



workers world

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES OF THE WORLD UNITE!



Gov't policies spread hunger

Physicians' group declares malnutrition 'national health epidemic'

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 23 — "The problem of hunger in the United States is more widespread and serious than at any time in the past ten years," according to a current report by the Physicians Task Force on Hunger in America. Noting that "the situation has deteriorated," the Harvard-based doctors' organization is declaring malnutrition "a national health epidemic."

Their study, carried out in Florida, Georgia, South Dakota, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas found it all: nephritis, colitis, diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis, chronic liver disease, macrocytic anemia.

People are slowly starving in the richest food-producing country on earth.

Now not everyone is hungry. Certainly not President Reagan, who came to the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City last week to join 1,300 other wealthy people at a \$1,000-a-plate luncheon for Senator Alfonse D'Amato. These people really know how to eat well. They're not too worried that 2.5 million other human beings have been forced off the food

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San Francisco.

WW PHOTO PETER DINN

Sam Marcy: Pentagon preparing for new Mideast intervention —p. 9

U.S. isolated over Libya —p. 10

Transportation workers join forces at NYC rally

—p. 12



WW PHOTO SUSAN ROTGARD

These hospitals are dangerous to your health

By John Catalinotto
FOR-PROFIT hospitals are dangerous for our health. They are also hard on our pocketbooks. That was the conclusion of a study made by the National Council of Senior Citizens reviewed in the April 5 issue of AFL-CIO news.

In a report titled "For-Profit Hospital Care: Who Profits? Who Cares?" the NCSC charged the medical profiteers with taking a "McDonald's approach to health care, viewing a hospital as no more than a money-making franchise."

The practice of serving an appendectomy on a bun, with catsup and pickles, has become a major industry during the Reagan years. Between 1978 and 1983, the NCSC study said that the number of such hospitals grew from 437 to 767, a 76% increase. And the growth has continued to this day.

Among the largest of these chains

are the Hospital Corporation of America, National Medical Enterprises, Humana and Beverly Enterprises. According to the Fortune 500 study of service companies, these ranked near the top in average return on investment in the 1974-84 period. They ranged from \$1.4 to \$3.5 billion in total sales.

In other words, the for-profit hospital chains turned a big profit on relatively small investments. The NCSC study shows that they did this by short-cutting health care, increasing the costs of public hospitals and government subsidies, refusing care for the poor and conniving with the giant drug companies.

The biggest expansion of these chains has been in Sun-Belt states. It can be taken for granted that another part of their high profits has come from increased exploitation of the less-organized work force there.

When a non-profit hospital is taken over by one of these chains, "costs and

charges to patients increase rapidly." For example, a Blue Cross/Blue Shield study of charges for three surgical procedures in North Carolina showed costs 58% above those in non-profits. Tennessee's for-profit hospital daily costs ran 30% higher than the non-profits, due mainly to administrative and management fees.

This rise in costs is for wealthy and insured patients. For the poor the result is even worse. Indigent patients are refused admittance or are quickly "dumped in a community or non-profit hospital." The study says the move is ordered even where it has "seriously jeopardized their health and, at times, their lives."

This practice cuts costs for the bloodsuckers that own the for-profit chains, and increases them at the public hospitals. The financial costs are borne by the local and federal government, that is, by workers' taxes. The cost to health is borne by the poor. It is

especially a burden for Black, Latin, Native and other nationalities who make up a disproportionate number of the poor.

Drug company ripoffs

But those who can pay or who are insured may also be getting worse care. After all, medical decisions are directly tied to the "bottom line." As the NCSC study points out, the hospitals make a "sizable profit" on medical supplies or drugs provided by companies in which they have a financial interest or with whom they've made a deal.

International drug monopolies like Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson, Baxter, Merck, Ciba, Abbott and Upjohn have "interlocking" arrangements with the big for-profits listed above. The study concludes that "the over-prescribing of drugs is one of the more dangerous consequences of such tie-ins."

In other words, even those workers with health insurance may only be getting too much catsup and processed cheese on their Big Mac.

Aside from the stockholders and a few high-paid managers, only some money-hungry doctors have gained. The chains offer these MDs exorbitant guaranteed annual incomes, fully furnished offices with staff, and country club memberships. These bribes insure "a steady flow of hospital patients recommended by the grateful physicians," the study adds.

The Reaganites would have us believe that the unregulated striving for profit brings about the ideal solution. The NCSC study shows the contrary to be true.

With medical care, any capitalism is bad. More capitalism is worse. Worshipping the bottom line of high profit, as Humana and company do, debases the very foundation of health care. It lowers the already poor quality of medical service for working and poor people while raising its costs.

An epidemic that could have been prevented

By G. Dunkel
JERSEY CITY, April 14 — Since Dec. 1, 1985, there have been over 500 cases of measles in northern New Jersey — an epidemic concentrated in the Hispanic community of Jersey City. This is all the more dramatic since there were only 2,500 cases in the whole U.S. during 1985.

While most of the time measles is not dangerous in an otherwise healthy child, on a worldwide basis it annually causes 15% of all the deaths of children under five. It also occasionally produces encephalitis and damage to the nervous system, which may cause retardation and destroy eyesight and hearing.

There is an effective vaccine for measles, generally given to children between 12 and 15 months old. Before

age one, children get some resistance to measles from their mothers, if their mothers have had the disease or have been vaccinated for it.

Causes of the epidemic

There is no effective, convenient way for most people to get children vaccinated in Jersey City due to cutbacks in the public health services and the children's clinics at the Medical Center. Clinics are open only during working hours and advertising is done mainly in English, although the epidemic is concentrated in the Spanish-speaking community. Callous state public health officials have admitted that they are going to let the epidemic "burn itself out" in Jersey City, while they intend to take vigorous and strenuous measures in the well-off, mainly

white suburban communities outside of Jersey City.

The Reagan administration shares some of the blame for this epidemic. One of the first cuts it made was in the U.S. funds that went to international agencies that pay for inoculation programs in poor, developing countries. If their mothers had been inoculated in the Central and Latin American countries where they were born, their children born in Jersey City would have had some resistance.

And if the U.S. were to donate what its Defense Department spends in a few hours, measles could be totally eliminated, like smallpox. And there would be fewer sightless and hearing impaired people to struggle through their lives, fewer families to mourn the death of a small, innocent child.

In This Issue...

LIBYA

Sam Marcy writes that Reagan's assault on embattled Libya is far from over, with the U.S. President using economic and military pressure to try to bludgeon Washington's imperialist allies into line behind his next aggressive steps. Other articles examine the erroneous "cycle of violence" argument and survey the widespread foreign hostility and growing domestic criticism of the Pentagon's sneak attack. (Pages 9-10.)

MAY DAY

One hundred years ago dramatic workers' demonstrations in Chicago for the eight-hour day sparked the establishment of May 1 as International Labor Day. A special section commemorates this holiday with an account of those times, a history of the participation of Workers World Party in the labor movement during the last 27 years, and a review of a book by Sam Marcy set to be published this May 1. The book analyzes the potential for new struggle caused by high-tech's impact on today's increasingly Black, Latin and women working class. (Pages 5-7.)

TRANSIT RALLY

Unions representing all workers in the transportation industry from Greyhound bus drivers to TWA flight attendants joined with community groups for a New York City rally that demonstrated growing solidarity against union busting and wage cuts. (Page 12.)



Buffalo

WW PHOTO: BILL COVINGTON



New York City

WW PHOTO: SUSAN ROTGARD

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workers world

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Titan explosion setback for Pentagon

Race after Star Wars behind military/space disasters

By Carmen Roundtree

APRIL 22 — A Titan 34-D missile exploded this past Friday about 10 seconds after launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The explosion falls on the heels of the Challenger space shuttle disaster, just last February.

