



Star Wars, racism continue despite Reagan's illness



Free Nelson Mandela!

—centerfold

By Andy Stapp
JULY 17—There is no evidence that the illness which at least for the time being has incapacitated President Reagan has in any real way diminished the capacity of his administration to pursue the same old reactionary domestic and foreign policies.

In fact, at the very moment doctors were operating on him at Bethesda Naval Hospital, Reagan himself was exhorting the country in a pre-recorded radio broadcast to support "our embryonic SDI program."

SDI is the Reaganite phrase for what most people call "star wars."

The Reaganites have so firmly insinuated themselves into the corridors of power in official Washington that they appear able, even eager, to take major right-wing initiatives whatever the immediate state of their leader's health.

Attack on women's rights

Attorney General Ed Meese has not hesitated to launch a brutal assault on all women's right to choose abortion.

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NYC anti-apartheid activists build for Mandela Day.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

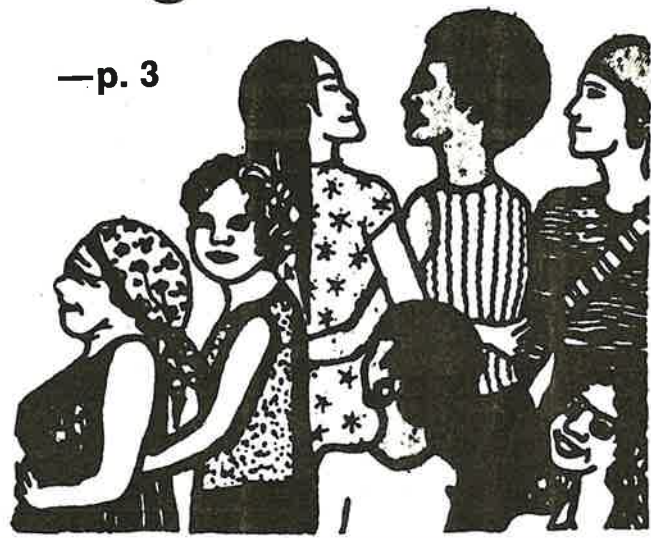
Struggle rages in Philippines

—p. 9



Women's rights under siege

—p. 3



Infants' health threatened by Reaganism

By Ellen Catalinotto

JULY 15—From 1965 to 1983 the infant mortality rate in the U.S. had been declining consistently. But after dropping an average of 4.6% a year from 1979 to 1983, the infant mortality rate has decreased only 2.7% in 1984.

Cutbacks in programs to provide for the care and protection of pregnant women and children under the Reagan administration "have contributed significantly" to slowing the progress begun 20 years ago.

These are the conclusions of the lead article in the prestigious monthly magazine *Scientific American* of July 1985. Written by Dr. C. Arden Miller, chairman of the Department of Maternal and Child Health in the School of Public Health at the University of North

Carolina, the article documents the many ways in which political/social policies affect the lives (or deaths) of newborn babies.

The infant mortality rate is defined as deaths per 1,000 live births in the first year of life. The present U.S. rate is 10.6. The goal established by the U.S. Public Health Service six years ago was an infant death rate of nine by the year 1990.

Based on projections made in 1979, that was an obtainable figure. However, last December, government officials acknowledged that after reviewing the data for 1983-84, the goal would not be reached. Department of Health and Human Services officials deny the connection between this and Reagan's cuts in aid to families with dependent

children, food stamps, child nutrition and other health programs. But "the administration has declined a proposal to study the effect of the cutbacks," writes Dr. Miller.

Women who are poor and/or non-white are at greatest risk for having babies who die before their first birthday. This has not changed since the original study on infant mortality in the U.S. was done based on 1910 census data. The U.S. has been falling behind other industrialized nations since the 1950s. In 1950-54 this country was seventh in infant survival; in 1982 the U.S. was in 17th place.

No protection for pregnant workers

A Columbia University study of "maternity policies for working women in 75 countries, including all the industrialized nations and many of the developing ones [showed] the U.S. was the only one without a law ensuring for working women the basic health services and social supports consonant with the unique requirements of pregnancy, childbearing and infant care."

It is well known that Black infants have a mortality rate twice as high as whites. But white babies born in the U.S. also have higher death rates than "European whites of comparable socio-economic status." What accounts for the difference is that U.S. babies are smaller: 6.8% of all newborns and 12.4% of Black infants weigh under five-and-a-half pounds. Low birth weight is the greatest single factor in infant mortality; most of these deaths occur within 28 days of birth.

Dr. Miller examined data comparing states that were seriously affected by the 1974-75 recession with states that were not. Looking at rates for infant mortality and low birth weight, he found that "infant health trends improved equally in both groups of states" in Blacks and whites from 1973 to 1977. Those were years when, because of the struggle of women and Blacks and other nationally oppressed people, increasing numbers of women received prenatal and family planning care, abortion became legal, and Medicaid as well as other federally-funded programs for women and children were being expanded.

The 1981-82 recession and current period of high unemployment shows a very different picture. States hardest hit show "a reversal of previously fa-

vorable trends for rates of infant mortality and birth weight, particularly among minority populations." Dr. Miller attributes this to the loss of Medicaid and insurance benefits and curtailed support for public clinics.

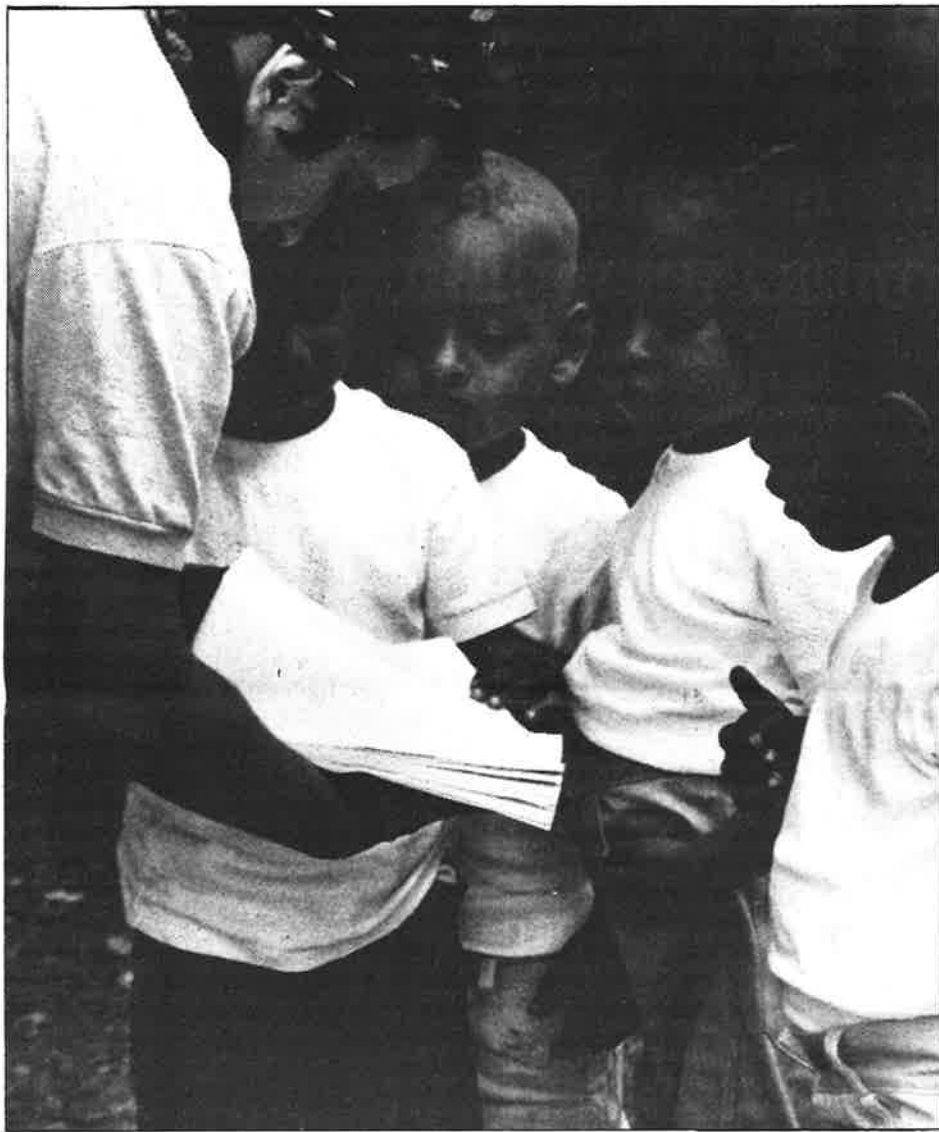
Legal abortion reduces neonatal mortality

The Reagan administration takes a so-called "pro-life" stance, but an important study shows that "the increase in legal abortions was the single most important factor in reducing neonatal mortality. The second factor in impact was the use of organized family-planning services by low-income women." This report, by Michael Grossman of the National Bureau of Economic Research and Steven Jacobowitz of Long Island University, analyzed data from programs begun between 1964 and 1977 and their relative impact on infant survival.

While the White House offers youth nothing but sanctimonious words about chastity and a sub-minimum wage, other countries where birth control services (as well as maternity benefits) are free and freely available have adolescent pregnancy rates less than half that of the U.S. The teen pregnancy rate is 96 per 1,000 in this country and these babies are at higher risk than those born to adults.

The impact of social programs on infant survival is well documented in Sweden. There, the immigrant population from southern Europe, with high infant mortality rates in their original countries, have better infant mortality rates than the Swedes. This is because immigrant women participate fully in the extensive Swedish health services.

The stunning successes of socialist countries in reducing infant mortality even under conditions of poverty and underdevelopment prove that maternity policies and widely available services that protect and nurture mother and baby can be carried out where this is made a priority. In five short years, for example, Nicaragua has cut its infant mortality rate from 121 to 73. And today a baby born in Havana, Cuba, has a better chance for survival than a Black baby born in Washington, D.C. (The author is a Certified Nurse-Midwife who serves low-income maternity and family-planning patients in the South Bronx.)



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

Today, a baby born in Havana, Cuba, has a better chance for survival than a Black baby in Washington, D.C. Pictured here, Cuban children.

In This Issue...

PHILIPPINES

As the fighting element of a broad coalition seeking fundamental changes in Philippine society, the revolutionary New Peoples Army has won considerable military victories in the countryside and aroused the growing concern both of the sinking Marcos dictatorship and its U.S. imperialist supporters. (Page 9.)

