



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!

X-523

Huge march shows women set to fight Reagan policies

125,000 demonstrate for abortion rights



Women from all over the country converge on Washington for the March for Women's Lives.

WW photo: Sue Davis

By Sue Davis

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 9—In a major response to the Reagan administration's attacks on women, today's March for Women's Lives here drew 125,000 women and men in defense of legal abortion and birth control. According to march organizers in the National Organization for Women (NOW), this was the largest demonstration for women's rights in U.S. history.

Called to counter the national wave of terrorism against women's health centers, legislative attacks on abortion rights and birth control, cases seeking to overturn legal abortion now pending decision in the Supreme Court, and a general climate against women's rights spearheaded by the Reagan administration, the march was four times larger than that staged by anti-abortion forces earlier this year.

In fact, the crowd was so large that the last marchers had not left the assembly point on the Mall when the head of the march reached the Capitol, three miles away!

In a resurgence of the women's movement, marchers came from all over the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. In addition to sizable contingents from all the Northeastern states, there were delegations from as far away as Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, South Carolina and Texas. Although a similar march is scheduled in Los Angeles next Sunday, March 16, there were also repre-

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South African regime lifts emergency decrees (on paper)

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March 8 celebrated from Manila to Watsonville

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300 striking Latina cannery workers in Watsonville, Calif., commemorate International Women's Day.

WW photo: Bill Hackwell

Reagan steps up drive for \$100 million contra aid

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LABOR CENTERFOLD

Flight attendants rebuff TWA's strikebreaking moves

Mass arrests as workers padlock Hormel's gates

Philadelphians urge passage of affirmative action bill

By Betsey Piette
PHILADELPHIA, March 6—Demanding passage of an affirmative action program for city residents in the construction trades, 250 people demonstrated in City Council chambers today to try to force action on Bill 649.

Holding high signs reading "Money for Jobs and Housing!" "Pass the Bill, Not the Buck!" "Jobs, Not Jive!" and "Fight Racism, Pass 649!" members of the Bill 649 Coalition remained standing throughout the council proceedings after representatives for the group were not allowed to speak on the bill.

Bill 649, in council committee since last June, would require 35% of jobs on city-financed construction projects go to Black, Latin, Asian and Native workers and 8% to women. The bill would also require that 50% of the jobs go to Philadelphia residents.

The introduction of a resolution today that would eliminate the residency requirement was loudly booed by demonstrators. In many cases minority and women workers now hired in construction are forced to travel as far away as Atlantic City for work.

With upwards of \$3 billion in construction projects either under way in the city or about to begin, the failure of the city council to pass this measure to remedy long-standing discriminatory hiring in the construction industry can not be tolerated. Bill 649 Coalition members vowed to continue their struggle until their demands are won.



Philadelphia protesters bring their demand for affirmative action right into the City Council chambers. WW PHOTO

On The Picketline

Homework exploitation. The SEIU is calling for a ban on electronic home work. Jackie Ruff, executive director of District 925, SEIU's clerical division which recently signed a contract for clerical workers with Equitable Insurance Co., testified in Congress about the growing abuse of low-paid clerical workers at home. They earn less than workers doing comparable work in offices and usually do not get vacations, sick leave or other be-

nefits. Ruff charged that employers are using home work to "shift as many costs as possible to the employee," from benefits to work space and even equipment purchases. She explained that "homeworkers are typically paid on a piecework basis," creating pressure to work long hours to increase income or meet quotas. Full-time office workers find it difficult to improve their conditions because of the availability of part-time homeworkers, mak-

ing bargaining difficult. Many women feel trapped into work at home because of the increasing difficulty in finding affordable child care with the Reagan cutbacks. A ban on home work already exists in areas of garment and textile work. The union is calling on Congress to extend that ban to clerical home work "until it is possible to protect the rights and working conditions of electronic homeworkers."

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Boycott Hormell!

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UNEMPLOYMENT

A big jump in unemployment in February wiped out the dubious gains of the past year and raised fears of another economic downturn. (Page 3.)

FLOC

"All our lives we've been oppressed, poor, exploited," explains Baldemar Velasquez of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, but now FLOC has won a precedent-setting contract with the growers and Campbell Soup Co. (Page 6.)

TWA

In a courageous stand against a profit-mad company by workers who have had enough, TWA flight attendants have refused to take a 45% cut and walked out. (Page 6.)



Part of the massive 'March for Women's Lives.' (Page 5.) WW PHOTO

CONTRA FUNDING

In its efforts to get political backing for its brazen attacks on Nicaragua, the Reagan administration has launched a campaign in Washington every bit as dirty as its contra war in Central America. (Page 3.)

INT'L WOMEN'S DAY

From the Philippines, where 5,000 women marched on Malacanang Palace, to Washington, D.C., where the largest outpouring of women ever challenged the Reaganites and the abortion clinic bombers, International Women's Day was marked by a militant determination to push the struggle forward. (Pages 4-5.)

LINDSEY SCOTT

Black marine Corporal Lindsey Scott was twenty miles from the scene of the crime, but has spent the last three years in confinement because a racist officer won't permit him a new trial. (Page 11.)

GE STRIKE

The largest industrial union local in New England has taken on both the giant General Electric Corp. and the Pentagon in a major fight-back strike. (Page 12.)



California women defend abortion rights. (Page 5.) WW PHOTO

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Jump in jobless rate debunks 'economic miracle'

February increase largest in 6 years

By John Catalinotto

MARCH 11—A large jump in the official unemployment rate in February signaled a possible new downturn in the U.S. economy.

More evidence of this downturn came today as General Motors announced layoffs of 13,000 workers. GM is the largest auto manufacturer in the U.S. and sets the pace for this industry.

During the past month, the unemployment rate jumped six-tenths of a percentage point to 7.3%. It was the largest monthly rise in almost six years. The last such jump took place in May 1980 in the midst of a severe recession.

The White House tried to minimize the importance of the sharp increase. Chief economic adviser Dr. Beryl Sprinkel called the jump "an aberration." Larry Speakes added, "The unemployment picture is much better than the numbers alone would project." Commissioner of Labor Statistics Dr. Janet Norwood was more candid about the administration's fears. She called the increase "a bit of a shocker."

The overall economic dip has also been acknowledged by those profiting from U.S. capitalism. In yesterday's Wall Street Journal, for example, a number of bankers and economists

were quoted regarding "worries about the economy's health."

Through the first half of 1985 the official unemployment rate stayed at a little over 7%. From there it dropped to 6.7% in January. During those months, the Reaganites gave the small decreases wide publicity and tried to take credit for the economic "upturn." Reagan fairly danced with joy at his State of the Union message.

Singing a different tune

The February figures were produced by the same department in exactly the same way. But now the same administration is calling them "aberrations" and giving special excuses.

Despite these excuses, there was no denying the widespread impact of the loss of jobs. All major groups of workers under study—adult men, adult women, teenagers, whites, Blacks and Latins—showed big increases in joblessness. The rate for Hispanic people went up 2.2 points to 12.3%.

The truth is that throughout 1985 a very minor upturn was being played as an "economic miracle." Few new industrial jobs were created. These few were completely due to the increase in Pentagon orders. These armaments jobs went to mainly highly trained workers.

Of the 11.5 million who lost their better paying industrial jobs in the last ten years, 40% have stayed unemployed and most of the rest have become part of the low-paid, mostly non-union service economy.

Even the 7.3% official figure severely understates real joblessness. Articles in Workers World have explained how a more accurate jobless rate would count the 5-6 million "discouraged" workers. They are omitted since they haven't looked for a job in the past month, knowing there were none to find.

Nor is the official rate adjusted for the over 20 million part-time workers. For most of last year, the real jobless rate was about 14%, instead of the official 7%.

And in specific areas of the country and sectors of the population, the unemployment problem led to utter poverty and despair. Among Black teenagers for example, the real unemployment rate topped 50%.

10,000 in line for 270 jobs

In the city of Buffalo, N.Y., once a major industrial city, some 10,000 people began lining up at 2 am in the cold one day this month to apply for 270 jobs offered by GE. Similar long lines have occurred whenever jobs paying a

salary above the poverty level are offered. These long lines tell the real story of the Reagan "economic miracle."

One of the states hardest hit in February was Illinois. In this industrial state, unemployment jumped from 7.7% to 9.5%. The other hard-hit states were California and Texas, two states from the Sun Belt which just a few years ago were supposed to lead the U.S. There was even talk of bills to "help workers move" from the Northeast and Midwest to these lands of milk and honey.

Yet now the Reaganites have to dig up "special factors" in these very states to explain an overall downturn in the economy.

Other economic reports issued recently have also made the administration's optimistic predictions seem like idle boasting. Retail sales are lower than expected. The government's index of predictive indicators is down.

The drop in interest rates last week was supposed to spur the economy. So far it has only led to refinancing of old loans at the new, lower rates.

On Wall Street they're worried about the economy, but the rich are still making profits. On Main Street there's a line up at the unemployment office. And on the back streets, there's hunger.

Reagan steps up drive for \$100M contra aid

Polls continue to show mass opposition to war

By Deirdre Griswold

MARCH 11—Strong-arm efforts by the Reagan administration to try and get Congress to endorse \$100 million for the proxy war against Nicaragua have just about pushed the war itself out of the headlines. But the political struggle going on in Washington is every bit as dirty as the war in Central America.

It has been shown again and again in the polls that the people in the U.S. don't want a war in Central America and aren't for funding a mercenary army there. If democracy really meant anything, this would immediately stop the U.S. government from funding the brutal contras and would force Reagan to call off his dogs from the National Security Council and the CIA, who have been directing the contra attacks against Nicaragua.

Instead, the White House in the name of democracy has for several weeks mounted a high-pressure campaign to get Congress to okay \$70 million in direct military aid to the contras and \$30 million in "humanitarian" aid. Last year the total aid was \$27 million, none of it openly military.