The continued failures in the U.S. military/space program have exposed the intimate link between the so-called exploration of space and the Pentagon's dream of gaining military supremacy in the world. The flops also reveal the enormous financial burden on U.S. workers to support these military programs.

Just yesterday, the Air Force hinted it might press ahead with a new shuttle launch on what they term "an emergency mission."

The \$65 million Titan was the only vehicle other than the space shuttle that was capable of launching the Pentagon's "reconnaissance satellite" KH-11. This \$800 million piece of equipment is a spy satellite used to fly over the Soviet Union and other places Pentagon officials call "troubled areas," such as the Middle East.

This space explosion was the third of its kind for the U.S. program (that the public is aware of) within less than a year. The first, another Titan 34-D missile, which the space shuttle design is based on, exploded this past August. This missile was also carrying a KH-11 spy satellite, and publicity about the explosion was hushed.

Seventy-four people were injured in this latest explosion with eye irritations and burns; several were hospitalized. Most of those who were injured were personnel working on the base, even though shortly after the explosion military officials claimed that no one had been injured.

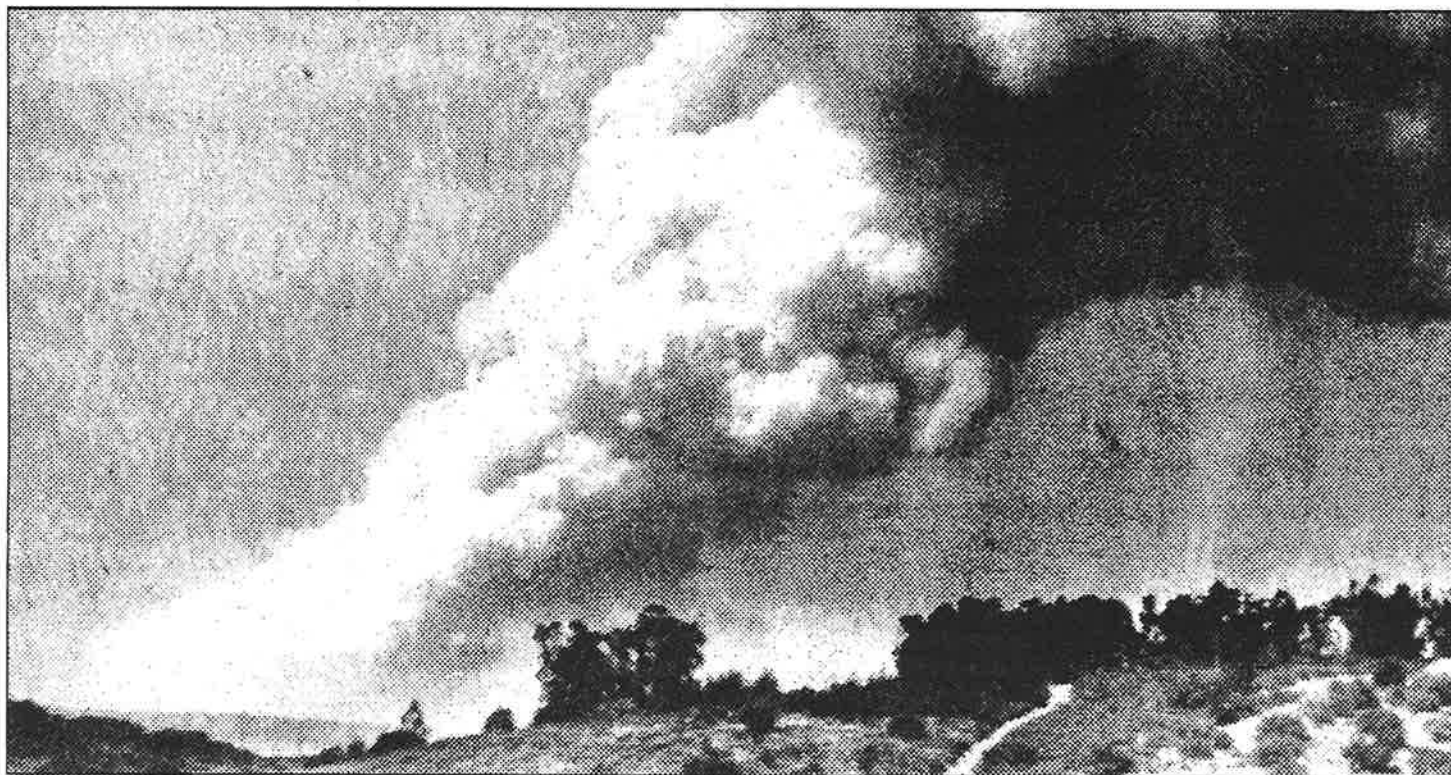
According to Pentagon officials, the explosion released a cloud of poisonous fumes and damaged the launch pad and about 200 acres surrounding it. The explosion was several hundred feet in the air and could be seen at least 11 miles away and reportedly heard 100 miles away from the base.

Setback to Star Wars

This is one of the biggest setbacks for the Pentagon, especially in light of the recent space shuttle disaster. The Pentagon has been incapable of launching its spy weapons into space. The failures have also derailed their Star Wars efforts.

But the military brass have stepped up their propaganda efforts to try to make up for their technical flops. Aerospace experts have repeatedly stated that this explosion could harm upcoming arms controls agreements with the Soviet Union, because without these satellites there is no confidence that the U.S. can monitor the Soviet military. This, of course, is just another hype to keep from coming to any kind of real arms agreement with the Soviet Union, and also to push full steam ahead with their very wanted Star Wars initiative.

Three of these war machines have already exploded, killing at least seven and wounding many more. With each missile explosion, close to one billion dollars of working people's money is blown up into space. It was just reported recently in the New York Times that the number of hungry people in this country is growing, and with each dollar more that is pumped into the military budget to carry out the maniacal drive toward war and superprofits, it puts another human being on the unemployment line, the welfare line, and the starvation line.



\$65 million Titan goes up in smoke, the third recent fiasco in the U.S. space program.

Racists force replay of Chi election

By P. Kimball

CHICAGO, April 18. — Another "stolen election" — that's what they're saying in Chicago about what happened this week to progressive City Council candidate Luis Gutierrez. And more is at stake than a single City Council seat.

Nearly three years ago, the corrupt, white supremacist Chicago Democratic machine was stunned by the election of Harold Washington, Chicago's first Black mayor, due to the efforts of a city-wide mass movement of Blacks, Latins and progressive whites.

Despite Washington's election, the racist machine retained a 29-to-21 majority in the City Council, under the leadership of Alderman Ed Vrdolyak. This bloc has taken a reactionary position on every important issue — notably affirmative action in hiring and awarding of contracts. More than that, it has scuttled the ordinary business of government for the sole purpose of obstructing and discrediting the Washington administration.

Many key positions in city government — such as seats on the Library Board, the Park District Board, and the city's representatives to the Regional Transportation Authority — remain unfilled after three years because the '29' refused to hold hearings on Washington's appointments.

How could white racists constitute such a whopping Council majority in a city which is nearly 60% Black and Latin? For one thing, the ward boundaries were gerrymandered to disperse the voting power of non-whites.

Special elections set

When it was ruled that special elections must be held in the seven remapped wards on March 18, millions of dollars in clout were put in jeopardy; a victory by progressive candidates in four of the seven would destroy the racist majority in the Council. Faced with this prospect, the machine hastened to dig up candidates to run in the elections they had tried so hard to prevent.

A particular focus was a group of five predominantly Latin wards. For the first time, these wards would give Chicago's Hispanic community significant representation in the Council.

