unions from striking. He also wanted a libel law that would stop the press reports on his government's dealing with the apartheid regime in South Africa.

On May 29, 15,000 people demonstrated outside the parliament against these proposals. Police and troops fired into the crowd, killing two people with gunfire and suffocating a baby with tear gas. The next day, 18,000 workers responded to the general strike call, completely shutting down the island.

As more mass demonstrations were held in June, Seraphin split John's Dominica Labour Party to form the new Democratic Labour Party. Seraphin resigned as minister of agriculture and took seven of the 14 Dominica Labour Party MP's with him into the new party. A Committee of National Salvation was formed including the Democratic Labour Party, other bourgeois opposition forces, and trade union leaders.

It is unclear whether the new regime will last. Many people oppose the choice of Seraphin, who was part of John's regime until mid-June.

—PB & CG



Members of the provisional government with Panama president Royo.

WHY THE RSL SUPPORTS PRISONERS' STRUGGLES

The following speech was given by Frank Hopkins at a May 6 forum held by the Detroit RSL to build support for the Pontiac Brothers and the August 8th Brigade. (See pages 6 and 7 for the latest information on these two struggles.)

What is going on at Pontiac today and what is going on with the August 8th Brigade are two parts of the same struggle. That is the struggle of prisoners to be treated like human beings; the struggle of all working-class and oppressed people to control their own lives, to live in a society without prisons—with no need for prisons.

Today I would like to make four general points about why the RSL puts so much time and energy into building the struggles of prisoners. And why we spend time aiding sisters and brothers behind bars in their struggle to fight against the system that oppresses us.

First, prisoners are a part of the working class and oppressed people.

Second, the fights that prisoners wage are directed against the state.

Third, the struggles of prisoners are a part of the struggle of the entire working class for revolution.

Fourth, many prisoners see themselves as revolutionaries; they want to tear the whole system down, and are looking for the ways to do this.

Prisoners are a part of the working class

The prisons were built for the working class and oppressed people. The prisons aren't for rich thieves like Richard Nixon or Bert Lance. They aren't for the cops who gun down Black youth. And if Patty Hearst's daddy has the money to buy her way out, it's all the same to the

rulers of this country.

The prisons are for striking workers who put up a fight to keep scabs out. The miners went on strike and got all sorts of threats of court action, cop brutality and prison sentences. When the 1977 Blackout happened in New York, there were thousands of people busted for taking things they needed.

There are some people in the prisons who have committed real crimes—like rape and murdering other working-class people. But by and large, the prisons are for the working-class people who try to survive, who fight back in any way. The prisons are built for people who are forced to steal because they are poor. People who fight against the system—we saw plenty of this in the '60s and we'll be seeing plenty more as our movement picks up. And a lot of people end up in prison because they were framed up—Gary Tyler is a well-known example of this kind of bullshit justice.

The people who go to prison are mostly working-class people. And a disproportionate majority of these people are Black and Latin.

Inside the prisons, you face the same kind of shit you did on the outside—except it's worse. From overcrowded apartments you go to overcrowded cells. From not enough money for food, you go to prison with not enough food. And what you get is lousy. Black people face the same kind of racism—from the cops and racist gangs on the streets, to the guards (who plenty of times are KKK members) and racist gangs in the prisons. Only in prison, it's even harder to organize against racism. Women face the same sexist abuse. Male guards harass women prisoners while they take showers, change clothes or are being searched. A woman prisoner who has been writing the *Torch/La Antorcha* for a couple of years was recently raped by a guard.

The prisons are there for us. To contain us, to beat

down our fighting spirit, to force us to put up with rotten conditions that capitalism offers us.

Prisoners directly confront the state

The capitalist system uses all kinds of devices to keep a few people on top, with their money and their privileges, and the rest of us on the bottom. They use racism and sexism, for example, to divide the working class.

But the capitalist system relies on its state more than any other tool. It's their laws, their courts, their cops and their prisons. And we are supposed to obey and stay in line or else.

A number of people here have dealt with tenants court recently. Well, that's a good example of who is calling the shots. A brother told me a few stories about how people complain in court that rats are biting their kids, and all the judge can say is "you got three weeks to move."

While you're on the outside of the prisons, though, the state likes to play like it's neutral. When there's a strike, for example, the state likes to play neutral arbitrator. Only when that doesn't get the workers to back down, they call in the cops and threaten jail terms.

Inside the prisons, there's a lot less of the state pretending it's democratic. In June of 1977, the Supreme Court ruled that the prison keepers could keep prisoners from joining unions. The big shots who run the prisons are always trying to break up prisoner organizations. For example, they use the lie that "gangs" are in control of Illinois prisons in order to break up all prisoner organizations at Pontiac and Stateville. And the *Torch/La Antorcha* gets letters from Muslim prisoners who get harassed and attacked because they belong to religious organizations.

When you fight back against this stuff, the state goes all out to crush you. They call in the riot squads, they deny showers and food, they use drugs and beatings.

For these reasons, it is much clearer in the prisons than anywhere else in the society that the state is our enemy.

