

**10,000 Nicaraguans
commemorate murder
of Somoza foe** —p. 7



**Demonstrators
in Atlanta hit
Carter's racism**

By LARRY HOLMES

JANUARY 16—President Carter was greeted in Atlanta, Ga., last Sunday, by hundreds of demonstrators protesting his racist and imperialist policies. Carter, who has come under sharp attack for his anti-poor, pro-war budget, had come to Ebenezer Baptist Church there on Martin Luther King day to receive the "Martin Luther King Jr. Non Violent Peace Prize," in a futile attempt to repair his shattered "liberal" image.

Outside the church, Black groups, prisoners' rights activists, and Iranian students demonstrated against Carter's visit. Some three hundred protestors, mostly Black, organized by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the civil rights organization founded by Dr. King, and the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP picketed the ceremony honoring Carter, chanting
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**Apartheid boxer
fights in U.S.** —p.10

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against People's
Kampuchea and
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**Carter's slap
in the face to
women's rights,**
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workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

Vol. 21, No. 3

Jan. 19, 1979

25 cents

**Jubilant Iranian workers say:
'Shah is gone,
CIA is next!'**



After the fall: Iranian demonstrators pull down statue of the Shah's father after the tyrant fled the country on Monday.

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

JANUARY 16—As the Shah left Iran today, a new stage opened in the Iranian Revolution. Millions of Iranians flooded into the streets, flashing V for victory, honking horns, kissing the soldiers and riding in their trucks, showing their joy that they had at last chased out the hated tyrant.

The Bakhtiar government, formed with the blessing of the Shah and the U.S., remained with neither popular support nor solid backing from the military chiefs. According to CBS-TV news tonight, a strong possibility remains of "a split in the army, chaos, and civil war."

The first reaction of Iran's workers and poor, those who pushed the Shah from power, was joy at their achievement. After years of feeling they could not change their lives, they've discovered they can change history. But even as they rejoice in their new-found strength, the struggle goes on to completely destroy the monarchy, throw out the Bakhtiar government, and boot out U.S. imperialism with them.

APPROACH TROOPS

Any U.S. television viewer can see how the Iranian people are aggressively increasing

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INDEX

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Jan. 19, 1979

Calif. Gov. Jerry Brown's budget:

'It's inhuman and unjust'

By BEVERLY SLAPIN

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan 10—Until last year the number thirteen had an ominous meaning only for the superstitious. Now, however, the effects of California's notorious Proposition 13 are being felt by everyone here, especially the poor and working people, the aged, and the handicapped.

And yesterday, when Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown, Jr., released his Proposition 13-inspired proposed state budget that cut deeply into jobs, social services, and education, those same people were hit again. Outcries were heard immediately.

"It's insensitive and inappropriate," Mal Warwick of Berkeley Citizens Action told **Workers World** today. "He is raising the budget by less than the inflation rate, and the impact will

be born by poor people.

"It's inhuman and unjust," said a spokesman for the East Bay Gray Panthers. "Basically he proposes to take from the poor and give it to the well-off and the rich."

Marian Parry, a 79-year-old pensioner, agreed. "It's unworkable and Jerry Brown knows it. He wants to take \$29 a month away from those who are really dependent on old-age pensions, those who get only \$333 a month. When you're poor, \$29 is a lot of money" she said.

INSTITUTIONAL CHILD-ABUSE

Brown's budget cuts back state-mandated welfare increases from 15.7% to 6%, thereby taking back money that current law would automatically provide to the two million mothers and children, and

the aged, sightless, and disabled as built-in-cost-of-living increases.

"I'm not surprised that they're taking it out on us," said Johanna Feng, a welfare mother of five. "The truth is," she said, "that they don't give me enough money to buy food, or clothes, or shoes for the kids, or toilet paper or laundry detergent. It's a crime that kids in this country have to eat ketchup sandwiches and babies have to drink sugar water when the food runs out. And then the government turns around and blames it on the mothers."

BROWN: LESS IS MORE

At a press conference in Sacramento yesterday, Brown argued that his 6% proposal for welfare was being mislabeled as a "cut" when it really was an increase. "It does not do justice to

the English language to call this a cut," he said.

Gerald Radeloff, area manager of the California State Employees Association, told **Workers World** how Brown's "increase" is really a cutback, explaining that "last year, as an effect of Proposition 13 welfare recipients, the sightless, handicapped, and state employees got nothing, while the rate of inflation was 7%.

"This year the rate of inflation is also 7%, which adds up to 14% inflation. Now Brown is going to 'give' all these people 6%, which leaves minus 8%. The net effect is an 8% cutback," he said.

Besides slashing welfare increases, Brown's budget calls for the reduction of 5- to 10,000 state jobs.

The total proposed budget did not include any pay raises for state employees. Brown said he wants to "negotiate" the raises, but the maximum would be 6%. "His top offer is 1% below federal guidelines," said Radeloff. "That's no negotiation at all, that's hogwash."

Also in the budget, school programs such as bilingual education would get no increases at all, and some say that would be the death blow to bilingual education in this state. Educational TV, driver education, and special education for gifted children programs are also scheduled to be slashed.

The budget will now go to the State Legislature for five months of an item-by-item review. After passage by a two-thirds vote by each house, it will be returned to Brown.

What happens if and when the budget is passed, though, remains to be seen. "People are starting to take a look at what's going on," Radeloff said, "and they won't let this happen to them much longer."



Rally last summer on the steps of the Los Angeles City Hall protesting Proposition 13 cuts aimed at poor workers, pre-school children, the aged, and the disabled.

NYC officials cover up source of disease bacteria

By JAQUI O'SHAUGHNESSY

NEW YORK, Jan. 13—An interesting and revealing bit of information was disclosed—rather buried—in today's issue of the New York Times.

As many may recall, last summer the garment district here was the scene of a number of cases of "legionnaires' disease." Two workers in the district died; many others became ill. The bourgeois media devoted pages and pages to

the thorough but futile "search" for the source of dangerous bacteria. Doctors, city health officials, and even the mayor commented on the crisis. Then the danger subsided and seemed to be forgotten.

End of story? Not quite.

According to today's Times, Dr. Lester Cordes of the Federal Center for Disease Control said yesterday that "he informed Dr. John S. Marr, head of the city's Bureau of Preventable Diseases, on Dec. 15 that legionnaire's disease bacteria were found last summer (emphasis ours) in a large water-cooled air conditioner on Macy's roof."

Now any rational sane person would reason that as soon as the source of a potentially lethal disease became known, that information be made public immediately and steps be taken to avoid further illness. However, in the case of Macy's, the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Dr. Marr got together and decided that it would be better to, in Dr. Marr's own words, "(not) cause any unnecessary scare during the middle of the Christmas shopping season." After all, it simply wouldn't do for Macy's to lose a precious penny of the profit it manages to swindle every day. What more clearly shows who the city "leaders," who talk for hours of their "love for New York City," really serve than this open admission that they deliberately concealed the presence of the legionnaire's organism in the Macy's tower until after the holiday shopping season, all out of regard for the department store's profits?

Join the struggle!

Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism [YAWF] participate in and organize many of the struggles described in this newspaper. All work together in these organizations—Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native peoples, young and old, gay and straight, working, unemployed, and students. We fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to know more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you.

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Jan. 19, 1979

Following Abzug firing

Resignations reflect anger at govt.'s anti-woman policies

By KATHY DURKIN

JANUARY 13—Twenty-six members of the National Advisory Committee for Women resigned today in protest of President Carter's dismissal of co-chairperson Bella Abzug. Among the others who resigned were Carmen Delgado Votaw, the other co-chairperson and Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women.

Abzug's firing followed a meeting in which she and 40 members of the advisory committee met with Carter to discuss his administration's stand on women's rights and to discuss what progress, if any, has been made for women in the recent period. Members of the advisory committee criticized Carter's so-called anti-inflation program and said the increased unemployment and cutbacks in social services built into the program will have a severe impact on women. Carter's response was to attack the committee for opposing the administration's policies, though he couched his attack by saying he was opposed to their use of "confrontation" as a tactic.

Carter's dismissal of Abzug made it clear that he intended the National Advisory Committee for Women, which he appointed last spring allegedly to carry out the work of the government-sponsored International Women's Year Conference held in Houston in 1977, to be nothing more than a mouthpiece for his administration's policies.

When the members took serious issue with his program of increased military spending and cutbacks in social services, and showed they would not give his anti-woman, anti-poor policies their unconditional support, he retaliated by firing Abzug.

POOR WOMEN DEEPLY AFFECTED BY CUTS

The fact that so many members of the advisory committee resigned in support of Abzug, although many represent moderate and bourgeois political forces, shows how deeply the masses of poor and working women are feeling the effects of the current cutbacks. This savage economic policy is in fact dictated by the U.S. ruling class, which is anxious to make the poor pay for their economic crisis.

Last Thursday, the advisory committee issued a press release condemning Carter's "anti-inflation" program and said it would put an increased burden on women who would suffer enormously from higher unemployment and social service cutbacks. The release criticized Carter's inflated military budget and his history of opposition to Medicaid funding for abortions for poor women.

It was this press release, according to the Washington Post, that

triggered Carter's decision to fire Abzug. But her dismissal was the culmination of a series of incidents in which Carter has shown total disregard for women's rights, and for the committee which he set up.

Last November, on the first anniversary of the Houston Conference, Carter had allotted only 15 minutes for a meeting with the advisory committee to take up issues of concern to women, to assess the status of women since the Houston Conference and to discuss the effects of the cutbacks on women's lives. The committee cancelled the meeting, saying it was insufficient time to even list the issues, let alone discuss them.

They issued a statement critical of the effect Carter's economic policies would have on women, particularly minority women, who "as usual, will bear the brunt of the hardships." They also criticized Carter's proposal "to waste \$21 billion on a so-called civil defense program and to increase the military budget when at the same time proposing to cut back \$15 billion in programs for

(Continued on p. 4)



Thousands attended the International Women's Year Conference in the Fall of 1977 to fight for their rights.

WW photo: Susan

Bolstering right-wing offensive

Generals' letter pushes nuclear madness

By ROBERT DOBROW

JANUARY 15—"Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." So spoke fascist General Douglas MacArthur, the invader of Korea and the occupier of the Philippines, when he was removed from his post by President Truman in 1951.

Unfortunately, rather than either "dying" or "fading away," a newly-formed collection of old generals and admirals of the U.S. military have emerged from semi-retirement to bolster the growing right-wing political offensive in this country. In a highly unusual and ominous move, a group of 170 retired military men have issued an "open letter" to President Carter attacking his handling of the SALT II negotiations with the Soviet Union and "warning" of the "increasing Soviet challenge to the U.S."

The generals' open letter says: "We oppose a 'deal' that freezes the current (military) imbalance and reinforces permanent Soviet strategic superiority." They also call for more aid to Israel to "deter Soviet combat forces' intervention" in the Middle East and cite "the growing threat to Western security" of the USSR in the eastern Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkey.

GANG OF WAR-MONGERS

The letter was reported on in a Jan. 12 article in the New York Times written by Drew Middleton

who acts as a public relations man for the Pentagon at the Times.

The signers of this open letter include: Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr., former Chief of Naval Operations; Gen. Paul L. Freeman Jr., former Army commander in Europe; Gen. T.W. Parker, former Army chief of staff in Europe; Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, commander in China after World War II; Maj. Gen. George J. Keegan Jr., former chief of intelligence, U.S. Air Force; and Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, former chief of staff, U.S. forces, Korea, among others.

The latter figure gained notoriety by publically criticizing

Carter's announced plan to withdraw troops from Korea in 1977. The general was "punished" by Carter at the time by being relieved of his command post in Korea and then being made chief of staff of the Army Forces Command with authority over one million soldiers. (Carter's "plan" to withdraw troops from Korea was also turned into its opposite when U.S. troops were actually increased in that country over the past two years.)