The score for the elections: two machine candidates elected; a runoff in the mostly-Black 15th ward where Marlene Carter, a Washington ally, is

expected to defeat the white machine incumbent; and three wins for progressives. On the face of it the rule of the '29' was over. But the Board of Education Commissioners — whose head, Michael LaVelle, was selected by machine-picked judges — now took a hand in the game.

In the mostly-Puerto Rican 26th ward, Luis Gutierrez, an official in the Washington administration, had beaten Vrdolyak-backed Manny Torres by 20 votes out of over 10,000 cast. Most progressive forces in the community had united with the campaign, though a segment of the independence movement had called for an electoral boycott. A completely insignificant write-in candidate, one Jim Blasinsky, had gotten 11 (eleven) votes.

But two weeks after the election, the Commissioners found ten more Blasinsky votes in an **unsealed box** in their warehouse. And yesterday — after other court challenges by Torres had come to nothing — they agreed to count these votes, though Illinois law

states that votes kept in unsealed containers cannot be counted.

They then ruled that, as Blasinsky now had 21 votes, Gutierrez had received only 49.999% of the total votes cast — and not 50% — and that there must be a runoff between Gutierrez and Torres on April 29. By coincidence (?), the ten votes they dug up (?) were just enough to produce this result; eight votes wouldn't have done it.

Tonight, residents of the 26th ward were rallying to what Gutierrez is calling his "re-election" campaign, motivated not only by belief in their candidate but also by anger that, once again, the machine has demonstrated its contempt for the democratic rights of Puerto Rican people.

As readers of Workers World are well aware, electoral democracy is no cure for economic exploitation, Pentagon militarism, the worldwide capitalist crisis, or their effects. However, even the meager privileges of democracy are still in question for the Black and Latin residents of Chicago.

Puerto Rican political prisoner released on bail

By Leslie Diane Feinberg

APRIL 22 — Roberto Maldonado was released on bail this afternoon from Manhattan Correctional Center one month after his arrest in Puerto Rico. On March 21, gun-toting FBI agents arrested Maldonado and another long-time activist, Antonio Camacho Negrón.

Progressive lawyer Paul Weinbert was simultaneously arrested by the FBI in Springfield, Mass. All the arrests were allegedly in connection with a 1983 Wells Fargo theft.

The FBI made similar arrests previously on Aug. 30, 1985, when 11 pro-independence activists were arrested by the FBI in a pre-dawn sweep in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Dallas and Boston. All were accused by the federal government of being members of an organization called Los Macheteros, which is charged with the same Wells Fargo hold-up. With all the arrogance of Yankee imperialism, the prisoners were shipped to U.S. prisons.

Lawyer Ron Kuby told Workers World today that the August 30 arrests "were clearly designed to intimidate and to terrorize members of the independence movement."

Kuby explained that the outrage of these arrests motivated Maldonado, a progressive lawyer who had abandoned his law practice, to refound the Puerto Rican Institute for Human Rights. Maldonado has a long history of defending the rights of independence activists. He offered free counsel to draft resisters during the Viet Nam war, as well. Kuby pointed out that Maldonado was arrested on the same day he denounced INS raids against Dominicans at a press conference.

Yet Kuby said that attempts to criminalize the independence movement have backfired and succeeded in building even greater support for independence activists. As the FBI had tried to whisk Maldonado and Negrón from a Puerto Rican courthouse surreptitiously, he added, demonstrators blocked the exit, crowded in front of the cars, banging on the hoods and windows.

Kuby concluded, "The U.S. government attempts to attack the Puerto Rican Institute simply drew more young lawyers to the Institute. Due to increased repression we have seen quantitatively and qualitatively increased resistance on all levels."

Reagan's tactics backfire in the Sudan

U.S. evacuated embassy after demonstration of 10,000

By Bill Del Vecchio

APRIL 22 — If Reagan's terror bombing of Libya was meant to whip the peoples of the Middle East in line, then last week's events in the Sudan would prove the raid to be a failure.

Last Thursday the U.S. decided to evacuate 300 embassy personnel from the capital, Khartoum, after an angry

demonstration of at least 10,000 people tried to storm the embassy compound and seize it in protest of the attack on Libya. An embassy official was also shot and severely wounded the day following the raid.

Although great struggles (including a civil war in the South) are underway in the Sudan and the future direction of

this important country cannot be predicted, the embassy evacuation definitely marked the end of the control the U.S. had exercised over that country under the regime of Jaafar Nimeiri.

For 16 years Nimeiri ruled the Sudan on behalf of the U.S., brutally repressing the strong anti-imperialist and progressive sentiments of the Sudanese people and dragging the country into staggering debt and poverty. The Sudan became a major base for U.S.-sponsored schemes to undermine revolutionary governments and movements in neighboring countries. It was the only other country in the Middle East besides Egypt to sign the Camp David Accord with Israel.

But last year the masses revolted over Nimeiri's attempt to impose a starvation austerity plan demanded by the International Monetary Fund to pay off the Sudan's \$9 billion debt. While Nimeiri was on a visit to his patron Ronald Reagan in Washington last April the Sudanese military overthrew him.

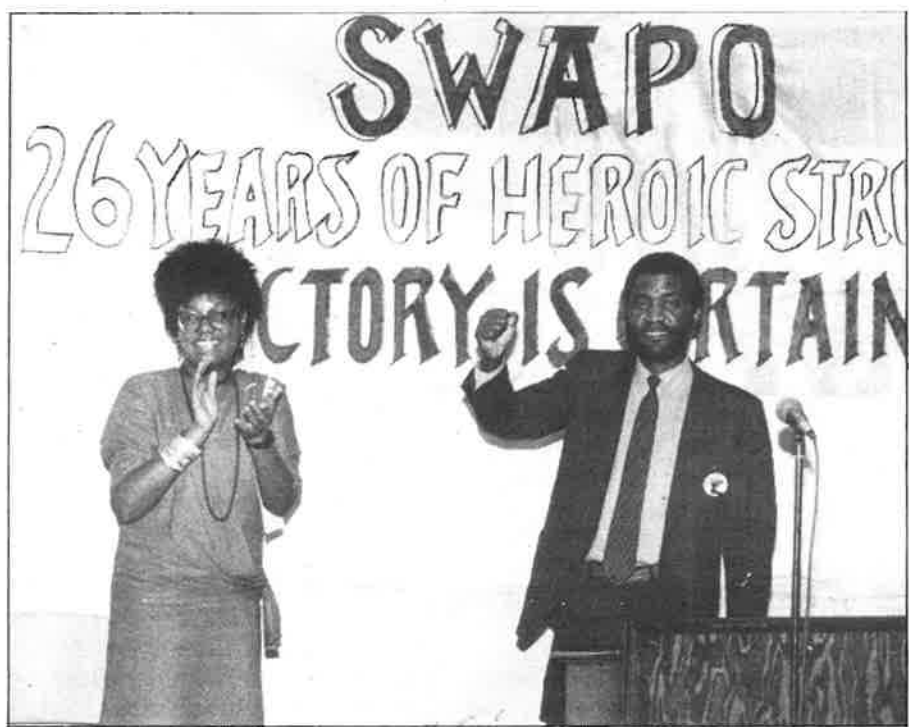
Although General Swaredahab had been part of the old regime and a crony of Nimeiri, he was forced by mass pressure to take the new regime in an anti-imperialist direction. Close ties were formed with Libya, much to the dismay of Washington, and relations

were opened with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

On Sunday the first democratic elections in 18 years were held. The elections were only held in the northern, predominantly Arab, part of the country. In the southern areas the Sudanese People's Liberation Army is waging an armed struggle to win political and cultural rights for African peoples. This group called for a boycott of the election.

