



People want jobs, not war in Nicaragua

Big Mountain tour opens —p. 12



WW PHOTO: ALI

Big Mountain solidarity. The Big Mountain Support Tour sponsored by the All-Peoples Congress began here in Washington on March 14, drawing a crowd of over 300 people who came to hear two Dineh (Navajo) Grandmothers, AIM leaders Larry Anderson and Vernon Bellecourt and Ray Hooker, a representative of the Nicaraguan National Assembly from the Bluefields area (Atlantic coast).

The D.C. meeting was organized and sponsored by the Big Mountain Support Group and the D.C. Chapter of the All-Peoples Congress and was chaired by APC leader Pam Parker and Hachett, National Tour Coordinator. The meeting also heard a presentation of a resolution of support from the D.C. City Council read by Councilmember Hilda Mason.

—S. Lesser

By Andy Stapp
MARCH 16—After four years of hysterical appeals from the White House to shape up and get in line for Ronald Reagan's Great Anti-Sandinista Crusade, the people of this country are more opposed than ever to the war against Nicaragua.

The reason for this hardening resistance against the propaganda din emanating from the White House is not hard to find. Plant closings, farm foreclosures, unemployment and social service cuts have left one out of seven people in this country mired in poverty. Several million are actually homeless.

Most people don't think like Reagan. They don't define "national security" in terms of how successful U.S. foreign policy is in blowing away leftwing Central Americans. "Security" to most people means having a decent job, medical care, the right to an educa-

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PHOTO: THE UNIONIST

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Thousands mobilize in NYC to demand gay rights bill —centerfold

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Manes suicide exposes NYC corruption under Koch

By Bill Del Vecchio
NEW YORK, March 18—When it was time to re-elect Koch to a third term last November, the press, politicians and businessmen all made him seem like a miracle man. Besides walking on water, Edward Koch was said to have produced budget surpluses where before there had been bankruptcy, real estate booms where before there had been decay, and prosperity where before there had been depression.

Wall Street produced a third Koch "avalanche" victory, and in the course of it they buried the aspirations of the Black and Latin communities, the poor, rank-and-file union members and hundreds of thousands of new immigrants.

But by thrusting a kitchen knife into his own heart last week, Donald

Manes exposed not only himself but the whole Koch administration as being one of the most corrupt in New York City history.

Donald Manes was the Queens Borough President, a close Koch crony, and a power-broker in the Queens County Democratic Party organization.

What is a borough president? Even life-long New Yorkers ask this question, since all governmental functions happen at the city level and not the boroughs, which are the five counties that make up New York City.

The official functions of a borough president are minimal, except for one very important one. The borough presidents sit on the Board of Estimate, which awards millions of dollars worth of contracts every year.

The unofficial functions of borough

president usually include presiding over the Democratic Party clubhouse, through which thousands of people are picked for the better paying city jobs.

Donald Manes decided to end it all when one man he placed in a top job at the Parking Violations Bureau, Geoffrey Lindenauer, was going to cop a plea with federal prosecutors and spill

his guts on Manes. Lindenauer is accused of receiving \$410,000 in bribes in return for giving a \$22.7 million contract to a company for claiming to make a non-existent computerized parking ticket writer.

The company that allegedly makes the non-existent ticket writer is partially owned by Stanley Friedman, the

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On The Picketline

SEPTA strike. More than 5,200 members of Local 234 of the Transit Workers Union (TWU) are on strike in Philadelphia against the South East Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA), Philadelphia's bus, trolley and subway systems. Over 440,000 daily riders are affected by the fifth strike against SEPTA in 15 years.

Wages, pensions and a "military style" of management are the major issues in the walkout. John Ropas Jr., strike coordinator for Local 234, told the press that 10,000 grievances are filed per year—two for each worker. Of these, the union wins 85% of all the cases that go to arbitration. The union, however, has to pay for all grievance appeals. Now, strikers are demanding that whichever side loses a case must pay all related costs. Besides management harassment of workers and the need for an improved pension plan, wages are an issue, because SEPTA workers are the lowest paid of transit workers in major cities on the East Coast.

Roger Tauss, Local 234 President, criticized the "suburban-dominated" SEPTA board as he announced the strike yesterday, accusing SEPTA of "union busting and city busting." Teamsters Joint Council 53, District 1199c of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees and the Philadelphia Council of the AFL-CIO have all pledged their support.

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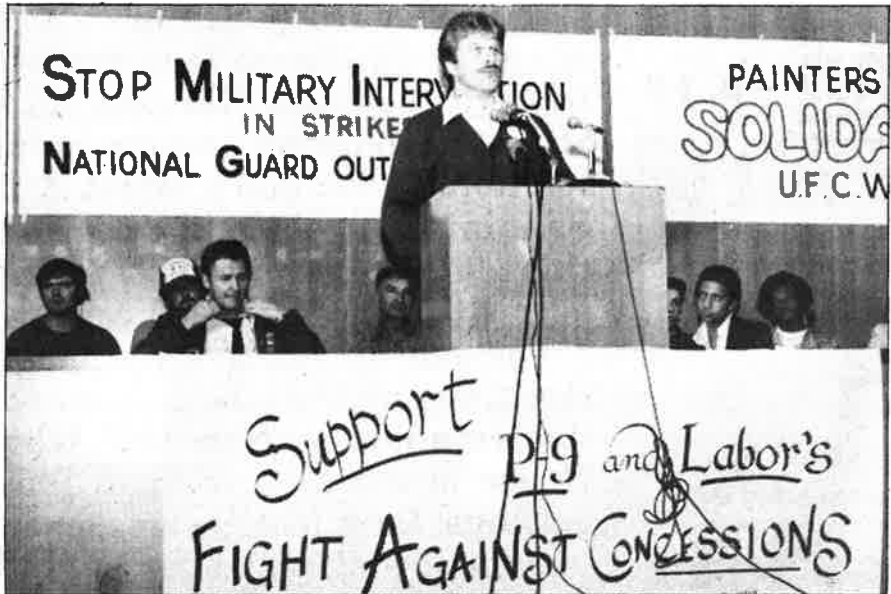
Concessions to LTV. The USWA has signed a new contract with LTV which contains \$3.15 an hour in concessions to the company and will

reduce pay from \$12.87 an hour to \$11.73 an hour with no apparent guarantees against layoffs and plant closings. The union also froze wages by giving up future raises under the cost of living adjustment, a dangerous thing to do in a long 40-month contract. In exchange for these concessions the union received certain guarantees against subcontracting to non-union contractors that it should have had long ago and a profit-sharing and preferred stock plan. The union expects the contract to set a pattern for negotiations with other larger steel corporations although U.S. Steel is refusing to bargain in early talks. The contracts for 145,000 Steelworkers expire Aug. 1.

The 30,000 USWA members at LTV who will vote on the contract by mail ballot over the next few weeks may not be so eager to approve a concessionary contract with no apparent job security provision. They have been hard hit by plant closings and layoffs as LTV, a powerful and profitable military industrial complex conglomerate, acquired and merged with the old J & L and Republic Steel and demanded concessions because of their financial "problems."

The USWA may claim that if they didn't take these "problems" into consideration they would face bankruptcy and liquidation, a threat that was made in the Wheeling-Pittsburgh settlement. It may, however, be a miscalculation. LTV has some very deep pockets and presumably they bought into the steel industry with capital resources, not just to milk it dry, and this settlement will be hard to overcome in the talks with other steel makers in the weeks to come.

—Louis Napier



Rally for Hormel strikers. A labor rally with the strong message of "No more concessions" rang through the SEIU hall in San Francisco on March 12. The rally, which featured Jim Guyette of Local P-9 of the Hormel strikers from Austin, Minn., was attended by over 400 trade unionists and community supporters who contributed over \$1,200.

Guyette began his talk by introducing the P-9 strikers who have been traveling and speaking in the cities and towns of the West Coast. Also touring with Guyette were workers from Hormel's plants in Ottumwa, Iowa and Fremont, Neb., who have been fired for not crossing P-9's picket lines at those packing plants.

Other speakers at tonight's rally echoed Guyette's call for a counter offensive against union busting and concessions. These included Anamarie France from the striking TWA flight attendants, Esperanza Torres from the Watsonville Cannery strikers and Connie Peoples from the Oakland Education Association, which had just fought and won a strike against concessions. Also speaking was Stan Gowan of Local 10 of the International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union, which had just adopted a resolution declaring that they would handle no Hormel products for the duration of the strike. This evening's rally was sponsored by the Painters Local 4.

—Bill Hackwell

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RECOVERY
The highly-publicized economic recovery has left 30 million working and poor people worse off than they were before the 1980-1982 decline. (Page 3.)

PONCE
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HORMEL
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The Black township of Guguletu defied the Capetown police at a funeral march to give heroes' honors to seven Black victims the apartheid regime charged with being members of the armed wing of the African National Congress. (Page 5.)

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Economic 'recovery' leaves 30 million behind

By Robert Dobrow

MARCH 18—Webster's dictionary defines *recovery* as "the act, process, or an instance of recovering, e.g., to get back; regain; to bring back to normal position or condition."

For tens of millions of people, Wall Street's economic recovery, what Reagan called an "economic miracle" in his State of the Union message, has been a cruel joke. They haven't "regained" their condition; they haven't "recovered" a "normal position."

They are the homeless, those too young or too old to work but who must subsist on meager government benefits, the people trying to raise families by themselves, the millions discriminated against because of nationality or sex. They are the low-paid workers and the many unemployed.

The most conservative government figures admit that 10 million to 15 million people received no gain from the past several years of supposed economic recovery. Sar A. Levitan, director of the Center for Social Policy Studies at George Washington University, estimates the number at 20 million to 30 million. The actual figure may be much higher still.