CHINA

As Chinese President Li Xiannian planned a major visit to the U.S., strains surfaced over an insulting House vote attacking China's population control policies and continued U.S. recognition of the Taiwan government. At the same time, China and the USSR signed a long-term trade pact, increasing economic exchanges and indicating a growing improvement in relations. (Page 9.)

EL SALVADOR

Guerrillas and political prisoners coordinated a massive escape from La Mariona prison near San Salvador, freeing some 200 of the union organizers, community leaders and revolutionaries jailed by the criminal army and police of the U.S.-backed Duarte regime. (Page 5.)

WAR FEVER

That the Wall Street Journal took the 40th anniversary of the first A-bomb explosion to call for a drive for Pentagon nuclear supremacy over the Soviet Union is evidence of growing war fever in the heart of a capitalist system in crisis. (Page 8.)

ATLANTA HOUSING

By launching an investigation into the housing fire death of two children which revealed 40 years of landlord abuse of Atlanta's poor, a community organization has sparked a public campaign against city authority complicity with Atlanta's slumlords. (Page 4.)

SOUTH AFRICA

While the hypocritical U.S. Congress repealed the anti-interventionist Clark Amendment, ANC liberation fighters showed their growing strength by crippling a major town, and U.S. anti-apartheid activists stepped up a nationally coordinated campaign marking political prisoner Nelson Mandela's birthday. (Page 6-7.)

BROOKLYN RAID

A pre-dawn Pretoria-style raid on the Brownsville Black community in Brooklyn terrorized hundreds of tenants in five city housing projects as it rounded up 160 youth, charging them with, for the most part minor violations like fare beating, marijuana smoking and petty larceny. (Page 11.)

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Gov't launches new attack on women's rights

Seek overturn of Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision

By Lallan Stein

JULY 15—Women's reproductive rights are being dealt a two-pronged frontal attack by the Reagan administration.

In a legal brief presented at the Supreme Court today Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese 3rd called for an outright reversal of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that establishes women's constitutional right to choose to have an abortion. This story broke at the same time as the news of Reagan's plans to appoint an opponent of family planning as the director of the Federal Office of Family Planning.

Although the reproductive rights that women have struggled to gain and to defend have always been a target of Reagan and his Moral Majority cronies, this is the most direct attack yet. To take full measure of this attack, it must be seen in light of Reagan's cuts in social services and the high unemployment statistics which drastically undermine many poor and working women's freedom of choice anyway.

Reagan himself has lent undisguised support to abortion clinic bombers. He has pushed budget cuts through Congress that chiseled away at federal funds which allow poor women to get an abortion. Two years ago, the administration tried to dismantle the abortion law in the Supreme Court through support for state and local restrictions on abortions. In the face of overwhelming public sentiment for abortion rights and vocal protests from the women's movement, the Supreme Court, by three to six, reaffirmed the Roe v. Wade decision and struck down the local restrictions on access to abortion.

Although the Reagan administration has tried to dismantle the law before, this is its first attempt to totally overturn it. In fact it is the first time in 30 years that an administration has asked the Supreme Court Justices to reverse themselves on a basic constitutional decision. The challenge to the Roe v. Wade decision was introduced into the court through arguments on the unconstitutional abortion control acts in Pennsylvania and Illinois. The



It was the struggle that was responsible for the Roe v. Wade decision, and it will take continued struggle to protect women's abortion rights. WW PHOTO

Court has agreed to hear the arguments in these cases this fall, and decisions are likely next spring.

Crum to head Family Planning Office

Reagan's choice for director of the Office of Family Planning of the Department of Health and Human Services is Gary E. Crum, a member of the advisory board of the American Life Lobby. The Office of Family Planning runs Title X, the federal program that provides contraceptive services and counseling to low-income women and teenagers.

The American Life Lobby, one of the most active anti-abortion organizations, opposes any Federal role in family planning. They say that the Title X program "has made teenagers more promiscuous."

This preposterous claim flies in the

face of the facts as presented in a study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute which found that the teenage pregnancy rate in the U.S. was more than double that of 37 developed countries around the world. In the U.S. there are more than five births per 1,000 females age 14. The study found that what is different in the countries with lower teen pregnancy rates is the availability of birth control and sex education and that the governments in those countries, "as the main providers of preventive and basic health services, perceive their responsibility in the area of adolescent pregnancy to be the provision of contraceptive services to sexually active teenagers." As for the right-wing myth of promiscuity, researchers found the prevalence of sexual activity among teenagers is approximately the same in all the countries they studied.

Reagan and the right wing can't say out front that they're for war, racism and the subjugation of women, which is really what they think. So they create phony social issues like "the right to life" as a cover. But you can be sure they don't care about the lives of countless women that have been lost in illegal abortion mills or the lives of children that can't be cared for because of the Reagan cutbacks.

Reagan has attacked women's abortion rights repeatedly and in many ways. The weight of public opinion pushed the Supreme Court once before on this question but that didn't stop Reagan and it certainly doesn't mean the Supreme Court can be depended on this time around. It is only through women's vigilance that we can defend our rights to control our own bodies and lives.

Pentagon uses Reagan's illness to crank up war hysteria

By Deirdre Griswold

JULY 16—While Reagan was being operated on last week, did anyone really believe that the Soviet Union would take advantage of the situation to launch a nuclear war? Not even the most rabid right-wing anti-communists headed for bomb shelters. No one was breaking down the doors of the lead mines to be let in.

Yet the bourgeois press discussed this possibility with apparent seriousness. Just about every form of media related that the issue of the passing of authority during the temporary or perhaps permanent incapacity of the President has taken on a new significance in the nuclear age because, as Commander in Chief, he is the man with his "finger on the button."

It was reported that, as soon as major surgery was scheduled for Reagan, Vice President Bush was provided with two special military aides carrying the codes needed to launch a nuclear strike. This was supposed to avoid what New York Times columnist William Safire termed "a time of danger to the nation," when some enemy might "be tempted by the prospect of retaliatory paralysis to launch a nuclear strike."

Ever since the U.S. lost the monopoly on atomic weapons it had enjoyed

from the bombing of Hiroshima until 1949, the population of this country has been constantly hyped with the idea that the Soviet Union is just waiting for the first opportunity to start a war. Big-budget movies on this theme have helped make it almost an axiom in the popular culture.

But this idea is just a myth, used to justify the most astronomical expenditures for "defense" and to keep a huge standing army, navy and air force ready to terrorize less developed countries.

By its very nature, however, this myth is difficult to disprove. Just as the church has used the image it created of hell and a devil to keep a fearful populace in line (who could disprove the notion of a hell in the "afterlife" when no one ever came back to tell about it?), so the bourgeoisie are delighted with politicians like Reagan who characterize communism as an "Evil Empire" and who never let up on fearful propaganda that without a "strong defense," meaning the outlandish Star Wars project and other programs adding up to hundreds of billions of dollars, the USSR would attack tomorrow. And they call this being a "Great Communicator!"

It doesn't matter that the Pentagon has initiated the development and

deployment of virtually every new weapons system. It doesn't matter that the Soviet Union, not once but scores of times, has made concrete proposals and even unilateral weapons reductions as proof of its desire to not only reduce but end nuclear stockpiles altogether. The bourgeois propaganda mill has only poo-hooed these things, always yielding to the overriding influence of the military-industrial complex.

Those who challenge the Evil Empire myth are labeled either naive or traitorous. Isn't this how rulers have dealt with fractious subjects since the tale of the emperor's new clothes?

The riddle of the nuclear age can only be unraveled by understanding the class interests involved. The U.S. nuclear arsenal is not a response to a threat from the socialist countries. On the contrary, it was the Pentagon that opened up the nuclear age because of U.S. imperialism's driving need to expand its profit empire at the end of World War II.

After tremendous sacrifices by the Soviet people, the USSR in the 1970s reached rough nuclear parity with the U.S., thereby diminishing the effectiveness of Washington's nuclear blackmail against revolutionary countries like Cuba and Viet Nam (and today

Nicaragua). This, of course, has infuriated the right wing here, who think it's a natural law for Washington to be able to ride roughshod over any country that dares defy its dictates.

Now the ruling class has used Reagan's illness to once again crank up the war hysteria. This deceit about the imminence of Soviet attack must be repudiated by all progressives. It is directly used to grind down the working class and all who fight against Reaganite reaction. And it brings the real danger of war ever closer.