In a thinly-disguised threat, the generals' public statement warned that "if it were not for the ability of Israel's ground forces, the U.S. would have to station significant

forces and equipment in the Middle East." Of course it is not love for the Jewish people which motivates these war hawks' concern with Israel. (U.S. generals have never been known for their devotion to the cause of fighting anti-Semitism.) Rather it is their understanding that the garrison outpost of the Pentagon in the Middle East called Israel is the most reliable defender and promoter of imperialism's interests in that region.

The appearance of this "open letter" to President Carter coincides with an unfolding ultra-rightist campaign in Congress and

(Continued on p. 6)

Washington frantic after events in Iran

U.S. F-15s sent to intimidate Arab masses

By JOYCE CHEDIAC BETRIES

JANUARY 17—In some ways, Washington's decision to send 12 F-15 fighter planes and 300 Air Force troops to Saudi Arabia to reassure the regime there by what has been termed a "highly visible fly-in," is a sign of U.S. imperialism's fragility rather than its strength.

This movement of Pentagon troops and planes to the Middle East is doubtlessly provocative, especially since it is accompanied by an increase of four more Navy warships in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf areas. And certainly once U.S. troops, planes, and ships are in the area it becomes more and more of a possibility that they will be used against the Iranian Revolution, or mass rebellions elsewhere in the Middle East. But this latest aggressive move by the world's most powerful imperialist power resembles the snarl of a cornered animal.

For as the Iranian Revolution deepens, it is even more apparent just how deteriorated U.S. imperialism is becoming not just in Iran and the Middle East, but around the world. Even the New York Times had to admit in an editorial (Jan. 14) that "what Iran has dramatized is the West's vulnerability."

Various Carter administration

and Pentagon officials have said the "fly-in" to Saudi Arabia is a show of force against possible intervention in that country, or Iran, or the rest of the Mideast by "outside forces," namely the Soviet Union. However, this is just an anti-communist cover, and isn't at all what is at stake. What the imperialists and their puppets and apologists in the area fear is that the Iranian Revolution will inspire uprisings elsewhere. And what good are super-sophisticated weapons such as the F-15 fighter against internal rebellion? Why, Washington thought it could insure the strength of the Shah by sending him more than \$18 billion worth of the most advanced arms in the world, yet these super-weapons have not intimidated the Iranian masses, who forced the tyrant to leave their country two days ago.

And now, the feudal Saudi monarchy, most ripe to be overthrown, next, has appealed to Washington for a "show of force." Clearly, Riyadh which, after Iran and Israel, already has the largest supply of U.S.-made super-weapons in the area, is fearful of the lessons of Iran. However, to Crown Prince Fahd's outcry, "If Iran goes than God help us," (Newsweek, Jan. 15) the Pentagon can only respond with the same

kind of support it gave to the Shah.

This does not mean that Washington and Wall Street are not frantic about a possible rebellion in Saudi Arabia. What would happen to the imperialist camp if its oil supplies from Iran and Saudi Arabia, the world's number one and number two exporters of this black gold, were both cut off? How could the forces of reaction deal with the disaster of a further decline in imperialism's influence in the Middle East, such a strategically important area in their war against the socialist countries and the liberation struggles around the world. Such thoughts must create sleepless nights for more than a few bourgeois in the U.S., Japan, West Germany, France, and Britain.

If there was a rebellion in Saudi Arabia where would this leave the Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO)—a consortium made up of Exxon, Texaco, Standard Oil of California, and Mobil—which controls virtually all the oil pumped out of Saudi Arabia? What's a poor transnational exploiter to do?

BELLWETHER FOR MIDDLE EAST

The struggle in Iran has become

(Continued on p. 10)

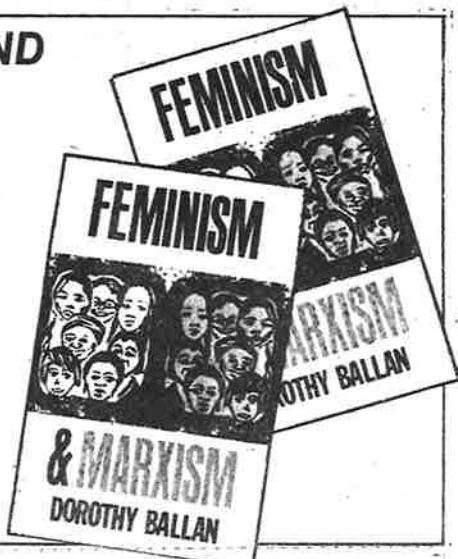
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Double digit rise

1978 food inflation rate highest in four years

By TANA MARIE LOY

JANUARY 15—In any gathering of workers, whether at work or at home, the steadily rising cost of food is more and more coming into the conversation. No wonder. 1978's annual rise in wholesale prices of 9.1% makes it the worst year since inflation-ridden-1974.

The overall wholesale food price increase for 1978 was even higher at 11.9%, which sooner or later will find its way to the workers and the poor. "In December," it says in the Jan. 12 New York Times, "food, which had been the principal culprit in pushing the figure to double digit rates early in the year, increased at about the same rate as the overall index." In its strangely worded way, it now appears that "the rising cost of living," like the culprit of rising food prices, is responsible for what

will be more suffering and hardship for workers and particularly the poor.

THE REAL CULPRIT

But that isn't the culprit. The culprit is a system that can take something as essential as food and make it an item of profit. In 1967 goods purchased for \$100 would today cost \$202.40. It certainly isn't that people are eating twice as much! The only ones getting twice as much are the corporations, which, in three short years, from 1975 to 1978, showed an increase in profits of 100%, that is, from \$55 billion to \$116 billion.

Is the culprit for inflation the rising cost of oil, gas, or the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)? "Jimmy" Carter and the rest of his cronies would like us to believe so. However, the 4% increase in fuel

costs in the winter months of December came about because controls were lifted so that a \$13 billion dollar profit could be realized in the price of domestic gas and oil. Even the New York Times had to write that the OPEC increase, effective only 14 days ago, was not responsible for the largest jump in fuel prices since July 1975.

And who is realizing these profits? None other than the likes of Exxon and Mobil who last year

made billions of dollars of profits.

Carter and Co. and the giant profit-making corporations would like us all to believe that the raw materials, food, wages, fuel, OPEC, probably life itself is responsible for inflation since there haven't been any major famines or such to speak of.

WORST CULPRIT

The worst culprit is the death machine of the Pentagon.

Instead of hospitals, schools, and lower food prices, what there is in abundance is useless, tasteless weaponry. Next year's military budget is projected to be \$139 billion which will be used to build even more useless destructive weaponry while insuring that defense contractors get rich.

When all the financial figures are in for 1978, reflecting the deceptions of capitalism, they will really reflect more anguish and hunger for the poor.

While workers' wages held to 7%

Bank profits at \$1 billion

By HILLEL BAILIN

JANUARY 12—Hospitals closing? Schools being cut? Higher prices and more layoffs? According to Wall Street experts, there is no need to worry. After all, they say, J.P. Morgan & Co. never had it so good.

J.P. Morgan & Co. owns Morgan Guaranty Trust, the fifth-largest bank in the country. The bank has announced that in 1978 it made over a billion dollars in profit. Morgan's profits from investments went up 22% since 1977. Profits from loans went up 10%.

When times are so rough for poor and working people and city governments seem to be broke, how is it that Morgan and the other banks are doing so well?

Layoffs and speed-ups mean fewer workers are making more goods and more profits for the big factories and the banks that own them. This is especially true with prices so high. Profits from these

factories show up in Morgan's so-called "investment earnings." The banks also have forced city governments to make cutbacks so the cities can pay the overcharged interest on loans from the banks (municipal bonds). These cutbacks show up in Morgan's "interest earnings."

Of course, Wall Street bankers use the word "earnings" when they mean "profits" because they want to hide the fact that bankers never earn (work for) a penny and that it is the workers who have earned (worked for) everything but get almost nothing. In other words, the Morgan bank is having good times because working people are having hard times.

With Morgan's profit report in mind, workers may also wonder about the fairness of President Carter's 7% wage guidelines. If 22% higher profits is fine for a billion-dollar-profit bank, why is 7% the limit for a \$116 per week wage worker?

—Women

(Continued from p. 3)

public service jobs, health care, education, and other socially necessary programs."

In the year since the Houston Conference, there have been many setbacks for women from the

erosion of the right to abortion to a widening wage gap between women's and men's wages. Needed services have been cut in job training programs, daycare, health care, welfare, and more.

And it is now clearer than ever that the U.S. ruling class does not intend to carry out the plan of action from Houston which was molded by the participation of women from all over the country who added to and expanded the

officially sponsored plan. Many resolutions had been won for concrete actions which spoke to the needs of Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native women, of lesbians, of working and poor women, of the disabled and the elderly.

"WINDOW-DRESSING"

But there was not a real vehicle set up to implement the resolutions except through the National Advisory Committee for Women. And Carter's recent actions have

shown that even the advisory committee is meant to be no more than a "window-dressing" for his administration's policies with no real say in winning women's rights.

Although the Houston Conference was organized and controlled by bourgeois leadership tied to Carter to try to channel the struggle for women's rights into a safe arena, the women who were in Houston will never forget the

tremendous enthusiasm and solidarity which existed there.

They and the millions more they represent will not forget the strength of their numbers and their demands, and they will make their demands louder and their struggle stronger as Carter's anti-worker "national plan of action" hits working and oppressed people. And the real living struggle for women's rights is what in the long run will win gains for women.

Massachusetts school bus drivers strike



BOSTON, Jan. 13—School bus drivers in Weymouth, Mass., enter the second week of their strike. Drivers from Hudson's Boston Yard, ARA Transportation, and Brush Hill Bus Company walk the picket line with the strikers daily.

Labor briefs

Newark layoffs delayed

JANUARY 12—The Newark school unions have won a last minute court battle that has temporarily halted the layoff of over 1,700 workers.

The Superior Court in Newark ruled today that the layoff of the school workers is illegal without the school board holding a full public hearing. The school superintendent announced immediately that the hearings will be held next week so that the layoffs can continue as planned.

At the same time, in another courtroom, however, the school board obtained an injunction that forbids the school union from striking against the layoffs.

These court actions come after the school workers and students had joined in a sick-out that virtually shut down the schools.

On Wednesday, 75% of the students and 90% of the school workers including 3,500 teachers stayed out, and hundreds of students picketed city hall.

While this labor-community alliance has delayed

the layoffs for now, the hearings next week promise to be a major battle ground in the battle for workers' jobs and decent schools in Newark.

Steel haulers face injunction

JANUARY 11—Yesterday a federal district judge ordered the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH) to end their work stoppage which began on Nov. 11.

"As far as we are concerned, the strike is still on," replied William J. Hill, chairman of the association.

The FASH job action is a part of a decade-long struggle by owner-operated truck drivers whose reasonable demands have been ignored by the giant steel companies and the Teamsters union bureaucracy which is supposed to represent them in collective bargaining.

The judges' ruling against FASH is another court intervention into an economic struggle on the side of the huge corporations—a trend which is occurring with more and more frequency.



Vincent Copeland

This story of the victories forged by Black-white unity in the Lackawana Bethlehem Steel Plant demonstrates the necessity for the struggle against racism at the workplace.