The Reagan administration tries to cover up this economic reality. But they can't hide it when 10,000 workers in Buffalo, N.Y., line the streets in the bitter cold to fill out applications for 270 job openings. Nor can they hide it when a man driven to total despera-

tion burnt himself to death in front of the White House to protest the plight of the homeless.

Unemployment up for everyone

Happy Days are here on Wall Street. But the unemployment rates "for virtually all worker groups" are "still above those prevailing just before the onset of the 1980 recession," according to the New York Times (March 16). For Black, Latin, Asian and Native workers, especially youth, these rates have stayed at depression levels.

New York City is a prime example. The landlords and real estate industry there are enjoying the golden benefits of "economic growth." But the Bureau of Labor Statistics reveals that "only 51% of the city's working-age population is employed, as against a national figure of 61%."

Inside the U.S. Stock Exchange, stock and bond values are going through the roof. Outside on Wall Street, homeless people pace the streets begging for change.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimates that there are 250,000 to 300,000 homeless people. Groups like the New York-based National Coalition for the Homeless scorn this figure and say the real number is at least ten times higher.

The financial pages report that pork belly futures are showing high yields. But the farm crisis continues to steamroll over the lives of millions of farm-

ers and agricultural workers. The Agriculture Department admits that 10-15% of the country's 2.2 million farms are in "severe financial difficulty." Hardest hit are communities in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Georgia and Texas.

Larger than Canada

There are some 35 million people who live below the government-defined level of what constitutes poverty. That's larger than the population of Canada, much larger.

The rightwing explains people don't want to work. But the official poor includes 11.5 million children under 15 years old and 3.3 million 65 or older. It includes 2.1 million people who work full-time but due to low wages are still below the poverty line.

The minimum wage is \$3.35 an hour. When the minimum wage law was enacted it was supposed to be a guarantee against poverty. But workers who earn the minimum make less than \$7,000 a year. And the poverty level for a family of four is \$10,990.

There are millions of workers who don't even receive the minimum wage—the undocumented, agricultural workers and many restaurant employees, among others.

None of the rewards of the financial upturn have "trickled down" to them.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics says that 5.4 million workers who wanted full-time jobs had to settle for part-time work last month. Half these peo-

ple searched for full-time positions but could only find part-time work. The other half are workers who held full-time jobs but had their hours cut.

"Discouraged workers" are the unemployed who have searched endlessly for a job and heard "no" too many times. They've given up looking. The Labor Department doesn't even count them as unemployed. But they are workers without work and the smallest government estimates put their numbers at over a million.

Cuts in daycare

The Reaganites love to extol the virtues of family and motherhood. But their administration has handed working-class mothers nothing but lower wages and cutbacks of daycare and medical services.

A new Labor Department study shows that half of the mothers with children less than a year old had to work outside the home last year. "Most of these women don't have a choice about going to work shortly after they deliver—it's an economic necessity," said Amy Wilkins of the Children's Defense League.

Daycare now costs anywhere from \$1,500 to \$10,000 a year. At the same time, federal and state-supported child-care services have been steadily declining.

Poverty, unemployment, racism, homelessness. If these are the fruits of capitalist recovery, what will the profit system sprout when the inevitable capitalist downturn takes root?

P-9 votes to continue strike at Hormel

Special to Workers World

MARCH 17—In a packed meeting in their Austin, Minn., union hall last night, members of UFCW Local P-9 voted to continue their seven-month-old strike against the Geo. A. Hormel Co.

The vote by over 800 strikers was virtually unanimous.

The overwhelming commitment of the Hormel strikers at this difficult moment in their strike is yet another indication of the historic character of this struggle. The members of Local P-9 are determined to defend their strike. But their commitment is not just about winning particular contract demands, and their motivation is not only their own anger against the company.

The P-9ers have taken on the task of mounting an all-out stand on behalf of all workers, at the lead of the growing struggle against concessions. And the breadth of support for them that continues to grow all around the country has endowed their struggle with a special resonance.

The Hormel strikers have become a historic symbol of resistance against all the bosses in the fight against all concessions. Especially now in light of the obstacles before them, the courage and perseverance of the members of Local P-9 is serving to push forward the overall workers' struggle in this country.

The resounding vote to maintain the strike came two days after UFCW President William Wynn called a

press conference to announce, "The strike is called off as of now."

Wynn followed this announcement with another: he will cut off the \$40-a-week strike benefits the Hormel strikers had been receiving from the UFCW, except for those workers who follow his orders and apply to the company to get their jobs back. There are also rumors that the international plans to take over the local.

Wynn's utter betrayal of Local P-9, attacking a strike already under siege by the company and the courts, is a shameful spectacle unprecedented in recent labor history.

But the UFCW cannot unilaterally declare this strike over, not as long as the strikers are still determined to fight.

So, despite the international, the Hormel strike is not broken. The ranks of Local P-9 are united and proud. And there is an enormous reservoir of solidarity for the strikers in the ranks of labor nationally; support activities are mounting and donations to the strike are pouring in.

The boycott of Hormel products is a crucial element of that support. The boycott has reportedly taken root around the country in recent weeks, and the boycott organizing will now become a strong focus of strike support work.

With Local P-9 now forced to defend the strike against both the company and its parent union, labor support is of greater importance than ever. Unity between the ranks of labor and the rank-and-file of Local P-9 is now the key factor in the strike.

The giveback and give up strategy of the AFL-CIO leadership, exemplified in the Hormel strike by the stance of the UFCW, provides no promise and no direction for the labor movement. The strategy of struggle, as exemplified by Local P-9 and looked to as a shining example by so many workers, does. Now it's up to labor and labor's allies to see to it that P-9 doesn't stand alone in this struggle.



New Yorkers show solidarity with Hormel strike.

WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

Hormel solidarity shown at overflow meeting in NYC

Special to Workers World

NEW YORK, March 14—Over 1,000 people filled the District 65-UAW auditorium to overflowing here tonight for a solidarity rally in support of the Hormel strikers.

The hall was so packed that hundreds of people had to wait outside on the street.

Inside, the scene was one of overwhelming unity as the crowd of trade unionists and supporters jumped to their feet chanting and clapping over and over as speaker after speaker called on the labor movement to join ranks behind the strikers of Local P-9.

Rank-and-file members of many unions, including the TWU, AFT, Teamsters, ITU, Newspaper Guild, AFSCME, CWA, UAW, ATU, 1199, ILGWU, ACTWU and others filled the hall. The turnout, along with the overwhelming enthusiasm of the crowd,

sent a strong message to the bosses as well as to the trade union leadership that the Hormel strike is increasingly viewed by workers as being waged on their behalf and the P-9 members as representing all of labor.

Leaders of other unions currently engaged in tough struggles, including ATU Local 1202 (Greyhound), OCAW (3-M), and Teamsters (Watsonville cannery workers) pledged solidarity with Local P-9. Baldemar Velasquez, president of FLOC, which recently won a victory after eight years on strike against Campbell Soup, urged the Hormel strikers to carry on.

Karen Glantz, Vice President of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, reported that TWA "didn't think we're a 'real union' because we're mostly women. But we're showing them how real unions fight, and I'm so proud to stand alongside my sis-

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**Boycott
Hormel!**

Marcos overthrow spurs south Korea struggle

By Bill Doares

MARCH 17—The overthrow of Marcos in the Philippines has frightened the U.S.-backed military dictatorship of Chon Do Hwan in south Korea and at the same time has spurred on the mass struggle.

The Chon regime has, at least temporarily, relaxed repression against the New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), the country's only legal opposition. The NKDP is carrying on a campaign to gather ten million signatures on petitions demanding direct election of the president by popular vote. Several hundred NKDP members were arrested in the early stages of the campaign.

Repression has continued unabated, however, against the burgeoning student movement, which has borne the brunt of the struggle against the regime. Police still invade campuses at will and carry out mass arrests. Detainees are tortured and beaten. Severe repression continues against the labor movement as well.

The Reagan administration has issued tepid statements of "concern" over the "human rights picture" in south Korea, but its actions speak louder than its words. The U.S. continues to pour military aid to the Chon dictatorship (\$206 million last year alone) and U.S. troops are right now carrying out massive joint maneuvers with Chon Do Hwan's army. Less than six years ago this same army murdered more than 2,000 civilians in the city of Kwangju while suppressing a popular uprising.

Like the Philippines, south Korea has a relationship with the United States that can only be described as colonial. Some 40,000 U.S. troops and over 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons are based on its soil, and south Korea's "own" army is under the direct command of a U.S. general. This relationship dates back to 1945 when the U.S. army invaded and occupied southern Korea, splitting the Korean nation in half. Since then the south has been ruled by a succession of U.S.-backed dictatorships.

As in the Philippines, U.S. military occupation has led to economic colonization. More than 2,000 U.S. corporations operate in south Korea, where they reap astronomical profits off the virtual slave labor of south Korean

workers. South Korea has the longest average working hours and the highest rate of industrial accidents of any country in the world.

While the U.S. corporate media hail south Korea as an "economic miracle" and brag that U.S. investment has created a "large and contented" middle class, 75% of south Korea's workers earn less than what the Chon regime itself defines as a minimum family income. Many are unable to afford housing and sleep in barracks-like company dormitories. Strikes, though commonplace, are illegal.

With 41 million people, south Korea's debt stands at \$52.6 billion, the third highest in the world. Much of it is owed to U.S. banks. While massive U.S. and Japanese investment did create some economic growth in the 1970s, the resulting overproduction and dependence on the U.S. capitalist market has since caused an economic downturn, as it has in the Philippines and other East Asian countries that Wall Street once called "economic miracles."

While officially there are 560,000 unemployed in south Korea, the government-controlled Korean Federation of Trade Unions estimates the actual figure may be as high as 4 million. The dumping of U.S. agricultural produce in south Korea is bankrupting the peasantry.