However, these amounts are only a small fraction of what the administration is spending on the effort to turn back the revolutionary changes made

in Central America. CIA expenses are unaccounted for (they're quietly stolen from other areas of the federal budget), as are millions that come out of special "contingency" funds that never seem available for anything like unemployment and hunger in the U.S. but can be used for sophisticated weapons and dehumanized mercenaries abroad. Taken all together, the secret billions at the disposal of the U.S. President make Ferdinand Marcos' slush funds look like petty cash!

Hundreds of billions have also been spent on vast U.S. military maneuvers in the region, which have involved over 72,000 U.S. troops over the last five years.

Reagan wants to use aid bill as political mandate

What the Reagan administration really wants from Congress, therefore, is not just the money but political backing for its brazenly imperialist attacks on Nicaragua. The vote on the aid bill, scheduled for March 19, could be used by the administration as a phony "mandate" to escalate the war, including sending U.S. troops, in the same way the Johnson administration used the Tonkin Gulf Resolution passed by Congress in 1964 as its thin legal excuse for sending half a million

GIs to Viet Nam.

Congress is balking at Reagan's aid package. Three out of four House committees have so far rejected it, and even in the Republican-controlled Senate the Foreign Relations Committee decided not to risk bringing it to a vote at this time. In the one House body to endorse the measure, the Armed Services Committee, chairman Les Aspin (D-Wis.) called for a voice vote and then "immediately gavelled the session to an end," according to the March 7 New York Times.

Few congresspeople want to go on record endorsing something they know is thoroughly unpopular. However, the administration is now publicly talking about how it is willing to "compromise," that is, let members of Congress save face by voting for a smaller money amount.

No working class opposition in Congress

The problem in all this is that the Democratic "opposition" in Congress has no principled differences with Reagan, just differences of style. A working class opposition would expose U.S. imperialist interests in Cen-

tral America and show how Washington's hostility to Nicaragua is based entirely on the predatory interests of the super-rich here. That is the class Reagan represents, not the ordinary working people who have no stake in another war.

When Reagan says that a Marxist Nicaragua threatens U.S. "national interests," he is lying. (Something he learned how to do with a smile in Hollywood.) He is concerned with the interests of the multinational corporations who get their profits from foreign investment. Nicaragua is a small and very poor country whose wealth was stolen for decades by U.S. business interests. Now it is trying to develop its economy to serve the people.

There is growing sympathy in broad layers of the population here for the Nicaraguan Revolution. Many people have taken to the streets to demonstrate their opposition to Washington's cruel efforts to crush it. While Congress may resist giving Reagan everything he wants, it won't stop the dirty imperialist war going on in Central America. That continues to take the active, militant intervention of the people.

—Halley's comet

Continued from page 8

able industrial and technological growth is the country's social system which allows progress and development whilst the capitalist world is suffering from unemployment and stagnation.

In the socialist countries, the profit motive has been eliminated as the main criterion for what gets produced and what gets cut. Since there are no competing corporations which stubbornly cling to every scientific innovation for fear that a rival company might get their hands on it and gain an edge in the market, in the USSR sci-

entific achievements can be shared. There are no Rockwell Internationals trying to out-sell General Dynamics. There are no Lockheeds jacking up prices to astronomical levels. There are no \$600 toilet seats.

Socialist production means production is planned by the state. Inventions can be shared. Agencies and sub-agencies can cooperate. People's needs are met.

The capitalists and their apologists say this is utopian, that it's human nature to be grubbing after profits. But every leap forward in socialist construction proves them wrong.



Two recent demonstrations in Washington, D.C., called on short notice, drew 600 and 350 people opposed to U.S. aid to the contras and to U.S. imperialist interests in Central America.

Filipina women say: 'Poverty, exploitation must go!'

By Lydia Bayoneta

MARCH 11—As women around the world this week celebrated International Women's Day, thousands of women in the Philippines joined their sisters in commemorating the many historic struggles of working and oppressed women.

Marching to Malacanang Palace on March 8, 5,000 women, from organized feminists to plantation and factory workers and including many recently released political prisoners who had organized and struggled against the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship, presented a list of demands to President Corazon C. Aquino.

One factory worker told reporters of her situation at a small factory owned by a foreign multi-national making snack foods. Most of the workers, said Zemaida Laron, are women who are paid 35 pesos (about \$1.80) for a 12-hour day. When the women recently tried to unionize, company goons began to threaten them. The women have struck and closed the plant down and are walking the picket line. Women at the demonstration were contributing to the workers' strike fund.

In the Philippines, walking on a picketline has literally meant putting your life on the line. The Marcos dictatorship made it easy for companies to hire goons and often used the military

to do the bidding of the bosses. While picketline violence against striking workers became more common under martial law, this practice was not unusual even before martial law was instituted.

The many problems aired by the women on the International Women's Day demonstration were all deeply rooted in the economic and social condition of this impoverished country, where two-thirds of the total population live under the poverty level. This poverty has forced thousands of women into prostitution and bride marketeering. Nelia Sancho, once a beauty queen and now vice chairwoman of a national women's organization called Gabriela, pointed out that 7,000 Filipino women "serve American servicemen as prostitutes at the military bases."

The Reagan administration is putting enormous pressure on the new Aquino government to renew the agreement allowing the U.S. bases to remain. It expires at the end of this decade, and there is strong mass sentiment to get the bases out.

Bride marketeering is another area where Filipino women are forced to sell their freedom to escape poverty. Ms. Sancho estimated that 19,000 women have been bought as brides by men in Australia and West Germany

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March is Women's History Month



Contributions of Filipina women. Filipina women have played important roles in the ongoing struggle to liberate their country. Here, Iluminade Calonge raises her handcuffed arm in a clenched fist salute as she leaves a Manila court in 1951 under sentence of death for aiding the Hukbalahap who, at that time, were conducting the armed struggle against U.S. imperialism and its local puppet rulers. Another Filipina heroine is Lorena Barros, a guerrilla leader of the New People's Army and a former head of their women's organization, who was killed fighting in Quezon Province in 1976.

Filipino activists discuss post-Marcos events

By Andy Stapp

NEW YORK, March 7—One hundred and seventy-five people packed a forum here tonight co-sponsored by the All-Peoples Congress/People's Anti-War Mobilization and the Philippine Support Committee to hear an assessment of developments in that country since the overthrow of the Marcos regime.

The featured speakers were Dr. Dante Simbulan, a leader of the Church Coalition for Human Rights for the Philippines, and Lydia Bayoneta, a national organizer for APC/PAM, who has written and spoken extensively on the Philippines.

These "momentous events, the downfall of the repressive dictatorship supported for the last 20 years by guns and other forms of foreign aid from the U.S.," said Dr. Simbulan, "are a first step, a step forward toward liberation. Contrary to the media image," he said, "this is just the begin-

ning of what the masses can do."

Dr. Simbulan was a professor at the University of the Philippines and is also a former political prisoner.

The United States, asserted Dr. Simbulan, has treated his country "like a colony." He reminded the audience that in 1982 Reagan hailed Marcos as "the voice of moderation and democracy in Asia." The winner of the recent election was not decided "until Mr. Reagan voted," Simbulan said to the laughter of the crowd. "And Reagan changed his vote!"

Military's connections to U.S.

While he noted that "four or five" of the members of the new cabinet "are in sympathy with the people's movement," Simbulan predicted that the Aquino regime "will not go beyond a certain point with the military and the U.S." He pointed to General Ramos, Aquino's military chief of staff, "a graduate of West Point who has a lot

of classmates in the Pentagon."

Dante Simbulan stated that President Aquino's release of political prisoners is "very good," from the point of view of the people, but that "in the ledger of the U.S. and the military this is one sin Mrs. Aquino has committed."

He said the left could not urge people to vote for Aquino in the elections because she had taken no clear position on removing the U.S. bases and on granting land reform, but that now the mass movement would push these issues "to the limit" and could be supportive of Aquino if she "opens up" her government to mass organizations.

Currently the regime is mostly made up of "the elite opposition," Simbulan said, describing them as members of the oligarchy who had been excluded by Marcos. The other wing of the anti-Marcos opposition, "the poor, who make \$1.50 a day and have basic economic demands," are another matter.

"The repressive military is armed," said Simbulan, adding that to defend themselves from this force, "the peasants must also have their arms."

Struggle for land

Lydia Bayoneta also talked about "the struggle for land," which is the greatest concern for the majority of the people. She told the crowd about how the New People's Army, which had fought against Marcos for a decade before the elite opposition became active, is stopping rich landlords from collecting rent from thousands of farmers and halting many evictions of debt-ridden families from the land.

Bayoneta spoke about how the U.S. government's retreat from supporting Marcos was similar to its retreat from Duvalier in Haiti. "The struggle of the Filipino people for freedom and self-determination cannot be separated from this worldwide struggle of oppressed people everywhere," she said.

"Only a program of fundamental change," Bayoneta stressed, "can bring real freedom, independence and prosperity to the Filipino people, changes which the U.S. for the most part vehemently opposes."

"This will," she said, "be a crucial period for the struggle in the Philippines. It is very important," she concluded, "that workers and progressive people here in the U.S. lend their solidarity to this struggle and oppose the imperialism of the U.S. military and multinationals who also oppress people here in the U.S."

Dante Simbulan urged everyone "to fight for nonintervention," and to get the U.S. government off the backs of the Filipino people. From the enthusiastic reception these remarks received, it was clear that this was also the overwhelming sentiment of the audience as well.

In addition to the two featured speakers, there were poetry and musical presentations by Filipino activists Ramon and Millie, and by Margii Crackel of the All-Peoples Congress. Bill Doares of the APC chaired the event. The film "Breaking Ground for Freedom," a documentary about the New People's Army, was also shown.