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Oil negotiations show

Labor and White House on collision course

The 1979 bargaining calendar

Contract expiration	Employer	Union	Workers covered
Jan. 8	Petroleum refiners (ARCO, Gulf, Mobil, Texaco, and 36 others)	Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers	60,000
Jan.-Dec.	Major airlines (Delta, United, Eastern, TWA, and 7 others)	Air Line Pilots	21,600
Jan.-Dec.	Georgia Power, Pacific Gas & Electric, and 23 other gas and electric utilities	Electrical workers (IBEW)	71,500
Feb.-Dec.	General construction contractors	Building trades	208,250
Feb.-Dec.	Retail grocer associations, supermarket chains	Retail Clerks	58,600
Apr. 1	New York State	American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)	130,000
Apr. 1	Trucking Management Inc., local cartage companies	Teamsters, Chicago Truck Drivers Union	300,000
Apr. 20	Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations (New York City)	Service Employees (apartment workers)	25,000
Apr. 21	Goodyear, Firestone, Goodrich, Uniroyal	Rubber Workers	55,000
May 1	Pipe Line Contractors Assn.	Pipeline welders (Plumbers)	10,000
May 1	United Parcel Service	Teamsters	70,000
June 1	Dress, blouse, skirt, coat, suit, sportswear manufacturers, and others	Ladies' Garment workers	200,000
June 1	Warehousing and building service employers (San Francisco)	Teamsters, longshoremen (ILWU)	8,000
June 1	International Paper (10 Southern plants)	Paperworkers, electrical workers (IBEW)	12,000
July 1	General Electric	Electrical workers (IUE, UE, IBEW, and others)	95,650
July 1	Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin	State workers (AFSCME)	172,500
July 1	Food processing employers (Northern California)	Teamsters	55,000
July 1	General Dynamics Electric Boat	Metal Trades Council	13,500
July 18	Westinghouse Electric	Electrical workers (IUE, UE, IBEW, and others)	58,000
July 28	Western Union	United Telegraph Workers	8,700
Sept. 1	Wilson, Swift, Armour, Oscar Mayer, and other meatpackers	Meat Cutters	31,750
Sept. 1	Men's shirts and single pants manufacturers	Clothing & Textile Workers	60,000
Sept. 15	GM, Ford, Chrysler	Auto Workers	760,000
Sept. 15	GM (electrical)	Electrical workers (IUE)	30,000
Sept. 24	Prudential Insurance	Insurance Workers International	16,500
Oct. 1	International Harvester, Deere, Caterpillar, and others	Auto Workers	125,000
Nov. 1	Outerwear manufacturers	Clothing & Textile Workers	30,000
Nov. 18	Metropolitan Taxi Cab Board of Trade	New York City taxi drivers and mechanics	17,000
Dec. 1	RCA	Carpenters, electrical workers (IBEW, IUE)	21,850
Dec. 1	Chicago Transit Authority	Amalgamated Transit Union	11,000
Dec. 2	Dana	Auto Workers	9,000

By KENNY PETERSON

JANUARY 16—How does a union negotiate a new contract when, in addition to a powerful corporate adversary, it is up against a hostile government in Washington as well? With great difficulty, acknowledged Alvin Gropiron, president of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers (OCAW).

The oil workers union negotiated a tentative agreement last week with the Gulf Oil Company that provides for an 8% pay increase the first year and a wage reopener with 5% guaranteed for the second year. Under a wage reopener clause, the no-strike provisions of a contract are lifted.

OCAW's Gropiron reflected, "It's the most powerful industry in the world," and with "the United States government enforcing its policy upon the industry, it's not an easy situation to confront." The "policy" that Gropiron was referring to is, of course, the Carter administration's 7% wage "guidelines."

The tentative settlement with Gulf (it must still be ratified by the rank and file) is expected to set a standard for similar agreements with the rest of the industry. The oil workers union bargains more than 400 contracts with over 100 oil companies on behalf of 60,000 refinery workers. "We would have to double our wages—an unlikely event—to add less than one cent to the price of a gallon of gasoline," explained Gropiron.

PRESSURE ON UNION LEADERS

Nevertheless, oil management and the White House combined to exert tremendous pressure on the leaders of the oil workers union. Despite the needs and demands of the rank and file for an equitable raise in this period of double-digit inflation, the oil workers' leadership accepted for ratification the Gulf oil offer of only 8%.

Whether the proposed contract terms with Gulf will in turn set the pattern for labor's 1979 contract negotiations is, however, another question. Unions representing about 4.2 million workers will be seeking new contracts this year, including the teamsters, the rubber workers, auto workers, and many others (see accompanying chart).

"If the government behaves with other unions and industries as it did with us, I'd say (Carter's "guidelines" are) going to be successful," exulted Merlin Breaux, a Gulf vice president and chief negotiator for the oil industry. This prediction, however, ignores the crucial role of the

union leadership in soliciting the government's approval for the pact.

While the anti-labor strategists in Washington and on Wall Street are now crowing about their "victory" in holding down the oil workers' settlement, privately they are more worried than they would care to reveal. Their "success" lies in their ability to maneuver with the top union officials, rather than in subduing the rank and file. This was demonstrated last year with the coal miners and Arnold Miller, the postal workers and Emmet Andrews, and others.

RESISTANCE FROM RANKS INEVITABLE

An individual union leader, looking across the bargaining table and seeing the federal government ranged alongside management, concludes that it is "not an easy situation to confront." That, of course, is just what the White House is banking on. However, the rank and file are more inclined to see the steady erosion of their living standards as an intolerable situation to confront.

So long as the lion's share of the federal budget is poured down the drain of military spending there will be no relief from the horrors of double-digit inflation. Holding wage increases to 7% or even 8% will leave workers unable to maintain their already inadequate buying power. Resistance, therefore, is inevitable. The question, then, is not whether there will be struggles and defiance of the so-called "guidelines." No, the real issue for labor is "how?"

How to effectively and successfully oppose the wage-cutters in Washington is the problem. With the federal government, as could be seen in the oil industry negotiations, inching towards full dictatorial controls over the collective bargaining process, the labor movement is duty bound to meet this challenge.

Organized labor can no longer just sit on the sidelines and watch while one union at a time is made to confront the mammoth apparatus of the federal government. The rank-and-file initiatives for solidarity with the coal miners last year began to transform a divided and dispirited labor movement into an active and cohesive force that nearly scared the daylight out of Carter and the coal bosses. The potential for such a resurgence and revitalization of the labor movement is today just as great.

Genuine solidarity of all working people is the best defense against government interference with the rights of labor.

OCAW to U.S.: Don't support Shah

Anthony Mazzocchi, vice president of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union (OCAW), charged "that the U.S. government has for too long intervened unjustly in the internal affairs of Iran and that it should immediately withdraw any and all support—political and material—for the Shah's military regime."

In a Jan. 4 letter to the Iranian Mission to the United Nations, Mazzocchi wrote: "As an officer of an international union which represents more than 180,000 workers in the oil, chemical, and atomic industries in the U.S. and Canada, I wish to state to you

that I strongly oppose your military government's brutal and bloody attacks on the 38,000 Iranian oil workers.

"I sincerely believe that the strike of the Iranian oil workers is toward the restoration of human rights in Iran, and I protest any reprisals against them. I am in full support of the oil workers' efforts to organize and defend their lives in the face of the Iranian military government's attacks.

"I therefore demand the release of all the arrested striking oil workers and the 20 leaders arrested on Dec. 17 now facing military court."

Supreme Court prepares to hear racist suit

Labor opposition to Weber grows

By LORRAINE BRESLOW

JANUARY 15—Voices of opposition to the racist Weber case are becoming louder and more numerous as the arguments are readied to come up before the Supreme Court reportedly within the next couple of months. Resolutions, leaflettings, conferences, meetings, court briefs, and publicity campaigns are all the avenues being pursued right now by a growing number of unions, civil rights and women's groups, legal organizations, and others to try and beat back those who are out to destroy affirmative action programs in the area of employment.

Weber's suit against the United Steelworkers of America and Kaiser Aluminum Co. is challenging the voluntary affirmative action plan bargained between the union and the company in the Gramercy, La., plant where Weber is employed. Set up to remedy the inequality in that plant where only 15% of the workers are Black and a mere 1.7% of them in skilled jobs, the plan provided for a craft training program under which half of the trainees would be white and half Black aimed at achieving a ratio of at least equal to the population of the area which is 40% Black.

Brian Weber, a white lab technician and a vocal racist, claims when his application to enter the training program was rejected his rights under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act were violated by the collective bargaining agreement.

This case opens up the possibility of destroying every gain for some measure of basic equality in hiring and employment fought for and won by Black, Latin, Asian, Native people, women, gay people, and the handicapped. It is also aimed at drastically weakening the unions by pointing a dagger at their very heart—the right of binding collective bargaining.

At this moment the Weber case is the spear tip and "reverse discrimination" the battle-cry in a country-wide racist drive to sweep away the achievements of national minorities and women based on decades of struggle. Brian Weber made this clear when he said last month, "I never agreed with making restaurants serve Blacks. If you choose not to serve them, that's your business."

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court, the Bakke Decision by the

and another lower court have already ruled that Weber is right. Now the legal decision rests with the U.S. Supreme Court, a body with a tradition of racist rulings extending back over a century and a half and which last year upheld Allan Bakke in his suit against an affirmative action program in education.

DC MEETING

The resistance to Weber has begun in a variety of arenas and it is growing. Most recently on Jan. 12 a meeting was convened in Washington to bring together leading labor and civil rights lawyers whose organizations are writing or considering joining briefs against Weber to the Supreme Court.

Among those attending were attorneys representing the United Steelworkers of America, United Auto Workers, United Mine Workers, AFSCME, United Electrical Workers, International Union of Electrical Workers, United Textile Workers, International Chemical Workers, Newspaper Guild, AFL-CIO, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, National Organization of Women, Pacific-Asian Association, League of Latin American Citizens and many other unions, civil rights, womens and legal groups.

Representative John Conyers, who hosted the gathering, announced that he would ask the Black Congressional Caucus of which he is a member, to endorse a brief being submitted by the Affirmative Action Coordinating Center (AACC) on behalf of a wide range of organizations. The main thrust of the brief is that affirmative action programs exist to remedy the underrepresentation of minorities in skilled crafts which is a vestige of slavery, and since the 13th Amendment of the Constitution codified the abolition of slavery, therefore affirmative action is a constitutional right. AACC Board member Jack Hartog told *Workers World* that it is not true "that the history of slavery and discrimination of non-whites and women has been overcome and that true equality has been achieved."

He went on, "The future has not yet arrived and affirmative action is still needed to correct past and present injustices."

The AACC, formed shortly after the Bakke Decision by the

National Conference of Black Lawyers, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the National Lawyers Guild, aims at monitoring developments on affirmative action particularly in the legal sphere. The Washington meeting was a significant step forward to unite the effort in that arena, but also illustrates the widening interest in taking up the fight.

STEEL WORKERS HIT WEBER

Last month Chicago's 115,000 member District 31 of the United Steelworkers held a delegated civil rights conference which passed three locals' resolutions against Weber and urged the national union to actively go all-out in organizing for affirmative action. The conference was opened by District Director James Balanoff who said, "Race hatred has always been the bosses' game, but the truth is that the fight for civil rights is the fight of all people, and without unity, we all lose."

Two weeks later the 7,500 member Local 65 of the United Steelworkers at a U.S. Steel Chicago plant went on record by joining Local 1033 in a resolution that states affirmative action programs are a "step toward correcting the many year old discriminatory hiring and promotional practices of the steel industry."

In Detroit Local 2435 of AFSCME recently passed a militant action-oriented resolution saying that the Weber case "is designed to inflame race hatred and divisions... at a time when working people are faced with cuts in jobs and services, inflation and deteriorating living standards. The cry of reverse discrimination is a thinly veiled defense of white supremacy whose more blatant face is the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis." In the resolution, the Local goes on to commit themselves to publicize the dangers of the Weber case among their members, to leaflet, petition and to encourage other AFSCME locals and all organized labor and community groups to engage in united action to build opposition to Weber.

It's going to have to be this kind of effort, but magnified, reaching far greater numbers at the workplace and in the community that can defeat Weber and his backers. It is the struggle that will decide this case.

Escalating strikes push British government toward political crisis

By PADDY COLLIGAN and ROBERT DOBROW
JANUARY 16—Workers' strikes throughout Britain are escalating into a full-scale political crisis for the Callaghan Labour Party government. Today railroad workers—mostly engineers and firemen—held the first of their planned 24-hour strikes. The railway workers are demanding wage increases and a 10% bonus payment and plan further 24-hour strikes until their demands are met. They join over 100,000 union truck drivers who have been on strike for over two weeks.