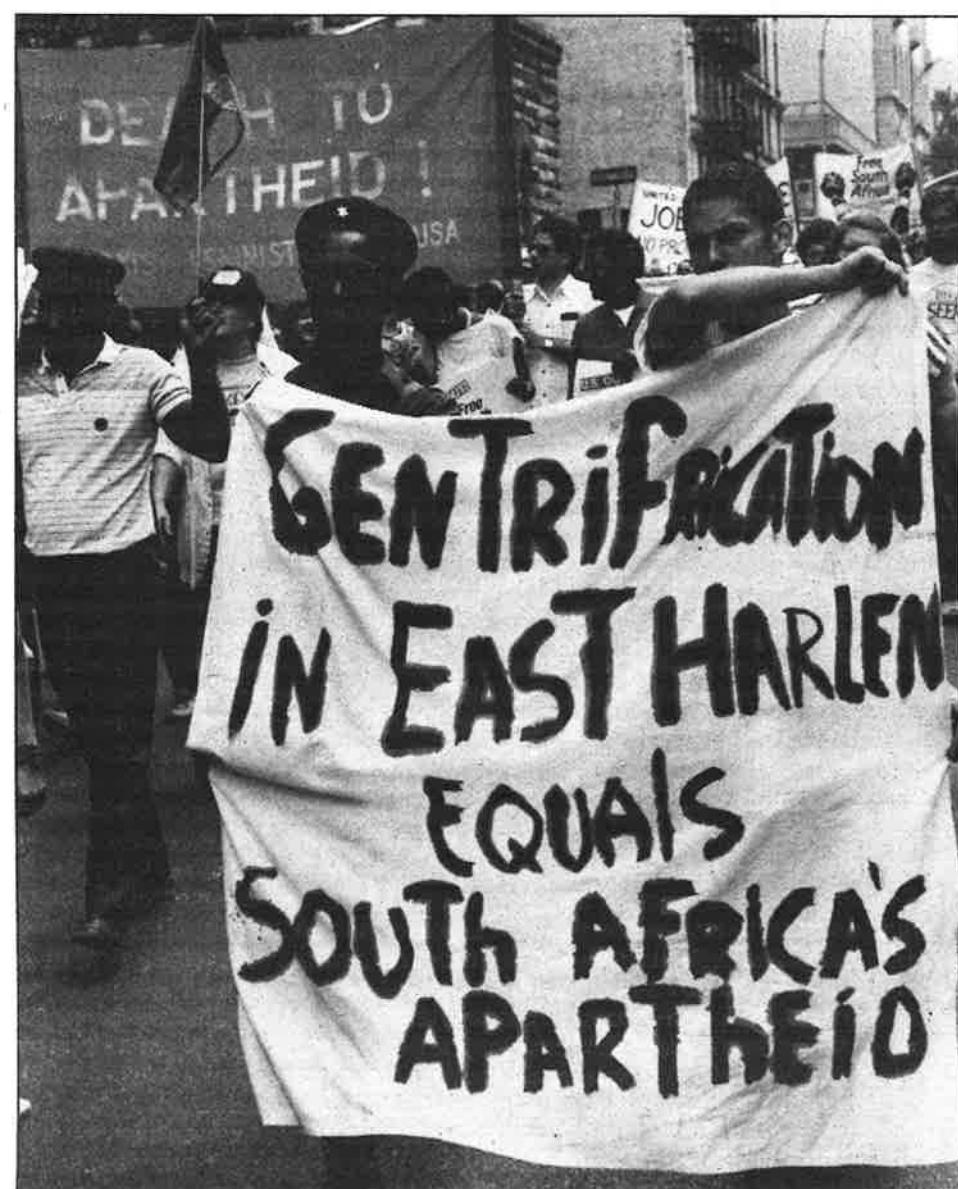


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City forced to respond to housing struggle in Atlanta



ATLANTA, July 10—An investigation by the All-Peoples Congress into the June 10 deaths of two children in an Atlanta house fire has led to a growing public campaign for an end to city inaction and complicity with slumlords. The APC has revealed a forty-year record of the abuse and exploitation of poor people by Thomas B. West, the owner of an estimated 800 to 900 properties in southside Atlanta's poorest neighborhoods.

Today the City Council here established a sub-committee on slumlords to respond to information uncovered by APC research and reported by local press. Activists charge that the city is responsible for allowing West to continually ignore local housing codes and to evade taxes on virtually all of his property.

West began accumulating what real estate investors call "distressed property" during World War II. Most of his purchases were made at courthouse sales for back taxes or foreclosed mortgages, often for \$200 or less.

Housing officials have refused to release records of their citations against West but discussions with tenants and their attorneys and with city workers have disclosed a grim and

callous history. Typical problems in West-owned buildings include a lack of water, heat and electricity. West responds to complaints with threats of physical abuse and eviction.

Most charges dropped

The APC estimates that in recent years West has been cited an average of once a month for health and safety violations. Few of the citations lead to court action and the majority of those charges made in court are dropped by the city.

West's control of the slum market is largely hidden in a maze of family members, corporations and partnerships. The properties are usually transferred from one partner or corporation to another every few years.

The City Council has requested activists' help in getting information on West and other slumlords in Atlanta.

"Almost everything we've told them is based on information from their own records and their staff. Nothing we said is secret," pointed out APC President Carrie Morris in response. "They're talking about making a report in two months. That's about a week before the City Council election. It's obvious what they're up to."

"We're being asked to dance with elephants," said another organizer. "One TV station has already claimed for itself credit for the Council action. All they did was report what we told them."

The APC and the Housing is a Right Coalition have scheduled their own public meeting for July 17.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Poor and working people across the U.S. are fighting back against the slumlords and gentrifiers. Here, participants in recent New York City protest.

Alex Munsell fund finances progressive causes

By Sue Davis

NEW YORK, July 15—The name of Alex Munsell (1895-1983) has become a legend in the progressive movement. Giving up wealth and privilege during the Depression because he wanted to end the misery inflicted on working and oppressed people by the capitalist system, Munsell chose to devote over 50 years to the revolutionary struggle in the U.S. and around the world.

At his memorial service two years ago, a fund was established to continue political activism in his name as a living memorial to his life's work.

Recently, a brochure was issued by the fund describing the disabled contingent that traveled from New York City to Washington, D.C., to voice their demands in the April 20 demonstration for jobs, peace, and justice. Because of a grant from the fund, a specially equipped van was subsidized so that seven people in wheelchairs and one partially paralyzed man could march under the Munsell banner, "Money for social services, not the Pentagon."

Betsy Gimble, a coordinator of the Disabled Focus of the People's Anti-War Mobilization who initiated and organized the contingent, spoke for the participation when she said, "We all felt proud to march under the [Munsell] banner and had the most pleasant trip ever because of the special arrangements made for our comfort and well-being."

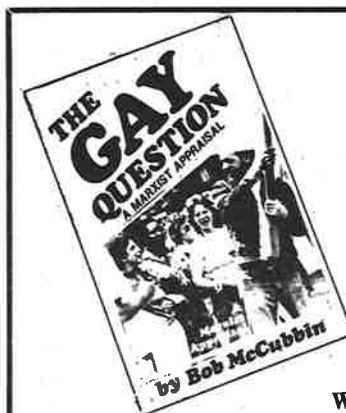
Munsell could always be found on the front lines against war and all forms of injustice and oppression. In the 1940s he helped organize longshoremen. In the 1950s he stood up to the House Un-American Activities Committee and refused to cooperate with their vicious witchhunt. During the Cold War years he published anti-racist and other progressive books that kept the spirit of struggle alive. A World War I veteran, Munsell joined



Van subsidized by Munsell Memorial Fund helped disabled activists go to Washington for April 20 demonstration.

Viet Nam vets in the 1970s to denounce all imperialist wars. In the 1980s—in fact only the week before he died—he marched to stop U.S. support for the genocidal government in El Salvador.

To ensure that Munsell's example is not forgotten, the Alex Munsell Memorial Fund needs new contributions to renew its resources. Giving to the Munsell fund is a way to stay active in the struggle for social change. Says Marion Munsell, "Whenever I am unable to go on an important demonstration, I feel an obligation to help finance someone else who cannot otherwise afford it." Checks and requests for copies of the brochure can be mailed to the fund at 212 W. 22nd St., Suite 3P, New York, N.Y. 10011.



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Daring prison break rocks San Salvador

By Andy Stapp

JULY 13—La Mariona. Those two words, always until now spoken furtively in a tone of skin-crawling fear, today are being shouted in laughter and celebration.

La Mariona Prison, the site of the biggest concentration of political prisoners in El Salvador, became on July 12 the scene of the largest prison escape in that country's history.

The incredible rebel bid for freedom began at sunset when 400 guerrillas suddenly appeared out of nowhere to hit the maximum security installation which is located only two miles from downtown San Salvador.

No one living in either of the two sprawling working class neighborhoods encompassing La Mariona had sounded the alarm at the appearance of the rebel column. Within minutes, grenades and mortars had knocked out the guard's sentry boxes atop the prison walls. That's when 13 leftist prisoners inside lit the fuse on the dynamite they had placed against La Mariona's thick south wall.

Government officials were at a loss later to explain how the prisoners got high explosives into the fortress-like compound, but there was no doubt from the debris that the blast came from the inside. Under cover of heavy gunfire which distracted the guards, over 200 prisoners dashed through the breach to freedom. Once on the outside they fled in trucks and buses which had been waiting for them.

Only one prisoner recaptured

It was all over in about 20 minutes, and when troops of the Army's 1st Brigade and National Police arrived an hour later under cover of a C47 helicopter gunship it was too late. Only one prisoner has been recaptured, the rest obviously having eluded the roadblocks which immediately sealed off the capital on the northeast.

All the political prisoners held in La Mariona were leftists. Although 50,000 Salvadorans have been killed by right-wing death squads since 1980, no Salvadoran Army or police officer has ever been convicted for ordering even one of these executions.

The scope and daring of the La Mariona rescue has torn through the carefully woven fabric of lies spun by the Duarte regime and the U.S. media which have asserted the guerrillas are no longer capable of launching a major attack.

Sunday's New York Times conceded this, and in an article appearing after the prison breakout noted that "combat has been higher in the last 12 months than generally realized."

The Salvadoran high command admits that 2,834 of its troops were put out of action last year, and the number



The Salvadoran guerrilla struggle has intensified despite the assertions of the U.S. big business media.

is probably far higher judging from the frantic efforts to gain replacements by the dragnet forced "recruiting" at playgrounds, hospitals, churches and bars.

'Genius in art of guerrilla war'

Every effort to break the guerrillas in the countryside has failed, most recently the attempts by the regime to kill or capture Joaquin Villalobos, an outstanding rebel commander described by a senior United States Special Forces officer as "a genius in the art of guerrilla war."

Saturday's New York Times notes that, "The Army sent its best combat commander, Col. Domingo Monterrosa, to defeat the rebel forces in the east and to kill Mr. Villalobos. The two men sparred for almost a year in a very personal duel until rebels placed a bomb on the colonel's helicopter," from which he ascended into heaven.

Since then the battle has intensified in the cities themselves, from the small towns like San Miguel de las Mercedes which was liberated by the rebels last week to the capital, where starting last spring there have been large-scale strikes by water, bank, hospital and educational workers. The audacious raid on La Mariona is the climax so far to this developing struggle in the urban areas.

Casa Honduras formed to tell the truth from Central America

By Rafael Ramos

NEW YORK, July 14—Today around 100 individuals and members of various political organizations here came to show support for the inauguration of Casa Honduras.

Honduras is a country located in the very heart of Central America. It borders three countries with advanced revolutionary processes. On the east is Nicaragua, on the south, El Salvador, and the west, Guatemala.

Historically, Honduras is the poorest country in Latin America, except for Haiti. Its economy is based on agricultural exports, mainly bananas, which are controlled by big U.S. multinationalals like United Brands.

Aggravating a serious economic crisis is pressure from the U.S.-dominated International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the militarization and occupation of this country by U.S. troops. Honduras has more than 2,000 U.S. Marines permanently stationed within its borders and thousands of Marines engaged in permanent joint military maneuvers inside the country. There are also 12,000 National Guardsmen of the hated ex-Nicaraguan dictator Somoza.

According to Javier Gonzalez, the representative from Casa Honduras,

"The U.S. has Americanized everything from the military to the police, schools, institutions. They have installed English channels on TV. The U.S. has developed what many Latin Americans in the U.S. call Spanglish; our children are now even saying 'good-bye.' This has brought us more exploitation and misery."