Unprecedented anti-imperialist sentiments

How do the south Korean people view this situation?

According to a January article in the Chicago Tribune, there is among the south Korean people "a chilling climate of unprecedented anti-Americanism. . . . Since 1980 there have been nine attacks on American businesses and government facilities in Seoul, Pusan, Kwangju and Taegu, five of those in the last seven months."

The article goes on to say that "(N)ot all of south Korea's anti-Americanism comes from student radicals. Some of it comes from the ranks of south Korea's working class—people who labor 10 and 12 hours a day making products for export to the United States."

What has U.S. big business especially worried is the growing solidarity between militant young workers,



Chanting, "Give us rice," workers grapple with plainclothes cops outside the doors of Dongbo Electric Co. in Inchon, south Korea. The workers took over the offices of the company for four hours on Dec. 13. PHOTO: PEOPLE'S KOREA

who carried out nearly 300 strikes last year in spite of police repression, and student radicals who, according to an analyst quoted in the Dec. 26 issue of Far Eastern Economic Review, "have gone so far, they have become so Marxist in their approach, that they don't just want removal of Chon and the expulsion of the U.S. from south Korea, but the overthrow of the system—a socialist revolution."

The Reagan administration justifies its continued occupation of south Korea on the basis of an alleged military threat from the socialist north, the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. The Chon regime claims it must jail and torture students and labor activists for the same reason. In reality the DPRK, which has half the population of south Korea, a much smaller standing army and no foreign troops on its soil, presents no military threat to the U.S.-occupied south.

What Reagan and Chon really fear is the example of a socialist society that is able to achieve tremendous industrial growth and provide full employment, housing, free education and health care to its people without mortgaging its economy to U.S. banks or allowing U.S. firms to plunder its people's labor. It is for this reason that any attempt by south Korean citizens to make "unauthorized" contact with the north, even writing a letter to a relative, is punishable by imprisonment or death.

Philippine liberation fighter: 'There will be no laying down of arms'

By Pat Lange

MARCH 18—"The social realities which necessitated the call for armed revolution are still intact," explained a leading member of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) who was discussing his party's view of post-Marcos developments earlier this week.

The CPP representative, Andreas del Fiero, was quoted in the March 15 New York Times.

According to the Times, "Mr. Fiero said that the Filipino peasantry is still oppressed by 'feudal' patterns of land holding; a 'fascist' army that remains virtually the same despite Mr. Marcos' flight, and that 'U.S. imperialism remains dominant in the Philippines.'"

The CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, fought for decades against the U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship and for the rights of the impoverished Filipino peasantry for land and freedom. In the final years of the Marcos regime, the NPA mushroomed in size, expanding its influence to all 73 provinces and num-

bering in its ranks some 15,000-20,000 armed guerrillas. In Mindanao, the largest island, they control 2,700 barrios and 200 towns and cities in 16 provinces.

It is a member of the National Democratic Front, a coalition of workers', students', peasants', church and other organizations with a following of approximately 10 million people, including four million in the urban areas.

In Davao, the Philippines' second-largest city, the NPA's presence "is felt daily," according to the Wall Street Journal (March 13). The NPA is strong in the poorest section of the city, Agdao, where some 60,000 people try to eke out an existence.

Signs call for U.S. to leave Philippines

The Journal, a big business newspaper which, of course, hates the goals of the NPA, worries that signs have appeared in Agdao in recent days denouncing the Philippine military and warning the U.S. to leave "The Philippines for Filipinos." Others are directed to the Aquino government.

"What we need is medicine, not more military," says one sign. "Give us jobs," says another.

With the overthrow of Marcos, a tremendous step forward was taken by the Filipino people. But the devastating economic problems for the masses of people, particularly the landless peasantry and exploited workers, still remain.

The giant U.S. Subic Bay and Clark Air Force military bases also remain. So do the hundreds of U.S. corporations and agribusiness firms scattered throughout the islands, reaping rich profits by exploiting Filipino labor.

Given these "social realities," in the words of the CPP representative, and given that top officials from the Marcos era are still prominent in the new government and throughout the military, the CPP "has firmly ruled out any program that called for turning in their arms," reports the Times. According to Mr. del Fiero, "With fascism still intact, the Filipino people need their own army to assert their interests. There will be no laying down of arms."

—NYC corruption

Continued from page 2

Bronx Democratic leader and a close buddy of Manes and Koch.

And the web goes on and on. On to the good friends of Manes who were given the juicy parts of the redevelopment (yuppification) of Times Square. On to the lawyers who pay kickbacks to get court conservatorships. On to the 41 \$100,000 taxi medallions, or licenses, that were given away for free by the Taxi Commissioner.

It's no wonder that the civil service system, created to inhibit that brazen corruption in hiring that was rampant in the days of Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall, has been practically thrown out the window under Koch. More than 13,000 workers have been added to the payroll since 1978 without the civil service procedure, and Koch is pushing to exempt hundreds more from civil service regulations.

One thousand and four hundred of the non-civil service, or provisional workers, had been referred to their jobs directly by Koch officials. Most of these jobs are higher paying, cushy jobs.

In the lower paying jobs, Koch has methodically replaced thousands of union members with welfare recipients who are forced to work for their benefits and with a whole assortment of temporary workers funded by outside contractors, research foundations and faceless government programs.

The net effect is that the good jobs go to Koch cronies and the workers doing all the work are being denied union and civil service protection and benefits.

As the lie of the Koch "miracle" unravels, the people of this city are starting to understand how Donald Trump can afford to build more and more condos for the super-rich while the shelters for the homeless and welfare hotels are packed to overflowing with people who can't afford a modest apartment.



'We won't lay down our arms.'

Apartheid repression met with defiance

By Neville Edwards

MARCH 16—Yesterday the Black township of Guguletu located just outside of Cape Town defied the military strength of the apartheid system and gave seven Black victims of the murderous South African racist minority regime a burial worthy of full heroes' honors.

The courageous show of determination by the Black masses took place amid the growing questions of how these men died. Almost two weeks ago the seven young Black men were killed by the police. The regime issued a statement that the men were killed in a shootout with the police.

Defying a magistrate's ban on any kind of political activity, speaker after speaker charged the police with cold-blooded murder. This funeral was the first major mass action by the oppressed people since the recent announcement by the regime that it was lifting the state of siege it had imposed seven months ago. The funeral also followed a night that witnessed the killing of seven Blacks by Johannesburg police.

Whether these men were members of the armed wing of the African National Congress (Umkhonto we Sizwe), as the racist regime claimed, the real issue is that the police shot the men in cold blood, a fact they cannot hide. Families and witnesses of the bloody incident have issued statements refuting the police version of what took place that March 3.

The daily Cape Times reported that four witness stated that they saw the police shoot one man as he gave himself up. Witnesses also saw the police shoot another man as he lay defenseless on the ground. The police have since subpoenaed a Cape Times reporter compelling him to reveal the names of the witnesses. The paper was also barred from all police briefings.

Parents of the victims denied that their sons were members of the ANC. Two of the men were Rastafarians, members of the Caribbean-based culture of resistance against imperialist domination. A third man was being treated as a mental out-patient at a local hospital. John Miya, father of one

of the victims, stated that his son was on his way to the outskirts of the township where unemployed men wait to get jobs as day laborers.

To the masses at the burial, it made no difference whether the men were ANC members or not. All the caskets were draped with black, gold and green, the colors of the African National Congress. ANC and the South African Communist Party banners led the coffins into the stadium where the rally was held. Young women and men wore shirts with the message, "We shall cross many rivers of blood on our long march to liberty," written on the back and front.

Miners killed

Meanwhile five men were killed at the Blyvooruitzicht mine, located west of Johannesburg. The miners were killed when police opened fire on the striking miners last Saturday night. Last Tuesday, police fired on a crowd of Black youths, killing at least three and wounding over 80. The youths had gathered to protest a court case against some other youths.

Over 160 miners were fired at another mine for refusing to go back to work before an acceptable agreement was obtained by the workers. Six miners and a guard were killed at this mine. Enduring high temperature in the underground mines, hundreds of thousands of miners are continuing to occupy several mines in their struggle for higher pay and better working conditions.

The campaign office for the freedom of Nelson Mandela was fire-bombed on March 6. The South African police arrested Aubrey Mokena, an organizer for the office at a press conference. Mokena was charged for stating that the attack on the campaign office was perpetrated by the security police.

Desperately clinging onto power, the racist minority regime has resorted to the most brutal form of aggression against Black people. But the masses have proven that despite the might of the fascist regime the struggle for freedom will continue at all costs.



South African cargo stopped in San Francisco

FIVE hundred tons of South African cargo on the ship Nedlloyd Kembla were held up here for two shifts at Pier 80 in San Francisco on March 12, as the anti-apartheid members of International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), Local 10, honored a picketline of student and community activists.

The early morning pickets at Pier 80 yesterday and today brought back memories of Local 10's 11-day boycott of South African cargo over a year ago. Igniting the Bay Area anti-apartheid movement, the boycott ended when a Federal District Court handed down an injunction, still in effect today. Unable to directly refuse to handle cargo from the racist economy, the workers, however, have been able to honor the community picketlines without

breaking the injunction, citing a "health and safety" clause in their contract.

On the morning shift, March 11, dozens of riot-equipped police attempted to break up the picket line. But the demonstrators fought back! Two cops went to the hospital, and two picketers were brutally arrested. A later attempt to enjoin pickets from protesting was defied, and Black workers refused to cross the line. Fifty-seven people were arrested.

The picketlines were organized by the Berkeley-based Campaign Against Apartheid. Other participants included Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, the Southern Africa Freedom Committee of the All-Peoples Congress and members of other local unions.