The truckers began their job action as a wildcat. When the wildcat was declared official by the Transport and General Workers Union on Jan. 11, the workers' families became eligible for government social security benefits.

To cope with severe inflation, brought about by a ravaging economic crisis sweeping all of Britain, the truck drivers are demanding a 23% wage increase to bring their 40-hour week base pay up to \$130. At this writing, the bosses have offered about 15%,

which is higher than the government's 5% "guideline," but far below the drivers' demands.

The strikes threaten to halt movement of food, animal fodder, fuel, and goods needed for manufacturing. It also is having an effect on foreign trade, because one-third of British imports and exports are moved by truck to and from ports.

The mood of the British ruling class is one of both panic and belligerence against the strikers. Every national newspaper leads its front page with news on strikes—and impending strikes—which, as the Daily Mirror puts it, "are leading Britain into disruption." Of course, the boss-owned media never blames the British bosses for leading the workers' lives into disruption!

Editorials in The Daily Telegraph threaten that 3 million workers will be laid off next week as a consequence of the truckers' strike. And the cry has been raised to call out the troops to break the strike.

While the Manchester Guardian says "London is still a far cry from

Tehran," just making the comparison in the first place indicates the extent of the social crisis raging throughout Britain at the present.

The Conservative Party, the most open representative of the British bosses, has demanded in Parliament for the Callaghan government "to act urgently to deal with this extremely dangerous development." But the Labour Party has shown itself more than willing to try to police the struggle of the workers against the bosses. Their policy of 5% "wage and price guidelines" (which always means just wage guidelines) is a direct attack on the workers who have to survive on double-digit inflation, mounting unemployment, and deep cuts in social services.

And even if the government takes the adventuresome move of calling out the Army to try to break the strikes and scab on their brother and sister workers, the move may backfire. As the Manchester Guardian warned on Jan. 11: "Industrial movement by troops could well precipitate dock strikes, factory walkouts, and militant mass picketing."



Banner of the Sandinista freedom fighters hangs across a street in Nicaragua. They marched in the capital of Managua against the U.S.-backed Somoza dynasty.



The capitalist press in England is attempting to whip up an atmosphere of hysteria against the striking workers.

NYC demonstrates with Nicaragua

By DAVID PEREZ

NEW YORK, Jan. 15—A demonstration in solidarity with the heroic struggle in Nicaragua has been set for Saturday, Feb. 3, in this city. It is being called by the Coalition for a Free Nicaragua to say "NO" to U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and "NO" to the U.S.-sponsored plebiscite.

The plebiscite is part of the frantic maneuvers of U.S. imperialism to keep its investments intact as the struggle against its hated fascist puppet, Gen. Anastasio Somoza, continues. The "plebiscite" will exclude the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), Movimiento Pueblo Unido, and other mass organiza-

—Generals'

(Continued from p. 3)

the Pentagon against the SALT II accords that will be coming up soon for ratification by the Senate. Practically all bourgeois observers predict that the accords will be rejected by the Senate. This is despite the fact that Carter and his aides have repeatedly promised to

Fighting in Jamaica follows gas price increase

By BILL DEL VECCHIO
JANUARY 16—A gasoline price increase in Jamaica led to three days of street fighting last week in which at least five people were killed. Prime Minister Michael Manley blamed the violence on right-wing attempts to overthrow his government, which was the target of a CIA-organized "destabilization" campaign before the last election there.

A major organization in the street fighting appears to have been the Labour Party, which despite its name is right-wing and has been shown to have coordinated its anti-Manley activities with the CIA.

The increase for gasoline is only one of the steep price hikes which have hit all necessities as a result of a 30% currency devaluation forced on Jamaica by the terms of a loan it received from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) last spring. At the same time, the IMF demanded that workers'

wage increases be restricted, so working people in Jamaica have been caught in a squeeze play that is slowly strangling them economically.

Jamaica, despite its close relations to socialist Cuba and progressive foreign policy, is still exploited and dominated economically by the imperialist transnational corporations and banks. It has been hit hard by the world capitalist slump of recent years and the fall in the price of sugar.

Although he at first resisted, Manley finally appealed to the U.S.-dominated IMF for a huge three-year loan when Jamaica's foreign currency reserves ran out.

Before granting such loans, IMF representatives make the officials of the borrowing country pledge to sacrifice policies which are offensive to the imperialist "godfathers." The IMF likes to pretend that it doesn't dictate

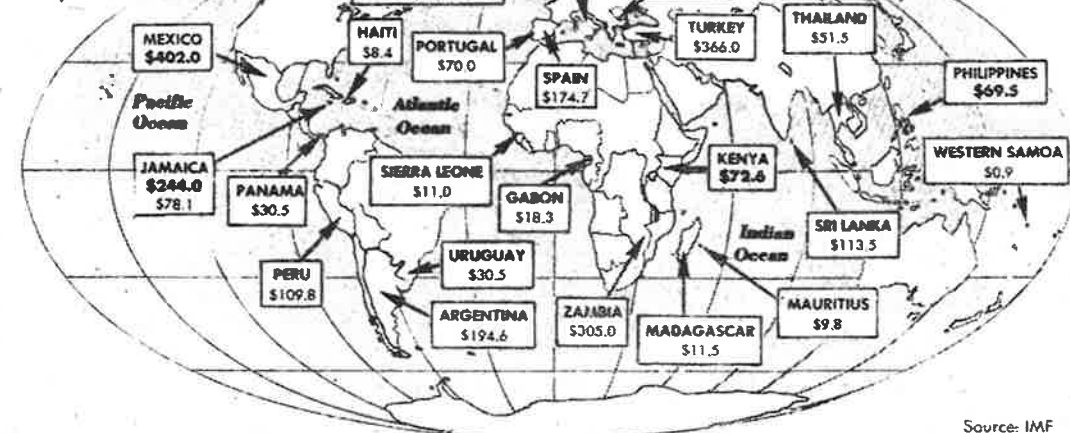
terms but has the borrowers propose their own conditions. In fact, however, it doesn't agree to

grant a loan until it hears the borrower propose the "right" conditions.

The IMF Reach

(U.S. Dollars in millions)

3-year loan
1-year loan



Source: IMF

The Manchester Guardian, an establishment British newspaper, wrote on last May 9: "In the well-stocked armory of the advanced capitalist world there is probably no weapon more pernicious or subversive than the International Monetary Fund."



a Nicaragua during fighting last September. Last week 10,000 people
Somoza dictatorship.

Demonstration in solidarity Managua set for Feb. 3

tions from participating, and will in no way dismantle Somoza's repressive National Guard or end his financial empire. In other words, this is a "plebiscite" designed to benefit only the U.S. and its puppets, Somoza and Co.

According to the leaflet put out to publicize the Feb. 3 demonstration here, "The people of Nicaragua have already given their 'vote' in blood during the heroic uprising against the Somoza dictatorship this past September when 10,000 people were massacred opposing the regime."

So far, the coalition has gotten an impressive list of over 40 endorsers including the Association for Human Rights in Nicaragua,

United Central-Americans Committee, American Indian Movement-International Treaty Council, Comite Chileno Antifascista, El Comite-M.I.N.P., Hostos Community College (Student Government), United Tremong Trades, Fightback, Iranian Students Association (Left Platform), Anti-Imperialist Movement for Socialism in Argentina (MASA), Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Workers World Party, and many, many others.

The demonstration will target the Nicaraguan Consulate at 51st St. and 6th Ave. It will begin at 1 p.m. For more information call (212) 675-9158, 926-7331, or 876-2992.

s' letter

develop "new, modern weapons systems" even if SALT II is passed.

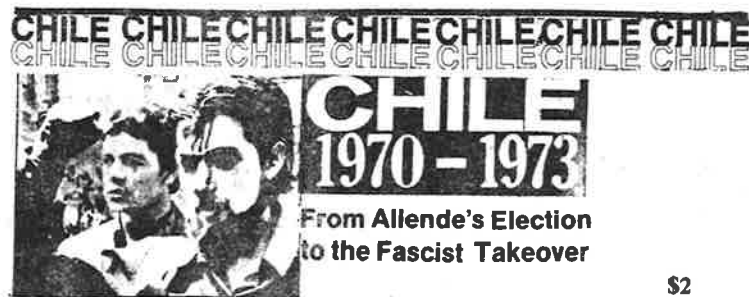
CARTER NOT MAD ENOUGH?

One would be hard put to figure out how Carter—the promoter of the cruise missile and the Trident nuclear submarine, the president who has spent the most ever on arms and weapons, the one who has sent U.S. warships to the Persian Gulf and continues to practice neutron bomb brinkmanship against the USSR—has been "soft on communism" as the ultra-rightists would put it. But these nuclear war maniacs are obviously so frenzied up and froth-

ing at the mouth that they regard the tiniest appearance of an agreement or "concession" to the Soviet Union as the height of betrayal.

The totality of their economic, political, and military program can be summed up in one word: war.

Over 15 years ago, President John Kennedy, himself the instigator of the Cuban Missile Crisis, said "the military is mad." The military is mad, but its madness arises from the unsolvable economic and political crisis imperialism finds itself in around the globe where its interests are being challenged daily. The final resolution of this crisis in the favor of the workers and oppressed people will be the necessary ingredient to eliminate forever the madness of militarism.



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10,000 march to commemorate slaying of Somoza foe

By P. MEISNER

JANUARY 15—Well over 10,000 people marched in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, on Jan. 10 to mark the first anniversary of the Somoza regime's brutal slaying of liberal opposition newspaper editor Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. Many demonstrators carried placards and chanted for the overthrow of Somoza's dictatorship, which could be on its last legs after 45 years of U.S.-backed rule.

For the first time since last September's insurrection led by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), demonstrators carried black-and-red FSLN flags openly through Managua's streets without Somoza's troops intervening. In fact, no troops were to be seen during the march, but only towards the end of the day's demonstration and nationwide general strike.

Somoza's military, however, tried their best to terrorize the Nicaraguan people away from joining the march several days prior. On Jan. 9, Somoza agents assassinated labor leader Luis Medrano Flores in Managua, as he was handing out leaflets urging people to turn out for the next day's commemoration and march.

The fascist Somoza dictatorship is now more shaky than ever, as it fears the outbreak of a second popular insurrection any day now. Somoza's refusal to permit a more moderate-looking regime, even at the urging of Washington, has driven more and more workers, peasants, and students into the ranks of the opposition movement, and especially closer to the FSLN rather than towards the conservative bourgeois Broad Opposition Front (FAO). In fact, the FSLN's participation in a broad but militant opposition front, called the United People's Movement (MPU), has strengthened its mass base within a front which represents 20 labor, student, women, and civic organizations.

Also, since Jan. 1 FSLN guerrilla forces have stepped up their assaults on Somoza's National Guard outposts in a number of small cities throughout Nicaragua. Consequently, Somoza's forces have been diverted from one area to another and weakened in the process as FSLN troops capture more arms and build their forces.

The hatred for Somoza and his henchmen is universal throughout Nicaragua. Somoza has even

refused to bring to trial the five men arrested for the Chamorro murder. Chamorro's widow at a cemetery memorial for her husband said on Jan. 10:

"One year after Pedro's death, the same injustice prevails. The truth will only be known after Somoza leaves power. But Somoza never realized that Pedro's murder would ignite the people against the regime."

SOMOZISM WITHOUT SOMOZA

The imminent downfall of the Somoza dictatorship has brought near panic within the Carter administration, which is frantically trying to replace the Somoza government through a Somoza-approved plebiscite. This U.S. imperialist inspired fraud can only bring about what Nicaraguans call "Somocismo sin Somoza," that is, Somozism without Somoza. But the Nicaraguan people have rejected this imperialist ploy and will oppose all oppressors regardless of their masks. Somoza, Somozism, and all imperialist and capitalist exploiters will not escape from being ultimately overthrown by the Nicaraguan masses and their revolutionary organizations.

International News in Brief

cancelled on Dec. 21, 1971."