In the elections the Umma Party, led by Sadiq el-Mahdi, won a plurality, and Mahdi is expected to become the new Prime Minister. Mahdi lived in exile in Libya during Nimeiri's rule, and at one point tried to launch an armed struggle against Nimeiri with Libyan aid. He is considered a conservative, pragmatic politician, and even the Reagan administration favored his election as someone they could rely on in the midst of the mass upheavals that have continued all year.

Many major issues remain to be resolved for the Sudan: the giant debt to the imperialist banks, the war in the South, whether to create a secular government, what to do with the wealthy Nimeiri supporters that are still plundering the country. While no one knows which road the Sudanese people will follow, one thing is clear: The U.S. is no longer in the driver's seat.



WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Monica Moorehead and featured speaker Hinyangerwa Asheeke, Deputy Representative of SWAPO to UN.

SWAPO representative blasts Reagan at reception

NEW YORK, April 18 — The right to self determination of the Namibian people is being held ransom by the Reagan administration and its cohorts in the racist apartheid regime. This was the message delivered by Hinyangerwa Asheeke, Deputy Representative of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) Observer Mission to the United Nations, at a reception called here tonight in solidarity with the 26th anniversary of SWAPO, the group leading the armed struggle in Namibia.

Speaking for the ANC, Mama-zane Xulu brought the optimistic message of how the Black people in the townships of South Africa had begun to pay their rent to the children who were activists in the struggle, who would give the funds to needy families or those whose relatives were martyrs of the anti-apartheid struggle.

Sahu Barron of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, asked,

"Who is obstructing Namibia's freedom? The same hands that imposed Duvalier as oppressor of the Haitian people, the hands that put Marcos in the Philippines and Somoza in Nicaragua as overseer for imperialist interests."

The meeting was organized by the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the All-Peoples Congress (APC) and the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM). The event was attended by representatives from the African National Congress (ANC), SWAPO, the Irish Republican Movement, Cuba, Viet Nam, Poland, the USSR, the German Democratic Republic and Zimbabwe. Other speakers included Cleveland Robinson, Secretary-Treasurer of District 65 of the United Auto Workers, who urged all present to attend the June 14 Soweto Day activities in New York and around the country.

Monica Moorehead chaired the program.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

At San Francisco March for Jobs and Justice a group notes the role of SWAPO in Namibia.

Joint speaking tour to raise Israel-South Africa link

APRIL 21 — At a news conference held in Washington, D.C., on April 16 members of the African National Congress (ANC) and the November 29 Committee for Palestine announced that they were sponsoring a joint speaking tour entitled "Israel and South Africa: The Apartheid Connection."

According to organizers the tour "will expose the historic, strategic, economic, military and political ties that exist between the governments of Israel and South Africa, ties which have allowed the U.S. to continue trade with South Africa and Israel and to transfer weapons and technology otherwise banned to the apartheid regime."

The national tour opened in New York City on April 17. Mamazane Xulu, a representative of the ANC Observer Mission to the United Nations, pointed out the striking similarities in the daily lives of Palestinian and Black South African people.

Both peoples are repressed by the military and denied their right to express their national aspirations through their organizations, the ANC and the PLO. Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza, like the people of South Africa, aren't considered citizens and must carry passes. Both peoples can be imprisoned without trial and political activists from both suffer attacks from racist vigilantes.

A representative of the November 29 Committee for Palestine explained that one out of every four Palestinians has been jailed by Israel. Many of them have been tortured, including youth between the ages of 9 and 18. Repression has increased in the West Bank and Gaza and 35 Palestinian leaders have been expelled under Israel's "Iron Fist" policy.

For schedules of time and places on this informative tour contact the November 29 Committee for Palestine at (415) 861-1552.

—Hunger

Continued from page 1
stamp program since 1981.

Today, as the number of people in need of the federal nutrition programs is climbing sharply, fewer are obtaining anything, even in the 150 "hunger counties" studied by the Physicians Task Force. Instead, the country is treated to the spectacle of a million cows slaughtered to keep the price of milk up and the mayor of New York City ridiculing a child who testified before Congress that his family is so poor that he's always hungry.

Last year, in one brief three-week period, the Pentagon ordered 284 extra aircraft, 364 more tanks and 19 additional warships carrying a total price

tag of \$25.1 billion. That's more than twice the cost of the entire food stamp program for an entire year!

Why are people who apply for food stamps forced to recite a whole "life history," for \$10 to \$231-a-month, when an armament firm like General Dynamics, which has been indicted over and over and over again for fraud, bribery and profit overruns, wins \$3.5 billion in new government contracts every year? For this alone the capitalist system should be put on trial.

Then all the rich and their politicians could stand up in court and try to explain how more than \$100 billion worth of food got produced here last year but millions of people didn't get enough to eat.

Class struggle and the labor movement

History of Workers World Party, part 1

This article is the first in a series to appear in Workers World newspaper in preparation for the Workers World Party National Conference on Memorial Day weekend. The theme for the conference is "Socialism: Why we need it, how to fight for it." The series will highlight Workers World Party's history since its founding in 1959. The first part is on the Party and labor struggles in the U.S. For more information on the conference, contact Workers World Party Conference National Office, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010; phone (212) 255-0352.

By Gary Wilson

WORKERS WORLD Party was founded in 1959 by political activists, many with long years' experience in the union movement. The core of the Party was made up of women and men who had resisted every form of capitulation during the witchhunt years of the 1950s.

The impact on the labor movement of the witchhunt years was described by Sam Marcy, chairperson of Workers World Party, in a document prepared for members of the Party in 1974:

"Company officials and their stooges invariably refer to working class agitation as 'outside propaganda' being introduced by 'outside agitators.' But the political reaction which began in the labor movement was directly introduced and shoved down the throat of the labor movement by **outside forces** at the CIO convention in 1947. It did not come from within. It was not a spontaneous development flowing from the ranks of the movement. **It was embedded in the movement from without by external, alien class forces.** . . .

"The trade union movement had been under much greater government surveillance than is generally believed. . . . It should be remembered that it was practically prohibited, and in many cases actually illegal for genuine radical and revolutionary elements to exist and carry on normal trade union activity during that period."

Steel strike of 1959

The witchhunt could not forever suppress militancy in the ranks of labor. And the strikes of 1959 signalled a shift out of the Cold War era in the labor movement.

The steel strike of 1959 was the most crucial in that industry since the organizing strikes of 1937-1941. The steel workers were facing the beginnings of what is now called the high-tech revolution. The introduction of Space Age

technologies now completely dominates the industry and has forced almost a quarter million workers out of their jobs.

In his new book on "High Tech, Low Pay," Sam Marcy says that "party members can be distinguished by their militancy, aggressiveness, determination and the enormous energy they expend with other workers in the struggle against the bosses. . . .

"The politically conscious worker must also attempt to educate the other workers in the spirit of the class struggle and promote the socialist goal."

'Sit down!'

The spirit of class struggle fills the more than 25 years of Workers World Party and its participation in the union movement in this country. The steel strike of 1959 showed how Workers World would meet each successive struggle of the working class.

At that time there were about three-quarters of a million steel workers on strike. It was the longest strike in the steel union's history, 116 days, at which time the workers were forced back under a Taft-Hartley injunction.

With many steel union activists making up the early membership of the Party, the strike became an area of particular focus. A reading of the first issues of Workers World newspaper shows article after article by steel workers examining the struggle and explaining the meaning of the various maneuvers of the steel barons and the Eisenhower administration such as the imposition of a Taft-Hartley injunction against the strike, all with the purpose of trying to make sure the workers could win the most possible under the conditions that existed at the time.

When the struggle had reached its apex but the injunction brought down on the union forced the workers back into the plant, Workers World activists felt the mood among the rank and file was to continue the struggle from inside the plants. The newspaper in a front-page headline directed to the strikers said in 3-inch high type: "SIT DOWN! That's what the CIO workers did in 1936; that was their declaration of independence!"