—Jane Cutter

March 21: From Ponce to Sharpeville

By Rafael Ramos

NEW YORK, March 17—March 21 is remembered by the Puerto Rican people and by progressives around the world as the date of the infamous Ponce massacre, when 20 were killed and more than 150 wounded during a peaceful protest in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

It was the 1930s, the period of the Great Depression in the United States. President Roosevelt tried to implement a so-called "Good Neighbor Policy" in the Caribbean and Latin America, in part to hide Washington's exploitative, oppressive relationship with its colony Puerto Rico, which was going through political turmoil. Many strikes were taking place in Puerto Rico, involving sugar cane, tobacco and other workers. Many of these strikes were organized by the Nationalist Party (NP) and its leader, Don Pedro Albizu Campos.

In 1933, a bill was debated which would eliminate the Puerto Rican flag as the national banner of Puerto Rico. In protest, the Nationalist Party stormed the capital, the police attacked the demonstrators and Albizu was arrested for incitement to riot.

In 1934, when President Roosevelt visited the island, the Nationalists organized demonstrations in protest of Puerto Rico's colonial status. The NP

had created a strong political force against U.S. imperialism.

Roosevelt appointed a Southern racist, Gen. Blanton D. Winship, to be governor of Puerto Rico. Winship issued an order to "Make war, war against the Nationalists." During the mid-1930s, the U.S. government did make war against the NP, raiding their homes and meeting places. U.S. troops were stationed in San Juan.

Gen. Winship took a personal interest in persecuting members of the NP. Following instructions from President Roosevelt, Don Pedro Albizu was arrested and charged with conspiracy to overthrow the U.S. government. Later, Albizu was sentenced to 15 years in Federal prison in Atlanta, Ga.

In the late winter of 1937, there were demonstrations all over Puerto Rico denouncing the arrests of Don Pedro and the rest of the Nationalists. A permit for the NP was granted even though demonstrations on their (the Nationalists') behalf were forbidden. The demonstration was planned on Palm Sunday, March 21, 1937.

Gov. Winship revoked the permit, and as the marchers began marching with palms in their hands, demanding the freedom of their leaders, the police opened fire, spraying bullets on the marchers and innocent bystanders.

When the shooting stopped, 20 people were dead and more than 150 wounded.

One of the protesters dragged his dying body across the square, and before he died, he used his own blood to write on a wall: "Viva la Republica! Abajo los Asesinos!" ("Long live the Republic! Down with the Assassins!").

This bloodbath became known as the Ponce Massacre. Twenty-three years later, a different massacre oc-

curred but in the same reactionary spirit—this time, in the city of Sharpeville, in racist South Africa. There, a peaceful demonstration made up of men, women and children protested the repressive laws that prohibit the rights of the Black people under the brutal apartheid system. As at Ponce, the police opened fire this time leaving 69 dead, wounding 178 and arresting 2,000 Black people—all with the support of U.S. imperialism.

Puerto Rico and South Africa—same struggle and fight

Demonstrate Saturday, March 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. in front of the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

Freedom for Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners from South Africa to Puerto Rico!

Women's rights march draws 30,000 in Los Angeles

By Stephanie Hedgecock

LOS ANGELES, March 16—In spite of torrential rains, 30,000 spirited women and men demonstrated today to counter the Reaganite attack on reproductive rights. The National March for Women's Lives was the largest demonstration in the Los Angeles area in over 10 years.

Organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW), the march followed a March 9 Washington, D.C. demonstration of 125,000, which was the largest reproductive rights demonstration in U.S. history.

The women's movement is in the streets to fight back against terrorist clinic bombings, legislative and judicial attacks on abortion rights and the Reagan-backed push to overturn the gains won by women in the 1960s and 1970s.

During today's protest, two or three



handfuls of anti-abortion counter-demonstrators in Century City Park East were repeatedly surrounded by militant demonstrators, chanting, "You don't care if women die; right-to-life, you're name's a lie!"

Other popular chants heard on the march were, "Abortion rights under attack, women say fight back!" and "Not the church, not the state, women must decide our fate!"

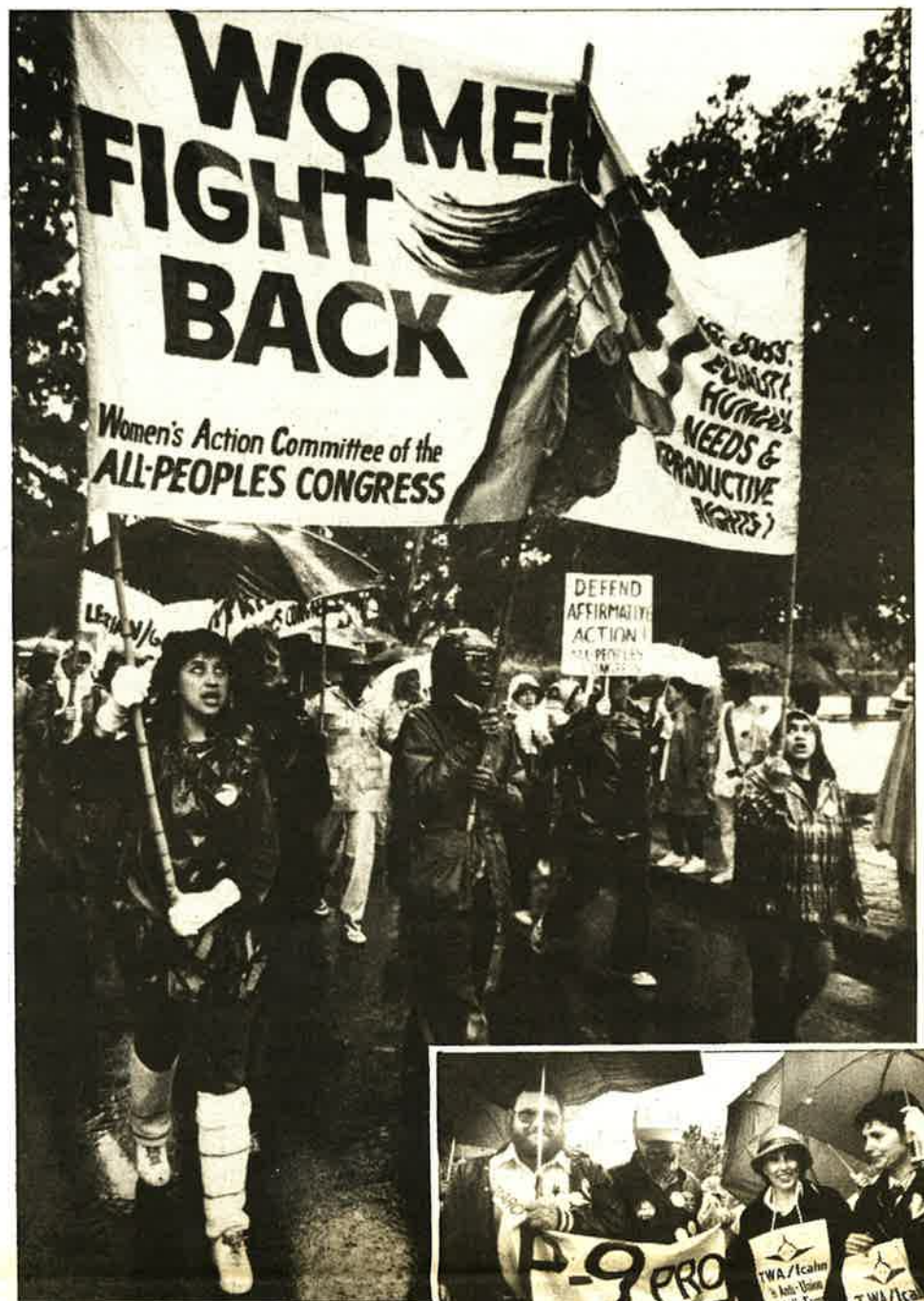
The march was 95% women and there was a strong lesbian presence throughout the many contingents. Contingents came from all over California, from Tacoma, Wash., Tucson, Ariz., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, from Oregon, Nevada, Colorado, Hawaii and Texas.

TWA flight attendants contingent

Striking TWA flight attendants, who face sexist concession demands of triple the 15% givebacks already made by other TWA workers, had a large contingent. There were also contingents of Gray Panthers and pro-choice L.A. teenagers.

The All-Peoples Congress (APC) filled one of the four San Francisco buses with a fired-up multinational contingent. The APC group was cheered and joined during the march under three colorful banners addressing the issues of reproductive rights, pay equity, human needs and jobs.

From East to West Coast, women demand full reproductive rights, including free, safe, legal abortion, no forced sterilization, jobs and free health care. End the Reaganite attack on women's rights!



Some of those who turned out for reproductive rights protest in Los Angeles.

WW PHOTOS: LIZ GREEN



Thousands mobilize in NYC to demand gay rights bill

By Trudy Rudnick

NEW YORK, March 17—Ten times over the last 15 years, the New York City Gay Rights Bill has been defeated by right wing forces in this city. These forces, led by arch-bigot Cardinal O'Connor, the Salvation Army and the rantings of the reactionary New York Post have led to the assault on a bill that would give some protection to lesbians and gay men against indiscriminate firings, evictions and increasing brutality.

The bill (Intro 2) is up for vote once again on March 20. Unlike in the past, it has been approved by the General Welfare Committee of the City Council, a necessary step for its passage in the City Council. The bill's success is uncertain, although the mobilization this year of thousands of gay people in demonstrations, meetings and public forums, as well as the growing support by others, makes passage of the bill more likely.

According to the New York City Commission on Human Rights, in a recently completed study over a two-year period of time, incidents of sexual orientation discrimination have doubled over the past two years. The report summarizes 474 allegations of discrimination, ranging from the loss of jobs to denial of housing and education opportunities to violence and even murder. This is an astonishing number of cases, particularly since lesbians and gay men know the insensitivity and disregard with which they are treated by the so-called justice system.