According to U.S. Senate reports, during this time the CIA was actively preparing to overthrow Allende by force and violence in cooperation with the transnational corporations and Allende's internal opposition, which were threatened by the progressive steps his government had taken to help the poor and working people of Chile.

According to the affidavit the CIA filed with the court, Townley approached the agency in June 1973, that is, three months before the coup in Chile.

The CIA is obviously revealing only what it has to and is trying hard to keep this case from blowing up. But its hands are bloody, and some stains seep through the thickest gloves.

The CIA not only has to worry about the three Cubans on trial. The U.S. has been forced to request the extradition of three top-ranking Chilean intelligence officers connected with Letelier's murder, one of whom was the general in charge of the National Intelligence Directorate. While the Chilean Supreme Court is not going to extradite them until the Townley trial is over, even it has admitted the officers' stories are contradictory and weak.

SPAIN

300,000 on strike

JANUARY 16—In the largest walk-out since the Spanish Civil War in 1939, more than 300,000 workers in Spain are out on strike. The 70,000 railroad workers have shut down all train service stopping 5,200 trains during the 24-hour general work stoppage. Some 175,000 metal workers and 80,000 construction workers are also striking for higher wages in order to combat the 16% inflation plaguing the Spanish economy. Production has ground to a halt this week in the largest state mining corporations in Northern Asturias as the miners struck for higher wages.

In Valencia the workers shut down Ford Motor Company last Saturday, calling a strike for every Saturday until Ford reduces long working hours and forced overtime.

JAMAICA

WCC defeats rightists

JANUARY 16—At their meeting in Jamaica last week, the World Council of Churches voted to continue granting financial aid to the Patriotic Front, the liberation movement of Zimbabwe, defeating a much publicized campaign by reactionaries to end such programs.

The struggle over the aid program inside the Council, came to a head last summer after the Council gave the Patriotic Front the modest sum of \$85,000 to aid refugees of the racist Smith regime.

BASQUE NATION

Gov't steps up repression

JANUARY 16—In the Basque city of San Sebastian on Jan. 13 over 1,000 people battled police after an attack on a demonstration called to protest nuclear plants in the area. The tremendous anger and militancy shown was in response to the increased repression of the Basque people by the Spanish government. More than 2,000 extra national police have been ordered into the cities and towns of the Basque country in the past week, after two police were killed in an explosion.

The Spanish Government has recently initiated a coordinated campaign to try to crush the ETA, an underground organization which has a long history of fighting for the oppressed Basque nation. In the last four months more than 200 ETA members and supporters have been arrested, 46 ETA cells broken up, and a top leader of the ETA, Jose Pagoaga, who was living in exile in France, assassinated. New 'anti-terrorist' laws have given sweeping power to the security forces. A new department to coordinate the activity of the riot police, civil guard, government police, and military has been established. This department will concentrate on the ETA and other underground organizations.

In response the ETA has initiated a campaign to show that self-determination for the Basque nation is a continuing struggle. Officers in the military and the police, responsible for the repression, have been assassinated, including the Military Governor of Madrid, the Assistant to the Military Governor of Guipuzcoa (a Basque province), a Supreme Court Judge, and members of the hated, para-military Civil Guard.

CHILE

CIA in Letelier murder

JANUARY 15—The CIA connections of Michael V. Townley have just surfaced in the trial of three counter-revolutionary Cubans accused of the murder of Orlando Letelier, a former Chilean diplomat, and his assistant, Ronnie Moffit, in Washington, D.C.

Townley has pleaded guilty in this case in return for a reduced sentence of 10 years.

Orlando Letelier was ambassador to the United States and served in several high posts under the Salvador Allende government in Chile before the CIA-planned fascist coup of Sept. 11, 1973.

The CIA has wanted to use Townley "in an operational capacity" in 1971. He was then living in Chile where he made his living as an electrical technician. However, the Agency claims that its records "do not reflect whether or not Mr. Townley was so used, but they do reflect that the interest in Mr. Townley was

EDITORIAL

Martin Luther King...

Had he not been cut down by the bullet of a racist assassin, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have been 50 years old this week. A decade after his murder, the House Assassinations Committee of the U.S. Congress released evidence that Dr. King was not the victim of "a lone killer" but had been the target of a plot financed by a couple of wealthy Midwestern businessmen. Almost with a sigh of relief the committee also announced that both these businessmen are now dead. Case closed.

The House Committee has thus tried to close the door on the King murder and hide the truth through the old trick of admitting a little to conceal a lot. By pointing the finger exclusively at the Ray family and at two dead millionaires who allegedly financed the slaying, Congress is trying to get the main suspect, J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation, off the hook. It is a little late in the day for such a blatant cover-up. FBI officials themselves have admitted that the bureau spent over \$7 million on a series of campaigns to "get King."

Even the capitalist press has conceded that its one-time idol, Hoover, had a pathological hatred of Black people and that he spent the decade leading up to Dr. King's murder instigating one obsessive plot after another to destroy the civil rights leader. Adding insult to injury, after Martin Luther King was slain the FBI took charge of "investigating" the crime, all the while issuing anonymous tips to the news media full of lies aimed at slandering their victim and destroying his reputation. That the House Assassinations Committee made no serious probe of the FBI's role in this murder proves both the entrenched power of the racial bigots in the U.S. government as well as the sacrosanct status of the domestic secret police. Hoover is gone but Hoover's sick racism remains as virulent as ever in the corridors of the FBI headquarters as well as in the congressional offices on Capitol Hill.

...Carter...

The way the House Assassinations Committee found a probable conspiracy in the murder of Dr. King, then dropped it, sweeping everything under the rug, is bad enough. That President Carter should use the anniversary of the killing to make a showy but hollow pretense of being a friend of the struggle for Black freedom is offensive in the extreme. It is no wonder that several hundred protestors from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the civil rights organization Martin Luther King headed before his murder, picketed Carter when he showed up for a King memorial meeting in Atlanta on Sunday. "Ethnic purity" Carter has gutted the federal programs for jobs, education, welfare, and public health, the very programs that Black people living in poverty need the most. Carter's use of a lot of meaningless imagery around the tenth anniversary of Dr. King's death can not cover what he is doing now, can not hide the fact that his policies are as hostile to Black people as were Ford's and Nixon's.

...and Nixon

And speaking of Nixon, it would appear that President Carter has taken it upon himself to refurbish this monster, inviting him back to the White House for a gala party in honor of Teng Hsiao-ping later this month. Surely no president in U.S. history has ever been so hated and despised as Nixon. His crimes were so numerous and so notorious that they hardly need mention, except to say that it should not be forgotten that what came to be called "Watergate" was in essence an attempt to establish a totalitarian police state in the U.S. with Nixon as President-for-life. That Carter should invite this creature to a highly publicized White House affair is not merely gross, it is a Presidential tip of the hat, an unmistakable tilt toward the ultra-rightist and extreme cold war element in the ruling class for which Nixon has traditionally spoken.



'Youngstown, victim of corporate rape'

Steelworkers organize to prevent closings

By M. LUCE

YOUNGSTOWN, Jan. 7—At the Dec. 15 meeting of Local 1462, United Steel Workers (USW), a packed hall of infuriated steelworkers called for a fight against the Jones and Laughlin steel company. Local 1462 represents over 1,200 steelworkers at the Brier Hill works of Jones and Laughlin steel. The plant was part of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube properties taken over a few years ago by the Lykes conglomerate and has just been merged with J.&L. of LTV, another conglomerate. Both before and after the merger, the new management had told the Brier Hill steelworkers of its intention to close the plant in the interests of "efficiency." This is only another crime in the long list of assaults against the steelworkers but now the long simmering volcano of workers' anger is beginning to erupt.

Vowing to fight both in the courts and inside the plant, the members turned a cold shoulder on the plea of international staff representative Joseph Clark that they not consider unauthorized action or jeopardize his "good relations" with the steel bosses. They cheered the remarks of Rev. Edward Stanton that perhaps it was time to stop "turning the other cheek . . . and kick somebody in the ass."

The action proposed inside the plant probably sent a chill through the bosses, that is, that the steelworkers will prevent the removal of special steelmaking equipment to the Aliquippa plant.

"TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES"

Ed Mann, president of Local 1462, stated the local's position briefly but clearly, "We are going to start taking care of ourselves. We don't need clearance from anybody." The leadership at 1462 has a well established record of militant defense of the workers as well as consistent opposition to the class collaboration tactics of the comfortable and overpaid international officers.

On Dec. 29, Local 1462 carried their war a step further by maintaining a picket line at the Brier Hill works. "Impeach Griffin Bell," and "Youngstown, victim of corporate rape," were

typical signs carried by the pickets. Once again, representatives of the International tried to get the workers to call off the picket line, claiming it was "upsetting" J.&L. management, and the bosses didn't think it was "fair." The tender concern shown for the feelings of corporate criminals by the International Union even exceeds the natural class partisanship of the Youngstown Vindicator. Long a foe of the steel union, the Vindicator has been forced by the economic consequences of the wreckage of the Lykes conglomerate to open the pages of the newspaper to a little of the true nature of the conspiracies of the conglomerates and their callous lack of concern for the Mahoning Valley and the thousands of steelworkers kicked out of the closed plants.

Infuriated by the refusal of Griffin Bell, attorney general, to release over 800 pages of secret testimony on the merger of Lykes and LTV, the Vindicator broke a news story accusing Lykes of deliberately closing the Campbell plant (with the loss of 5,000 jobs) to secure the merger under the "failing company" rule. Going further the Vindicator pointed out that the financial troubles didn't extend to the Lykes family's personal fortunes, that among the family's billion-dollar holdings were 400,000 acres in Florida and 240,000 acres in Texas and

unknown holdings in Louisiana.

Meanwhile, the Ecumenical coalition, which was formed in an attempt to buy the closed Campbell plant, is regularly being kicked in the teeth by the steel bosses. Richard Gray, a Vice President of Republic Steel, called the Coalition's proposal to open the Campbell plant and let the workers run it a "socialistic adventure." His companion boss at U.S. Steel had earlier called it "pure Communism."

Joseph Graham, president of J.&L. also unconsciously gave an endorsement to communism by observing that the raw material supplies of the two companies "went together as if some Soviet planners had designed it." He hustled back to his capitalist thinking, however, when it came to the workers involved. He "regretted" the loss of jobs but that is an "occupational hazard" in the steel business.

The emergence of the steelworkers at Local 1462 as a union determined to fight has changed the situation here. There is no doubt their course is correct and will subject the members and the leadership to enormous pressure because of it. They deserve the support of all unions and especially should the Steelworkers Union be pressured to help the class struggle against this conglomerate gang.

—Atlanta demonstrators

(Continued from p. 1)

"Carter, Jobs Now."

Another group of ex-prisoners and their supporters demonstrated nearby to protest the inhuman conditions and brutal racist treatment of prisoners at the notorious Reidsville prison in Georgia.

Still another demonstration of close to 300 Iranian students hit U.S. intervention in Iran.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy, longtime colleague of Dr. King and his successor to the leadership of SCLC, along with activists Dick Gregory, Anne Bradon, and Dr. Joseph Lowery, the current chairperson of SCLC, addressed a rally outside the church. In his remarks, Dr. Lowery expressed solidarity with the Iranian people's struggle for self-determination.

Coretta Scott King, who presented the award to Carter, drew criticism from rally speakers for her unwise and ill-timed gesture. Indeed, giving a "peace" award to Carter who is moving aggressively to destroy the programs for jobs that Dr. King died for, while spending billions more on weapons of destruction and genocide to suppress the people's struggle at home and abroad, is hardly in the interest of the civil rights movement. Nonetheless, no amount of awards can conceal Carter's barbarous attacks on Black people, the poor, women, and all working people.

The only prize Carter is likely to remember is the surprise growth of resistance he is destined to encounter over his racist, anti-working class, pro-war policies!