The accompanying article explained that "government intervention on the side of the steel companies cannot defeat the steelworkers, if they refuse to be defeated. . . . The most effective thing for the steelworkers to do is to conduct a sit-down strike." (Workers World, Oct. 18, 1959)

It was a strategy that had proven its effectiveness in the 1930s and if it had been followed in 1959 could have en-

sured a settlement for the steel workers' union equal to the strength of their strike.

New York City hospital strike of 1962

Another labor struggle that took place in the early years of the Party was the strike of hospital workers in New York City in 1962.

The hospital strike was the opening of a new era in union organizing. While much of the strength of the union movement had come from the historic organizing drives of the 1930s, these victories had been primarily among industrial workers. The hospital strike showed that workers in the growing service industries and the so-called public sector (government-controlled services) could also be unionized. Today, these workers could even be called the backbone of the union movement.

In June of 1962 some 20,000 members of Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers, walked off their jobs. The strikers were primarily Black and Latin women. The union's president was jailed and the workers battled without strike pay, many forced to rely on welfare to be able to hold on. After more than a month of picketing and sitting-in, battling against the most severe repression, the strike was victorious.

The hospital strike was as much a part of the civil rights struggle as of the labor movement. In a front-page report on the strike, Workers World wrote on June 22, 1962, "They are fighting for human dignity more than money. Victims of persecution that U.S. white supremacy visits upon oppressed nationalities, they are fighting against second class citizenship as well as for union recognition." Many young WWP members walked the picket lines and were arrested in the hospital sit-ins.

The key to labor's future — fighting racism

From its very first days, Workers World Party has seen the struggle against racism as the key to building a strong labor movement in the U.S. The Party was founded on the principle first stated by Karl Marx that labor in the white skin cannot be free until labor in the Black skin is free.

In the labor movement today, it is not generally discussed how deeply racism had infected the unions, particularly the leadership of the AFL-CIO. But at the time of the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington led by Martin Luther King, Jr., the AFL-CIO Executive Council refused to give its endorsement. Workers World condemned

this as a "disgraceful act" and demanded that AFL-CIO President George Meany, who was responsible for this, step down.

The pages of Workers World's history in the labor movement are written with struggle after struggle against racism, and Party activists have distinguished themselves in this struggle.

One particularly difficult battle took place in New York City in 1967. The Black community in Bedford-Stuyvesant (Ocean Hill-Brownsville) took over control of the local schools as part of the civil rights movement that was sweeping the country. Albert Shanker, the president of the teachers' union, pursued a racist solution, leading a strike against community control.

Although Workers World trade unionists stood isolated in the labor movement on this issue, they stood firmly on the principled position of supporting the right of self-determination for the Black community and many joined in the community-run schools that were opened during the racist strike.

In a statement titled "Black people have a right to take over their own schools," Sam Marcy spelled out the Party's position. He denounced those who called it "strikebreaking" and declared that "it was merely a legitimate form of the exercise of the right to self-determination."

He urged "the white working class and all progressives to defend this position as an elementary right in the struggle for self-determination and liberation. . . . The white teachers and other whites in the Black community must subordinate their demands to the elementary right of human dignity of the Black people. Only on this basis can there ever be genuine working class solidarity against the capitalist class."

In the following years, Party members joined in the fight for affirmative action on the job as a concrete way to correct age-old injustices due to racism and to strengthen the labor movement. In a booklet written in the 1970s titled, "Weber is wrong, the United Steel Workers are right: The case for affirmative action," Larry Holmes (Workers World candidate for President in the 1984 elections), defended the affirmative action clause won by the union. Members of the Party helped to organize demonstrations around the country in support of affirmative action and the steel union and against the racist concept of "reverse

Continued on page 6

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MAY DAY AT 100

By Andy Stapp

IN SECRET meetings and in mass demonstrations, millions of workers around the globe will celebrate this May first. Nineteen-eighty-six is the hundredth anniversary of May Day.

Japanese workers will rally in a thousand towns and cities, huge numbers will gather in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and in the Angolan capital of Luanda. The streets of Lisbon, Paris, Havana, Rome, Moscow, Athens, Ho Chi Minh City, and Buenos Aires will roar with the chants of struggle against imperialism and capitalism and for the unity of the toilers and the oppressed.

It all began in Chicago, in the industrial heartland of the U.S. On May 1, 1886, some 500,000 men, women and children workers went on strike all across the U.S. for an eight-hour day.

As if to prove the truth of Karl Marx's statement that "the creation of a normal working day is the product of protracted civil war between the capitalist class and the working class," the Illinois state militia was called out against the strikers in Chicago.

These troops were not all the workers were up against. The whole labor movement had taken a real beating in the years following the industrial depression of 1873. Wages in textile were down 30%, steel and coal strikes had been crushed into submission and employers were attacking labor organizations everywhere.

In the face of this assault, many union officials could only respond with speeches about the uselessness of strikes! And they could point to how every strike was failing, how the trade unions were shrinking and how the three million unemployed were ready to take the jobs of workers who tried to fight back.

Hunger stalked the cities

Death from hunger stalked the great industrial cities, carrying away not only individuals but whole families. Crowds of workers and their families besieged the courts, imploring the authorities to commit them to the poor house. How easy it was for the capitalist press to pour scorn and ridicule on anyone who asserted that the great proletariat could take destiny in its hands and overcome the power of big capital and the armed state apparatus!

But not everyone was willing to give up. In Chicago, the Central Labor Union was the most militant in the country. Many of its 20,000 members also belonged to the leftist International Working People's Association.

As May 1, 1886 approached, the workers of Chicago along with workers from Connecticut to California braced for the first real general strike this country had ever seen. No more 12-hour workdays!

Not only was the whole Chicago police force put on full alert, but in addi-

'It all began in Chicago, in the industrial heartland of the U.S.'

tion to the troops mentioned above, the city was flooded with thousands of Pinkerton thugs.

On May Day eve, Chicago's biggest newspaper ran an editorial on its front page which said: "There are two dangerous ruffians at large in this city; two sneaking cowards who are trying to cause trouble. One of them is named Parsons; the other is named Spies. These two fellows have been at work fomenting disorder for the past ten years. These fellows do not want any reasonable concessions. They are looking for riot and plunder.

"Mark them for today. Keep them in view. Hold them personally responsible for any trouble that occurs. Make an example of them if trouble occurs."

The next day, on May 1, 190,000 workers in Chicago went on strike, half a million more nationwide. In Louisville 6,000 Black and white marchers paraded into National Park, from which Black people had been banned. In Baltimore 25,000 more, also Black

and white, marched through the streets.

Breaking white prejudice

The struggle was breaking down the walls of white prejudice even then, when the white labor leaders were usually so backward and ignorant of how important it is to combat bigotry by fighting for the oppressed national minorities. The movement was every where on May 1, 1886, suddenly alive after the ruling class had declared it dead and buried.

Fearful and convulsed with anger, the propertied class retaliated, coming down hardest in Chicago, which was the heart and soul of the workers' resistance. Strikers were killed. Police were killed. The working class leaders Albert Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer and George Engels were framed up, put through a travesty of a trial and hanged on Nov. 11, 1887.

Albert Parsons laughed at his hangman before he died. August Spies went the same way. He had dared the judge to execute all the defendants, "if you think that by hanging us you can stamp out the labor movement."

The judicial murders of Parsons, Spies, Engels and Fischer did not kill the eight-hour-day movement. Both the trial and the brave deaths of the defendants riveted the attention of the working class, not only in the United States, but the world around. Every-

Continued on page 8

—Class struggle

Continued from page 5

discrimination" which was being introduced by the Weber case.