Many AIDS-related cases

Many of these 474 cases are directly AIDS-related such as denial of health insurance due to AIDS, firings because a boss finds out a worker or a worker's lover has AIDS, beatings by a landlord's goons when a tenant is

found out to have AIDS and much more. It's also clear that even when this discrimination is not directly attributable to AIDS, the atmosphere created by the current right-wing hysteria is constantly being used against gay people.

The hundreds who came to the General Welfare Committee hearings in support of the bill had a different message from that of those right-wing bigots. Testimony like that of Marcella Maxwell, the Chairperson of the New York City Commission on Human Rights who, in commenting on the report stated, "Ultimately, though discrimination cannot be measured in figures, it must be measured in human lives and human loss. I feel that this report gives voice to a long silenced majority." Or testimony like that of Betty Santora, spokesperson for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, a lesbian who has been fired from her job as a teacher three times, had garbage thrown on her lawn and been beaten on three separate occasions by hotel owners. Santora stated, "We have suffered enough and now we intend to be treated like human beings." She dedicated her testimony to four gay men who died of AIDS.

Lesbians and gay men will do whatever is necessary in New York City and around the country to pass this bill and demand an end to bigotry. They know that the majority of the people in this country are on their side and that the government has the money to provide health care and services for people with AIDS. The AIDS epidemic as well as the epidemic of harassment and discrimination of gay people can be ended by organizing the hundreds of thousands of gay people and supporters around the country to say: No to lesbian and gay oppression! Pass Intro 2!



New York City demonstrators demand passage of gay rights bill, an end to sexist harassment.

WW PHOTO: SUE DAVIS

E. Germany calls for end to gay discrimination

EAST GERMANY'S official ADN news agency has issued what appears to be an officially approved call for an end to discrimination against gays in all levels of East German society. The news agency asserted that socialist guarantees of proletarian equality extended to gay people, and that nongays should assist their gay comrades in casting off the bonds of anonymity, discrimination and disadvantage.

It is "an encouraging sign" when a man acknowledges his sexuality and has the courage to come out, explained Professor Erwin Guenther, a sexual behavior researcher who authored the commentary. Guenther noted that 35 years of socialist equality still had not managed to eradicate "1,000 years of throne and church." He urged greater efforts by marriage counselors and sex therapists to promote gay integration into society as a whole.

ADN even quoted from a gay personals ad: "Wish for 1986—Berliner (36, 6 ft.) seeks tall preferably bearded M in Berlin. Must be open, outgoing. Someone to tackle life with . . ."

(Reprinted from The Advocate, March 4, 1986.)

International Women's Day in Dominican Republic

First-hand report on conditions, struggle of Dominican women

By Monica Moorehead

The author participated in a 12-woman delegation from the U.S. that visited progressive women's organizations in the Dominican Republic March 5-14.

MARCH 17—"In the Dominican Republic, women lead a life like a tail—always bringing up the rear. Poor people come into this world just to work, to cut sugar and bring meals to the workers. That's why Dominican women were born."

The speaker was a peasant woman, a mother of 13 children. The life she describes stands in startling contrast to the images painted by the bourgeois press of lush beaches with clear blue waters, palm trees swaying in the warm breeze, the tropical paradise where rich tourists can come to escape their cares.

The media fails to give equal billing to conditions faced by the majority of the 6 million people, half of them women, in the Dominican Republic, a poor country that shares an island with Haiti. Imagine living day to day without ever having electricity, walking for miles searching for water or seeing your child beg for food on the streets.

Conditions viewed first-hand

These conditions and many more were witnessed first hand by the delegation of progressive women activists from the U.S. who were the guests of several women's groups in the Dominican Republic in honor of International Women's Day.

The Dominican Women's Collective, a New York-based group, organized and invited the delegation representing diverse organizations. Along with several members of the Collective, other groups represented were the Haitian Information Center, the People's Anti-War Mobilization, the Indigenous Women's Network and the Women's International Resource Exchange. A journalist from the Washington, D.C. newspaper, Afro-American, was also a part of the delegation.

The Center for Investigation for Feminist Action (CIPAF), a non-governmental institution composed of women located in the capital of Santo Domingo, served as the host organization, arranging various meetings for the delegation to visit women organizers throughout the country. Founded in 1980 by three women, CIPAF has the difficult task of consolidating women's organizations, especially in the countryside, into an effective network for addressing the many concerns and special problems of women.

In any poor, underdeveloped country, among the most oppressed sectors are the women. This is especially true in a country like the Dominican Republic where the basic necessities of life are absent. Women are forced to leave the countryside to work as domestics or prostitutes. If tied to the land, they are faced with not only toiling the land but also have the total responsibility of taking care of the children. Many Dominican peasant women are subsistence farmers, who raise crops not to feed their families but as exports to be shipped to the more developed countries like the U.S.

A typical day for most Dominican women

In addition, many Dominican women have to deal with their husbands, who harbor sexist attitudes, an inherent factor in class society. A peasant woman told us about a day in her life, a typical day for most Dominican women. "I work from the time I wake up at 6 a.m. until I fall asleep at night. I have to worry about the health of my



Literacy program in Dominican Republic, which the Center of Investigation for Feminist Action, a non-government group aimed at addressing the special problems of women, helped to organize. WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

children, feeding and clothing them as well as bringing breakfast to my husband in the field. I do his work while he eats. After cooking dinner, I work with my husband in the field. Why did I get married? Because marriage is the only thing that existed for us and there was no work or study offered to women."

She continued, "Following the cyclone in 1979, help was provided for those who had nothing left and that help was a result of organization. I then began to see the truth through my situation and assessing the role that women could play in the social process. I explained my feelings to my husband and now he has begun to help take care of the house. We women have to keep our feet firmly on the ground in order to move forward, not backward."

It is precisely because of the destitute material conditions just described by this Dominican woman that CIPAF was formed as a vehicle aimed at meeting the basic needs of women and getting women organized in forming their own destiny. CIPAF has sent organizing teams of women to go out in the countryside to teach women how to read and write, grow food more efficiently, establish better nutritional programs and so on. These women are then able to set up their organizations within their communities.

Safe abortions illegal

Another primary concern that faces women is gaining a better understanding of how their bodies function with the establishment of broad sex education programs as well as better health care in general. Approximately 200,000 "illegal" abortions are carried out every year, endangering the lives of these women. Safe abortions are not legal in the Dominican Republic.

Forced sterilizations are also on the rise in the country. In one private hospital alone, an average of 22 women are sterilized on a daily basis. These women are informed beforehand about the sterilization but are not informed as to other alternatives of birth control. There is only one public hospital and two publicly funded hospitals for pregnant women in the entire country.

Another important factor that CIPAF views as vital to the development of women is developing class consciousness not only as women but exploited workers under a system of

wage slavery to gain super profits.

One peasant woman at the age of 20 told us how she was exploited by the bosses. "I sew embroidery on baby clothes for one peso (less than 40 cents) per dress. That same dress is sold for at least 15 pesos (five American dollars). I also have to pay for my own transportation and if I get sick, they replace me with another woman who would accept less pay than myself."

Exploitation by profiteers

This same level of exploitation applies to women who pick coffee. Their wages are based on how much coffee they pick, not on any hourly rate. The average woman worker receives an average of two pesos per box of beans

picked—even if it takes 10 or 12 hours a day. It is no wonder that all these women are not only anti-imperialist, thanks to the brutal U.S. marine invasion of the country in April 1965, but anti-capitalist.

The women of the Dominican Republic have begun a journey that will enjoy many victories and suffer setbacks as well. However, they will eventually meet their destiny alongside the men and children. That destiny is a Dominican Republic that will be free from capitalist exploitation and imperialist domination. One thing is for sure, the Dominican woman of today will not return to the past.

Next week: The plight of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic.



Jelayne Miles



Sahu Barron

WW PHOTOS: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Women's Day celebration. "Women: At the Hub of the Global Class Struggle," was the theme of a Workers World Party forum in New York City on March 15 to commemorate International Women's Day. The meeting was chaired by Jelayne Miles, who opened with a moving tribute to Winnie Mandela and all anti-apartheid fighters in South Africa. Miles also hailed the women and men fighting imperialist oppression in the Middle East, Central America, the Philippines, Haiti and around the globe.

Speakers explained that women in the U.S. working class—who as 49% of the work force face the lowest-paid, most oppressive jobs and racist and sexist discrimination—are having an increasingly strong impact on the working class struggle. Sahu Barron, while explaining that women are an integral part of the revolutionary struggles around the world, stressed that it is capitalism which is responsible for women's oppression. Barron said, "We need to fight for democratic rights now and struggle to overturn capitalism and build socialism for the emancipation of women and all workers and oppressed people."

The meeting also featured a slide show entitled "We are all AMLAE," which showed the strong participation of Nicaraguan women today in defending and building their revolution as well as showing their own process of liberation—"the revolution within the revolution."

Trudy Rudnick reported on many upcoming activities and the All-Peoples Singers ended the meeting with spirited songs saluting Lolita Lebron and Harriet Tubman, and the Hormel strikers in a new tune, "Which side are you on (1986)?"

—Kathy Durkin

EDITORIAL

Where will they go?

PEOPLE WHO lived through the Great Depression still talk about the shock of seeing crops plowed under while millions ached with hunger. The crisis of overproduction in agriculture helped radicalize a whole generation for it showed most vividly that while capitalism could rapidly develop the means of production, it was incapable of gearing this production to human need. Market forces, that is, the drive for profit, overrode even the most vital and elemental human considerations—like the need to eat.

Even in the thirties, U.S. agriculture had undergone a stunning revolution in technology. At first the new tractors and other farm machines seemed a great boon to the farmer. They brought bigger crops and less back-breaking labor. But then came the Great Depression. Millions saw their hopes dashed and their farms on the auction block.