Casa Honduras was born to inform people here about the situation of exploitation, repression and occupation which Honduran people are facing daily; to denounce the military occupation of Honduran land by the U.S. Marines, contras and others; and to strengthen the solidarity of the American people against Pentagon intervention in Honduras and the rest of Central America.

Also present in this important activity inaugurating Casa Honduras were representatives from the FMLN-FDR of El Salvador who said, "Latin America belongs to the Latin American people and not to the U.S." There was also a representative from Casa de las Americas, which supports revolutionary Cuba. Music was performed by a musical group called Lactamasi.

Money and donations to help Casa Honduras can be sent to Casa Honduras, West Farm Station, P.O. Box 539, Bronx, N.Y. 10460.

—Star Wars, racism

Continued from page 1

tion, the latest shot in the woman-hating crusade instigated by the government on behalf of the Moral Majority fanatics.

Even the maneuver to override Congress and obtain the post of associate attorney general for white-supremacist William Bradford Reynolds is still on the agenda.

Former Wall Street mogul and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan has taken charge of marshalling the troops to get more cuts out of Congress in housing, education, health care and other social services. Even before his boss's illness, Regan had been acting as a sort of prime minister, overseeing the home front along with Meese and Treasury Secretary James Baker.

Baker's speciality is selling the President's "tax simplification" bill, so it will be simpler for the rich to pay less taxes. His last big coup was arranging the separation of 400,000 jobless workers from their unemployment checks, thereby saving the government much-needed funds for the MX and other super-weapons dear to the heart's desire of every true Reaganite. Right now he's trying to figure how to parley media sympathy for the President's plight into Congressional acquiescence for more cuts in Medicare and other programs.

Foreign policy is still securely in the hands of presidential cronies at the Departments of State, Defense and CIA. Reagan's intelligence czar, William Casey, is still in the forefront of

efforts to sow death and destruction against Nicaragua, his handiwork manifest in the recent contra seizure and destruction of a large Nicaraguan ship outside the port of Bluefields.

Pentagon boss Caspar Weinberger is still thumping the tub for more poison gas stockpiles and escalation of the nuclear race into the heavens.

Support for apartheid

George Shultz has not abandoned "constructive engagement" with Reagan's allies in Pretoria, even as he trots around the world trying to salvage the

Marcos regime and boost the fortunes of all the counter-revolutionary bands attacking the borders of socialist countries in the rest of Asia.

The day-to-day operations of the imperialist system function automatically, like the heartbeat of the Frankenstein monster, even if the brain becomes impaired. In any case, after almost five years with access to the inner sanctum, Reagan's top lieutenants hardly need hourly instruction on how to serve the big money men, act like a bunch of racists and fan the flames of war.

South Africa struggle boils over

By Carmen Roundtree

JULY 16—Despite the apartheid regime's repeated attempts to crush the mounting revolution in South Africa, the oppressed masses come back stronger with each blow dealt by the minority government.

Last month, racist South African commandos invaded Botswana, killing 14 people under the pretext of searching for African National Congress' (ANC) headquarters.

Yet this blatant act of repression and genocide by the racist South African government has not had the intended effect.

Just last week in the pre-dawn hours, ANC guerrillas for the first time showed that they were capable of crippling a South African town.

They planted mines in three key locations in Umtata, in the Transkei. One explosion blew up the town's main fuel storage depot, hurling a ball of flames hundreds of feet into the air. The fire burned for two days.

The second explosion blew up the main power station, and the third knocked out a water pipeline.

With that the South African government announced that army reservists will have to serve for 60 days per year instead of 30. This emergency move can only hurt South Africa's al-

ready weak and crumbling economy, yet a military spokesman conceded that it is necessary to cope with the continued guerrilla movement of the ANC, and its threat to the racist South Africa's apartheid regime.

At their conference which was held in Lusaka, the ANC vowed that they would raise the stakes in the battle against the cruel, racist South African government.

Meanwhile, the apartheid regime, while attempting to suppress the masses in South Africa, also suppresses the news that comes out of South Africa.

The big business press fails to mention that the present upheaval which is breaking the back of apartheid has been the longest uprising in South Africa's recent history. Much of the sorrow and suffering that has resulted from the brutal massacres of Black people by the racist police has given way to rage and a revolutionary determination to beat back the apartheid system.

Never in South Africa's uneasy history has unrest been so prolonged and determined. Their targets are of course political targets, the repressive state apparatus. The targets are not just the white police, but police collaborators and informants. The anger of the struggling Black masses has been

turned towards the apartheid system as a whole.

Students on strike

Secondary schools in Langa and other Black townships have been closed as much if not more than they have been open. Students strike over the inferior quality of education and the government's refusal to recognize elected student representative councils.

"The present government acts like an enemy to us," stated Skwati Zamuolo, a 16-year-old student in Kwa-nobuhle township.

The antagonisms between the apartheid system and the oppressed masses are effecting everyone. Even the very young feel the mounting tensions that the apartheid system creates. In Langa one afternoon, stated a doctor, about a dozen school children around eight years old were skipping up the street chanting to exiled leader Oliver Tambo, and imprisoned leader Nelson Mandela: "Go to them guerrillas, come soldiers. Oliver is a leader, Mandela is a commander."

This is a genuine popular mass uprising. The attitude of the racist South African regime and its attempts to suppress it can only intensify the conflict and make greater the resistance.



South Africa: A genuine popular uprising is shaking the foundations.

City Councils urge freedom for Mandela

Special to Workers World

JULY 15—In two major U.S. urban centers, Chicago and Detroit, the city councils adopted resolutions this past week calling for the freedom for African National Congress President Nelson Mandela and for all South African political prisoners.

The resolutions passed while activists in both areas held protests and public meetings to mobilize public opinion against the apartheid regime. July 18 is Mandela's birthday, and this date has sparked a national campaign by the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of APC/PAM to urge freedom for Mandela and to raise funds for the South Africa freedom struggle.

The All-Peoples Congress is distributing ribbons calling for Mandela's freedom in churches, unions and in the streets in over 30 cities around the country.

In Chicago, the City Council on July 9 unanimously passed the resolution introduced by Alderman Danny Davis calling South Africa "the only nation whose laws mandate discrimination and deprivation of basic human and political rights solely on the basis of race and color under a legal system called apartheid" and describing Mandela as "the greatest living symbol of resistance to the apartheid system of racial injustice."

The resolution also sent greetings to Mandela from the Mayor and the members of the City Council of Chicago "as an expression of solidarity with the South African people in their struggle for freedom, equality and justice."

The Detroit resolution, passed on July 10, took note of the "nationwide activities during the week of his (Mandela's) birthday" and urged "the government of South Africa to free all political prisoners including the Mandelas," and further urges "the United States government to withdraw all economic investments from South Africa until the present system no longer exists."

Special to Workers World

DETROIT, July 14—A testimonial resolution calling for the freedom of

of Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners was adopted by the City Council here on July 10.

Sponsored by Council President Erma Henderson, the resolution comes as Detroit area activists have been carrying out protests and public meetings to bring the anti-apartheid struggle to public attention.

Currently, a ribbon campaign of the Southern Africa Freedom Committee of the All-Peoples Congress is underway to urge freedom for Nelson Mandela and to raise funds for the South African freedom struggle. The ribbons have been distributed by activists in churches and in unions where they have been warmly received.

An anti-apartheid resolution has also been passed by the Wayne University Student Council.

Following is the text of the Detroit City Council resolution:

WHEREAS Nelson Mandela, a leader of the efforts of Black South Africans to win their freedom and to partake of the benefits of South African land, was brutally imprisoned for his conviction in this regard; and

WHEREAS Winnie Mandela, also a leader of the same resistance movement, was banned from her homeland; and

WHEREAS Nelson Mandela has been unjustly imprisoned at Robben Island, near Cape Town, since 1964; and

WHEREAS a massive international campaign to free Nelson Mandela and all South African political prisoners began in 1979 and continues today; and

WHEREAS the Black majority in South Africa is forced against its will to exist under a repressive, flagrantly unjust apartheid system; and

WHEREAS the white minority has murdered, falsely imprisoned and exiled the most visibly strong members of the resistance movement such as Steve Biko and Winnie and Nelson Mandela; and

WHEREAS Winnie and Nelson Mandela are proud examples for all men, women and children who fight against the minority, racist apartheid regime

until it is effectively and totally destroyed; and

WHEREAS on July 18, 1985, Nelson Mandela will celebrate his sixty-seventh birthday in the dungeon of the hated apartheid regime; and

WHEREAS there will be nationwide activities during the week of his birthday to focus public attention on the anti-apartheid movement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Detroit City Council urges the government of South Africa to free all political prisoners including the Mandelas; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Detroit City Council urges the United States government to withdraw all economic investments from South Africa until the present system no longer exists.

FREE
SOUTH AFRICA
NOW!



FREE
NELSON
MANDELA

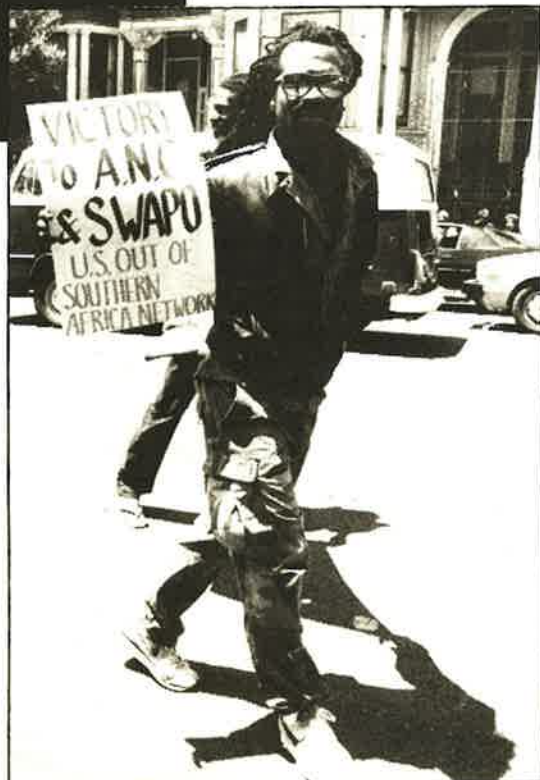




s shaking the apartheid system to its very



WW PHOTOS: BILL HACKWELL



Participants in recent San Francisco demonstration show solidarity with ANC.