Having something in writing in the union contract that provides affirmative action for Black and other nationally oppressed workers as well as women is the only guarantee that certain forms of discrimination will end. It cannot be left up to the "good will" of the boss, as the last hundred or more years have shown.

'No borders in the workers' struggle'

Some in the union movement were also pulled into the racist campaigns opened in the 1970s against undocumented workers, mostly from Latin American countries.

In a pamphlet titled "There are no borders in the workers' struggle," which was widely distributed in workplaces from Boston to Los Angeles, Vince Copeland, one of the founding members of the Party, wrote that "all people everywhere are entitled to a job at decent wages and that, within the limits of revolutionary self-determination, all reactionary national frontiers should be torn down so that Mexicanos, Dominicans, Africans, etc., all have the same wage structure as the higher-paid U.S. workers."

The pamphlet goes on to show that unemployment is a feature of capitalism and is created by the greed for profits of the capitalists. It is not created by the workers, including those from other countries who are themselves forced to leave their homes because of the ravages of the profit system.

The mineworkers and the assassination of Yablonski

The 1970s opened a period of labor upsurge — mineworkers, truck drivers, postal workers, women workers, Black workers, railway workers, textile workers, phone workers — the list of workers who struck in that period goes on and on.

The year began with two monumental events: the assassination of

Mine Workers leader Jock Yablonski and Nixon's sending in the troops against the strike by postal workers.

In an extensive front-page analysis of the Yablonski assassination, Sam Marcy wrote (Workers World, Jan. 10, 1970) that the assassination marked a beginning of open warfare by the government and big business against the labor movement. It marked the end of seemingly peaceful relations that had predominated since the opening of the Cold War of the 1950s. The economic hardships that were a result of the Viet Nam war, particularly inflation, had already sparked signs of militancy in the ranks of labor.

Marcy wrote, "The mine union has always been a bellwether of a sort, a harbinger of things to come." The mine workers were at that time staging massive, militant wildcat strikes demanding Black Lung benefits. "The ruling class has seen the handwriting on the wall. The assassination of Yablonski is a warning by the ruling class to other labor leaders."

Postal strike of 1970

When the troops were called out against the postal strike in March 1970, Workers World Party issued a statement titled, "An appeal on behalf of the postal workers." The appeal stated, "The postal workers' legal strike is closely connected to the government's illegal war in Viet Nam. . . .

"Nixon's action in sending troops against the striking postal workers is just as illegal as sending troops against the workers of Viet Nam, who are in essence striking against landlordism, corruption and Nixonism in their own country."

Workers World Party members had actively opposed the Viet Nam war and introduced resolutions in many unions against the war. The Party also supported a union that was started by anti-war GIs in 1968 called the American Servicemen's Union (ASU). The ASU, which had an estimated 20,000 members, joined the union pickets outside the post offices

in the 1970 strike and it issued leaflets urging the troops not to do scab work.

Labor struggles in the Reagan era

In the late-1970s and early 1980s, the Carter and Reagan years, the labor movement has suffered serious setbacks. The combined all-out assault by the government and big business has hit hard from the PATCO strike to Brown & Sharpe to Phelps Dodge, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel and Hormel.

In his book on "High Tech, Low Pay," Sam Marcy analyzes the current challenge facing the union movement and presents a comprehensive strategy and tactics for a labor fight-back. It includes a full analysis of the Hormel strike and the Party's support for this struggle, which has emerged as one of the most important in this period. The book goes into much more detail than is possible within the limits of this article showing how Workers World Party views the current situation in the labor movement.

While it is not possible to give details of every significant labor struggle that the Party participated in over the last 25 years, a few have been highlighted that illustrate its political participation in the labor movement. Of course, this is not meant to be a comprehensive review of the activities of Workers World Party members in the labor movement.

The everyday struggles in the factories and offices, the daily grievance struggles, the constant work of the shop steward to defend the workers' rights, all these are a daily part of the life of Party members. And in workplaces where there is no union, Party members can be found fighting the boss and organizing the union.

There are many other labor struggles too numerous to mention that would deserve attention if space permitted, especially the pioneering work of women militants in the phone union and the fight that has emerged in the 1980s for comparable pay for women.

Boston bus drivers' union struggle

There is one labor struggle of the new period that shows not only the Party's role but also the potential victories that are possible. Although

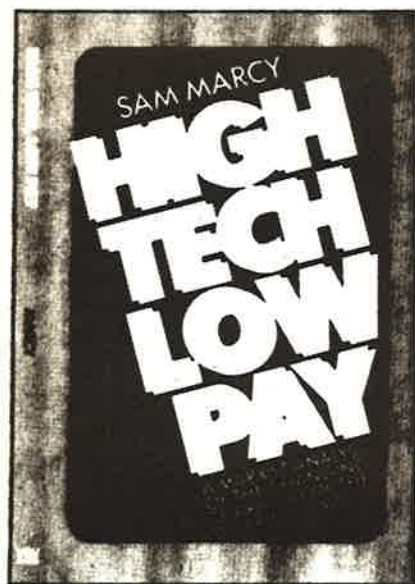
the bus drivers' strike in Boston in 1977 did not make a nationwide impact when it was won, that strike and the five since have shown that militant tactics combined with political consciousness are key elements for union victories in this period.

The Boston strike grew out of the struggle against racism in that city and a court-ordered busing program to desegregate the schools. With active participation by Workers World Party members who were drivers, the bus union was organized on a consciously anti-racist basis. One of its first actions was to seek and win the support of the Black community as well as all the other parents who were concerned not only with decent education but also safe transportation for their children.

Against both the city government and Fortune 500 companies which controlled the bus contracts, the drivers fought and won a contract in a time when other unions were not even able to hold their own. It is a protracted struggle that is going on to this day that deserves more attention from union militants around the country who are seeking ways to turn around the setbacks labor has suffered.

The history of Workers World Party since 1959 in its work in the unions shows that it has constantly and consistently fought for the unity and solidarity of the workers. And that each and every of its actions is taken in the spirit of class struggle, for it is only on this basis that a better world free of exploitation and oppression can be won for all.

(In addition to the works cited in this article, additional material on this subject includes: "Blast Furnace Brothers," by Vince Copeland, a former steel worker, on the fight against racism in a steel plant; "Till Every Battle's Won, The Brookside Strike of Harlan County," by John Lewis on the successful mineworkers' strike in 1974; "Battle of the Boycott," by Kenny Lapides, on how a nationwide boycott helped the mostly-Latino workers win their strike against Farah; and "Chrysler and the UAW," by Sam Marcy on the 1980 concessions contract forced on the union.)



PART 1: The Scientific-Technological Revolution and the Changing Character of the Working Class

1 The crisis in the trade unions

AFL-CIO report on "changing situation of workers" • Destructive social impact of revolutions in technology • Labor organization in different stages of capitalism: Manufacturing or handicrafts; The Industrial Revolution; Mass production • The current scientific-technological revolution • Turning point for labor movement

2 The scientific-technological revolution

Technology and trade union tactics • Plant closings and high-tech obsolescence • The end of the AT&T myth • Mass layoffs at Caterpillar • The GE-RCM merger • Saturnization • View of UAW militants • Another "Ford revolution"? • The GM-Hughes merger and military technology • Military reorganization of the economy • The crisis in agriculture

3 The ups and downs of the capitalist economy

How cyclical crises affect trade unions • Capitalist recessions have lengthened • Campaigns for prenotification • Pentagon plant closings

4 The changing character of the working class

The new social composition of labor • The "feminization" of labor • Changing composition of capital • Decline in trade union strength • Prospects for a classwide movement