We have now gone through a second profound revolution in agricultural technology. A third is fast approaching. Over the last few decades, chemical fertilizers and pesticides as well as improved seeds and methods of animal breeding have vastly expanded the output of U.S. agriculture. But these technologies are expensive. They have accelerated the growth of corporate agribusiness and the demise of the family farm.

Now come genetic engineering and other new methods that will

raise farm yield even more dramatically. But what will be the social result? According to a report just released by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, the remaining farms will be cut in half, to one million by the year 2000. Only 50,000 of those will account for 75% of farm output.

Where will the displaced farm families go? To the cities, where industrial jobs are drying up? And not to be forgotten are the farm workers, who are so seldom mentioned in coverage of the farm crisis. They are at an even greater disadvantage because they have so little to begin with.

According to the director of a New York State agency that operates programs for farm workers (Rural Opportunities Inc.), layoffs and reduced hours are hitting a population that is "the poorest of the working poor." In New York and New Jersey last year the average annual income of a farm worker was \$3,127, yet only 10% of them received any type of public assistance!

The technologies of today could bring vast improvements to all the people of this planet. But not under capitalism. The greed of private ownership instead turns each new invention into a nightmare. Only socialist ownership by the people as a whole can rescue humankind from the horrid contradictions of this system. No time can be wasted in building a struggle movement to fight for this goal.



Soviet space station: Who is outpacing whom, Mr. Reagan?

By Robert Dobrow
MARCH 17—The Soviet Union made space history this week.

Two Soviet cosmonauts boarded a new orbiting space station called Mir on Sunday afternoon. The mission is being described as the beginning of the age of the space station.

Mir, which means "peace" in Russian, will be the first orbiting laboratory to be permanently occupied by human beings.

In designing the space craft, emphasis was placed on improving the living conditions for the people on board. Mir has a kitchen and a dining area that seats six. There are individual cabins so each cosmonaut can have a private desk, an armchair and separate sleeping area.

The space station has six ports so that up to six spacecraft and/or module units can dock with the facility at any one time. There will be a module connected to the station for technological production and experiments, another for astrophysicists, a third will house a biological research lab and a fourth will be used for the production of medical preparations.

Mir employs the most advanced computer and related technologies, prompting one scientist in Washington, Dr. B.J. Bluth, an authority on space station technology, to say that Mir puts the Soviet Union "light years ahead" of the U.S. in the drive to develop space stations permanently occupied by people.

Since the end of the Apollo space missions in the U.S., Washington has put its priority into the shuttle missions, which were regarded as necessary by the military and key components in developing the Star Wars weapons system. With the mad race

on for Star Wars, the government scrapped virtually every space program that didn't have a military application.

The Pentagon's domination of the space program brought with it all the diseases of waste, cost-overruns, corruption, ignoring safety, etc., that characterize everything that the military-industrial complex puts its hands on.

Wasted millions

The Miami Herald reported yesterday that NASA wasted tens of millions of dollars on shuttle contracts. Citing audit reports by NASA and the Defense Contract Audit Agency, they reported that the space agency routinely paid \$315 for pins that should have cost three cents, \$159,000 for a cooling fan that sells for \$5,000 and \$256 to fly a contractor's dogs across country!

One former supervisor of contractor filings at Kennedy Space Center estimated that up to one-third of NASA's \$8.3 billion budget is wasted.

Several years ago, Ronald Reagan predicted the demise of the Soviet Union, calling it a doomed system, desperately in need of Western technology to survive. One of Reagan's loudest cheerleaders, George Will, wrote in his syndicated column last week that "The Soviet Union has passed the apogee of its doomed attempt to keep pace with the West."

As Reagan and Will watch on their TV sets for the thousandth time the explosion of the Challenger—which was forced to launch in the freezing cold despite the warnings of hundreds of scientists that it was unsafe to do so—and the Soviet missions in outer space, they can ponder just who is outpacing whom, and whose social system is really doomed.

was introduced. Guyette's talk was highly political; he not only related the history of the Hormel struggle, but he linked P-9 to the entire working class struggle for justice by poor, working and oppressed people. He exposed Hormel's operations in South Africa and the Philippines. He denounced racism and women's oppression and called for unity of all—workers, farmers, unemployed.

Guyette reminded the crowd that the slogan of the labor movement used to be "an injury to one is an injury to all," and he called on unionists to return to that as the "highest moral principle of the union movement."

—Hormel

Continued from page 3
ters and brothers in Local P-9."

Two representatives of UFCW Local 431 in Ottumwa, Iowa, where 500 were fired for honoring P-9 picket lines in January, vowed to keep fighting with P-9. We know what picket lines mean," said Bill Cook, "and we'll never cross."

A thousand people jumped to their feet when P-9 President Jim Guyette

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Behind the French elections

By John Catalinotto

MARCH 18—France's parliamentary election last Sunday signaled a return to office by a right-wing bourgeois coalition after five years of government by the Socialist Party (SP). President Francois Mitterrand, himself in the SP, still has two years to go in his seven-year term.

The rightward turn in the French electorate has been anticipated and celebrated in the U.S. big-business press for the past two months as a setback for socialism. But this false description ignores the real character of the Socialist Party regime.

Even in its most progressive period in 1981, the steps taken by the Socialist-Communist coalition never went beyond making mild reforms. They left the capitalist economy and the power of capital completely intact. By 1983, the Socialist Party was directing an "austerity program" which reduced the living standards of the workers and saw unemployment grow from 6% to over 10%. The Communists finally split from the coalition in the summer of 1984 to oppose the austerity program.

Despite its moderate program, this government was from the first moment under relentless attack from the ruling class. This meant not only from the French billionaires, but from their class brothers in West Germany, England and the U.S., who were represented by the right-wing reactionary regimes of Kohl, Thatcher and Reagan. Every economic reform attempted by the Socialist-Communist government was sabotaged by domestic and international capital.

This rightist assault was accompanied by a continuous barrage of anti-communism. The French ruling-class media also gave free reign to the most vile racism and chauvinism, mostly directed against immigrant Arab and African workers. It is this unrelenting assault that was the main cause of the electoral setback for the left and especially for the electoral decline of the French Communist Party (PCF).

In the 577-member assembly, the rightist coalition of the Rally for the Republic and the Union for French Democracy, along with some tiny right-wing parties, won a bare majority of 292 seats. The SP won 215 seats and the PCF 35 seats. The fascist National Front won 33 seats. Under the new proportional representation law, the number of members of parliament is roughly equivalent to the proportion of the popular vote.

While a setback for the left, the election also marked the failure of a policy. This policy had nothing to do with real socialism. Rather, it was one in which the left parties committed themselves to take the reins of the capitalist economy and manage it during a period of worldwide capitalist economic decline.

Its utter failure demonstrates the bankruptcy of the program which has come to be associated with the term Social Democracy.

It should be noted that the SP had complete direction of foreign and military policy, which was reactionary throughout the five years.

What socialism means

In 1981 the SP-PCF government took office with an absolute majority of the voters behind it. This unprecedented mandate expressed the will of the working population to move toward socialism, toward the elimination of privilege and the rule of big capital. A real socialist government would have moved quickly to carry out this mandate.

First of all, the banks and big industries would have been expropriated from their private owners, the exploit-

ers of the French workers. This means not mere nationalization, which fully compensates the rich, but outright seizure. These industries would then have been run on the basis of a national plan guaranteeing employment.

It would be necessary to orient the French economy toward the socialist countries and toward the less-industrially developed nations. French industry and science, which in many areas are as advanced as any in the world, could be geared in a planned way to these areas.

No one pretends these steps could be taken without resistance of the most illegal nature from the capitalists. But the contrast between the measures outlined above and those actually taken by the so-called Socialist Party is striking.

Managed capitalist economy

What the SP-PCF coalition did was simply to manage the capitalist economy for the bourgeoisie. Some of the major banks and industries were nationalized, with more than adequate compensation. They were mainly properties on the edge of bankruptcy.

Now, after the biggest costs have been paid by the government and the workers, the rightist government plans to hand back these properties to private ownership.

It is notable that the Rothschild banking family is now discussing putting the family name back on the

bank. And that during the "Socialist" government the French newspaper industry has come under monopoly control by press tycoon Hersalt. A collaborator with the Nazi occupation during World War II, Hersalt now owns 38% of the national press and 26% of the provincial press.

During 1981, the SP-PCF coalition was able to bring about some significant reforms which helped the workers. The work week was reduced to 39 hours. Retirement was moved back to 60 from 65 years. Some vacation time was added. And a few important social reforms were made, like the elimination of the death penalty.

Shattered against downturn

But the main policy for expansion of the economy was the same as that used by all reformist capitalist regimes since Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal—government deficit financing. This policy shattered against the worldwide capitalist downturn and against the deflationary policies of Reagan, Thatcher and Kohl.

By 1983, the Mitterrand government had completely capitulated to the international right wing. Instead of jailing the capitalists for sending their money abroad, the government adopted austerity policies which punished the workers. Layoffs followed quickly in steel, auto and mining, in both privately owned and nationalized industries.

The PCF opposed the layoffs. Nevertheless, their connection with the government until the summer of 1984 undermined them among their working class supporters.

It is ironic that during the recent election campaign the rightist parties made demagogic attacks on the government on the unemployment issue. Of course, these parties would not only have imposed austerity, they would have tried to cut benefits further.

Growth of fascist grouping

The most negative aspect of the election was the number of votes given the fascist National Front. This group is led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, a former paratrooper in France's colonial war with Algeria and torturer of Algerian patriots. It has based its program on an open appeal to racism, much as the George Wallace movement did in the U.S. in 1968.