From the pages of Workers World

Articles by Sam Marcy

on—

- Sino-Soviet relations and the strategy of U.S. imperialism
- The Mideast: from the U.S.-USSR joint statement to Sadat's Munich
- The economy and the turn toward war

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U.S., China unite against People's Kampuchea, Viet Nam

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

JANUARY 16—The People's Republic of Kampuchea was established this week with the apparent widespread support of the Kampuchean people. Resistance from the deposed forces of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime appeared limited to areas on the border with Thailand and the southern port of Kompong Som, according to Western news reports.

Kompong Som is where nearly all supplies from China, both military and commercial, come into the country.

Officials of the deposed regime, including Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary, fled to Thailand last week along with diplomatic personnel and hundreds of Chinese technicians and advisors. The Pol Pot regime evidently abandoned the capital of Phnom Penh to the advancing troops of the Kampuchean National United Front without a battle.

The whereabouts of Pol Pot himself are not known, and the radio of his regime, according to latest news accounts, is now broadcasting from China.

CHINA, U.S. IN UNITED FRONT

Despite the formation of the new government and the total collapse of the former regime, a reactionary bloc of the Western imperialist nations plus the government of People's China was able to sponsor an appearance before the United Nations Security Council last week of a delegation representing the defunct Pol Pot regime.

The move to seat the delegation was opposed by the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, which have recognized the new People's Republic. The Soviet Union was unable to exercise its veto, however, because the question of seating was a procedural matter.

The delegation was headed by Prince Sihanouk, a self-styled "aristocrat and gentleman" who had been held in virtual house arrest by Pol Pot for the last three years. This was evidently the best that the former rulers of Kampuchea and their supporters in China could come up with to represent the deposed group.

Sihanouk made a point throughout the proceedings in the UN of courting the favor of the U.S. delegate, Andrew Young, and told the press that he expected to have a long talk with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. After an all-night conversation with Young following the UN session, Sihanouk checked into a New York hospital for a "rest." Remarks he had made to the press indicate he wants to stay permanently in the U.S. rather than return to China, which undoubtedly proves embarrassing to China's leaders.

SO-CALLED "PATRIOTS" FORGET U.S. BOMBED THEM!

While the supporters of China and the U.S. in this debate referred to Sihanouk as a great "patriot," it seemed to be forgotten that he was seeking support from the very power that had wreaked such horrible devastation on Cambodia less than four years ago!

Ieng Sary, too, showed that the deposed leaders in their hostility to Socialist Viet Nam are willing to forget U.S. imperialism's monstrous role in all of Southeast Asia. He is said to have told reporters, while flying from Thailand to China, that the Kampuchians "hate the Viet-

namese more than they hate the Americans."

While they seem to have little hopes of reversing the situation inside Kampuchea, the U.S. and China utilized this special session of the UN Security Council in order to launch a joint political attack on the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which has given all-out support to the Kampuchean National United Front. It is ironic that in the many years of the savage U.S. war in Southeast Asia, against not only Viet Nam and Laos but Kampuchea (Cambodia) itself, the forum of the UN was not once used to censure U.S. imperialism for its aggression!

China introduced a resolution which not only condemned Viet Nam for "naked aggression" in Kampuchea but even called for all member states of the United Nations to withhold any aid to Viet Nam. Viet Nam has been seeking aid from many countries to help in reconstruction of its land and cities from what was the heaviest, most concentrated bombing that

the world has ever seen. Reparation aid which the U.S. had promised during the negotiations to end the war has never been paid, and U.S. imperialism has instead continued a policy of total hostility to Viet Nam.

USSR VETOS ANTI-VIET NAM RESOLUTION

The Chinese resolution was not taken to a vote. Instead China along with the imperialist nations on the Security Council supported another resolution which by implication called for the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea. This resolution was vetoed by the Soviet Union, with the support of Czechoslovakia, who argued that the struggle in Kampuchea was an internal affair of the Kampuchean people and did not belong before the UN.

Other countries which spoke against the resolution and also supported the new Kampuchean government were Poland, Bulgaria, Cuba, Mongolia, Hungary, the German Democratic

Republic, and Viet Nam.

The new People's Republic has been recognized by the above countries and also by Laos, Ethiopia, and Afghanistan.

Two countries in Eastern Europe, Yugoslavia and Rumania, condemned Viet Nam. These two have accommodated to U.S. imperialism in their foreign policy for a number of years. Rumania played a key role as middleman in arranging for the U.S.-orchestrated Sadat-Begin talks which have been aimed at isolating the Palestinian people and strengthening Arab reaction. Rumania is the only Warsaw Pact country that recognizes Israel.

Yugoslavia has gone so far in permitting imperialist penetration of its economy that until recently it was even characterized as "fascist" by the Chinese leaders. Since the historical turnaround in China's relations with imperialism, however, the CCP leaders have embraced Tito as a great "world leader" and have sent teams to study the Yugoslav

economy as a possible model for China.

The new government has announced that it will quickly open negotiations with Viet Nam over the border question, which was the issue used by the Pol Pot regime to launch extremely serious attacks on Viet Nam beginning nearly two years ago.

In that period, Viet Nam was under great pressure from the leaders of China to join them in a de facto alliance against the Soviet Union. When Viet Nam refused, it was subjected to a hostile campaign that included the removal of all Chinese material aid and technicians, the inciting of Vietnamese of Chinese origin to leave the country and virtual acts of war around this issue, and even military attacks along the Viet Nam-China border.

Last week Viet Nam sent a strong note of protest to China for violating its territorial waters by sending two warships to patrol the Vietnamese coast and for massing troops along its borders.

—Shah gone

(Continued from p. 1)

friendly contact with the rank and file soldiers. Thousands of people hug and kiss the troops, call them their brothers, put red carnations on their rifles. Soldiers carry the familiar portrait of the Ayatollah Khomeini, the popular symbol of the Iranian Revolution. Today's New York Times showed a soldier helping to his feet a demonstrator "pushed down by an officer."

This continual fraternization between demonstrators and troops will make it increasingly difficult for the government to use the army in its present form against the people.

Although the workers and poor are joyous today, they remain hostile to and suspicious of the Bakhtiari government. The vast majority support Khomeini, whose strong anti-Shah and anti-U.S. position has continually increased his popularity.

According to today's Christian Science Monitor, "A number of provincial towns are reported to be in the hands of the clergy, and even parts of south Tehran are being run by people along Islamic lines."

WORKERS DECISIVE

More than any other factor it was the strike of the oil workers that drove out the Shah. These 67,000 oil industry workers made it impossible for the old regime to govern Iran when they stopped producing and refining oil. And with them tens of thousands of steel, electric, and chemical workers and hundreds of thousands of government and banking employees brought Iran's economy to a halt.

Forcing the Shah to leave can only increase the class consciousness of Iran's workers and their confidence in their strength. However, even though their organization has grown tremendously during the year-long struggle, there remains a serious weakness: the workers have no independent program representing their class interests. There seems to be no party with authority at the present time which is prepared to struggle for a resolution of the Iranian revolutionary crisis on a proletarian basis.

The weakness of working class parties in Iran is due mainly to the severe, brutal, and thorough-going repression inflicted on them by the

SAVAK, the Iranian political police. The once-numerous Tudeh, or Communist Party, was virtually crushed after the CIA-organized coup in 1953. The newer anti-Shah and anti-imperialist militants were forced to operate secretly in guerrilla organizations, and of course also faced the same repression. This limited these groups' contact with Iran's young and rapidly growing working class, although it could not stop the popular uprising.

Currently it appears that the majority of Iran's workers, like most of the population in general, is following the leadership of the Shiite Muslim Khomeini. Still exiled in France, Khomeini is the center of the opposition. He has called for continued resistance to the Bakhtiari regime, which he considers a creature of the Shah and the U.S.

Khomeini recently warned of a possible military coup once the Shah leaves, alerting the population to stock as many arms as possible and "to blow everything up if there is a coup" (Washington Post, Jan. 13). The Post article also said that the U.S. was reassessing "its previously hostile attitude toward Khomeini," and was trying to increase contact with Khomeini forces.

In an interview on Face the Nation Sunday, Khomeini told the U.S. audience that the cabinet for his "Islamic Republic" was chosen, and that a new government would be installed in a few days. He stated his forces were not opposed to social and economic progress in Iran, only against the path followed by the Shah. He also strongly warned the U.S. not to interfere in Iran.

U.S. STRATEGY

U.S. imperialism's public posture is to be for the Shah's leaving (after having supported

this fascist for over three decades!) and against a coup. But its burning interest in continuing to exploit Iran, as well as the whole Middle East, rules out neither a coup nor even open U.S. military intervention.

U.S. four-star General Robert Huyser, flown in from his NATO post to Tehran, has again extended his stay after a week of secret meetings with the Iranian officer corps.

Huyser, who is supposed to be telling them not to make a military coup, is no doubt really discussing timing. As the Washington Post admitted: "What the U.S. seems to fear most is not a coup which would succeed and end the disruption of Iranian life and oil exports, but an attempted coup that would fail because troops would not carry out the order to suppress demonstrators." The Khomeini-led opposition, with its bold approach to the rank-and-file soldier, is trying to insure the failure of such an attempted coup.

'No deportations of Iranian students!'



WW photo: Gene Y.

DETROIT, Jan. 6—Solidarizing with the heroic people of Iran and the Iranian students who attacked the Shah's palace in Beverly Hills, Calif., a militant group of demonstrators gathered in Detroit's Grand Circus Park today and marched to the Federal Building demanding, "No deportations of Iranian students" and "No Viet Nam War in Iran."

The demonstration, called by Youth Against War & Fascism, was the first action called in Detroit by the U.S. left to bring this urgent anti-war message to the people of the city.

Shoppers in downtown Detroit were very responsive as the protesters marched through, chanting "U.S. imperialism out of Iran" and "Carter talks human rights, Iranian people die." One onlooker repeated, "Down with the Shah!" and said "The workers in Iran are fighting the same oil companies we are!" Many others gave the clenched fist and asked for leaflets and newspapers to give to their families and friends.

The remarkable response made it clear that working people in Detroit are very much aware of what is happening in Iran and the danger of U.S. intervention, and oppose a U.S. war against the Iranian people.

Civil rights, anti-apartheid groups protest as

Courts let racist South African boxer fight in U.S.

By BRIAN BECKER
JANUARY 14—Despite national and international protests by civil rights and anti-apartheid organizations, the scheduled heavyweight boxing match between Kallie Knoetze, a notorious racist South African boxer, and Bill Sharkey took place yesterday in Miami Beach.

Nationwide protests against the fight focused on the fact that Knoetze, while a member of the notorious South African police force during the 1976 Soweto demonstrations, had arrested a 15-year-old Black youth and had cold bloodedly shot him in both legs, leaving the youth crippled for life.

Even the South African courts, which legalize virtually every savage act committed by the police against Black people in South Africa, had been forced to convict Knoetze and dismiss him from the police force after he physically

attacked the witnesses in a related court case.

ATTEMPTS TO LEGALIZE SOUTH AFRICA

The participation of South Africa in international sports events has been condemned and outlawed by the vast majority of the countries of the world. The racist, pro-Hitler apartheid regime, with the full backing of the U.S., is attempting to become recognized as a legitimate party in world affairs by participating in international competition with athletes from other countries. This is the real meaning of the Knoetze-Sharkey fight.

The fight came about as a result of intrigue and conspiracy between the U.S. State Department, the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), and the World Boxing Association (WBA).

The State Department which

had initially tried to sneak Knoetze into the U.S. by quietly issuing him a visa, was taken by surprise when scores of civil rights and anti-apartheid organizations openly challenged Carter's "Human Rights" policy with respect to permitting a racist criminal like Knoetze to fight in the U.S.

Sensitive to having their "human rights" policy exposed as a fraud (especially in its relations with African countries), the State Department originally had announced it was cancelling the visitor's entrance visa to Knoetze. But on Jan. 11, a federal judge in Orlando, Fla., stayed the visa revocation pending a hearing scheduled for Jan. 22, eight days after the fight!