5,000 in Golan Heights besiege Israel's Peres

By Michael Bar-Am

MARCH 10—In open defiance, the Arab population of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights region of Syria staged a massive and militant demonstration on Feb. 25 against an unpublicized and surprise visit by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Despite hundreds of police, border guards and soldiers, over 5,000 demonstrators converged on short notice at the town square of Majdal Shams and pelted Peres' motorcade with rocks. The crowd chanted, "The Golan belongs to Syria!" "With our blood and souls we shall liberate the Golan!" and "Israel is Palestine!" (Jerusalem Post Int'l Edition, March 8). An Israeli flag was burned and the commanding police officer of the region was wounded.

Peres met with a number of local residents and told them that, "The Golan is part of the State of Israel, and Israel's laws must be enforced here." Ten minutes after Peres left, however, the crowd attacked those collaborators who met with the Israeli leader.

Some were beaten up and others had their cars demolished.

Villages obliterated

The Golan Heights, which are located in the Kuneitra Province of Syria, have been occupied by Israel since the June 1967 Arab-Israeli War. Where once there were 104 villages, there are now only 6 villages left. Tens of thousands of Syrians fled for their lives during the war and, as in Palestine, they were not allowed to return and their villages were obliterated. Since 1967 the Israelis have confiscated most of the land, brought in thousands of settlers and diverted scarce water resources for the exclusive use of those settlers. This could not have been done without massive U.S. financial and military aid.

Most of the Syrian residents of the Golan Heights are of the Druze religion which is an offshoot of Islam. The Israelis have tried to use this to divide them from the rest of their mostly-

Moslem Arab brothers and sisters. The policy has failed.

In 1982 the Arab community in the Golan Heights conducted an historic five-month-and-six-day strike against Israeli annexation. According to one resident, "After the strike, there was a radical change in our social life. We became strongly united. We developed a cooperative and voluntary spirit." (Al Fajr, Aug. 23, 1985)

As Salman Fakhred-Din, a resident of Majdal Shams explained, "The Israelis can confiscate our lands and deprive us of our civil rights, but they can never tell us who we are. We are Arab Syrians who took an active role against French occupation. Like all truly committed Arabs, we advocate Arab unity and we have developed an abhorrence to occupation and imperialism."

The writer is a former Israeli soldier who, while in the Israeli military, was stationed in Majdal Shams, in the Golan Heights.



New York City

WW PHOTO: MARY OWENS



New York City

WW PHOTO: MARY OWENS



San Francisco

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

—Huge women's protest answers anti-abortion bigots

Continued from page 1
sentatives from California.

370 schools marched

While the core of the demonstrators came from NOW's local chapters across the country, and the overwhelming majority were white, over 400 other organizations endorsed the march and 370 colleges and universities participated.

Groups such as the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) and the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights (RCAR) turned out in large numbers. The Gray Panthers, YWCA, National Black Independent Political Party, Coalition of Labor Union Women, AFSCME, and the Communications Workers of America marched alongside nurses, social workers, clericals and women's health clinic workers. Lesbian groups were also well represented.

By far the most spirited contingents, which were also the largest, were from the campuses. Their energetic chants for choice gave the march a particular air of urgency. As one participant observed, "I felt each woman was there because of a deep, personal identification with the issues."

For many, today's demonstration was also a first. Georgiann Baron, who does AIDS research in immunology in Dade County, Florida, described herself as nonpolitical, "but I believe in this issue strongly enough to come." Andrea Bell, a Black clerical worker in New Jersey, said she was there because, "I think it's wrong to pass a law to stop women's choice."

Sondra Rodriguez flew from Houston to march in the Texas delegation, which she said had representatives from over 40 cities. Helping to carry the Georgia banner was high school student Rebecca Albury who spoke for young women when she said, "People shouldn't make choices that could ruin our future."

There were banners from all over the country. One frequent theme was "Motherhood by choice, not chance." Some creatively linked the march demands with other political issues, such as "Fund contraception, not contras."

A serious side of the issue was raised on a large black banner: "In memory of all women who have died from illegal abortion." That theme was also

poignantly conveyed on a hand-printed sign carried by a middle-aged woman: "My mother had an illegal abortion. I don't miss the unborn baby. I miss my mother."

While most groups focused on abortion rights, Pittsburgh NOW had signs which read, "Fight racism and sexism."

Among other contingents which stood out was a strong grouping of Third World women from New York City who chanted, "Back alleys, no more, abortions for rich and for poor."

Marchers bought buttons and signed petitions in support of the Local P-9 strikers against Hormel in Austin, Minn., and the union was cheered as it joined the march with a union banner. The All-Peoples Congress provided a very strong, multinational presence. Its militant chants could be heard for several blocks, and its colorful banners addressed many of the issues, including demands for affirmative action, for pay equity and restoration of social services. The APC also demanded money to fight AIDS and an end to racism, sexism and the oppression of lesbians and gay men.

Speakers vowed to continue the

struggle until reproductive rights were guaranteed for all women. Calling for an end to racism as well as sexism, Eleanor Smeal, president of NOW, cited the recent overthrow of Marcos in the Philippines and the inevitable victory of the South African people over apartheid to show that it was possible to overturn the Reaganite reaction through united struggle.

Kate Michelman of NARAL pledged to fight for the restoration of Medicaid funding for abortion. Gaye Williams of the National Political Congress of Black Women exposed the hypocrisy of Reagan's "right-to-life" rhetoric when she compared soaring infant mortality in Black communities with his call for \$100 million for the contras in Nicaragua. "What's needed," Williams demanded, "is \$100 million to aid poor Black children right here!"

It is clear that while today's march was a first, it will not be the last. The many thousands of young women who came out today are an overwhelmingly positive force for change. The banner of reproductive freedom has been picked up and will surely be carried until women's rights become a living reality for all women.

Cannery strikers in West, Winnie Mandela supporters in East mark Int'l Women's Day

WATSONVILLE, Calif., March 9—In a fighting tribute to the over 800 Mexicana and Chicana women cannery workers on strike here, an International Women's Day program of solidarity and culture was presented today. The strike by Local 912 of the Teamsters at Watsonville Cannery remains strong after six months of struggle for a decent contract. A solidarity statement from Hormel striker Bud Miller told the crowd of over 300 that wherever they go they are spreading the information not just of the P-9 strike but also of Watsonville.

San Francisco

By Joan Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, March 8—Women and men demonstrated for a woman's right to choose by confronting a dozen anti-abortion rightwingers who were picketing the entrance of an abortion clinic here today. After picketing a fake clinic, "Crisis Pregnancy Center," run by the rightwing to try to intimidate women from having an

abortion if they choose, the pro-choice forces marched to the abortion clinic half a block away to ensure safe passage into the building for women with appointments. The anti-abortionists were overwhelmed by the strength and solidarity among the pro-choice activists who kept up a lively picketline despite police harassment and a drenching downpour.

Roving squads of militant women ignored police attempts to clear the sidewalk. Instead, they regrouped, surrounded the rightwingers, shouted them down and pushed them and their vicious anti-abortion signs aside. One of the other demonstrators, Gloria La Riva of the All-Peoples Congress, was arrested, but no charges were filed. She later re-joined the picketline to the cheers of demonstrators.

New York City

By Kathy Durkin

NEW YORK, March 8—"Women unite: Stand up for our rights," was the theme of an International Women's Day activity here today.

Over 600 women representing many union locals and women's committees, marched from Union Square to the site of the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire with signs demanding affirmative action, pay equity, and childcare. A United Labor Action banner which read, "Stop Hormel's Exploitation of Women from South Africa to Minnesota," was very well received by the crowd. The multinational grouping concluded the day's events by a rally at District 65-UAW's headquarters where they heard cultural performances and speakers from several unions and from the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), a major organizer of the event. Participating unionists were from the Hispanic, Chinese, and South Africa Support Committees of CLUW; the Women's Committee of DC 37, AFSCME; Region 9A, UAW; ILGWU; Local 802 of the Musicians' Union; District 65-UAW; CWA Locals 1150 and 1180; District 2, AFGE; and the Metro Area Postal Workers Union. The day's activities celebrated past, present and future victories of working women.

Boston

By Susan Franzblau

BOSTON, March 8—International Working Women's Day was celebrated here today by hundreds of women and men with a march and rally dedicated to Winnie Mandela and to women in struggle in South Africa and around the world.

At the rally, which was held at the Massachusetts College of Art, speakers included a Native woman, women from South Africa, Lebanon, Haiti, South Korea and the German Democratic Republic—as well as a representative from BANCA (Boston Area Network on Central America) and the All Peoples Congress. A representative from Women for Women in Lebanon chaired the rally and the program opened with revolutionary songs from Chile, Puerto Rico and Cuba, sung by Diana Saez, a Puerto Rican singer.

Noel, representing Women for Women in Lebanon, spoke stirringly of the devastation of the lives of the people of the Middle East as a result of

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Boston

WW PHOTO: SUSAN FRANZBLAU



Washington, D.C.

WW PHOTO: SUE DAVIS



Washington, D.C.

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Striking TWA flight attendants picketing in San Francisco.

Flight attendants rebuff TWA strikebreaking moves

By Shelley Ettinger

MARCH 12—As we go to press, a federal district court granted TWA a preliminary injunction on March 11 forcing members of the IAM, who were honoring the flight attendants' picket lines, back to work.

MARCH 10—The strike by some 6,000 flight attendants against Trans World Airlines (TWA) is in its fourth day, and the company has been hit hard by the walkout.

All the months of planning by TWA to bust the strike—including hiring and training 1,500 new workers—didn't take into account the reserves of solidarity this walkout would tap. Nearly every one of those new workers, hired expressly to scab in the event of a strike, has refused to cross the picket lines.

And the vast majority of TWA workers represented by the International Association of Machinists (IAM) are also honoring the lines. About 98% of the machinists in TWA's prime hubs, St. Louis and New York, have refused to work during the strike.

As a result, more than half of TWA's flights are grounded. Every single flight at Newark Airport is cancelled.

At the very same time that it is claiming bankruptcy, the company began a campaign to advertise 30% fare reductions today in an attempt to counter the effects of the walkout. TWA also announced it would go to court to try to win an injunction forcing IAM members to cross the picket lines and go to work.