House approves U.S., South African terror against Angola

By Monica Moorehead

JULY 15—Last Wednesday, the House of Representatives voted 236-185 to repeal the Clark Amendment, first passed in 1976 to prohibit the U.S. from providing any military aid to the mercenaries based in the People's Republic of Angola (PRA). The Senate approved a similar repeal, with certain stipulations from the State Department, assuring that the ban will be totally repealed sometime this year.

The vote that took place in both houses of Congress follows a trend of capitulation by Republicans and Democrats alike to the pressure of the war-mongering, ultra-rightwing Reaganites, who have targeted openly progressive, anti-imperialist and socialist countries. The Reaganites want to bolster more anti-communist, terrorist forces around the world and the members of Congress are for the most part falling right into line.

By repealing the Clark Amendment, the U.S. ruling class is exposing more and more its cozy relationship with the racist, apartheid regime.

Last Tuesday, the House of Representatives, much to the liking of the Reagan administration, gave the green light to provide \$5 million in aid to the counter-revolutionaries attempting to topple the revolutionary government of Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia). The House also approved

aid to mercenaries who are seeking to overthrow the revolutionary government of Nicaragua and the People's Republic of Afghanistan, respectively. Military aid to the mercenaries in Angola could be forthcoming in the near future with the lifting of this ban.

The passage of the Clark Amendment came about in the midst of mass sentiment against the South African-backed forces known as the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Led by the notorious Jonas Savimbi, UNITA was attempting to set up a pro-imperialist government in Angola.

Following the defeat of the Portuguese colonialists in Angola nearly ten years ago, the revolutionary Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) had to battle apartheid South Africa via UNITA and the FNLA (the CIA-backed Angola National Liberation Front). Since the People's Republic of Angola became victorious against these pro-imperialist mercenaries, the PRA has had to defend itself from terrorist incursions into its country by UNITA as well as South Africa. UNITA was at one time receiving military and economic aid from racist-ruled Rhodesia, before independence was won in 1980 and Zimbabwe became established.

In response to the Congressional

vote, Angola has justifiably broken off talks with the U.S. over a negotiated settlement between the PRA and South Africa. The U.S. has been portraying itself as the "mediator" between the two countries over the question of independence of the South African-controlled Namibia. The U.S. and South Africa want to see the 25,000 Cuban troops, requested by the Angolan government in 1976 to help defend their Revolution, removed in order to continue their efforts to destabilize the government as well as stop the armed struggle in Namibia led by the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO).

The Angolan statement announcing the break off of talks read:

"The repeal of the Clark Amendment at this particular movement, when the forces of the racist Pretoria regime and its UNITA puppets are desperately attempting to destabilize the economy of the People's Republic of Angola, is further evidence of the complicity which has always existed between the U.S. administration and the reactionary and racist Pretoria regime.

"In view of this, the government of the People's Republic of Angola has no other alternative but to suspend the contacts that it has been maintaining with emissaries of the American government for the analysis of the problems of the region."

Congressional vote on sanctions—they never would have done it without mass struggle

By John Catalinotto

JULY 15—A sign of the growing strength of the revolution in South Africa and of the anti-apartheid movement in the U.S. was the Senate resolution adopted by an 80-12 vote last week urging sanctions against the apartheid state.

The resolution prohibits the sale of nuclear technology to South Africa, allows no new investments, and demands that the 300 U.S. companies with more than 25 employees that do business there follow non-discriminatory job practices. The Senate sanctions omit some of the more concrete rules contained in an earlier House bill, such as banning the sale of Pretoria's gold Kruggerands in the U.S.

The compromise resolution that is expected to be agreed upon by both

houses this week will have only a small impact on the South African economy, but the break of the Congress with Reagan's "constructive engagement" policy still has symbolic importance.

It is significant that only the worst racist dregs of the Senate, for example Senators Jesse Helms and Barry Goldwater, openly fought against the resolution.

To the Reaganites, the South African rulers and their army are vital junior partners in a strategic alliance against the Soviet Union and against progressive states in Southern Africa, such as Angola and Mozambique. And of course South Africa and Namibia themselves are important areas for exploitation by U.S. big business. The alliance and the resources lie behind "constructive engagement," that is,

behind Reagan's open backing for the racists.

The Republicans and Democrats in Congress show no signs of giving up their anti-communist policies, nor of abandoning their big-business paymasters. Their current desire to dissociate themselves somewhat from Pretoria, at least in the public eye, flows from their fears that the apartheid regime may soon be overthrown by a revolutionary movement that shows no signs of being contained by even the most brutal repression.

These politicians also fear that the anti-apartheid movement inside the U.S., now restricted mainly to demands for reforms of apartheid, will take another jump forward to supporting a thoroughgoing revolutionary struggle against Pretoria which also does battle with U.S. imperialism.

Join the Free Nelson Mandela National Ribbon Campaign

in celebration of Mandela's birthday on July 18

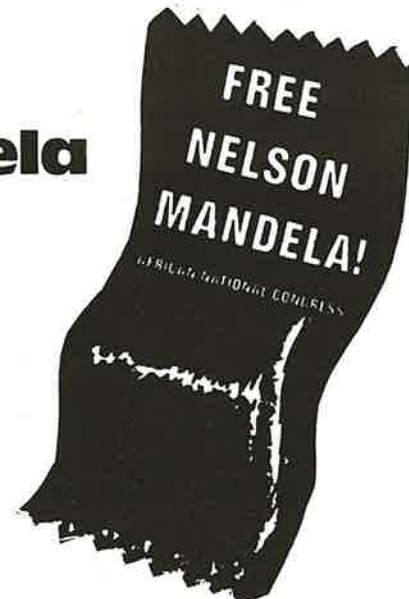
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EDITORIAL

Hostage crisis continues

WHEN THE TWA airplane was hijacked to Lebanon, the White House declared it a worldwide crisis, with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger openly saying that the U.S. was at war in the Middle East. Lebanon was on the front pages of the newspapers every day, and the TV news covered little else.

Since the 40 Americans have been released, hostages really of the U.S. imperialist policies in the region, what has happened?

The U.S. called for a boycott of Beirut airport, a boycott that totally failed to win even token support from any of Reagan's imperialist allies except Britain's Thatcher, who is reported to be on a downhill slide in her own country and therefore would not openly join the boycott.

The threats of military attack made by many members of the Reagan administration have yet to materialize. And even the reports that the White House was preparing to offer a "reward" for the capture of the TWA hijackers disappeared after the State Department was forced to back down. Such an action was clearly interference in Lebanon's internal affairs and a violation of international law. So much for vigilanteism.

One thing that can be easily seen is the complete toadyism of the big business-controlled U.S. press. When the White House said that 40 hostages in Lebanon was a crisis, the press reported it that way. Now, as far as the ever obedient press is concerned, the crisis is over. But the crisis is far from over.

Even if Dan Rather isn't bring-

ing the war in the Mideast into our living rooms every night with the evening news, the crisis in Lebanon is continuing. Little or no mention is made any more of the over 400 Lebanese prisoners being held hostage by the Israelis in Atlit prison in full disregard of all international law. It is state-sponsored terrorism of the most flagrant kind, and yet the news is gone from the front pages of the press in this country.

But the people of Lebanon have not forgotten. And it is to be expected that they will not sit idly by while the U.S.-puppet state of Israel continues to perpetuate this crime.

A little-reported aspect of the U.S.-Israeli war against Lebanon is the role being played by the left in that country. Up to one third of the Lebanese prisoners taken by Israel are members of the Communist Party of Lebanon.

According to Kerim Mroue of the Lebanese Community Party, "Imperialist and Zionist propaganda presents resistance as a communal Shiite Moslem movement, negating its national character and the vanguard role the Lebanese Communists and other democratic forces play in it. Enemy propaganda thus reveals the designs to divide Lebanon by religious and communal principles." Mroue also praised the "Palestinian fighters' involvement in our struggle."

This statement tells more about what is happening in Lebanon today than any of the reports or "specials" on ABC, NBC or CBS, even if you put them all together.

Murder in the fields

THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND farm workers here in the U.S. are struck down every year by "acutely toxic pesticides."

That's the finding of the latest report from the World Resource Institute's study of how well the Environmental Protection Agency is doing its job protecting the country's agricultural workers from hazardous substances.

What has been uncovered points to a staggering human tragedy. Every one-and-a-half minutes another farm worker becomes a casualty of pesticide poisoning, hit by skin rashes, dizziness and nausea, often followed as days pass by cancer. This horror is even passed on to the next generation through birth defects.

The study points to Washington's "emergency exemptions" granted growers, permitting them to use "particularly dangerous

pesticides" in violation of the law as the root problem. These "emergency exemptions" have, in effect, turned the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act into a joke, leaving four to five million farmworkers without real protection.

The U.S. is a powerhouse of food and technology. So why should hundreds of thousands of farm workers, whose labor feeds everyone else, face needless and horrible deaths?

Ask the National Agricultural Chemicals Association, the Pesticide Production Association, Union Carbide, Archer-Daniels-Midland, Ralston Purina, Green Giant and the other agribusiness leviathans.

For them growing food is merely a means for growing profits, even if the harvest includes murder in the fields.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BULLETIN NO. 560,000.
SUGGESTED HAIRCUT DISGUISES FOR U.S. MARINES
STATIONED OVERSEAS.



Wall Street Journal talks about 'winnable nuclear war'

By Gary Wilson

JULY 16—With Reagan in bed with cancer, the dollar plunging on the world market and more bad economic news coming out every day, what issue is at the top of Wall Street's agenda?

War. Or, to put it in the ominous words of the big bankers' mouthpiece, the Wall Street Journal (July 16), "Winnable nuclear war."

That's right. In a major editorial titled "Winnable nuclear war," the Wall Street Journal has put nuclear war on the top of its list of priorities.

Never before that anyone can remember has such an authoritative voice of the ruling class talked so openly about gaining "nuclear supremacy." The editorial, appearing on the 40th anniversary of the Pentagon's first atomic explosion, carries this threatening speculation: "Given their sluggish battle-management computers, the Soviets could not knock down every last U.S. cruise missile should America launch a first strike."

A dangerous war drive has gripped the rich and powerful bankers and businessmen that the Wall Street Journal is speaking for. For example, the Journal states, "Yes, there is such a thing as supremacy."

This notion of the possibility of supremacy in nuclear war has been dismissed by almost every scientist familiar with the subject. As Dr. Carl Sagan has so eloquently pointed out, a nuclear winter that would probably destroy all life as we know it would follow any nuclear exchange, no matter which side hit more "targets."