In France, the racism is directed against the millions of immigrant Arab and African workers from France's former colonies. These workers provided the labor power that fueled the growth of French heavy industry through the 1960s and 1970s. Now that industrial growth has slowed, the French ruling class and especially the ultra right has made them the scapegoat for unemployment and urban decay.

While the "respectable" right avoids open alignment with the National

Continued on page 11



Spanish masses march against participation in NATO.

The NATO referendum in Spain

By G. Dunkel

MARCH 16—A significant forty percent of the vote in the Spanish referendum last week was against the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), against U.S. bases and nuclear weapons in Spain and against militarism.

A spokesperson for the Coordination of Pacifist Organizations, the real organizers of the anti-NATO campaign, was quoted on Radio Havana as emphasizing that the size of the vote was a solid blow against Spain's participation in NATO and a firm foundation for further struggles.

NATO is a military alliance directed mainly against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries and liberation movements. The United States is the dominant power in NATO, which includes most of the capitalist coun-

tries of Europe.

In the month leading up to the referendum, there were two massive rallies against membership in NATO in Madrid, each with hundreds of thousands of people participating. Public opinion polls indicated that anti-NATO forces would win the vote, which caused a great deal of alarm in Washington. The Spanish people blamed the United States for propping up fascism in Spain by signing a military-aid treaty in 1953, when Franco was on the ropes. People also remembered that a U.S. B-52 bomber had dropped, by accident of course, two nuclear bombs on Spain, which didn't explode.

How did government win?

"Fear and manipulation of the mass media were the tools that the Spanish government used to win," was how a

spokesman for the Spanish Communist Party explained the yes-vote to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

High government officials threatened that a victory for the progressive forces would cause such a reaction in Common Market countries that every Spaniard would immediately feel it in their pockets and that it would so enrage the Spanish army that they would leave their barracks and attempt to re-impose fascism.

The pro-NATO forces got 10 times as much TV time as the anti-NATO forces, who also got a lot of slanted coverage designed to make them look bad. They also had to share their time with a right-wing party, which supports NATO, but opposed the referendum because it was an "exercise in democracy."

U.S. carriers stir trouble in Libyan waters

By Michael Bar-Am

MARCH 17—U.S. aircraft carrier battle groups are once again prowling the waters off the coast of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The New York Times (March 15) reported that, "The United States will hold its third naval exercise this year off the coast of Libya this weekend."

These co-called "maneuvers" are really dangerous provocative acts aimed at the Libyan people, who have been standing up to U.S. imperialism since 1969. In fact, one of the first acts of the new Libyan government that overthrew the U.S. puppet-king Idris in 1969 was the closing down of Wheelus Air Force Base. This base was the largest U.S. air base in the world and was a major NATO training facility.

The "maneuvers" are an attempt to destabilize Libya economically, militarily and psychologically. Similar

"maneuvers" have recently been held off the coasts of Cuba, Nicaragua and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. These "maneuvers" are a danger not only to the oppressed peoples of those countries which have dared to stand up to Yankee imperialism, but also to the tens of thousands of working class youth that join the U.S. Navy every year because there are no jobs at home.

Hidden from the U.S. public is the cost of these "maneuvers," which run into the millions of dollars each day, further increasing the super-profits of the defense contractors. Enormous quantities of naval and aviation fuel are consumed. Jet engines and electronic gear get worn out and are replaced. And the Pentagon admirals and generals get a chance to shuttle around a little bit more in their executive jets.



The USS Midway battle group. Washington has announced yet another set of 'war games' off the coast of Libya.

—U.S. population opposes contra funding

Continued from page 1

tion and most of all freedom from poverty and the fear of poverty. This is real and this is where they want their money spent. For the majority, the meeting of basic human needs easily takes precedence over helping Ronald Reagan fulfill his obsessive compulsion to punish defiant Nicaraguans.

Tonight, however, Reagan came back for more, this time almost in caricature, like the actor who plays some right-wing extremist in one of those movies which parodies the far out, foam-at-the-mouth, anti-communist fringe.

Sitting before an electric map where countries blinked on and off in bright red, President Reagan talked urgently to the TV cameras about how Bulgarians are now "camped on our own doorstep," about how Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Italy are threatened by the small country of Nicaragua.

Reagan didn't forget to include the Ayatollah Khomeini, Greece, the PLO, Libya, cocaine, North Korea, atheists, mob violence and all the other buzz words his overripe speech writers could recall and cram in.

Is this thing really supposed to work? Are people actually supposed to believe that Sandinistas disguised as contras commit atrocities against

their own supporters? That's what Reagan says.

Contras' ties to Somoza

Are the contra commanders really men "who had fought the old Somoza dictatorship?" That's what Reagan claims, even though 44 out of 46 senior contra officers were former Somoza Guard commanders.

Are these Guardsmen "like the French Resistance that fought the Nazis?" Reagan, who crawled among Nazi graves at Bitberg, says yes, yes, these are freedom fighters, and yes, "I'm a contra too." Of course he's a contra. The main contra, the man who ordered the CIA to fund the contras in the first place, so the old gang can rule Managua again. During all those nightmare years of Somoza dictatorship, Ronald Reagan never said a word about democracy for Nicaragua, human rights for Nicaragua, freedom for Nicaragua. Somoza was his man, and now he's taken over from Somoza. Now Ronald Reagan is the Guardsmen's commander-in-chief, and Congress had better get with the program and give Guard Commander Reagan his \$100 million Aid For Dependent Contras. If his Guardsmen don't get their money, the Sandinistas will pose "a mortal threat to the entire New World," and Soviet planes will be patrolling "from Maine to Florida."

Reagan has to throw in the Soviet

Union so it won't look like he's picking on a country with a population about the size of Chicago, which he is. He has to assure Congress that the U.S. Green Beret Special Forces are standing by to give the contras "civic action" training in how to talk about democracy.

Last week, Gen. John Galvin, the commander of the U.S. forces in Central America, said that the "ideological message" these contra invaders bring on their raids into Nicaragua is "somewhat stunted." All that raping and burning and killing of civilians seems to have given Reagan's heroes a bad reputation with people down there.

"Send money and material now so we never have to send our American boys," Reagan says. U.S. troops "are not needed; they have not been requested," Reagan said tonight.

But if the contras request them, if U.S. soldiers are needed "to get the job done," as the Reaganites like to put it, they'll pour across the Honduran-Nicaraguan border faster than Congress can blink. Then the message on TV will be how Congress should shut up and "not stab our fighting troops in the back by second guessing the President."

They all know it up on Capitol Hill. If Congress won't stop Reagan now, he'll have to be halted later on the beaches, the hills and cities of Nicaragua and on the streets of this country as well.

Join us in the struggle

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

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CIA kicked off Hunter campus.

A large and militant gathering of students assembled on March 12 to protest the presence of a CIA recruiter on Hunter College's campus in New York City. The students demanded that the recruitment stop, but were refused by both the Career Placement Office and the Vice-President's office. In a confrontation with Vice-President Sylvia Fishman, who claimed, "The CIA has a right to be on campus," students stated that the CIA are the real terrorists and have no right to be on campus to recruit students to aid them in their illegal war in Nicaragua or to aid Savimbi's contras in Angola. Aware of the CIA's long and repressive history throughout the Third World, students carried signs and shouted slogans saying: "CIA/USA, out of Nicaragua!" "No more Viet Nams," and "CIA off our campus" as they drove the CIA agent out of the building.

—Lisa Comer



WW PHOTO: ANGEL PARKER

Vet's suicide provoked by Reagan budget cuts

By L. Volpe

ON MARCH 3, disabled Viet Nam veteran Michael F. Dean gave sleeping pills to his girlfriend Caroline Hull and her three children, shot them all, set fire to the house and then killed himself in a desperate act of protest against Ronald Reagan's proposed budget cuts in already measly benefits to veterans and their survivors.

The next day, several local news media and family members received letters from Dean and Hull, whose former husband, another disabled Viet Nam vet, died in 1983. The letters described in detail how they planned the deaths and why they died. Hull called their act "an act of love" and denounced the Reagan cuts. She wrote, "We are both tired of fighting the system. . . ." Relatives reported that recently the couple had spoken of their frustrations about the proposed cuts and tried to organize others to pressure Congress to stop Reagan's proposals.

Reagan, who spent World War II making grade B war propaganda movies, has proposed cutting \$39 million from programs for job training, rehabilitation and special car equipment for disabled vets. He also has proposed a \$117.5 million cut from the already substandard Veterans Administration (VA) medical system, which would mean a cut of 1,300 more VA hospital beds. Reagan refuses to cut one penny from "Star Wars," but is demanding a total of \$196.5 million from the VA.

Most Viet Nam vets were poor and working class youth who had not yet reached their twentieth birthday when they arrived in Viet Nam. They witnessed murder, torture, rape and the everyday super-exploitation of a people suffering from fascist neocolonialism. On top of that, these youth were the cannon fodder carrying out an imperialist war, against people who were even poorer than they were, for the millionaires back home, whose children got to sit the war out. Is it any wonder that these vets have a lot of problems, especially those who got the most dangerous jobs, the Black, Latin, Native and Asian vets?

In contrast to those who have given up the fight, many others continue to struggle for services to help put their lives back together and to stop another generation from going off to fight yet another imperialist war against the peoples of Nicaragua, South Africa, the Philippines or elsewhere where people are fighting to take control of their own destiny.

Need to fight back

Bill Gandall is a 77-year-old former U.S. Marine who was stationed in Nicaragua in the 1920s. He helped train the National Guard of Anastasio Somoza Garcia which was created by U.S. imperialism because of opposition at home to U.S. intervention there. He admits to participating in war atrocities against the Nicaraguan people almost 60 years ago.