PART 2: Technology and National Oppression

5 Black labor from chattel slavery to wage slavery

The compass and the slave trade • The banks and the drug trade • The invention of the cotton gin • The Haitian Revolution and U.S. slave revolts • Slavery vs. capitalist production • Black scientists • The Third World brain drain • Black labor today • The Black freedom struggle • The impact of high-tech on Black postal workers

6 Latin workers and Latin American underdevelopment

The Latin struggle in the U.S. • U.S. economic hold over Latin America • Keeping high-tech under lock and key • Loans for debt, not development

7 Native people under the gun

Gunpowder and mass production of firearms • Expansion of slave plantations onto Native land • Mass migrations from Europe and the Utopians • Leninist stand on national oppression

PART 3: Strategies for a Working Class Fightback

8 Defensive trade union strategies

Difference between a workers' party and a trade union • Limits of trade union approach • Problems of the strike weapon

9 Offensive strategies: workers' control

New forms of struggle necessary • Seizure and occupation of the plants • Bankruptcy and workers' control • The Wheeling-Pittsburgh bankruptcy • Question of legality • Struggle engenders new laws

10 A mixed bag of other tactics

The Youngstown case: what went wrong • Eminent domain • ESOPs • What workers can do about existing ESOPs • ESOPs and the Great Crash • Vigilance committees • Inner struggles in the ruling class • The Hormel strike and the AFL-CIO leadership

11 Conclusion

Two bourgeois theories on the scientific-technological revolution • Capitalist concentration and the middle class

A working-class look at the 'high-tech' revolution

High Tech, Low Pay by Sam Marcy. WW Publishers, 210 pages, Appendices and Index. \$5.95.

THE LAST FEW years have produced a virtual avalanche of literature on the subject of the high-tech revolution. It is just about impossible to pick up any issue of a business magazine these days and not find at least one article on the subject, whether it be on robotics, genetic engineering or the performance of high-tech companies on the stock market.

Labor publications are taking up questions like the effect on the workforce of the new technologies generated by modern science. Service workers' unions are concerned with what long-range health hazards there may be in operating video display terminals. Steel unions are writing on the loss of jobs due to the rapid introduction of new technologies here and abroad.

In the field of sociology, too, this question is now being examined, although somewhat belatedly. A number of descriptive studies have been assembled that present a frightening picture of the devastating impact of high technology on the working class and its organizations. They show that wages are falling as skilled jobs are eliminated; that white men, once the mainstay of production and the labor movement, are no longer the majority of the workforce; that more and more workers can only find part-time employment; that union membership is declining rapidly, especially in the "smokestack" industries which once were the backbone of the labor movement.

Looking to future struggles

With all that has been written, however, until the publication of "High Tech, Low Pay" by Sam Marcy no such comprehensive effort had been made to map out the strategy and tactics of a working class response to this devastating new situation. What Marcy has done is to see in this revolutionary transformation of the means of production not only the monumental problems but the equally great opportunities that exist for the working class.

For several years, Marcy has written about the changing "social composition of labor" in the United States. Far from adopting a pessimistic attitude, he has stressed that the vast increase in the proportion of women and of Black, Latin, Asian and Native workers "has shifted the objective basis for political leadership in the working class movement away from the more privileged sectors" toward those "very numerous working class elements who have had little political influence and been less articulate over the years."

The middle section of Marcy's book is devoted to several chapters dealing with "Technology and National Oppression." A very broad range of topics, both historical and contemporary, is taken up here, but the underlying theme is that changes in technology have deeply affected the status of whole nations oppressed by capitalism.

Going back to the compass and how it facilitated the slave trade, Marcy shows how capital always flows to where profits are highest, no matter how odious the business. But social evolution is shaped by more than economic forces. The conscious intervention of the masses can override everything else. A section on Black labor today shows how the freedom struggle brought about great changes at the workplace and in the union movement.

It should not be thought that this study, because it deals with the tremendous problems and suffering accompanying the high-tech revolution, is against technology itself. Marcy shows in his chapter on Latin American workers that imperialism deliberately withholds the new technologies from oppressed countries, technologies that should be the common property of all humankind. The problem today is not the machines themselves, any more than in the early days of capitalist exploitation when workers spontaneously tried to destroy the machines because they had no better way to fight back. The problem lies in the ownership and control of the technology by a small ruling class, instead of by society as a whole.

Marxism: Out of date or right on target?

The subtitle of this book is "A Marxist analysis of the changing character of the working class." Here is Marxism being used as a tool of analysis at

the very moment when many self-styled Marxist academics want to discard its fundamentals, precisely because they say that the conditions of modern, high-tech capitalism have invalidated a class struggle approach.

It is not Marxism that is at fault, however, as Marcy shows. Marxism works very well indeed when it is taken together with the will to struggle.

"The workers and their unions are trapped in an historic labor relations framework at a time when the structure of capitalist industry has undergone a wholesale transformation," writes Marcy. "This is to the great advantage of the ruling class, the bosses and bankers who own and control the industry, and to the tremendous disadvantage of the workers who have produced the industrial infrastructure. . . ." Most literature on this subject would stop here. But Marcy goes on:

"There is no question that these changes constitute a revolutionary development which requires the development of a corresponding revolutionary strategy. It is required not only for the further development of a working class offensive to meet the anti-labor offensive of the bosses, but for the sheer survival of the trade union movement.

"The great necessity is to reverse the anti-labor offensive. New forms of struggle are necessary."

New forms of struggle

The book devotes considerable attention to these new forms of struggle. It first discusses the limits to what can be gained through the usual trade union methods, including the use of the strike weapon, in a period of relatively high unemployment when the bosses have the upper hand. Then, giving very concrete examples, it examines a number of bitter struggles in recent years and shows how the work-

ers might have intervened and changed their outcome.

While Marcy stresses that there are a variety of tactics that can be useful in the class struggle, and that these depend on the concrete conditions of each battle, he gives special attention to the question of workers' control, in the sense of workers seizing and occupying the plants and workplaces.

There's no question that this section of the book — "Strategies for a Working Class Fightback" — is what so sets it apart from any and all other writings on the subject of the high-tech revolution. For in this section is presented a plan of action that is both practical and far-seeing and is directed to rank-and-file militants. "It's to be remembered that all great social movements in the history of the working class," says Marcy, "have first arisen from below. None ever came from labor consultants, bourgeois academic professionals or capitalist politicians. . . ."

"The vast transformation which the structural framework of capitalist industry is undergoing makes new forms of struggle absolutely indispensable or the workers must become captives of management altogether. These new forms of struggle are an outgrowth and development of the older forms and an advance upon them.

"What's needed is not to abandon the old militant methods but to recognize that the conventional, traditional weapons — including the indispensable strike weapon — have to be refined and supplemented by new methods which include the right to seize, occupy, take over and operate plants, equipment and industry."

There are many ways that the workers can develop legal arguments to buttress such an action, and Marcy takes them up in a practical manner. But legality is determined by practice, he argues. "In labor relations we must reverse the biblical adage, 'In the beginning was the word,' to read, 'In the beginning was the deed' — mass action, a new revolutionary strategy. The legislative word will follow; it will be ratified."

The publication date for "High Tech, Low Pay" is May 1 — the one hundredth anniversary of the famous demonstration for the eight-hour day that led to the establishment of May Day.

Anyone looking to participate in the future great struggles that are being created by today's layoffs and "concessionary war," as the Hormel workers put it, should read this book. It is shrewd and practical without a shred of cynicism — and it opens up a perspective for fightback as limitless as the technological revolution itself.

— Deirdre Griswold

Order your copy of "High Tech, Low Pay" now!

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EDITORIAL

South Africa's pass laws

THE MASS STRUGGLE and only the mass struggle deserves the credit for the racist South African regime's announcement that it will stop enforcing the pass laws and release those Black people jailed for pass law violations. The Botha regime, bigoted to the very bone, has shown again and again that it will not make even the smallest concession until it is pushed against the wall by the super-oppressed Black majority.