Prisoners' struggles are part of the working-class struggle for revolution

We don't think that any strategy to limit the fight of prisoners to reforming prison conditions can win very much of anything. The prisons were built, supposedly, to be a reform. In 1790 the first prison in the U.S. was built, and it was supposed to be this great advance from torture, mutilation or murder of people convicted of crimes. But within a few years, what was going on was that people were imprisoned and then tortured or murdered. All that happened was the torture got taken off the streets and put behind the walls where the majority of the people couldn't see how sadistic it was. The torture hasn't stopped, and it's gotten more sophisticated. Today, they're drugging prisoners until their

liver or heart fails.

And what would it mean for the prisons to be "reformed" anyway? Who cares if the cells are painted in decorator colors when you're still locked behind bars. "Reformed" prisons would still be a weapon that the capitalists use against working-class people. The whole idea of limiting ourselves to prison reform means the capitalists keep control of the prisons.

We want to put the prison system to death. That's why we call our newspaper the *Torch*—we want to burn down this whole rotten society and all of its prisons with it. And from the ashes of their state, we will build a whole new society, one that doesn't need any prisons. We will create a socialist society where everyone can have a job, where there is no starvation and no lack of health care. A society where it is good to be gay, beautiful to be Black and wonderful to be a woman. And where people really control their own lives.

To get this kind of liberation, to end the capitalists' control of our lives, we need to fight for the socialist revolution. That means smashing the capitalists' state,

RSL Launches Fund Drive

With this issue, the Revolutionary Socialist League is launching a \$15,000 fund drive. The drive will last for 10 weeks, with the goal of raising \$1,500 each week.

Despite growing income, the RSL remains desperately poor because the growth in our work outstrips our ability to pay. Office rents, printing costs for our publications, and staff salaries can seldom be paid on time. The \$15,000 we hope to raise will help pay for our organizing in several areas. In the last year, these have included:

- **Prisoner Defense.** We are building the defense of the August 8th Brigade. Despite generous outside contributions, the RSL has to contribute large sums to keep the defense going. We are active in the Pontiac Brothers defense and the Guajardo suit against the Texas prisons (page 6). Free subscriptions to over 600 prisoners also strain our budget.
- **Gay and Women's Liberation.** We sent delegations to the Philadelphia and Houston conferences for the October 14 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. In Chicago last October, we organized a counter-demonstration against the "Right to Life Week" called by enemies of women's liberation.

- **Workplace Organizing.** We are working to unite militants fighting for a decent contract in the auto industry. We wrote a pamphlet to build this struggle and explain the RSL's program for the auto industry. We organized to stop the closing of U.S. Steel's foundry at South Works, Chicago.

- **International Work.** The RSL and our sister organization, the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica, are working together to build an international revolutionary party. The RML is leading the fight against wage cuts and price increases in Jamaica. It organized support for strikes at CMP Footwear, Combined Tobacco and other firms. It is fighting for a Standing Strike Support Committee to unite workers throughout Jamaica in support of every struggle for better conditions. The RML paper, *Forward*, is the only Jamaican paper that exposes the tricks of both capitalist parties and fights for workers' revolution.

In this fund drive we want to reach out particularly to the growing numbers of militants who may not be members of the RSL, but see us as their party—the only organization fighting internationally for workers' revolution, the road to freedom for all oppressed people. We appeal to YOU, the readers of the *Torch/La Antorcha*. You have helped us with your subscriptions and contributions in the past. Give generously now, because we cannot survive without your help!

Make check or money order payable to **TORCH** and send to: PO Box 562, New York, NY 10036. □

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<p>© 1979 Revolutionary Socialist League</p> <p>Editorial Board: Paul Benjamin, Tony Curzo, Susan Edmunds, William Falk, Ron Fisher</p> <p>Circulation Manager: Wayne Production Manager: Pat Production Staff: Pat Neils</p> <p>Address all correspondence to: <i>Torch/La Antorcha</i> PO Box 562 New York, NY 10036</p> <p>Subscription Rates: (U.S., Canada, Mexico)</p> <p>Prisoners.....FREE 3 issues (introductory).....\$1.00 12 issues (one year).....\$5.00 Supporting (one year).....\$10.00 Libraries and Institutions.....\$5.00</p> <p>(Overseas)</p> <p>12 issues (seamail).....\$5.00 12 issues (airmail, unsealed).....\$12.00</p> <p>Make checks payable to the: <i>Torch/La Antorcha</i></p>	

turning their court museums and their into parking lots or thing more useful to This doesn't mean won't use the p against some of the will have to. But cap means more and mo ons. Socialism mea will finally get rid o them.

Many prisoners are already revolutionaries

Because of the conditions they face, because they directly confront the state and because of the conditions of the prison system, the 1960s hasn't a down in the prisons, prisoners are more socially advanced than brothers and sisters outside.