TWA wants 45% cut!

The Independent Federation of Flight Attendants called the strike in response to TWA's demands for astronomical givebacks. While the company claims it wants a 22% wage cut, union spokespeople point out that the company demand really amounts to a 45% slash in wages, benefits, and work rule changes, including an addition of 80 layover hours per month without compensation.

The union has already agreed to a 15% wage cut, but the strikers say that is where they draw the line.

Union president Vicki L. Frankovich accused TWA of sexism in demanding even greater givebacks from the flight attendants than what he got from the machinists last summer. She said the demand, which would leave flight attendants with an absolutely unlivable wage, reflected TWA's outdated view of women workers as something other than serious wage-earners. Eighty-five percent of the union's members are women. In angry response to TWA's stance, strikers appeared on the picket lines wearing buttons that read, "I am a breadwinner."

How can TWA seriously demand

such drastic cuts? According to Carl Icahn, TWA chairman, it's up to the workers to make his company profitable. He already won \$250 million in concessions from the pilots and machinists last summer, as those unions sought to cooperate with Icahn as a more attractive alternative to notorious Continental Airlines union-buster Frank Lorenzo.

Now, says Icahn, he'll be able to turn TWA around if he can save an additional \$88 million on the backs of the flight attendants.

Of course, despite the paper losses TWA has recorded, nobody but the workers there is hurting. Not Icahn, and certainly not his board of directors which links TWA to BankAmerica, Chase Manhattan, Citicorp, and dozens of big corporations.

The pilots' strategy of allying with Carl Icahn against Frank Lorenzo—and of now crossing the flight attendants' picket lines on the basis of that alliance—wins nothing for their own or the other unions at TWA. The task at TWA, as throughout the airline industry, is not to accommodate the greedy bosses. It's to fight as the flight attendants are, to minimize concessions and hold their own up against an industry giddy with union-busting under cover of "deregulation."

The TWA strike, like that at Hormel, is a courageous stand against a profit-mad company by workers who have had enough. The solidarity of the machinists, who are already living with their own givebacks at TWA, shows that the fightback sentiment is alive. And the militance of the flight attendants, primarily women who toil under extremely stressful and demanding conditions on the job, is one more example of the leading role increasingly being played by women in the trade union movement.

On The Picketline

Continued from page 2

Union fights racist fares. TWU Local 234 filed suit in early March in Federal District Court charging the SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) with adopting racist policies that force poor inner-city passengers from the Black and Latin communities to subsidize fares of well-to-do suburban commuters. The union is in difficult negotiations with the authority's "city division" which showed a \$38 million surplus which the union charges is used to subsidize the suburban lines at the expense of services and working conditions in the city. Roger Tauss, a spokesman for the union, called the fare structure "clearly racist."



Hormel strikers John "Skinny" Weiss (left) and Bud Miller, address a solidarity rally in San Jose, Calif.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Hormel workers tour northern California

By S. Hedgecote
member ITU Local 21

SAN JOSE, Calif., March 7—"We have stood up, and anytime you stand up and fight you're a winner!"

These words of Hormel striker Bud Miller last night explain something of the tremendous inspiration that workers nationwide have received from the struggle being waged by UFCW Local P-9 against employer cutbacks.

Miller and Johnny "Skinny" Weiss spoke here last night to a strike support meeting sponsored by the Santa Clara County Central Labor Council. Miller and Weiss both remarked on the great solidarity they have received on their tour of northern California.

Watsonville was their first stop. There, they joined a rally of 600 supporters from the mostly Latina striking cannery workers on Feb. 22. Since then, Miller and Weiss attended some 40 meetings and have received over \$10,000 in donations.

Weiss explained that "the only way to win is to all come together." He said

that P-9 has received support from all the 50 states, and currently has delegations visiting Portland, Ore., Los Angeles, Alabama, Cincinnati and St. Louis in their ongoing strike support work.

The current employer attacks are not only on wages but also on benefits and conditions. Hormel workers have especially suffered from lack of safety on the job, Miller said, with 202 injuries per 100 workers a year compared to an industry average of 33 injuries per 100 workers. He added that when Hormel began to deduct money from workers' checks in a five-month retroactive cutback on health benefits, "that's what really tee'd people off." The company's contract proposal, termed "a nightmare" by the UFCW, represents a total dismantling of even the most basic union rights.

Striker "Skinny" Weiss said that the question he'd been asked most often by supporters is what makes P-9 so strong. "We're old fashioned," he replied. "We still believe the membership runs the union."



Boycott Colonial! On March 7, Local 616, United Food and Commercial Workers AFL-CIO in Boston, rallied inside and outside the Colonial Provision Company, slated to be a runaway shop. Joined by UFCW, Local P-9, Hormel; IUE 201 GE workers; Local 26 Hotel Workers; USWA 8751, Boston school bus drivers and others, Local 616 vowed to build a successful boycott of Colonial products in Boston. Billboards calling for the boycott were put up today to kick it off. Curtiss-Burns, the owner, is taking Colonial's profits and diversifying with their other products Perrier and Canada Dry. Thorn Apple bought the Colonial name but will have the meat processed with non-union labor at one-third the wages of Local 616 members.

—By Ed Childs
Chief Shop Steward Local 26, Hotel and Restaurant Employees

For Kennecott workers.

Angel Rodriguez, President of Local 616 of the United Steel Workers in Morenci, Ariz., which has been on strike against Phelps Dodge union-busting for almost three years now, has made a stirring appeal for support for sister locals at Kennecott's copper mines. Rodriguez cited Kennecott's demands for a \$4 an hour reduction in wages, a gutting of retirement and health and disability benefits, and elimination of premium pay and portal-to-portal pay. He called it "economic blackmail" and called for the highest levels to the rank-and-file to make a stand in solidarity against working conditions the equivalent of slave labor at slave wages.

Michigan Coors boycott.

Coors entered the Michigan market last January and already the Detroit area labor leaders, City Council and gay rights activists announced the official launching of a boycott. Coors sales have declined dramatically since the nation-wide boycott began several years ago despite the fact it has expanded distribution from 11 states to 40. Metro Detroit AFL-CIO Council President Tom Turner cited the notorious anti-union, anti-Black and anti-women practices of the company. He said "the labor movement will do whatever is necessary to make sure that Coors' uncivilized behavior as an employer is not rewarded with sales and profits" in Michigan.

—Louis Napier



Hormel strikers participating in this week's mass rally in Washington, D.C., in support of abortion rights.

WW PHOTO: SUE DAVIS



After locking Hormel's gates 111 workers were arrested.

Strikers lock Hormel's gate, 111 arrested

Special to Workers World

MARCH 11—The Local P-9 union hall in Austin, Minn., is a little quieter than usual today. Almost everybody is over at the courthouse.

They're waiting to hear the charges against 111 strikers and family members who were arrested yesterday after they padlocked the gates in front of the corporate offices of the Geo. A. Hormel Co.

The militant mass action by hundreds of P-9ers and supporters, planned and led by the women, took place early yesterday morning at Hormel's national headquarters, just across the highway from the Hormel plant where Local P-9 has been on strike for nearly seven months now. The strikers locked the corporate

gates, then joined hands, chanted, and sang "We Shall Not Be Moved."

The company called the cops, who ordered the strikers to unlock the gates and leave the street. The P-9ers held their ground and refused to leave, and 111 were arrested. Most refused to cooperate with the police and were carried to police wagons. Whole families were among the arrested.

The Austin jail can't hold 111 people, according to a P-9 spokesperson, and the strikers are currently being held in three different area jails. As of this morning, they have still not been formally charged with any offense.

At the end of the day yesterday, the gates remained locked. The strikers announced that they had mailed the key to the governor, Democrat Rudy

Perpich.

That nicely symbolized the real state of things in Austin, Minn. Perpich, after all, called out the National Guard in January to enforce the unconstitutional court orders limiting the number of pickets and, in effect, barring strikers from public streets. The Guard presence, along with city and county police and Hormel security forces, imposed martial law against the strikers while scabs were escorted into the plant.

Hormel, with the complicity of the courts, cops and governor, has had control of the streets of Austin for months now. Yesterday's act of defiance by Local P-9 challenged all that. They took the streets back in defense of their jobs and their rights, and today it's really the courts that are on trial for restraining them from exercising this right.

Still fighting

Yesterday's strike demonstration at the Hormel headquarters showed once again that this strike is far from over.

The choice of the corporate headquarters—within view of the plant where six picketers still walk 24 hours a day—as the scene of a mass action strengthened the strike and linked all the strikers to the ongoing picketlines at the plant gates, despite the injunctions and the cops and the courts. The scabs on their way into the plant may not be feeling quite so secure today.

It gave another boost to the growing strike support movement around the country, as well as to the Ottumwa, Iowa Hormel workers locked out for honoring P-9's lines.

And it sent another message—to the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and the AFL-CIO. The P-9 strikers are putting their bodies on the line against Hormel. The union leadership can take this opportunity to join them in attacking the company instead of the local.

As one striker said, "The media and the UFCW have declared our strike dead. But we're not dead, and this will prove that. There's still plenty of fight left in us."

Boston unionists 'adopt a family' to aid Local P-9

Special to Workers World

BOSTON, March 9—Over 300 unionists rallied in support of Local P-9 strikers in Boston tonight, all of them pledging their money and their solidarity to aid P-9.

Terry Arens, UFCW Local P-9 rank and file leader and Peter Winkels, P-9 business agent, were in Boston as a stop in their national tour campaign. As Arens put it, "We have the idea that instead of being buried alone in the Midwest, we're going to organize across the country so that we can feed our people, but more importantly so that workers from San Francisco, to Detroit, to the Mon Valley, to Baltimore, to Boston will know that what's going on in Austin, Minn., affects each and every one of us."

Paul Cannon, formerly of PATCO, eloquently reminded everyone that, "On Aug. 3, 1981, the Reagan admin-

istration declared war on all working class people of this country, and ever since then the bosses have been playing hardball with concession contracts, attacks at OSHA, stacking the NLRB with right-wingers. Now we have no choice but to say 'Enough is enough!'"