Many civil rights activists, outraged by this obvious legal maneuver, wondered why it was that the mighty U.S. State

Department, which dictates policy to many countries' governments, was "thwarted" and "rendered helpless" by the action of one lowly federal district court judge, and on a question that has immediate implications for U.S. foreign policy.

CBS AND WBA

CBS, one of the giant monopolies that dominate the U.S. mass media, played the role of "promoter" of the fight. It was CBS that fronted the necessary \$100,000 that the supposed promoter Chris Dundee, couldn't raise. CBS also televised the fight on Saturday afternoon, prime time spot for Network sports.

The third partner in this racist conspiracy is the infamous World Boxing Association. WBA has ranked Knoetze the number-two contender for the Heavyweight Champion of the World—even though he has never fought Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes, Leon Spinks, Jimmy Young, or any of the other high-ranking Black fighters.

The racist WBA (which illegally stripped Ali of his crown in 1967 when he refused to be inducted into the army and before Ali even went to trial) is trying to promote Knoetze out of its desire to end the streak of Black heavyweight fighters who have held the title since Floyd Patterson won it in 1960.

The Knoetze-Sharkey fight was a WBA/CBA fraud from beginning to end since Sharkey, an

unranked and unknown bartender from Queens, N.Y., really had no chance against Knoetze.

Also, the WBA, by putting Knoetze as the number two contender, is laying the basis for forcing a difficult choice on the leading Black fighters, especially Larry Holmes who, along with Ali, are the recognized world champions. The WBA can say to Holmes, or to any other Black title holder, "If you don't fight Knoetze, you'll default your championship to him." For his part, Holmes has been unwavering in his refusal to ever fight Knoetze. "I'll never fight a South African boxer," Holmes said, "even if it means losing the championship."

The racism which dominates South Africa pervades all of U.S. boxing as well. When the big business interests that control boxing make a hero out of a racist thug like Kallie Knoetze, they do it with the permission of the U.S. government (even if it means using a federal judge over the phony protestations of the State Department).

The State Department and Carter support Knoetze because they support South Africa, and one lesson to learn from this sordid affair is that it will be the oppressed Black workers and peasants in South Africa, supported by their real allies here—the workers and poor—who in common struggle will be the ones to knock out Knoetze and the fascist system he represents. And it will be for good!

Rhodesian regime unable to draft Black youth

'I don't fight my relatives'

By NICK DE FREITAS
JANUARY 15—Yet another desperate attempt to save minority rule in Rhodesia went down the drain today, as the transitional government of Ian Smith announced that its initial efforts to draft the nation's Black population into the virtually all-white settler army ended in total failure.

A manpower spokesman for the illegal government announced that less than 300 of the 1,544 Black men who were ordered to the Llewellyn Barracks in Bulawayo actually reported for duty. The rest braved possible government reprisals and stayed away in protest. Several of the conscripts who did answer orders of the transitional government to join in its war with the Patriotic Front guerrilla-alliance, told reporters that they were reluctant soldiers. "I do not want to go into the

army" said one 19-year-old Black man, who like most others refused to give his name to the interviewing Reuters Press agency. "Four of my cousins are guerrillas. I feel I will have to fight against my relatives; I do not want this..."

The transitional government decreed last October that all Black people in Rhodesia between the ages of 18 and 25 who had completed three years of high school would be liable for the draft. However, the failure to enforce these new draft laws demonstrates the total lack of support for the so-called bi-racial transitional regime formed last March by Ian Smith. The regime, which has been condemned by virtually all leaders of Zimbabwe's 7 million Black majority as a "sell-out" and "capitulation" to the racists is seen as a last-ditch attempt by Ian Smith and his

Western backers to maintain settler and imperialist interests in Rhodesia under the guise of "Black majority rule." Such a regime would not be true majority rule, the Patriotic Front has pointed out, but rather Black administration of the white colonial interests.

Rhodesia's regular army of about 8,000 racists is also steadily diminishing. Of the 1,500 young whites ordered to report for duty in Salisbury, over one-third opted to stay away. An army spokesman said those missing had probably left the country. Tired of fighting a losing war, an unprecedented amount of Rhodesian settlers are fleeing the country. The Wall Street Journal of Jan. 9 reported that in anticipation of the guerrilla war an estimated 20,000 settlers (or 10% of the settler population) fled Rhodesia in 1978. Almost 2,000 left in November alone.

The third partner in this racist conspiracy is the infamous World Boxing Association. WBA has ranked Knoetze the number-two contender for the Heavyweight Champion of the World—even though he has never fought Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes, Leon Spinks, Jimmy Young, or any of the other high-ranking Black fighters.

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-U.S. F-15's

(Continued from p. 3)

a bellwether for the Middle East, and all the other heads of state are watching closely to see what happens. Particularly upset by the uprising of the Iranian people is Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat. The very revolution that has sent Sadat's old friend the Shah packing has forced the Egyptian head of state to hold back on signing a capitulationist separate peace treaty with Israel. Nationally syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft has reported that when he recently spoke with Sadat, the Egyptian president's response to the struggle against the Shah was to repeat over and over, "He was so sharp. How could it happen to him?" Maybe the Shah, who after being booted from Iran stopped off in Egypt yesterday to see his old-pal-in-reaction, instilled in Sadat a healthy dread of the power of the masses in the Middle East.

It is difficult to deny that today imperialism's hold on the Middle East has been tremendously reduced. Just six months ago Washington hoped that through a treacherous peace on the part of Sadat, an informal power axis of Israel, Iran, and Egypt could be formed. This master plan has been reduced to a pipe dream. Even Jordan's King Hussein, no friend of the oppressed and murderer of thousands of Palestinians in September 1970, has responded to the shift in the Middle East by coming out against an Israeli-Egyptian separate peace.

Certainly Carter administration officials are working overtime trying to reestablish the U.S. position in the Mideast. However, other questions are raised by the struggle in Iran. If such a profound revolutionary struggle could break out in what was thought of as a bedrock of U.S. imperialism, just how stable are other U.S.-allied regimes around the world?

Two days ago, White House National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, speaking before a group of businessmen, glowingly described "a framework for wide-range international cooperation involving the United States, Western Europe, Japan, and many of the emerging regional powers such as Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, India, and Indonesia."

But, the picture is not as rose as Brzezinski has painted it. A year ago, none of the oppressed countries he mentioned would have been thought of as anywhere near as stable as Iran. U.S. imperialism is very dependent on maintaining pro-Washington regimes in these countries which are very strategically located, exceptionally rich in natural resources, and rapidly industrializing. Internally, all of these governments are repressive and very unstable, and Iran has generated a controversy in U.S. government circles over how the administration can keep the favor of these others. What Washington and Wall Street may fear the most is that the exposure of U.S. vulnerability in Iran may lead the masses on the African, Asian, and American continents to conclude, "If the Iranian people can do it, so can we."

The Class Character of the Soviet Union

By Sam Marcy

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POLITICAL PRISONERS

Six Black men face the death penalty in Georgia

PSC focuses Gov.'s role in Reidsville frameup

By LILITH ELAT

ATLANTA, Jan. 9—Chanting "Busbee, Busbee you can't hide, we know you're on the racist's side!" 35 people picketed the second inauguration of Georgia's Gov. George Busbee this morning in front of the Civic Center here.

Called by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee, the demonstration focused on Busbee's role in framing up the Reidsville Brothers, six Black men facing the death penalty in this state.

The charges against the Reidsville Brothers stem from a prison rebellion which took place on July 23. Then 200 Black prisoners, frustrated after several attempts to peacefully achieve changes in the brutal prison conditions of slave labor and racist attacks, rose up in rebellion at Reidsville Prison. When it was over, a white guard and two white inmates were dead.

After having ignored the deaths

of nearly a dozen Black prisoners over a two-and-a-half year period, Busbee suddenly decided that the guard's death meant, in his words, a "human factor" was involved(!). Even before indictments were handed down, Busbee called for the deaths of the six Black men who have been hand-picked as scapegoats in the incident. Busbee has consistently denied the fact that it is the guards who have consistently instigated and perpetuated racist violence at Reidsville. Instead, Busbee has successfully called for renewed racial resegregation of prisoners in his effort to cover up the guard's activities.

Hearings on defense motions of government misconduct, request for change of venue, and challenge to jury composition are scheduled to resume on Feb. 13. The Prisoners Solidarity Committee will be helping to arrange transportation to Reidsville for the hearings. For more information, call 523-8990.



Prisoners Solidarity Committee pickets Georgia Governor George Busbee's inauguration in Atlanta on Jan. 9, chanting "No inauguration for the Governor of segregation."

WW photo: Tom Gardner

Life in danger from incensed guards

Valgene Royal fights for re-trial

NEW YORK, Jan. 15—On Dec. 15, the Indiana courts summarily rejected a motion to correct errors in the trial last spring of Valgene Royal.

Royal is a Black prisoner demanding retrial. He was tried last spring for the 1976 beating death of the prison laundry foreman at the Indiana State Prison. Royal was sentenced to life in prison, though he is totally innocent of the charges against him.

Let the local Post-Tribune coverage of the sensationalized trial last February describe Royal's real "crime": "Royal, a homosexual and transvestite, made no secret of his intent to appear as a woman. He came into the courtroom wearing earrings, a scarf over his hair, tight blue jeans, and platform shoes. Royal was smooth-cheeked, with eyebrows apparently plucked."

An article such as this was surely calculated to whip up a lynch-mob "guilty" verdict among bigots regardless of the facts in the case.

After staggering examples of prejudice from the court-appointed lawyer and foreman of the jury, the all-white jury proceeded to find Royal guilty of the death—despite the fact that the only testimony against him came from a prisoner, also accused in the murder, who testified in exchange for a five-year sentence.

Royal took the stand and testified that he was in his cell at the time of the attack. Seven other prisoners confirmed under oath that they had seen Royal in his cell that morning.

The prejudiced jury was selected after the public defender had used up all ten preemptory challenges in excusing other bigoted jurors.

ON TRIAL FOR BEING BLACK, GAY, TRANSVESTITE

"I wasn't on trial for the alleged murder of a prison official," Royal explained in a letter to *Workers World*, "Instead my character was placed on trial. I was found guilty and convicted for a crime I didn't commit, simply because I choose to be

different without regret or remorse and because I refuse to bow down to the degradations and humiliations commonly imposed upon weaker members of my gender."

He added, "My character was attacked mercilessly and abusively. I was dehumanized, degraded, and humiliated as I was continually referred to as 'he,' 'she' and 'it' during the trial."

Although Royal does not face the death sentence he has been moved to Death Row, which he rightfully describes as cruel and unusual punishment. Royal has been isolated from the prison's general population for two years, coming into contact only with the guards who have informed him and his family that his life is in danger from guards seeking retaliation for the death of the prison laundry foreman.

For more information, or to help in forming a defense committee, write: Valgene Royal (#3943), Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360 and Royal's mother, Mrs. Jessie Lee Royal, 3505 Black Ave., E. Chicago, IN 46312.

Prisoners and loved ones protest harassment

OXFORD, Wis.—Prisoners and visitors at the Federal prison here protested the mistreatment and harassment of relatives and loved ones during and before visits.

Letters received by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee confirm that the visiting room officer, Del Brewer, is especially cruel and abusive toward women visitors.

Members of the prison staff, who take their coffee breaks and lunch breaks at Brewer's desk in the small visiting room, also have exhibited hostile mannerisms toward the visitors and prisoners.

"There is absolutely no privacy," one prisoner wrote. "The tension from the petty rules aggravated by the visiting room pressures insure nervousness for all."

The letters stated that visitors are intimidated so badly that they fear coming back to visit. "Brewer stares glaringly at our wives, making them afraid to come back," one letter pointed

out.

Oxford prison is typical of all prisons in its repression and harassment of prisoners. Herb Powless, American Indian Movement (AIM) leader, and other Indian prisoners also in Oxford are being denied the right to exercise their traditional religious ceremonies.