After his experiences in Nicaragua, Gandall returned home, enrolled in high school and soon became a political activist. He led labor strikes and was even hounded by witchhunting Senate committees during the McCarthy era. A staunch fighter against the Reagan program, he has been arrested 101 times.

In 1981, Gandall was arrested for lying down and refusing to move from the floor of the Riviera Beach VA clinic in Florida in protest of Reagan's first round of budget cuts. He has campaigned as a write-in candidate for U.S. Congress under a radical program.

Gandall recently left his Palm Beach home and returned to Nicaragua to help deliver desperately needed ambulances to the Sandinista government. A number of Viet Nam vets have also gone to Nicaragua to show their solidarity with the government Reagan so desperately wants to overthrow. Is it not the duty of progressive Viet Nam vets to help lead the struggle to keep the government from sending another generation of youth off to an imperialist war? Bill Gandall is an inspiration to continue that struggle.

L. Volpe was a U.S. Navy adviser in the Mekong Delta in Viet Nam 1971-1972.



Rank-and-file GIs fought and died in Viet Nam so that Wall Street banks and corporations could grow richer.

Boston welfare rally demands adequate benefits

By Linda Tate

BOSTON, March 10—Several hundred welfare recipients and their supporters from all across the state of Massachusetts turned out for a rally and public hearing at the State House here today as part of the "Up to the Poverty Level and Beyond" campaign to demand adequate benefits.

Welfare recipient after welfare recipient testified before the State Human Services Committee in support of a bill to bring Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and General Relief benefits up to the federally established poverty line. Benefits are 44% below that now.

"We are tired of being poor. We won't pay for war no more," sang the demonstrators. They made the connection that was also made in the speeches at the rally—that the raise in military spending requested by Reagan would fund the entire AFDC, food stamps and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) programs.

The Up to the Poverty Level and Beyond Campaign was initiated last year by a coalition of welfare rights, women and community groups. The campaign was instrumental in wringing out a 9% increase in welfare benefits last year. This year the governor was already pushed by the campaign to request a 10% increase, but organizers vow to struggle for nothing less than a 25% increase this year and for the next two years to get the benefits up to the poverty level and then to index them to the consumer price index, like social security payments, so they will stay there.

Welfare benefits in Massachusetts have not been equal to the poverty level since 1970. Because of tremendous inflation and only occasional small increases in benefits, now benefits are 44% below the poverty level resulting in unprecedented homelessness, malnutrition and soaring infant mortality rates. A family on welfare today can buy only 60% of what a welfare family could purchase in 1970, and on welfare that's never been very much.

Dottie Stevens, organizer for the campaign said, "We're back this year stronger than ever and we're not going away. Our children are our future. We call upon the legislature to pass this bill to protect our future."

—French elections

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Front, they fall in line with attacks on the immigrants. It is similar to the way Reagan's less open racism and sexism buttresses the KKK and Jerry Falwell in the U.S. These anti-immigrant appeals were used against the Socialists and the PCF, much as racist arguments are used against liberal or progressive politicians in the U.S.

On the other hand, the battle against the racism of Le Pen and his ilk has led to some of the most dramatic progressive demonstrations in the last few years in France.

In the next few days, Mitterrand will be appointing a new prime minister from one of the right-wing bourgeois parties. And the struggle which was measured in votes last weekend will move back, still unsettled, to the factories and the streets.

—White Earth

Continued from page 12

way of life and abolishing their millennium-old economic base. The goal was assimilation. The result was the devastation of a tribal land base.

"Today," said Bellecourt, "only 6% of the White Earth Nation is controlled by Anishinabe."

Investigations into the land thefts uncovered more than 200,000 acres of land illegally occupied by state and federal governments, corporations and non-Indian property holders. In other areas of the country where Native groups have brought similar contested claims into court, the findings have frequently been favorable to Indian people.

1986: Congress legalizes theft

In the face of these court decisions that recognized some Indian rights, the federal government, the states and the private corporations turned to the U.S. Congress. And as usual, Congress has come through for them.

As Bellecourt explains it, the bill passed last week "clears all Indian claims on the land. It rewards the federal and state governments, the corporations and the immigrant settlers who hold our land illegally, and further punishes the Anishinabe, the victims of these criminal acts."

"We view this legislation as slanted

toward non-Indian special interests. It is a violation of our constitutional rights and of due process. It is an attempt to take, by statute, the beneficial interests of Indian heirs, without just compensation and without a valid public purpose."

What Anishinabe Akeeng wants from Congress, said Bellecourt, is "a policy of restoration of lands, restitution for timber and other resource degradation, reparations for the economic hardships suffered by our people, and the reconstruction of an Indian future in America."

Congress breaks own rules

So far what they've gotten, the AIM leader explained, is a Congress that even breaks its own rules. The Senate had passed last December, by 56-35, the bill settling the claims. At the House Committee on Internal Affairs, there were only four members present when it came up for discussion.

Despite the lack of the legal minimum of members present, the bill was sent on to the House of Representatives. And no roll call vote was taken in committee, so that no one took responsibility for the decision.

The bill was then held at the House desk until a time on March 11 when only eight members were present. A voice vote was quickly called. No one

challenged the lack of a quorum. No one offered opposing arguments.

And this is the Congress that so glibly attacks lack of democracy in other lands.

Expressing his determination and that of his people to continue to fight, Bellecourt said this:

"America must understand that we are the great-grandchildren of the natural and original peoples of this, our Mother Earth, and that we are tied by spiritual, cultural, social, economic and political roots to the Tree of Life of the Anishinabe, which is deeply rooted in the land of the White Earth Anishinabe Nation."

"Our land is not for sale."



Congress whitewashes theft of White Earth

Anti-Indian bill passes House with only 8 members present

By John Catalinotto

MARCH 17—Last week the House of Representatives, with only eight of 435 members present, passed a bill legitimizing the theft of 200,000 acres of land from the White Earth Reservation belonging to the Anishinabe Nation in Minnesota.

The passage of this bill is dangerous for Native Nations, said AIM leader Vernon Bellecourt in an interview with Workers World, because "it could become a precedent for Congress or the courts in clearing all existing or potential Indian claims on the title of lands within the boundaries of reservations."

Known for his work internationally on behalf of indigenous peoples, Bellecourt is himself a member of the White Earth Anishinabe Nation, also called Chippewa. He is active in the organization fighting to "stop the further taking of our treaty-guaranteed lands

and to recover what has been illegally taken from us." This group is called Anishinabe Akeeng or the people's land.

Last week two blatant injustices occurred. One concerned the ongoing plunder of Native lands. The other was the completely illegal way that the law was rammed through Congress. Both contributed to Bellecourt's growing anger as he described the events.

1887: Congress divides White Earth

In 1867 a treaty established the 837,120-acre White Earth Reservation as tribal land. Twenty years later, Congress passed the Nelson Allotment Act. This imposed individual ownership of plots of land on the Native Nation.

Congress' intent was to break up the sovereign treaty lands, changing their

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Big Mountain resistance focus of Baltimore forum

By Andre Powell

BALTIMORE, March 15—Leaders in the Native American struggle against the Reagan administration's genocidal policy of relocation addressed a standing-room-only crowd of over 150 local activists here tonight. The leaders are on a nationwide tour to build support for their resistance to their forced removal from the land in Big Mountain, Ariz.

Vernon Bellecourt (Wabun-Inini) of the Anishinabe Nation spoke of legislation passed in the U.S. Congress with only eight members present, which made legal the theft of an additional 190,000 acres of Anishinabe land from White Earth, Minn. (See article on this page.)

Drawing an analogy between the Native struggle and liberation struggles around the world against U.S. imperialism and its allies, Bellecourt said, "America is the architect of apartheid. The removal in South Africa of its Native people is the same as the removal of American Indians from their Native lands."

Dineh elders speak to people

Larry Anderson of the Dineh Nation translated the words of two elders of the Dineh people who addressed the audience, telling of the role of Native women in the resistance to the forced relocation of 16,000 people from Big Mountain, Ariz. Elder Zonnie Katney

spoke of the deceit and lies of the U.S. government and how it, along with its cohorts, the Hopi Tribunal Board, which is recognized by the federal government, brought on this false dispute against the Dineh.

Elder Jane Biakeddy called the relocation an attempt to destroy the culture of the Dineh people. She indicated that Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona and the Hopi Tribunal Board are partners in the relocation of the Dineh peoples.

Hachett of the Eastern Cherokee and the National People's Anti-War Mobilization also spoke, praising the Native people from the surrounding communities for coming to the meeting and showing their solidarity in the struggle.

Concluding the meeting, Bellecourt gave a slide lecture on the role of members of the Indian nation in the Nicaraguan Revolution. He questioned Reagan's desire to protect Miskito Indians in Nicaragua, while sanctioning genocide against Native people in the U.S. He cited the true cause of the suffering of the peoples of Central America as U.S. imperialist efforts to malign and in fact overthrow the Revolution of Nicaragua.

The meeting ended with a song in support of the Big Mountain struggle by the Baltimore All-Peoples Singers, followed by repeated clapping and chanting of "Stop the relocation now" by the audience.



WW PHOTO: JOYCE CHEDIAE

Big Mountain case brought to UN. Leaders of the Anishinabe nation met at the UN on Tuesday, March 18, with a representative of the UN Center for Human Rights and presented documentation on how the forced removal of Native people from Big Mountain violated the UN treaty on genocide. The U.S. Senate has recently ratified this treaty and the Reagan administration has pledged to sign it. The indigenous leaders asked the UN to help alleviate the situation at Big Mountain. At a news conference held in the UN (clockwise from top) Jane Biakeddy, Zonnie Katney, Vernon Bellecourt and Larry Andrews tell 20 representatives of the international media of the U.S. government's theft of their land at Big Mountain, Ariz., and White Earth, Minn.

—Joyce Chediae

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