When Domenic Bozzotto, President of Local 26 Hotel Workers, called on those present to "Adopt a P-9 family," 35 union representatives stood to pledge their unions' support. Among those adopting a family were the striking TWA flight attendants, IUE Local 201 on strike against GE (see article page 12); striking New Bedford fishermen; UFCW Local 616 whose members were viciously shut-out by Colonial Meats last week, the Boston school bus drivers; Bath, Maine, and Quincy, Mass., shipbuilders; Laundry Workers Local 66; Railway Workers and many more local unions.

Farmworkers win 10-year struggle with Campbell

By Joe Jacques Piette

PHILADELPHIA, March 1—"All our lives we've been oppressed, poor, exploited," Baldemar Velasquez, head of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), explained here tonight. "All we want is the right to work and to feed, clothe and educate our families, the same as farmworkers in Mexico, Africa, all over the world."

After a decade-long struggle, 800 predominantly Hispanic migrant workers can now enjoy more of those rights because of the precedent-setting

contract recently signed between FLOC, the Campbell Soup Co., and growers in Ohio and Michigan.

In a hall decked with red, black and white FLOC banners and posters of Campbell's "Cream of Exploitation" soup cans, about 80 union, religious and community activists enthusiastically celebrated the farmworkers' victory.

Velasquez explained during his speech that a three-way labor pact "has never been done before," an excuse which Campbell used for years in



Greyhound workers stop scab bus. Greyhound bus company's plan to run a scab bus from Hartford, Conn., to Springfield, Mass., on March 6 never materialized. Greyhound workers from Local 1202 Amalgamated Transit traveled from New York City to the Hartford terminal to stop Greyhound from running the route to Springfield with a scab driver—a scheme hatched by Greyhound in violation of the collective bargaining agreement. Led by President Harold Mendlowitz (being interviewed above), they surrounded the Greyhound bus and the scab driver and demanded a safety check of the bus, which turned up a number of violations. The bus was taken out of service and no Greyhound bus was driven to Springfield by a Local 1202 union bus driver. Simultaneous with this action Local 1202 called a news conference on the event which was carried on all local TV and radio stations.

WW PHOTO

refusing to recognize the farmworkers' rights. That long struggle involved such wide-ranging tactics as a 1978 farmworkers' strike, a long march from Toledo to Campbell's headquarters in Camden, N.J., local picketing against Philadelphia National Bank's (PNB) interlocking ties with Campbell, and a national boycott

of Campbell soups. FLOC had recently persuaded both the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Protestant National Council of Churches to help promote the boycott if a settlement was not reached soon.

Under the terms of the new agreement, workers on mechanical tomato

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EDITORIAL

Farmworker victory

LABOR VICTORIES have been few in number during the Reagan years, so it was with special joy that we greeted the news that the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) had finally won their strike in the Ohio and Michigan tomato and cucumber fields and forced the agribusiness giant, Campbell Soup Co., to sign a contract.

But there is more to the FLOC victory than the contract they signed. The mostly Latino migrant farm workers and their union, led by Baldemar Velasquez, fought this battle for more than a decade. They faced down one of the biggest corporations in the country and some of Wall Street's largest banks. The FLOC strikers, who had built a wide network of supporters, showed the power of solidarity. It's a lesson that is too often forgotten in the labor movement.

But the FLOC victory is even more than a lesson for labor organizers on tactics for victory. The FLOC victory is a victory against racism, a victory against oppression, and a victory over near-feudal conditions for farm laborers. Migrant farm work continues to this day to be one of the most super-exploited forms of labor in this country.

Future victories for the labor movement will come as the leadership shifts to recognize the changed character of the working class. The leaders of labor's future will be representative of the multinational character of the workforce; they will be Latino, Black, Asian, Native and women. And as FLOC has shown, there can and will be victories even against the biggest corporations backed by the biggest banks and the Reagan administration.

'Drug testing'—new assault on workers

THE PROPOSAL OF THE President's Commission on Organized Crime for a national program to test U.S. workers for drug use hands the government and big business a deadly weapon against every working person in this country.

It makes the workers on the job the criminals who must prove their innocence. It's humiliating. It's undemocratic. It's illegal.

Drug testing, searches of workers' property, investigations and interrogations would be used against "trouble-makers" and union organizers. Racist bosses would seize on the idea to get at their Third World workforce, as well as women, lesbians and gay men and undocumented workers.

The following incidents are a taste of what's coming if the Reaganites have their way: In Laughlin, Nev., the Southern California Edison Co. organized a raid against the workers. Without any search warrant, managers and security officers cut the personal padlocks of 400 employee lockers to rummage through the contents.

At the Unocal oil-pumping station in Piru, Calif., 20 workers found themselves besieged one day by police and drug-sniffing dogs. No drugs were found, but six workers were suspended when urine tests showed traces of marijuana.

Already, 25% of the Fortune 500

companies are checking for drugs. And the biggest drug tester of all is the U.S. military which began widespread random testing in 1982. Since then, hundreds of soldiers have complained that they were falsely accused of being drug users because of inaccurate results.

It's no surprise that the American Federation of Government Employees, representing 700,000 federal workers, said, "We oppose the witchhunt mentality. Wholesale drug testing, we believe, would violate the Fourth Amendment."

Drug use, of course, is a serious concern. Its causes and cures are complex. Problems like unemployment, hunger, exploitation and harassment on the job, racism and sexism, youth dissatisfaction and alienation are important reasons why people escape the harsh realities of life through drugs.

But the President's Commission doesn't address these problems. It has nothing to say about providing jobs, improving working conditions, and so on. Instead, it recommends that states spend more to build jails and beef up police departments.

Which is, of course, typical of a social system in crisis and decay, with nothing to offer the masses of people except oppression and repression.

heid movement was drawing dedicated sympathizers from the white population. The Pretoria racists are growing more isolated.

And no relaxing of the emergency decree could change that, any more than its imposition last July could stop the Black revolution from spreading.



USSR reaches Halley's comet, U.S. races after Star Wars

By Robert Dobrow

MARCH 10—In striking contrast to the U.S. obsession with Star Wars and the militarization of outer space, the Soviet Union impressed the world this week with an example of what's possible when science and technology are applied for peaceful purposes.

The Vega I mission and rendezvous with Halley's comet is being described by the international scientific community as an historic milestone in space exploration.

On Thursday morning, the ground-controlled spacecraft, speeding by at 47 miles a second, came within 5,000 miles of the comet. In three hours, more than 500 television images were transmitted 109 million miles back to earth.

As the computer-enhanced images of the comet's icy core began to appear on television screens at 10:20 a.m., cheers broke out among the scores of scientists from around the world who were invited to watch. Roald Z. Sagdeyev, head of the Institute for Space Research in Moscow who has overseen the project since its inception, also received special applause and congratulations.

"This has been an unqualified success," said Tamas Gombosi, a physicist from Hungary. He was seconded by Thomas Donahue, chairman of the Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, who said, "This is indeed a watershed day for world science."

U.S. Halley mission sacrificed for Star Wars

Scientists in the U.S. have been frustrated by the fact that in 1981, when almost every advanced industrial country announced their intention to send a space probe to meet Halley's comet, the Reagan administration decided to cut space exploratory programs from the budget. The money saved, however, was not to go to improving life here on earth. It was handed over to the Pentagon.

U.S. space projects, like the Challenger and Columbia shuttle missions, have been pushed instead because they are components of Star Wars, the trillion-dollar dream child of the military-industrial complex for gaining a nuclear weapons edge over the Soviet Union.

Scientists participating on the Vega project came from Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, and nine other nations. Many took note of the high level

of international cooperation.

But one astronomer, Dr. John Simpson of the University of Chicago, who was invited by the Soviet Union to participate in the Vega project, had to pretend that his comet dust-detector, which he built in Chicago, came from West Germany in order to evade the restrictions of the U.S. State Department and Defense Department. The Reagan administration has clamped down on scientific research in the U.S. that might in any way contribute to Soviet technological development.

The Vega project, of course, shows that the Soviet Union can get along very well without Western technological aid that the Reaganites claim the USSR so desperately needs. Indeed, the Halley's mission was a showcase of socialist economic and technological progress. The Vega craft was built by Czechoslovakia. The Hungarians played a major role in data collection. The highly sensitive cameras were a blend of Hungarian electronic and Soviet coupling devices. They were mounted on a rotating platform built by Czechoslovakia. Poland participated with an experiment on low-frequency plasma waves.

No, the Soviet Union is not the decrepit technological dinosaur portrayed by the U.S. media. It is alive and well. Such a project would be impossible without the most advanced scientific development in such diverse fields as computerization, astromechanics, astro-physics, optics, automation and communications, to name just a few.

From serfdom to socialism

These achievements are all the more remarkable because just three generations ago, old Russia was mired in tsarist despotism, backwardness and ignorance. The country was ravaged by World War I, then by the attempt of 14 imperialist nations, including the U.S., to destroy the new revolution, and 20 years later, the Nazi invasion that destroyed 30 million lives. Since Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the USSR has been forced to divert precious resources from civilian needs to defend itself against U.S. nuclear threats.

And yet Soviet industrial development surges forward. In 1957, the Soviet Union stunned the capitalist world by launching Sputnik, the first satellite in space, which ushered in the Space Age.

The reason for the USSR's remarkable

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—South Africa

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gress and especially to the armed struggle.

Even the police arrest of a white woman charged in the bombing of the main police headquarters in Johannesburg was further evidence that the system was crumbling. It proved that the strength of the Black anti-apar-

Apartheid regime lifts emergency decree (on paper)

Police kill ten in one day; Black gold miners stop work



The South African regime's continuing repression only adds fuel to the struggle to root out apartheid. Here, a recent demonstration in Alexandra, South Africa.