The RSL has been active within the prisons for years now, building struggles of prisoners against the keepers of the state, and winning prisoners to revolutionary class politics. We have written articles on what is going on in the prisons. *Torch/La Antorcha* has been corresponding with prisoners about questions from what is going on in their prison to the capitalist analysis of the U.S. and China. We have support for a number of prisoners' struggles. Carl Osborne's fight against the death penalty, a

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Woman Be Free

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DOCUMENTS

The Fight for the Revolutionary Torch
Gay Liberation Through
Gay Liberation in the

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SPORTS GGLES

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Because of the conditions
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down in the prisons, many
prisoners are more politi-
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prisoners' struggles—like
Carl Osborne's fight against
the death penalty, and the

Walla Walla strike in 1977.
We have been sending pris-
oners revolutionary litera-
ture. And we are involved in
coalitions to work in defense
of people in the prisons who
have been framed up—the
August 8th Brigade and the
Pontiac Brothers.

Finally, we have been
recruiting to the Revolu-
tionary Socialist League in the
prisons. People here are
familiar with the RAC/RSL
revolutionary autoworkers
pamphlet. In the pamphlet
we say that we want to build
core groups in the plants.
This is the same thing we
want to do in the prisons. It
is crucial that the revolu-
tionary party be built in the
prisons. This way all the
struggles against the capi-
talist state inside the prisons
and outside can be unified
and made most effective.
Also, that way sisters and
brothers in the prisons don't
lose any valuable time. Sis-
ters and brothers who are
training themselves to be
revolutionaries in the pris-
ons will be some of the most
effective organizers on the
outside.

I want to end this by
saying that people here can
do two things. You can work
with the RSL to build the
coalitions supporting the
Pontiac Brothers and the
August 8th Brigade. We can
work together to end these
frame-ups. And you can join
the Revolutionary Socialist
League and help us build a
world party of socialist rev-
olution, that will end all of the
frame-ups by ending the
capitalist system once and
for all. □

Vision of Freedom

(Continued from page 11)
factory where a 400-pound
piece of metal is used to
make a 150-pound part. The
example comes from the
Soviet press itself and, is
considered common.

Waste and low productiv-
ity are taking their toll. It is
estimated that total indus-
trial output (a good indica-
tor of economic health) ac-
tually declined one percent
in the first quarter of 1979.
Energy is also a thorny
economic issue, even
though the Soviet Union is
the world's largest oil pro-
ducer. Soviet oil technology
lags behind the U.S.'s. Be-
cause of quick-kill meth-
ods of drilling, the Russians
have cut down on how much
oil the current fields will be
able to produce.

In addition, no new major
oil fields have been discov-
ered since the early '70s.
Most Soviet oil is now in the
eastern part of the country—
far from the urban, industrial
west. Inadequate transporta-
tion holds up oil deliveries
and adds to the cost. This
has also hurt development of
coal and natural gas sources.

Finally, the Soviet econ-
omy is weighed down by a
massive military budget.
This sector of the economy
—which itself does not add
to the productive capacity of
the society—gobbles up fully
one-eighth of the Gross
National Product each year.
While the Soviet government
hopes that the SALT II treaty
will ease some of the pres-

sure, the military will contin-
ue to be a big drain on the
economy.

State capitalism vs. socialism

If the things we've de-
scribed—the competition for
scarce goods; the oppres-
sion of women; and the eco-
nomic downslide complete
with an energy crisis—sound
like capitalism to you, there's
a good reason.

It is capitalism.

The system that exists in
Russia is a form of capital-
ism—**state capitalism**. In a
state-capitalist society, al-
most all the means of pro-
duction and the land are na-
tionalized in the hands of the
state, and are controlled by a
tiny group of men. **The
workers have no control over
that state and no control
over the means of produc-
tion.** They own nothing and
have to sell their labor power
for wages. Moreover, pro-
duction primarily serves to
build up the industrial, state
and military apparatus, not
to meet people's needs. As a
result, the workers are left to
fight over limited amounts of
food, housing and other ne-
cessities. And when they are
too old to work anymore,
they are thrown on the trash
heap.

Socialism, on the other
hand, is much more than the
nationalization of industry

and ramshackle economic
"planning" by some fat-cat
functionaries.

Socialism means that the
working class, the small
farmers and all the other
oppressed people actually
run the factories, the farms,
the banks, the railroads and
the economy as a whole to
meet their needs. Socialism
means that the working peo-
ple are no longer workhorses
for somebody else. It means
that people will have no
reason to treat each other
badly, to oppress one an-
other, since no one will have
to compete for jobs, housing
and other necessities of life.

Socialism means that peo-
ple will control their own
lives, not be controlled by a
capitalist bureaucracy.

To build socialism, the
workers will have to nation-
alize industry in the hands of
the state. But the workers
have to have, and control,
their own state. Only in this
way can the working class
control the means of produc-
tion. No one should mistake
nationalization by itself for
socialism.

Revolutionaries must be
very clear on the difference
between state capitalism and
socialism. We want to win
the majority of workers to
the struggle for socialist
revolution. To accomplish
this, our vision of socialism,
our model, cannot be a sup-
posedly more "orderly" so-
ciety. It cannot be a glori-
fied welfare state.

Ours must be a vision of
freedom for all the working
people of the world. Nothing
else is worth fighting for. □

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