The Soviet Union has always held that a nuclear war is not winnable and has explained that the only reason it has developed nuclear weapons technology is to defend itself against the constant threats from the U.S. The USSR has never used a nuclear weapon for an attack—but the U.S. has dropped two atomic bombs on the people of Japan. And over the last four decades since then, the U.S. has made dozens of threats to use nuclear weapons.

Although the editorial is couched in thinly veiled terms accusing the USSR of trying to do what the Wall Street Journal is urging upon the Reagan administration, and even though the piece is packed full of disinformation about current weapons levels, the very fact that the voice of finance capital and big business in this country has decided to open this question to public debate in the ruling class shows that war has become their top item of discussion.

It is only someone who has taken leave of his or her senses that could talk about a "winnable nuclear war." But this insanity has gripped the capitalist ruling class in this country. That's because their system is in crisis worldwide and the only solution that could save the decadent capitalist system from ruin is war. That's why Wall Street is gripped with nuclear war fever.

And that's also why the only way to end this war fever is to end the capitalist system and replace it with socialism.

ECONOMIC BRIEFS

The falling dollar. The dollar has tumbled dramatically on the world market over the last two weeks. Trading in currencies is one way that big banks as well as the super wealthy try to keep their riches from being depleted by inflation, recession or any of the other ravages built into the capitalist system. Over the last few years, the dollar has been the favored currency of this elite club, which has helped keep the U.S. economy at a somewhat higher level than that to which their Western European imperialist rivals have sunk. It has been one of the reasons inflation has been below 10% in the recent period.

The leisure class, which has been

speculating in dollars, is now selling off dollars at a record rate, causing the rate to drop in two weeks to a level that was last seen almost a year ago. According to Wall Street economists and currency traders, the dollar's drop is the result of falling confidence in the Reagan administration and its ability to handle what looks like a looming recession.

• • •

A hobbled giant. One of the signs of the decline of monopoly capitalism has been the under-utilization of factory capacity. Like its counter-

Continued on page 11

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China blasts U.S. Congress for birth control edict

As Sino-Soviet economic relations improve

By Robert Dobrow

JULY 15—On the eve of Chinese President Li Xiannian's trip to the U.S., the first visit here by a head of state from the People's Republic of China, significant strains have surfaced in Sino-U.S. relations at the same time that there has been an improvement in China's relations with the Soviet Union.

On Wednesday, July 10, the House of Representatives, in an amendment to the foreign aid bill, launched a humiliating attack on China's population-control policies, accusing the PRC of forced abortions and sterilization, which it described as "crimes against humanity." The Democratic-controlled House, always eager to prove their anti-communist credentials to the right-wing, anti-abortion crowd, voted to bar U.S. foreign aid for population planning programs in China. They also authorized President Reagan to determine annually if there are "coercive population-control practices" there.

If anybody needs to know why the U.S. government is despised by workers and oppressed people abroad they don't have to go much further than this House vote. Where do these imperialist legislators get off telling a strong and proud socialist nation of over a billion people how to run its birth control policies? It's not only a degrading insult, clear interference in China's internal affairs and a violation of Chinese sovereignty, it's absolutely ludicrous!

The Chinese reaction was swift. At a news conference at the Beijing Airport,

Mr. Li, ready to depart for North America, blasted the vote as "a total fabrication and distortion." He called it "totally unacceptable to us," adding that "The Chinese people are indignant to the utmost degree."

'The biggest obstacle'

The Chinese President also raised the issue of Taiwan, which he described as "the biggest obstacle" in relations with Washington.

Taiwan is and always has been a province of China. After the Chinese Revolution the puppet Chiang Kai-shek clique escaped to Taiwan and with the support of the U.S. turned the island into an armed fortress and counter-revolutionary dagger against the mainland.

For years, the U.S. refused to recognize the People's Republic and would only recognize the quisling Taiwan rulers. When President Nixon visited the People's Republic in 1972 to sign the Shanghai Accords and later when the U.S. finally recognized the PRC and established diplomatic relations, the U.S. agreed to drop its diplomatic support of Taiwan and adhere to the principle of "one China" and the right of Chinese sovereignty over Taiwan.

But neither the Nixon, Ford, Carter nor Reagan administration put this into practice. Reagan continues to arm the Taiwan puppets, pouring millions of dollars into the island and maintaining a large U.S. military force there, thus giving de facto recognition to the counter-revolutionaries.

After the death of Mao Zedong in 1976, the Chinese leaders made a sharp

turn to the right and toward an alliance with U.S. imperialism. This was marked by attacks on the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, and a disastrous invasion of neighboring Viet Nam. The Chinese leaders hoped that by allying themselves with Western imperialism, the U.S. in turn would ease up its hostile attacks and would grant significant concessions, such as giving up Taiwan and providing China access to needed technology. None of this has happened.

China and the U.S., despite any temporary political alliance, have totally opposite and diametrically opposed social systems. And one thing the House vote shows is that deep down, U.S. imperialism is fundamentally hostile to socialist China.

But relations with the Soviet Union are an altogether different matter. Despite political differences both the Soviet Union and China have similar social systems and no material or objective basis for being at odds with each other.

Pact will double Sino-Soviet trade

Almost within a day of Mr. Li's bitter response to the House vote, China's Deputy Premier Yao Yilin was in Moscow to sign a bilateral trade agreement with the Soviet Union which will sharply increase economic exchanges between the two socialist countries. The agreement will be the first long-term trade pact between the two countries since the rupture in relations in the early 1960s. Mr. Yao is also the first member of the Chinese Politburo

to visit Moscow in more than two decades.

Sino-Soviet trade totaled \$300 million in 1982, \$800 million in 1983, \$1.2 billion in 1984 and is expected to exceed \$1.8 billion this year. Under the new agreement, it would almost double to \$3.5 billion in 1990.

The Soviet Union will assist in building seven new plants and in modernizing 17 others in the fields of electric power generation, metals, machinery manufacturing, coal, chemicals and transport. Some of these facilities were built with Soviet aid in the 1950s.

The capitalist media commentators, who keenly watch like hawks every development in Sino-Soviet relations, noted that the signing ceremony was shown on Soviet television and Mr. Yao was shown laying a wreath at the Lenin Mausoleum. The New York Times of July 11 reported that the publicity given the wreath-laying was notable "since Soviet-Chinese relations have been limited largely to the governmental level rather than the party level. . . . The wreath-laying ceremony seemed to signal at least a symbolic nod to the Soviet party."

In diplomatic affairs, sometimes the tone of discussions can be even more significant than the substance of what is being discussed. The U.S. press, for instance, noted with extreme regret that Chinese officials repeatedly referred to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and other Soviet officials as "comrade" and that several times since assuming office Gorbachev has called for a "serious improvement" in relations with China.

Gains in Filipino struggle worry U.S. rulers

By Lydia Bayoneta

JULY 16—Officials of the U.S. government as well as some of the media big business have been publicly worrying about the revolutionary developments in the Philippines. A recent article in the New York Times, for example, noted that "for more than a year, the growth of the Communist insurgency in the Philippines has been a matter of growing concern."

For whom is the struggle of the Filipino people for a better life a matter of "growing concern"? And why?

The New People's Army (NPA) for over a decade has been the leading force in the movement for national liberation in the Philippines. It has won this position of leadership by its willingness to struggle in the face of some of the most repressive conditions imaginable under the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship. The NPA has been able not only to win significant reforms, but to defend them against the violence of the military.

However, the NPA also seeks fundamental changes in the whole of Philippine society. For example, the National Democratic Front, a broad coalition of progressive forces in the Philippines, including both the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), seeks such measures as land redistribution, the creation of a truly democratic government and real sovereignty and independence for the country.

In addition, its recently revised draft program pledges to "terminate all unequal relations with the United States and other foreign entities," cancel the U.S.-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty and make U.S. forces vacate two large military bases.

The program manifesto also says that "direct investments and profit-

making assets of the United States and other big foreign capitalists, especially those in the vital and strategic industries, shall be nationalized."

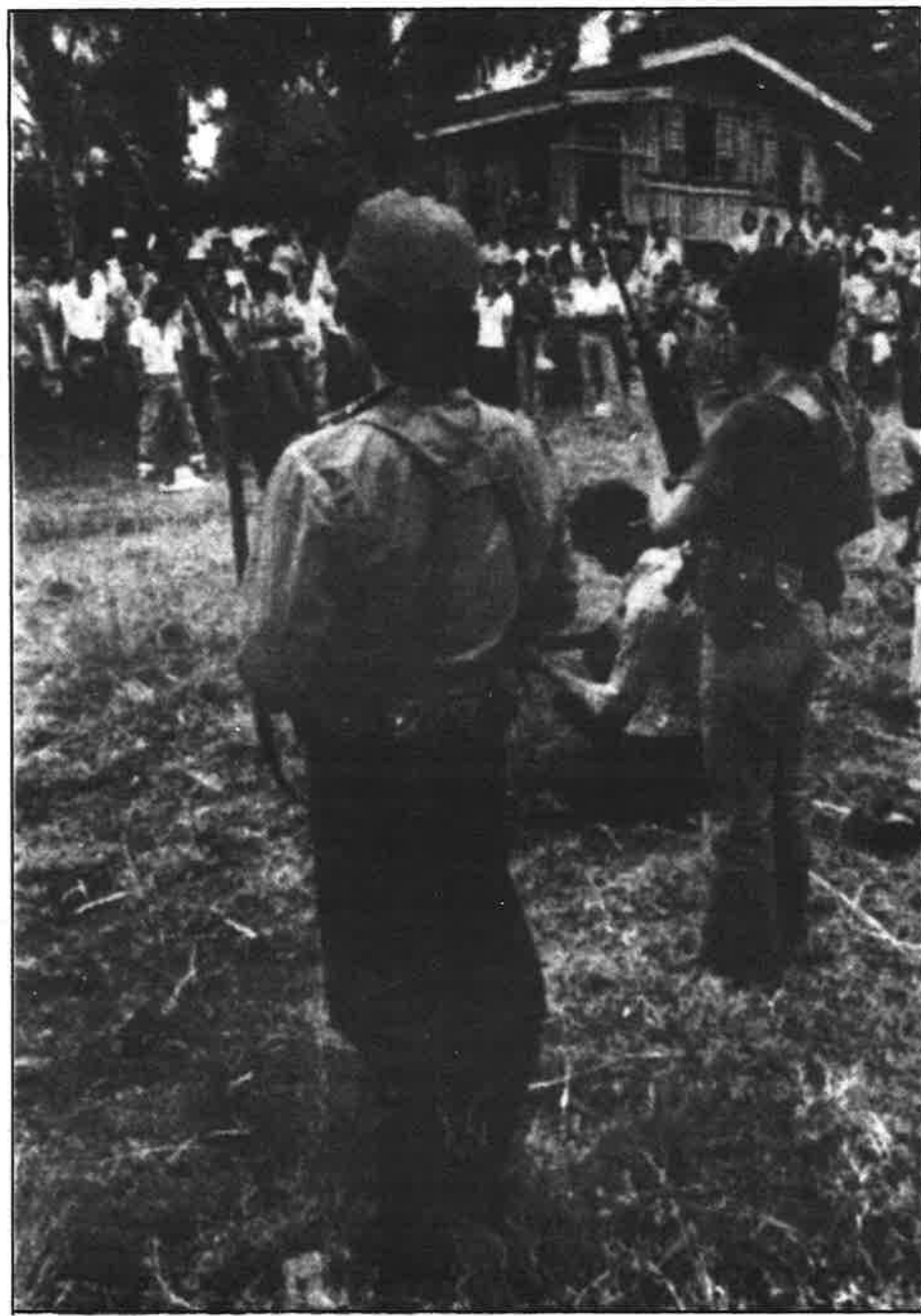
It is the unequal relationship perpetuated by the multinational corporations and U.S. government support for the Marcos regime which are the cause of the widespread poverty and misery in the Philippines today. However, for reasons of profit and strategic considerations, the U.S. wants very much to maintain this unequal relationship. It is the U.S. multinationals and the U.S. military which are "concerned" about the recent advances of the New People's Army.