Anti-apartheid students confront MIT president

By Phebe Eckfeldt

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., March 7—MIT students have joined the growing list of anti-apartheid activists on campuses around New England who have built shantytowns to protest their school's investment in South Africa.

The MIT Coalition Against Apartheid christened their shantytown "Alexandra" after a township in South Africa where a rebellion recently occurred. Today a group of 50 MIT students and their supporters marched from the shantytown, erected March 2, to the home of MIT Pres. Paul Gray.

On his way to a fancy luncheon with the Board of Trustees, Gray was confronted by ANC representative Themba Vilakazi and by angry students who demanded to know why he refused to meet with student representatives and why he refused to consider divesting MIT's \$6.5 million in stock.

After being confronted by the ANC

representative, Gray fled back into his house followed by chants of "Paul Gray, You Can't Hide, We Charge You With Genocide!" While several students blocked trustees' cars from leaving, the demonstrators followed the trustees to the Faculty Club where they forced the officials to close the Club down and thwarted their attempts to leave by blocking stairwells, jamming elevators and chasing them through the parking lot.

Besides divestment, the Coalition is supporting the demand of food service workers at MIT for job security. Food service workers are represented by Local 26, Hotel and Restaurant Employees but MIT is trying to break the union by bringing in a new food management company. A Coalition statement reads, "... Food service workers (should) be guaranteed job security and no pay reductions. In calling for the just treatment of people in South Africa we cannot ignore the injustice that exists in our community."

By John Catalinotto

MARCH 11—Police killed seven Black people yesterday in the Lebowa Bantustan north of Johannesburg. They killed three more in anti-apartheid protests in the eastern Cape province.

Meanwhile, 20,000 Black miners in two major gold mines held shutdowns, sit-ins and other job actions.

Pretoria had planned that the big news out of South Africa this week would be the lifting of the emergency decree. This was supposed to mark a return to normalcy. It was a signal to England, West Germany and the U.S. that exploitation as usual could continue.

Instead, there was a step up in the police murders that have taken over 1,200 Black lives in the past 18 months. And on the other side, the revolution continued.

The apartheid regime announced last Friday that the emergency decree in effect since last July was lifted. Some 327 still detained under the decree were released from prison. A total of 8,000 had been imprisoned at the whim of the fascist police since last July.

At first sight, this appears to be a step toward reducing the repression. But under Pretoria's regular repressive laws, the same arrests, beatings and torture by police, and murder of children in the Black townships can continue.

UDF: 'repression as usual'

The United Democratic Front (UDF), the mass anti-apartheid organization, commented that the lifting of the emergency decree "in no way reduced the severe repression directed against legitimate extraparliamentary opposition."

Not only the opposition admitted this. "There are provisions in our permanent law that would normally be considered emergency measures in other countries," South African legal scholar John Dugard told the Christian Science Monitor last Sunday.

And from the regime itself came the comments of "Law and Order Minister" Lewis Le Grange. He made no secret that new laws would be proposed. These would allow the detention of many Black people, stationing of troops in Black townships and censor-

ship of the foreign media.

The fascist regime openly plans to continue basing its rule on the whip, the gun and the fangs of its dogs. Why then the fanfare over lifting the emergency decree?

The role of the banks

The answer can be found in another event that took place last week. Barclays Bank in London decided not to extend further loans to South Africa. The bankers acted not out of the goodness of their profit-driven hearts, but because they fear that Pretoria is losing control of the country.

The regime would have to take steps to show that business could go on as usual. And also to show the bankers that the racists could be flexible when necessary. After all, they had just learned from the Marcos experience that a puppet dictator was expendable when imperialist profits were threatened.

Unable to provide real stability, Pretoria chose to present the illusion of stability. Hence it lifted the emergency decree with one hand, and began manufacturing helicopter gunships for anti-riot duty with the other.

Despite this two-handed offensive, the revolution continued to develop as it has over the past 18 months.

Strikes hit gold mines

The Black National Union of Mineworkers reported an underground sit-in by 10,000 miners at the Blyvooruitzicht gold mine over bonus payments. Another 10,000 miners stopped work five days at the Vaal Reefs Mine. Located 100 miles west of Johannesburg, this mine is owned by Anglo American Corp.

The NUM has been one of the leading unions in the anti-apartheid movement. Its role has been further evidence of the growing involvement of the Black working class in the struggle to dismantle the apartheid regime. Actions like these strike fear in the pocketbooks of Anglo American and Barclays.

And in the townships, the rebellion continues. A mass funeral march in Soweto for a murdered guerrilla was another testimony to the growing popularity of the African National Congress.

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Soviet party congress concludes in Moscow

By Robert Dobrow

MARCH 11—The 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union ended last week.

In his main report to the party congress, General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev said, "The capitalism of the 1980s, the capitalism of the age of electronics and computer science, computers and robots, is leaving more millions of people, including young and educated people, without jobs."

"Wealth and power are being increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few. Militarism is gorging itself on the arms race. . .

"The military-industrial complex in the U.S. remains the locomotive of militarism, for so far it has no intention of slowing down. This has to be taken into consideration of course. But we are well aware that the interests and aims of the military-industrial complex are not at all the same as the interests and aims of the American people, as the actual national interests of that great country."

Gorbachev reported that during the Congress, the USSR received Reagan's reply to a Soviet proposal for gradually cutting back and eventually

eliminating nuclear weapons. "It is hard to detect in the letter we have just received any serious preparedness of the U.S. administration to get down to solving the cardinal problems involved in eliminating the nuclear threat," he said.

The congress reflected the diverse national composition of the USSR and one U.S. newspaper reported that "a large percentage of women" attended. The 5,000 delegates who attended represented 19 million party members.

Even hostile reports in the capitalist press concede that the gathering saw a frank discussion of economic problems in the country, while at the same time noting the enormous technical and industrial strides that the Soviet Union has achieved in recent years.

Addressing the domestic economy, Soviet Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov called for "radical reforms" to deal with problems of red tape, excessive costs and obsolete plants. At the same time he said that any changes by the leadership would be in accordance with the principles of centralized socialist control of the economy.

"It is apparent that we have not lived up to, and we will never live up to,

the hopes of bourgeois ideologists that we will depart from this fundamental principle," he said.

A reflection of the many Soviet nations

Ryzhkov reported on the new five-year plan for 1986-90 and longer-term projections to the end of the century, which include a drive to double national income over the next 15 years, increase productivity by 130% and end shortages of consumer and agricultural goods. Over the next five years, national income will rise by 23%, production of computers by 130% and the manufacture of consumer goods by 30%.

These bold plans for the future stand in marked contrast to the U.S. where the government is cutting back social programs, the economy is mired in stagnation and 15 million workers suffer the uniquely capitalist curse of not having a job.

No hunger, no ghettos

The USSR has outstripped the capitalist world in its ability to satisfy the basic needs of its population. There is no hunger, no ghettos. Health care and education are free. Article 40 of

the Soviet Constitution explicitly states, "Citizens of the USSR have the right to work (that is, to guaranteed employment and pay . . .)"

These are the basic conditions of life in the USSR which the anti-Soviet press in this country does not mention when it reports on the criticism and self-criticism of mismanagement and bureaucracy that occurred throughout the congress.

In concluding, the delegates approved a resolution—the main policy statement of the congress—stating that "The most crucial task of the whole party and country is to overcome the unfavorable tendencies in economic development in the shortest possible time."

In foreign policy, the resolution denounced "imperialism as a growing threat to the very existence of mankind," while reaffirming Soviet policy with respect to cooperation with the West in trade, arms control and other areas.

The statement also noted that "The congress proceeds from the premise that diversity in the Communist movement is not a synonym of disunity," and called for improved relations with the People's Republic of China.

Big Mountain tour begins March 14

By Otto Dusek

MARCH 11—Wherever Native people get an opportunity to tell the story of Big Mountain they win more support for the struggle to hold on to their sovereign lands.

Stealing Indian land to turn it over to the coal and oil companies is a theme replayed many times throughout U.S. history. And it's happening again in Big Mountain, Arizona. There 16,000 Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi people face forced relocation by the Arizona National Guard next July.

To build support for the thousands of Native people who are fighting this relocation scheme, a group of leading Indian activists are beginning a tour through the East and Midwest this week.

The tour starts Friday, March 14, in Washington, D.C. There the first public meeting will be held at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 1459 Columbia Rd. N.W. at 7:30 p.m. Its second stop will be in Baltimore, Md., on March 15, with a public meeting at the All-Peoples Congress (APC) Hall, at 426 E. 31 St. at 7 p.m.

Featured speakers on the tour include the Dineh Grandmothers of the Big Mountain Tribal Council. These are leading representatives of their people, who themselves have taken

part in the day-to-day battles to hold on to their lands.

Also speaking is Larry Anderson, himself of the Dineh Nation and a member of the Central Council of the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the Big Mountain Defense Committee.

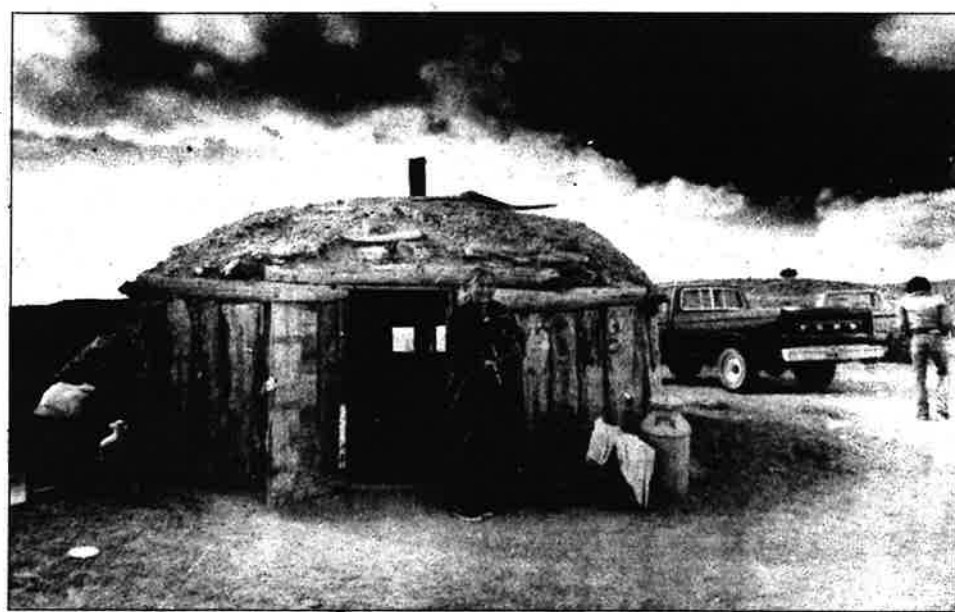
Vernon Bellecourt of the Anishinabe (Chippewa) Nation, a member of the AIM Central Council, will report on his work with Nicaragua's Sandinista government in establishing a framework for autonomy for Native peoples within the Nicaraguan Revolution.