Oxford prison sits just outside the small town of Oxford, 150 miles north of Milwaukee. Visitors often come long distances to share time with their loved ones, making it especially outrageous that all the time and expense ends up with undue harassment in the treatment of prisoners' families and friends.

The Prisoners Solidarity Committee has sent a letter to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons, detailing the demands of the prisoners and visitors and demanding an investigation be conducted to stop the intimidation and harassment of visitors and prisoners at Oxford.

Federal Prisons Industry: \$27 million business

The following is excerpted from a letter to *Workers World* from behind the walls:

"Now dig on this: the F.P.I. (Federal Prisons Industry), a corporate conglomerate, grosses on an annual basis some \$27 million. The Criminal Justice



System employs some 16,000 inmates in various prison industries with a top pay scale that is less than one-third of the minimum wage law. They also employ some 3,300 civilians, of whom the minimum pay scale is \$15,000 annually.

"The Federal Prisons Industry recently changed its corporate designation and symbol to the acronym 'Unicor'—to keep up with the corporate image in America. And, incidentally, it has been kicking around in Congress that to change the name cost \$116,000.

"Yes, big business is still with us, but the prisoners are not with big business.

"In conclusion, I leave you with this thought: Why in the hell did the Criminal Justice System spend thousands of dollars just to find out why prisoners escape?"

—Wesley Walker-Bey,
03983, Box PMB,
Atlanta, GA 30315

Odell Bennett's parole denied

By JIM McMAHAN

JANUARY 10—Odell Bennett, now a long time activist in the federal prison system, and one of the "Leavenworth Brothers," has just been denied parole.

Bennett, a poor Black man from the South was arrested on Oct. 15, 1967, in Memphis, Tenn., at the age of 23 on charges of transporting stolen money orders totalling \$250. Despite his plea of innocence, Bennett, who had never before been charged with anything, was convicted and sentenced to 10 years in federal prison. The stiff sentence was due to the fact that the judge and court officials were angered at Bennett's innocent plea and at his request for a jury trial.

Bennett's sentence was lengthened further in 1973 when he was at Leavenworth. Prisoners there rose up against intolerable living conditions. Bennett was chosen along with eight other prisoners to address the media and prison officials with the

prisoners' grievances. Public attention was drawn to the prison conditions and the prisoners' grievances.

But the administration retaliated by locking down the prison and sending the grievance committee to the hole. After 6 months in the hole, Bennett and seven others on the grievance committee were singled out and handed additional charges, basically for calling attention to conditions in the prison.

The grievance committee came to be known nationally as the "Leavenworth Brothers." Most of the eight "Brothers" were convicted and sentenced. For "attempting to cause a riot," Odell Bennett received 10 more years.

A short time later Bennett was brought up on two charges of "resisting officials." These allegedly occurred when Bennett refused to submit to a rectal search, or "finger probe," and he was beaten by guards and forcibly

searched. He was tried on two separate counts of "resisting," and sentenced to 6 more years—3 on each count.

Bennett, imprisoned the last several years at McNeil Island Prison, has now been locked up for 11 years and had his sentence increased to 28 years. He has been denied parole by Parole Examiners and Commission for being "unable to adjust to an institutional environment," (who could?) with a four-year wait until another parole hearing!

The prison system is now trying to have Bennett sent to the notorious "Control Unit" at the federal prison at Marion, Ill.

Bennett says of himself, "It seems that each minute, hour, and day of this grueling 11 years in federal captivity has been spent resisting the efforts of mindless bureaucrats and sadistic jailors to force my conformity and acceptance to a system that is generally recognized as inhumane."

Resistance to Missouri River rip-off builds

Indians fight corporate attacks

By DIANE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, Jan. 4—A "secret memorandum of understanding" entered into on Feb. 24, 1975 between the Secretaries of the Army, Energy, and the Interior outlines the plans to take away the lands and waters of the Upper Missouri River Basin from the Western Plains Indians tribes and market them to strip-mining corporations.

American Indian Movement (AIM) leaders Jimmie Durham and Lorelei Means spoke to **Workers World** today about this land theft, which went into effect three days ago, and about the life-and-death struggle of Native people against the land and resource grabbing transnational corporations.

The government memorandum, Durham said, will lease out on contract the Upper Missouri River Basin at a planned rate of one-million-acre feet annually for 50 years. Durham, who is the director of the International Treaty Council (ITC), said that some time in February a meeting is being planned to bring together representatives of the Indian nations around the pressing issue of the Missouri River giveaway. Durham termed it "the most serious problem Indian people face."

A memorial meeting for the 1973 liberation of Wounded Knee beginning in Porcupine, South Dakota on Feb. 23, will bring together members of AIM, Women of All Red Nations

(WARN), the Lakota Tribal Council, the ITC and other Indian people to discuss a strategy for the struggles ahead, and the attempt to steal the Missouri River will be on the agenda.

"If the government gets its way," Durham told this newspaper, "it will totally destroy 23 reservations and establish a dangerous precedent." An attempt is underway to form a coalition of all 26 tribes affected.

CORPORATIONS GIVE ORDERS

Durham reported that at a meeting of Tribal Councils for the tribes whose survival is at stake, Gerard Forester, U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, told the Indians that although the tribes oppose this massive theft, the government would not reverse its plans. "We have our orders," Forester said.

Lorelei Means, a founding member of the recently formed militant organization of Native women in struggle, Women of All Red Nations (WARN), explained that the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 clearly states that the Missouri Basin and the Black Hills belong to the Lakota people. The corporations are looking for ways to transport water for their industrial development, she said, and care nothing at all for the lives of those who live on the reservations that would be decimated in Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, and

Nebraska. She added that the president was bowing to the mine owners because "Carter is a corporate man, a mouthpiece for the corporations."

The Indians are appealing for support to those who work for the corporate giants stealing Indian land. Durham said that Native people struggling against this land theft have received support from the Auto Workers, the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers union, and the Operating Engineers, and are hoping to form a similar working relationship with the steel and coal workers' unions.

WORKERS AFFECTED BY GOVT. MOVE

Durham explained that the coal and steel industries are now calling Rapid City, S.D., "the Pittsburgh of the West" in anticipation of the move there. He said the future of coal and steel miners' jobs is directly linked to the struggles against the corporations waged by Native people because both industries are "running away" west.

He said there is an infinite supply of coal in the Appalachian ranges, which are presently being mined, but that the companies want to run away from the militancy of the miners and their demands for decent wages and health benefits. In the West, he said, the companies won't be using a large force of miners, but will rely on mechanical strip mining

techniques. "One giant drag liner can replace 2,000 miners and with no worry of union salaries, unions themselves, or health benefits," Durham said, "and it's triple money for the owners because they ship the stuff back East, and the same mine owners own the railroad."

INDIAN LAND, NOT SO WORTHLESS

Means told **Workers World** that the Indian nations have been reduced to 3% of their original land base, having been forced onto land once considered "worthless." Ironically, the land still owned by indigenous peoples is not so worthless as the government and big business originally thought. **Some 90% of the uranium, 70% of the oil, and 75% of the coal in the U.S. is located on Indian land.**

Means said that recently the Indians have obtained documents explaining the complicity and outright acquiescence of the U.S. government's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to give away Indian land and minerals to the corporations. She cited the mass leasing by BIA-appointed Indian "leader" Dick Wilson of the Pine Ridge Land to Lonestar Gas Co., a subsidiary of Shell Oil. The terms of this agreement allow only 16 cents on the dollar for Indians—and Lonestar gets 84 cents on the dollar.

Two gassification plants now

underway pump their waste onto Pine Ridge. "In 5 years it will be raining sulfuric acid over the reservation," Means said.

A recent mass find of uranium in the area and easily extracted, Means said. Gold and zeolites (used to refine oil) have been found lately on Pine Ridge as well.

Carter's plans for the Western Plains tribes are not one iota different from the U.S. government policy in the 1870s when gold was first discovered in the Black Hills and the government stepped up the military and cultural genocide against Native people that has gone on almost since the day Columbus arrived here.

The giant corporations that pull the government's strings are the powers that were behind the FBI sharpshooters at Wounded Knee in 1890, as well as behind the massacre of Indians by U.S. troops at Wounded Knee in 1890, and Little Big Horn before that.

The corporations that are ordering Carter to hand over the Missouri River are the same giants that are shaking the last nickels and dimes from the pockets of Black, Latin, Asian and poor white workers. These workers share a common enemy and an opportunity in 1979 to fight shoulder to shoulder with their Native sisters and brothers for Indian sovereignty and rights for all.

At Dept. of Energy hearing

Hundreds protest nuclear dump near Buffalo

By BRIAN YAMEL

BUFFALO, N.Y., Jan. 13—Today 300 angry protesters packed a Department of Energy (DOE) hearing to demand that nuclear wastes be removed from an unsafe Nuclear Fuel Services plant in West Valley, N.Y., a small depressed area 40 miles from Buffalo.

The hearing was the latest in a long series of DOE maneuvers designed to fool the public into accepting more wastes at the site. But DOE's reckless disregard for public safety and workers' health was exposed by mass intervention.

"MAKE GETTY PAY!"

Environmentalists, students, and workers came from as far away as Virginia to demand, "Make Getty pay!" (Getty Oil owned and operated the plant until 1972 and is responsible for the wastes there.)

The angry crowd clearly intimidated the well-paid lackeys of Energy Department Secretary James "Strangelove" Schlesinger. Breaking down the decorum of the hearing, protesters chanted, made cat-calls, and sang songs. At one point chairman Robert Low disappeared for two hours.

The Nuclear Fuel Services plant in West Valley opened in 1966 as a result of a sweetheart deal arranged by then Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Getty Oil, a large



Industrial pollution has turned Buffalo's Love Canal area into a corridor of horror. Now a nuclear waste scandal has surfaced elsewhere in the region, prompting angry protests against the Getty Oil company.

global energy monopoly later bought the plant. After years of high releases of radioactivity to

nearby Cattaraugus Creek and high radiation exposures to workers, the plant was shut down.

Getty signed the plant over to N.Y. state, claiming that it was unable to make a profit. As a result, 600,000 gallons of liquid radioactive waste that will remain highly toxic for 100,000 years lies buried in containers guaranteed to last only 40 years. And these containers have already sprung leaks!

A statement issued by Workers World Party said, "The primary interests in both areas must be the welfare of the people of West Valley and Niagara Falls. (Public interest in the West Valley nuclear waste disposal plant had been sparked by the revelations about toxic wastes in the Love Canal area of Niagara Falls.)"

The statement continued, "Instead of doing research on the neutron bomb and other horror weapons, the government should be ordering research into the technology necessary to deal with radioactive and chemical wastes."

The statement which also demanded an end to Pentagon control of the nuclear industry and halting construction of nuclear plants was well received as were talks by two other representatives of Workers World Party.

DOE CONSPIRACY UNVEILED

A document presented by Dr.

Marvin Resnikoff, a physicist and technical advisor to the Sierra Club, a national environmental organization, exposed a DOE conspiracy to plant evidence of a staged "surprise inspection" at the West Valley plant in the local media. Such favorable news would serve to coverup the real health dangers posed by the Nuclear Fuel Services plant. In the meantime, the government has attempted to suppress any information that would endanger the profits of the \$100 million nuclear industry. A study by Thomas Mancuso showed increased incidence of cancer to nuclear workers at the government defense plant in Hanford, Wash. His DOE grant was cancelled in July 1977.

One speaker at the hearing, Irwin Bross, denounced a DOE report that completely whitewashed Getty's role and called for an expansion of the plant in order to improve its "profitability." He said the report, issued last November, is "an example of Mickey Mouse math used to fool the public."

But the public hasn't been fooled, as dozens of other speakers vowed to stop any government effort to bring more waste to West Valley. If today's hearings are any indication, the struggle against Dr. Strangelove Schlesinger and the nuclear industry behind him has only just begun.