NPA making gains in cities

The gains of the Filipino people in the countryside have for some time been successfully defended by the NPA. Its influence has spread to most of the 73 provinces of the Philippines, and a recent "white paper" published by the Marcos government admits that the NPA has a "political and military infrastructure" in over 1,700 barrios and villages.

More recently, the NPA has been seeking to extend its armed struggle to the cities and urban areas, where the National Democratic Front has been waging many political and economic struggles. The "armed city partisans" are a logical extension of the current struggle for national liberation which began in 1969.

Contrary to the implications by the big business media and apologists for the Reagan administration that the successes of the NPA are some kind of "threat," precisely the opposite is true. The vast majority of Filipinos support the NPA, whose ranks are filled with



Rally in support of liberation fighters held in Philippine countryside.

Continued on page 11

No working-class merit in merit pay

By Bill Del Vecchio

JULY 15—Bowling to pressure from the Reagan administration, Albert Shanker, leader of the American Federation of Teachers, publicly accepted the idea of merit pay raises for teachers.

After slashing federal aid to education early in his administration, Reagan sought to show how much he cares about education during his re-election campaign by pushing for merit pay raises for teachers and a "return of discipline to the classroom for students."

The aim of the merit pay proposal was to undermine the teachers' unions across the country which are fighting to raise the miserably low pay teachers are expected to survive on.

And after cutting back on programs that would make school a learning experience for youth, all Reagan had to offer students was repression.

All bosses deeply believe in "merit pay raises," as in "you'll get a raise when I think you merit it." Few of us ever seem to merit such raises in our bosses' eyes, and the school of hard knocks has taught working people that bosses never give anything up unless

they have to.

For teachers and other white collar "professional" jobs, management has worked hard to keep workers in these jobs divided by telling them they all must strive to advance themselves individually. But only since they banded together in unions and forced school boards, state and local governments to recognize their collective power have teachers and other government workers improved their pay and working conditions and protected the services they provide the community.

By reversing himself on the merit pay issue, Shanker has let down his union rank-and-file by giving his go-ahead to this White House scheme against teachers and ultimately education as a whole.

The real way to begin improving education is to restore funding so that all teachers can earn enough to live, so that enough teachers can be hired, that teachers aren't overworked and demoralized by oversized classrooms, and so that the schools can be adequately supplied with books, visual aids, computers, gym equipment, science labs, etc.



Reagan's call for "quality teaching" is a smokescreen to hide his deep cuts in education to feed the military machine.

WW PHOTO

Bath shipbuilders up against military-industrial complex

Special to Workers World

BATH, Maine, July 12—The shipbuilders of Bath Iron Works have gone out on strike to fight off a combined assault on their union by the company and the Pentagon.

On June 30, Local 6 of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America rejected the terms of a contract proposal which included a freeze in wages for three years, the creation of a new entry-level pay class of \$3 an hour less than present and a cut in healthcare benefits.

The 4,500-member local at Maine's largest private employer rejected the

contract 3,500 to 24. This overwhelming rejection was swift and followed the workers' discovery that behind their backs the company had bid on and won a contract with the Navy that was based on lower wage and benefit costs than it regularly pays. The Navy contract is worth \$4.5 billion to Bath Iron Works, which is a subsidiary of Congoleum Corporation.

In the face of these billions, the company had the gall to tell the union, "We need to make concessions. We need to make some sacrifices. Otherwise we're going out of business." But the company refuses to open its books

and the workers refuse to accept this excuse.

The Navy rewarded Bath Iron Works for promising to cut workers' wages and benefits and for what in the future could lead to union-busting by giving the company a \$72 million bonus for bidding so low.

This assault is taking place across the country, with two unions in Portland, Ore., being forced to take a \$3 cut in pay. But Local 6 is leading the way (they are also on strike in New Orleans) by refusing to give back what they have won through generations of struggle.

Lynn local says no to GE's anti-union contract

By Chris Snow
IUE Local 201

LYNN, Mass., July 12—General Electric Company (GE), the fourth largest Pentagon contractor, has never been in better financial shape. In 1984 alone GE made record profits of \$2.28 billion.

But this past week GE was able to get the workers at its plants across the country to vote 2-to-1 to accept a contract that is packed full of givebacks, takeaways and concessions.

GE had put the workers on the defensive. Many plants and product lines have been closed down or sold. Within the last three years (the life of the last IUE contract with GE), 22 union locals were wiped out, eliminating 13,000 members.

In Lynn, Mass., IUE Local 201, the

second largest IUE local with 8,000 members, withstood the intense pressure from GE and the international union leadership to accept the contract. Local 201 voted better than 2-to-1 not to accept the contract.

One reason the vote in Lynn was so strong against the contract is that the rank and file is very active in the union local. Meetings were held and the full terms of the contract were explained and understood by everyone.

Here is what the membership of Local 201 was able to learn about the new contract: The first year's wage increase comes in the form of a 3% lump sum, meaning that future raises won't include this money, resulting in a loss of pay; cost-of-living increases will remain at 1982 levels until 1987; a two-

tier wage system will be introduced for new workers which will keep workers in lower-rated jobs for longer periods of time; the cost of the medical insurance will double while workers will now have to pay the first \$250 in medical expenses from their own pockets; the much-publicized job protection provision really means that when a shop closes it will be left up to the company to decide whether or not a laid off worker will be hired at another plant. The list of concessions goes on.

While the workers at the other GE plants must surely have believed that they were voting to protect their jobs and their union, as many of the top union officials were telling them, the workers at the Lynn plant clearly felt differently.

the Japanese the companies must cut U.S. labor costs \$2,000 per worker. The UAW leadership has cooperated with the Big Three in selling concession contract after concession contract. Now taking this argument of "saving American companies from unfair competition" to its logical end, they are literally collaborating with management in destroying the union as a viable force.

In the meantime the Big Three auto companies are taking the record profits made from these concessions and through monopoly price fixing and are shifting their capital to greener pastures. GM bought Hughes Aircraft.

Ford is bidding on defense companies. Chrysler bought an airplane manufacturer. And all the Big Three are increasingly shifting small car production overseas where they can take advantage of slave labor conditions in U.S.-installed military dictatorships.

The class collaboration and national chauvinism of the union leadership may achieve its ultimate end with the reduction of the great UAW to a company union if the Saturn project is to be the model. The rank and file must take up the banner of struggle against the corporation and of international solidarity to turn around this disastrous course.

Join us in the struggle

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization—Black and white, Latin, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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—Saturn contract

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union busting contract, especially at a time when GM is making record profits?

For the past five years the union leadership has swallowed the company line that foreign imports represent the greatest problem facing the autoworkers. "Buy American" is the UAW's main slogan.

In taking this line the union leadership has accepted the company argument that to become competitive with

Cops use apartheid tactics in raid on Brooklyn community

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, July 10—What the New York Times described as a series of predawn raids was actually a vile attack upon a Black community. On June 2 a special force of over 200 police forcefully entered the homes of hundreds of tenants in five city housing projects within the super-oppressed section of Brooklyn called Brownsville. When the assault was over, more than 160 Black youth were taken away by the police.

For several hours the police department, with the full support of the Koch administration, besieged the East New York community, known for the devastating economic conditions it has endured for years. The police broke into homes and dragged Black youths from their beds for "crimes" such as "missing a court appearance in connection with a previous arrest on misdemeanor charges or for lesser violations."

It is important to note that these youths were inhumanely dragged out of their homes in the wee hours of the morning even though they had committed no significant infractions. The most outstanding charges against the youths were fare beating, marijuana smoking and petty larceny.

The police department told the New York Times that the raid was part of an effort by the police to "stem the tide of burglaries in Brownsville." Since when have the cops had any sympathy for the Black community? Clear to everyone is the fact that the people of Brownsville are suffering from years of neglect by the city administration and Wall Street!

Police brutality is on the rise, there are no jobs for the community, and like Harlem and the South Bronx, the city has refused to aid in the building of new houses for the neighborhood. And it's only the courageous effort of the

community that keeps Brownsville from being all rubble today.

Apartheid-style attack

The 20,000 people living in the projects comprised of Tilden House, Howard Houses, Vandyke House, Brownsville Houses and Marcus Garvey Village, were subjected to an attack similar to that of South African Black families who have had police entering their homes and taking the children away.

Many Brownsville residents have expressed outrage over the attack. Caller after caller showed contempt for the unjustified raid on their community on the air at WLIB, a Black New York City radio station.

Just as the attacks by the Philadelphia police department on a Black community and the subsequent murdering of children, women and men was premeditated, so was this attack. "We've been planning this for three weeks," stated Inspector Vincent Piz-

zo, of the housing police detectives division and commander for the operation. Computers were used in the selection of homes that were invaded.

The New York Times stated in part that "all—regardless of the offense—were regarded as fugitives." However, the real fugitives are the police who are still free while Eleanor Bumpurs, Michael Stewart, Edmund Perry and countless other poor and oppressed people lie victims of police murder.