NYC meeting March 22

On March 22, a benefit for Big Mountain will be held at Hunter College, 68 Street and Lexington Ave., West Building, Rm. 615 in New York City. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a reception and international food, and speakers and a slide show at 7 p.m. For information phone (212) 741-0633.

The tour is sponsored by the International Indian Treaty Council, the Big Mountain Support Group and the People's Anti-War Mobilization/All-Peoples Congress (PAM/APC).

Other meetings have been planned in the following cities:



At Big Mountain, a Dineh woman stands outside the hogan where she has lived all her life. Washington plans to force 16,000 Native people off their land to make way for big coal corporations.

- March 18-19, Hartford, Conn., (203) 244-2879.
- March 20-21, Boston, Mass., (617) 424-1176.
- March 23, Philadelphia, Pa., (215) 387-6084.
- March 24-26, Northwestern New York State, Rochester, N.Y., (716) 342-5707; Buffalo, N.Y., (716) 881-1525.
- March 27-28, Detroit, Mich., (313) 965-0074.
- March 29-30, Chicago, Ill. (312) 342-1314.
- March 31, Milwaukee, Wisc., (414) 272-4341.

Chicanos fight to learn their culture

By Carmen Roundtree

MARCH 10—The University of Arizona at Tucson recently refused to reinstate Professor Armondo Miguelez, a Chicano literature scholar in the Spanish and Portuguese Department. This has provoked a community struggle focused upon the right of the Chicano/Mexicano people of Tucson to learn about their own culture.

Miguelez is a very popular community figure. The university's decision not to reinstate him was made in his fourth year, which is unusual. The school even brought in outside reviewers, which usually isn't done until the sixth year, when a professor is approaching tenure.

Armondo Miguelez has explained that the review committee denied him reappointment because he is a staunch advocate of Chicano studies, and is openly critical of the "traditionalist" Iberian scholars who oppose the development of courses in Chicano/Mexicano literature. He and other professors have stated that the former department head, an expert in medieval Spanish literature, was

brought in to assure that Chicano/Mexicano literature did not get its due. After Miguelez was denied reappointment he was allowed to stay at the university for one year, but was relieved of all his teaching responsibilities.

However, last summer, while he was teaching in Spain he was evicted from his University of Arizona office and moved to a small house a few blocks away from the Spanish and Portuguese Department. Miguelez now works out of a makeshift office.

The university sits 60 miles from the Mexican border in a section of Arizona that used to be part of the Mexican state of Sonora before the Southwest was stolen from Mexico by Washington. Chicano/Mexicano people are the indigenous people here, and have lived here for generations.

Community uproar

After Miguelez was denied reappointment there was a great uproar from the community. Tucson is one-fourth Chicano/Mexicano. It is felt that the State University, which is

supported by the community's tax dollars, takes no responsibility towards the community and has an obligation to provide courses so that Chicano/Mexicano people can learn about their own culture and literature. La Nueva Alianza, a group of activists, has protested the school's insensitivity and has strongly urged it to consider Miguelez's reappointment.

While the struggle is far from over, as a result of this community pressure the president of the university, who originally supported Miguelez's dismissal, has ordered the case reopened.

This attack on Miguelez is part and parcel of the ongoing onslaught not only against bilingual education and Latin culture but against the culture of all the oppressed in this country. In this period of reaction many have gotten the go-ahead from the Reagan administration to try to push back all of the gains that oppressed people have won.

The Tucson community, however, is showing that the way to beat back the Reaganite attacks is through struggle.

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.

If you would like to know more about **WWP**, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

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Boston: 295 Huntington Ave., Room 212, Boston, Mass. 02115 (617) 247-1778

Buffalo: 349 Niagara St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14201 (716) 855-3055

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Washington, D.C.: 3221 Mt. Pleasant St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20010 (202) 667-3957

—FLOC

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harvesters will get as much as a 30% pay increase, to a base pay of \$4.50 per hour. In addition to other benefits "there will be no more Tuesday and Thursday evening clinics" because farmworkers and their families will now be covered by major medical and hospitalization insurance. A joint study committee is charged with improving conditions in housing, health care and safety, day care and pesticide use. All subcontracting will also be covered by this agreement. And Campbell will pay up to \$2,000 in compensation to those families who went on strike in 1978.

The agreement includes tomato growers in Ohio and cucumber farms

in Michigan. FLOC plans to organize 55 more tomato farms which sell to Campbell by August, adding 1,200 more workers to its bargaining units.

Velasquez also announced the start of a campaign to organize farmworkers who pick vegetables for the H.J. Heinz Co. FLOC is asking farmworkers and their supporters to write letters to Anthony O'Reilly, C.E.O., H.J. Heinz Co., 600 Grant, 60th floor, U.S. Steel Building, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219, to urge that company to immediately start negotiating with FLOC.

Speaking for solidarity with farmworkers in New Jersey, Texas and the West Coast, Velasquez drew a standing ovation when he called for a national union of farmworkers.

—Boston

Continued from page 5

the U.S.-Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the continuing struggle of Lebanese and Palestinian women against the Zionist state. Chris Snow, representing IUE Local 201, General Electric, and the All-Peoples Congress drew thunderous applause from the audience when she addressed the issues of abortion clinic bombings and lesbian and gay men's right to choose parenting. Sandra Graham, a Black Massachusetts State Representative and Cambridge City Councilwoman strongly expressed the need for all groups to organize and fight against racism in this country as a priority in building a strong coalition to fight Reaganism.

Rally aids framed-up Black Marine

By Suzanne Rouzbeh

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 7—Over 100 people attended a rally in support of Corporal Lindsey Scott here today. Scott is a 27-year-old Black marine at Quantico Marine Base, 90 minutes from Washington, D.C. In September, 1983, he was framed up and sentenced to 30 years in jail for an alleged rape that he did not commit.

Quantico Marine Base has a long history of racist and Klan activity. A cross was burned at the base in August, 1982 and the battalion commander, Lt. Col. P.H. Hemming, dismissed the incident as a joke. The letters "KKK" have been painted on the barracks wall and the Virginia branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) has charged discrimination in hiring on the base and also called for a congressional investigation.

SCLC's figures show 92.8% of 1,142 officers are white and 5% Black. Since October, 1982, 23 Black officers out of a total of 50 were forcefully discharged by the commander in charge. Lori Jackson, who helped Scott's lawyer investigate the case, says about a dozen cases of racist discrimination were brought to her attention. All stem from Scott's unit and each complaint named Lt. Col. Hemming as the discriminating figure.

All forensic tests for medical evidence to link Scott to the rape turned

out negative. In other words, there was no physical evidence against Scott whatsoever. Scott has a positive alibi placing him 20 miles from the scene of the crime. In spite of this, Scott was the only suspect investigated. And the original military magistrate who threw the case out for lack of evidence and released Scott from custody was summarily fired the very next day.

Although ordered by the military review board to either give Scott a new trial or free him, the commanding general at Quantico refuses to reschedule

a new trial for Scott and allow the case to be tried in a civilian court.

The rally in support of Lindsey Scott was initiated by the Antioch Student Coalition Against Apartheid and Racism.

Lolita Scott, the wife of Lindsey Scott, explained the extreme hardship that she and her three-year-old son have gone through these past three years. Lori Jackson eloquently exposed the hypocrisy of the legal system and so-called legal justice.

Speaking from the All-Peoples Congress, Pam Parker talked of the grow-

ing fightback against racism like the Feb. 15 march against racist violence in Philadelphia. She pointed to the built-in racism of the U.S. military manifested in this country against Black and Latin youth and in U.S. invasions of other countries such as Lebanon.

Other speakers included Glenn White from the National Black Independent Political Party (D.C.) and Craig Kirby of the Rainbow Coalition. Jesse Jackson sent a solidarity message which attacked this racist frame-up.

Sanctuary prosecution rests on paid finks

By Kathy Durkin

MARCH 10—"History will tell who has misbehaved in this courtroom," were the words of James Brosnahan, defense attorney in the Tucson sanctuary trials. His remarks came after prosecutor Donald M. Reno rested his case against the sanctuary workers and launched a full-scale attack on the defense team, charging them with misconduct for defying the judge's orders and even "causing the audience to laugh during the proceedings."

In the trial which began last October, 11 sanctuary activists have been charged by the U.S. government with

illegally smuggling refugees from El Salvador and Guatemala across the Mexican border into the U.S. Much of the government's case against the defendants rests on the testimony of paid INS informers who infiltrated the sanctuary movement, including that of an informant who turned his own wife over to the INS on charges that she helped smuggle refugees into the U.S. A key prosecution witness had never even met a number of the defendants he was testifying about. And the government has allegedly "lost" tapes of some witnesses' testimony and has refused to turn over the payment records of others.

From the beginning of the trial, the prosecution and presiding Federal Judge Earl H. Carroll have squelched any testimony or discussion in the courtroom on U.S. policy in Central America or the nature of the repressive regimes there. Such political content would surely explain the flight of the refugees from those regions and the sanctuary workers' assistance. But a few weeks ago, when a government witness was cross-examined by defense attorneys, the real issues did come out as he testified about the war conditions, death squads, and bombings in El Salvador. Defense attorneys were then able to further elaborate on the U.S. role in the region.

The defense team has charged that the government singled out and targeted defendants from the start, rather than observing a crime and later looking for its perpetrators. They also state that government agents themselves transported many refugees in set-ups to trap the sanctuary workers. In one instance, two government agents transported children with no defendants present and yet the incident became part of the prosecution's case.

This week, the defense team will go to court and move to have all charges dismissed against the 11 defendants.

If the motions are turned down, the defense's case will begin March 13.

Sanctuary support grows

But the sanctuary movement has not been thwarted by the government's repression. Since the trial began in October, more congregations have declared themselves sanctuaries for refugees fleeing political repression. Where there were 120 sanctuaries one year ago, today there are 300. And now 14 cities have declared themselves sanctuaries, including San Francisco, Berkeley, Madison, Santa Fe, Seattle, St. Paul, Sacramento, Cambridge, Ithaca and Burlington.

And in early February, five more sanctuary workers were arrested with a family of Salvadoran refugees in their cars near Naco, Ariz.

At the same time, weekly Thursday night vigils have taken place as a show of support for the defendants outside of the federal courthouse in Tucson. To send letters of support or financial donations, write to Suite 050, 120 West Broadway, Tucson, Ariz. 85701.

Protest will demand freedom for Puerto Rican 13

NEW YORK, March 10—An important demonstration will be held here on Saturday, March 22 to protest preventive detention of political prisoners and to link up the struggle for self-determination in Puerto Rico and South Africa.

The protest will focus upon laws utilized by the South African government to jail Black activists without bail and on the 1984 Preventive Detention Law used by the Reagan administration to jail nine Puerto Rican pro-independence activists, part of the Puerto Rican 13, at the Manhattan Correctional Center without the right to bail. The activity will demand freedom for Nelson Mandela and all South African and Puerto Rican political prisoners.

Protesters will gather from 2 to 4 p.m. in front of the Manhattan Correctional Center, 150 Park Row. For more information contact the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression at (212) 286-0924.



WW PHOTO

Uruguay meeting

NEW YORK, March 10—There will be an evening of solidarity in this city on Saturday, March 15. Featured speakers will be Eduardo Galeano and Mauricio Rosencoff. The meeting is being called by the Committee for the Rehabilitation of Ex-Political Prisoners of Uruguay and several Hunter College groups. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Hunter College West, 68 St. and Lexington Ave. Proceeds will be sent to former Uruguayan political prisoners.

—Jefferson Assembly

Continued from page 12

proposals to keep the plant open.

Some months ago, Chrysler announced plans to close the Trenton Engine plant in a predominantly white suburb. There the workers voted to open their contract to concessions, and the very next day the company announced a \$280 million project at Trenton to build a new V-6 motor into the 1990s.

Neither the Jefferson nor the Trenton workers should have to negotiate contract concessions to keep their respective plants open. Such plant-by-plant negotiations are a threat to all workers as a whole, as the company seeks the cheapest possible labor contract by pitting one group of workers

against another.

The entire UAW and union movement as a whole should be fighting to keep these and other plants open, without concessions contracts.

On March 1, a group of Detroit southeast community organizations met and discussed building a community movement to fight Chrysler's plans to close the Jefferson plant. A second meeting has been scheduled for March 15, and the Detroit City Council will hold a hearing in the community on March 18. A combined community-union movement is needed to fight against Chrysler's racist plans.

Chrysler was stopped by such community pressure from closing the Jefferson plant in the early 1970s, and it can be done again.

—Filipina women

Continued from page 4

after being sent photographs of prospective spouses.

Some 2,000 maternal deaths are reported each year in the Philippines, and infant mortality is extremely high.

The Filipino woman, who makes up one-half of the total population of 53 million, suffers a triple oppression—oppression as a woman, national oppression and class oppression. Filipino women share the problems of their class brothers—the exploitation of labor under capitalism and the national oppression of imperialism. The concrete problems that have arisen stem from the economic, political and cultural exploitation of the whole Fili-

pino people. It was in this light that one of the first Filipino women's liberation organizations was established in 1971 under the name "To Struggle."

Though the Marcos regime has fallen and the government of Ms. Aquino has restored some basic democratic rights that were suppressed during Marcos' tenure, the demands articulated at the demonstration by many of the women were the same as those of the past 15 years. Only the calls for an end to the Marcos dictatorship were gone.

As women around the world celebrate their special day of struggle, the women of the Philippines continue their struggle for complete liberation.

GE strikers prepare for long battle against Pentagon contractor

By Claire Kiley

LYNN, Mass., March 10—Close to 8,000 members of IUE Local 201 have entered into the third week of their tremendous struggle against General Electric here.

The company is beginning to turn the screws. According to union official Charles Ruiter, who is on the union's Executive Board and is a member of the negotiating team, "Corporate big-shots have replaced General Electric management in the strike bargaining picture in Lynn, Mass., and have stalled the talks," bringing negotiations to a standstill. He added, "It looks like it's going to be a long strike."

Nonetheless, the membership remains unified vowing "to stay out no matter how long it takes." This fighting sentiment was reflected in the overwhelming 80% strike vote taken by secret ballot on March 5.

All of this began as a walk-out on Feb. 21 when 3,700 aircraft engine workers walked off their jobs to protest the company's harassment of shop stewards and lack of respect for the union. This walkout quickly escalated when 1,500 additional workers from two other plants, Everett and Medford, joined in.

In a show of tremendous solidarity, several days later, on March 5, thousands of strikers marched to the gates of the Lynn facility, as the last 2,000 workers walked off their jobs virtually shutting down this huge plant. After a short rally, thousands of workers demonstrated their confidence in the union by voting to protect their rights to unionize and make a better working life.

Local 201, the largest industrial local in New England, was the only local of the GE chain to reject the concession contracts, ratified in July. This fact, coupled with the GE-RCA merger, seems to indicate GE's intentions to bust the union, beginning here in the second largest local of GE workers. According to Local 201 Pres. Kevin Mahar, "This is a strike GE is trying to make. The company has a conspiracy to try and break the union."

In fact, this worker outburst against GE is the first sign of workers' struggle against GE's merger with RCA and the anti-union assault that comes with it. It is the introduction of new work rules and the new technology that is becoming part of the lives of all industrial workers in this country that spurred this important trade union fightback.

Although this is the largest strike in Massachusetts in recent years, for Local 201 it's the first time the entire local has struck since a contract strike in 1969. That strike lasted 101 days, through the winter months.

At this time, not only are the workers in Lynn, Mass., fighting back against this giant corporation with the strength of the Pentagon behind it, but 300 unionists from the GE plant in Schenectady, N.Y., are on strike over seniority issues.

In addition, the GE plant in Evendale, Ohio, which is a UAW Local, has some 7,000 grievances that are outstanding, averaging one grievance per worker.

It's important to know that these plants are all contractors for the Pentagon. The GE plant in Lynn alone has \$1 billion worth of military contracts, so these strikers are not only taking on the huge multinational corporation, but, in fact, the Pentagon itself.



Over 7,500 GE workers rallied at Lynn, Mass., last week to say 'Enough is enough!'

WW PHOTO: CHRIS MYERS

Chrysler to close Jefferson Assembly

By Terri Kay

DETROIT, March 10—Chrysler is trying to strike another blow against the Black community of Detroit by admitting that they have no further production plans for Jefferson Assembly after the 1987 model year. This proposed closing of Jefferson comes after Chrysler announced its second highest year of profits ever—\$1.64 billion for 1985. This is second only to the \$2.3 billion record profits for 1984.

Racism behind plant closing

The predominantly Black east side of Detroit has already been turned virtually into a factory ghost town by Chrysler. The "great American hero" Lee Iacocca has permanently closed seven Chrysler plants in Detroit since 1979. Some 71% of the hourly and 32% of the salary workers at Jefferson are Black. These figures are pretty representative of the seven closed plants as well. When compared to the figures for Chrysler as a whole the pattern of plant closings takes on strong racist overtones.

Out of all Chrysler workers only 33% of the hourly and 3% of the salaried workers are from minorities.

Chrysler's cynicism about its racist objectives is shown in its method of obtaining financial backing for its highly touted "Dodge City" project in Warren, Mich., a predominantly white suburb bordering Detroit's east side. Special federally funded loans are being used for "Dodge City." These federal loans were earmarked for factory renovation in cities with high rates of unemployment. The city of Warren did not qualify for these loans, but Chrysler got around that by claiming that since a large number of Detroit's residents (mostly Black) work at the Dodge City plants and the city of Detroit qualifies for the loan, the federal objectives would be met by lending the company the money.

Concessions steal \$22,000 from each worker

In addition, in the 1970s Chrysler had milked millions of dollars in tax credits from Detroit to modernize Jefferson Assembly and some of the now closed down Detroit plants. Every Chrysler worker has individually paid \$22,000 in wage and benefit concessions from 1979 to 1985. In return, 30,000 Chrysler workers, mostly

Black, lost their jobs permanently during that time.

Aside from Dodge City, Chrysler just opened a "super-modern" facility, Sterling Assembly, in another white suburb. Chrysler is also planning a couple of new spin-off car companies, Diamond Star Motors in the South and the Liberty project in non-union Southern Illinois. While 90% of Chrysler is currently auto-related, Chrysler executives plan to cut that down to 50% by 1990. In the last year, the company purchased Gulfstream and EF Hutton.

There is no indication that Chrysler has any intention to keep Jefferson Assembly open, or that the company has any concern for the devastation that it has caused for the Detroit Black community. Yet city officials have proposed a \$200 million tax break and loan package for Chrysler to keep Jefferson Assembly open. The Jefferson workers even voted to open their contract to concessions to keep the plant open. Chrysler, however, renewed the current contract for another year, showing their lack of interest in any

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