This latest attack on the poor community can be viewed in no other way but as the continuing assault upon the Black community. Unemployment for Black youth is over 60% and on the increase in some cities and the youths are seething with anger. The banks and the city officials are using the police to wage outright war on the oppressed community as a way of pushing back the inevitable rebellions that lie around the corner.

'The Duke' enacts Reaganite budget in California

By Jane Cutter

SAN FRANCISCO, July 13—Gov. George Deukmejian tried to tell the people of California a "big lie." He claimed that the new state budget—with cutbacks of over \$500 million—would bring prosperity, health and better education.

The truth about the budget is just the opposite—and the people are not swallowing "the Duke's" lies. Funding was slashed for such vital programs as: AIDS treatment and research, community colleges, public housing, child-care and the environment.

The new budget will also mean a new round of cuts in government support to non-profit human service agencies designed to help the poorest people. According to the Washington-based Urban Institute, health clinics, family counseling centers, job training and community organizations in the Bay Area alone will lose between 13 to 33% of their government funding, forcing many of these agencies to close altogether or charge fees to those who can least afford to pay.

Showing his racism, the governor vetoed a mild anti-apartheid measure that would have forbidden state pension funds from making future investments in corporations that do business with South Africa.

Deukmejian, a notorious "right-to-life" sexist, once again tried to get rid of state family planning clinics. The state legislature's budget committee has already voted **against** a measure that would cut off funds to clinics that advocate abortion. But the measure was "accidentally" left in the budget that went to the governor to sign. Hundreds of clinics providing a variety of health services to low-income women were placed in jeopardy. Planned Parenthood filed a suit to maintain funding, and yesterday a judge temporarily restored the funding. The state, however, will appeal the ruling.

AIDS funding cut

AIDS research and treatment programs were slashed by \$16 million leaving only \$10 million to cope with a rapidly growing medical crisis. This cut tells people with AIDS that the state doesn't care if they live or die. Shortly after the cut was announced, a rally was called by the Mobilization Against AIDS. Speakers condemned the attack on people fighting for their lives and vowed to continue the struggle. The rally concluded with chants of

"They say cutback, we say fightback!"

Other cuts attack the right of women to childcare, cut by over \$30 million; public housing, cut by \$10 million; and community colleges, cut by \$38 million. These schools provide education to poor and working people. Millions were also taken from environmental and pesticide monitoring programs. The only increase was 29% for more state police to further repress poor and oppressed people.

Both Democrats and Republicans conspired to pass these cuts, which attack the living standards of the people of the state. Poor and working people can't rely on the politicians or courts to overturn the cuts for us. Instead the working class of this most populated, multi-national state needs to get together to fight for our rights, for decent affordable housing and healthcare, for education and child-care and a pollution-free environment.

—Economic briefs

Continued from page 8

part—overproduction—under utilization, if you think about it, is an absurdity and certainly wouldn't exist in any rational, planned economy. But the fact is that there has been a steady decline in industrial plant use over the last year, with utilization now at 80.1% of capacity (New York Times, July 14). This is the lowest level since the end of 1983.

The absurdity, of course, is apparent. The record high unemployment of the last five years could be greatly reduced just by revving up the factories to 100% utilization of capacity. Just ask any laid off steelworker if that wouldn't help. And certainly people continue to need housing, automobiles and all the other goods produced in these factories. But the contradictions of capitalism dictate that production is not determined by what people need but by what makes a profit. So, though the U.S. is an economic giant with a potential to provide jobs and basic necessities for all, its industry remains hobbled.

• • •

Ups and downs. Bourgeois economists are now calling the economy "sluggish." Many are predicting another big recession. Here are some of the



New round of budget cuts will affect programs that were designed to help the poorest people of California.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

figures cited in the business press on just one day (July 13) to indicate the "weakening of the economy" as one Wall Street analyst called it: **Producer prices** were "flat" in the month of June, remaining unchanged since the month before. These are the prices paid by big businesses and are not consumer prices. However, considering the huge levels of military spending by the Reagan administration, the fact that producer prices are flat is another indication that the economy is dead in the water. **Retail sales** fell in June, taking their steepest plunge in 11 months. Retail sales have dropped in three of the last four months. **Production and inventories** are down. The National Association of Purchasing Management says, "The economy is in trouble." Its Composite Index, which is designed to signal a declining economy when it moves below 50%, fell to 46.7%—its lowest level since the end of 1982. This is the fifth month in a row it has been below the 50% mark.

—Gary Wilson

—Philippines

Continued from page 9

the most oppressed workers and peasants.

According to a Western missionary who spent a decade in the Philippines, the people "are more willing to cooperate and participate in activities that the underground (NPA) helps organize. There's more and more willingness to work together. A radicalization is taking place." The Washington Post has noted "signs of growing public acceptance of the Communist Party (CPP) as a political force."

People in the U.S. should not allow themselves to be hoodwinked into believing that their interests are the same as those of the multinational corporations, the U.S. Pentagon and others who are dismayed at the prospects of victory by the people's movement in the Philippines. These are the same corporations and banks, along with the Pentagon, who are responsible for hunger, unemployment, homelessness and racism here in the U.S.

Saturn contract—astronomical attack on autoworkers

By Jerry Goldberg

DETROIT, July 9—At a press conference today, Pete Kelly, President of UAW Local 160, exposed details of the new UAW-GM contract to cover the new Saturn project. The new agreement was anonymously leaked by a UAW International Executive Board member because he was so concerned about its implications for the future of the union.

The Saturn project is a \$5 billion plan for a highly automated GM plant which will build small cars in the U.S. It is to serve as the model for low-cost automobile production through which GM plans on eliminating half of its U.S. workforce in the next 10 to 15 years.

The proposed Saturn contract would set base pay for workers at about 80% of what workers at traditional plants will earn later this decade.

The Saturn plan will operate with only one unskilled job classification and three to five skilled classifications. In contrast, traditional auto plants

have as many as 100 classifications. There will be no work rules. The Saturn project lets management transfer workers more easily within the plant. These measures will allow the company to eliminate many jobs.

At his press conference, Kelly stated, "Saturn at its core is a threat to the union." The new agreement eliminates the union shop committee. There will be no union representatives on the shop floor to handle grievances and other worker problems. At Saturn a union-management consensus system will replace the shop committee.

Seniority rights trampled

The proposal eliminates seniority except for unusual circumstances when worker abilities are equal.

Under Saturn, all workers will be salaried. Raises for each individual will be based on meeting productivity, quality, production and attendance goals, as well as profit sharing. As Kelly correctly pointed out in objecting to these provisions, "The union fought for 40

years to get rid of incentive pay."

Supposedly job security is a key element in the deal. Some 80% of the work force will receive "guaranteed employment" unless "severe economic conditions" or "catastrophic events" occur (in other words, a recession). The other 20% of the workers will be "associate members" who will not receive blanket protection from layoffs.

"That creates a second class of citizens in the UAW," Kelly pointed out. It also allows the company the luxury of hiring extra workers to get the model running and then cutting them back through speedup and job intervention. This is typical auto company practice. So much for the new job security.

'Employee involvement' sham

In exchange for cutting wages and reducing the UAW to a company union, here is some of what the workers will receive. The hourly workers get the "privilege" of parking in the same areas and eating in the same cafeteria as management.

Also, Saturn workers will supposedly have more say in how work is organized and scheduled and in job assignments and the quality of the product. At Saturn, teams of 6 to 15 workers will elect a counselor and will be responsible for meeting production schedules and budgets, controlling absenteeism and handling health and safety. The team will also decide who gets what jobs and this will eliminate the standard seniority.

To auto workers this sounds like an expanded "quality-of-work-life" or employee involvement program. These programs, which have been voted out by the more union conscious UAW locals, simply involve the workers in helping the company eliminate jobs and intensify exploitation. They pit worker against worker and destroy solidarity. This seems to be the essence of what the Saturn contract is all about.

How can the UAW International go along with this kind of wage cutting, Continued on page 10

On The Picketline

SF janitors win strike. A tentative agreement was reached July 13 in a citywide janitors' strike that had affected more than 200 buildings, mostly in San Francisco's financial district. Over 2,700 janitors had walked off their jobs four days before, after the contractors' association refused to renew a previous contract that protected the janitors' seniority rights. The urgency with which the contractors and city officials quickly gave in to the strike before it got "out of hand" was motivated by the deep display of union solidarity the strikers had already garnered. This included Teamsters who refused to make garbage pick-ups at struck buildings, and window washers and building engineers who also honored the janitors' picket lines. Local 87, which represents the janitors, is made up primarily of women and men from the large Black, Latin and Asian communities of the Bay Area. Wray Jacobs, Local 87 president, summed up the determination of the union when he said, "We won't let the contractors turn working conditions for janitors back 50 years."

...

Wall Street settlement. Wearing roses and buttons that read simply "Dignity," the 1,400 members of OPEIU Local 153 returned to work at the Depository Trust Company (DTC)

on July 15, united, as they had walked out three weeks before. The DTC workers had voted on July 12 to approve a contract settlement, after a militant, spirited strike that shook the glass houses of Wall Street. The new agreement will run for three years, not the four the company wanted, and it includes improvements in tuition benefits, a paid prescription plan, the addition of Martin Luther King Day as a holiday and a 5% wage increase. The union also won a commitment to no reprisals against any of the strikers. OPEIU Local 153 represents clerical and technical workers at the New York Stock Exchange, Cotton Exchange and two Wall Street Banks as well as at DTC, and actively organizes in the financial district from where the capitalist world economy is run. At DTC, Local 153 was up against the mighty House of Morgan, which owns the controlling interest in the company; the company's Director of Operations, despised by the workers as their chief front-line adversary, is a former official in Latin American operations of the CIA-controlled Agency for International Development.

...

Strike four? The Major League Players Association announced July 15 that baseball will be hit with a strike if a contract settlement is not reached



Striking San Francisco janitors.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

by Aug. 6. The union's executive board, comprised of player representatives from each team, took the strike vote and, according to the Philadelphia Phillies' Shane Rawley, "We mean business." The players are fighting for better wages and improved pension benefits, but the owners are pleading poverty despite having pulled in mil-

lions in profits in the 1984 baseball season. If the players walk in August, it will be the fourth time and will highlight the predicament of professional athletes in this country. Most of them have short careers, never achieve star status or star pay, and end up out of work, often with long-term physical damage.

—Shelley Ettinger

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