The pass laws are certainly the most hated symbol of apartheid. If they were truly abolished a huge burden would be lifted from the Black population. These laws severely restrict the movement of Black people in their own country, determining where they can live and where they can work, separating families and causing untold hardship. Every Black person over 16 years of age is forced to carry a pass book. Merely not having your pass book with you is a crime punishable by a jail sentence. In recent times, 200,000 to 300,000 people are arrested each year, and in the past 70 years an astounding 18 million Black people have been jailed for pass law violations.

It remains to be seen, however, how much substance there is to the apartheid regime's announcement, or if it is mainly cosmetic in character. The fascists in Pretoria are experts at announcing empty reforms. For example, the South African regime cancelled passes in Namibia in 1977, but soon substituted something very similar.

So far, no date has been set for the release of those serving sentences or awaiting trial on pass violations. In addition, the Botha regime plans to issue new identity cards to all people, Black and white, in July. The regime's mouthpieces have not said whether the new identification will have racial information or restrictions. And there has been no Pretoria statement saying that Black people who currently may live on only 13% of the land of South Africa can live where they want.

No matter what the actual content of Pretoria's announcement, one thing is clear. It falls far short of what the Black majority are demanding and what they need—to tear down apartheid root and branch and to run their own country.

They're bombing us again

SINCE THE spectacular explosion of the space shuttle Challenger, the tremendous haste, waste and danger of the space program has gotten media attention. Then came last week's explosion of the Titan missile — another proof that the Reagan administration's mad scramble to push through its "Star Wars" scheme, far from serving the interests of "national security," is causing Pentagon planners to accept ever greater risks in their run-away drive to militarize outer space.

Will it take some new and stunning disaster for the capitalist media to admit to the population at large that the nuclear testing now begun by the Reagan administration is yet another example of military madness in the extreme?

Washington has broken the moratorium on nuclear testing adhered to since last August by the Soviet Union and has exploded three bombs in Nevada just in the past month. But this is only the teeniest tip of the iceberg. Administration officials are planting stories in the press that the tremendous scientific demands of the "Star Wars" program mean that each new weapon will require a minimum of 100 test explosions, as compared with an average of six in previous weapons testing (New York Times, April 21). Each test will cost \$10 million to \$30 million.

Remember Reagan going on TV and saying that his "Strategic Defense Initiative" would make nuclear weapons obsolete? Now it

turns out that what's really in store is a whole new generation of nuclear bombs in space!

The projected cost of all this is astronomical, and will mean the further destruction of any positive social programs. But there is another insidious cost that will be felt by our children's children for generations.

All over this country are facilities producing uranium for the nuclear weapons program. A report in Science for the People last September told of just one — the Feed Materials Production Center in Fernald, Ohio, 18 miles from Cincinnati — that over the last 30 years has released 100 tons (that's 200,000 pounds) of radioactive uranium into the air, 74 tons into the water supply, and has lost another 337 tons.

Workers at the facility have a 2 1/2 to 5 times greater than normal incidence of lung disease and a high rate of gastrointestinal cancer. The plant is under contract to the Department of Energy, whose facilities are exempt from OSHA inspections and regulations.

The new vastly accelerated test program of the administration will add to the lethal pollution of the air and water that has already reached intolerable levels in many areas of this country. It will also inevitably lead to a resumption of the arms race.

Is it any wonder that in the eyes of world opinion, it is the Reaganites who are seen as the real terrorists?



LETTERS

Aid P-9

We are enclosing a check for \$20. One-half for our new sub. The rest for the time we were carried.

We read Workers World front to back. It is an excellent resource. While there are times I believe it is rhetorical to non-communists or non-Marxists I share it with, it is still clear, informative, honest and factual. Hormel info was used to send a family donation to P-9, as well, for my union, National Association of Letter Carriers, Br. 46, Springfield, Mass., to send a \$50 donation to support their local (P-9) strike now that their national has abandoned them.

B.S.
Holyoke, Mass.

Overdue

Please find enclosed my check which pays for my overdue balance plus one year renewal through April 1987.

G.P.
Greenwich, Conn.

Social Security

I am receiving Renee's subscription. I am her grandmother. I am sending \$15 for the wrapped subscription and a \$5 donation. I wish it was more but my Social Security check doesn't stretch

very far. I also belong to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. My best wishes to you.
Stevensville, Mt.

The above letters came in in response to notices that subscriptions are past due. If the mailing address label on your paper is earlier than APR-86, please renew now for \$10 a year to keep Workers World coming.

New readers

At the Socialist Scholars Conference held April 18-20 in New York we found a growing interest in Workers World at the literature table. In the course of the Saturday sessions 41 people bought subscriptions to the newspaper. Most were participants at the conference from all over the country, but almost a dozen were students from the Borough of Manhattan Community College attending Saturday classes. Everyone was especially drawn by the paper's thorough coverage of the U.S. attack on Libya.

Otto Dusek
New York City

WORKERS WORLD welcomes letters from its readers. Send all correspondence to: Workers World, GPO Box 948, New York, N.Y. 10116.

—May Day

Continued from page 6

where in the country strikes and anti-capitalist actions of all kinds were on the ascendance, everywhere the bosses thrown on the defensive.

In 1889 the American Federation of Labor (AFL) was leading the struggle for the eight-hour day. AFL President Samuel Gompers sent a telegram to the July 14, 1889 founding congress of the Second International, the Marxist group meeting in Paris. The telegram urged unity of action internationally for the eight-hour day and proposed May 1 be celebrated "as an International Labor Day." The proposal was accepted.

By 1890, May Day was recognized in many lands as the international workers' day, the day of the Chicago martyrs and the day of struggle. There were to be more advances, and retreats too, but as the decades passed, unions spread into industry after industry, winning battles and gaining millions of members.

Today these unions are again under

attack, wages are being cut, troops are being called out, labor militants are facing prison. That's the way it is under capitalism. What is won in one epoch is threatened in the next. No victory is permanent as long as the bosses remain bosses.

But on this, the hundredth anniversary of May Day, it is good to remember how the rich may celebrate too soon, how the working class movement can be down at one moment but come back fighting the next, and how, on May 1, 1886, the exploited tens of thousands in Chicago lit a flame which melted the icy grip of reaction.

Correction. In last week's article by Sam Marcy, "Perspective on the U.S. war against Libya," several countries were described as "nonaligned" due to an editorial error. What was meant was only that they are members of the Nonaligned Movement.

Pentagon preparing for new intervention in Middle East

By Sam Marcy

APRIL 22 — It would be foolhardy and a dangerous illusion to believe that the barbarous attack on Libya has ended, that the Pentagon and the Reagan administration have terminated their provocations against the Libyan government.

In the week since the Pentagon launched its murderous attacks, the U.S. has been preparing for the next phase of the Middle East struggle. The Pentagon war machine has been put into high gear, with the excuse that the U.S. fears so-called terrorism. But this is utterly false, spurious and fraudulent. What is involved in reality is a struggle for domination of the Arabian peninsula and control of the important waterways in that part of the world, above all the Mediterranean.

The U.S. military attack has had the most profound international significance, as demonstrated by the vast and overpowering support for Libya among the masses of the oppressed people in Asia, Africa, Latin America and beyond. The Pentagon may assert that its military success far outweighs the political fallout, meaning the outrage and protest demonstrations of a worldwide character, but this merely indicates that it is unbridled and unrestrained in its military objectives.

And in the UN yesterday, the U.S. found itself condemned by a large majority in the Security Council for the assault on Libya. Only its imperialist allies, France and Britain, joined the U.S. to veto this condemnation by the world body.

Extreme pressure on allies

The Reaganite strategy is to follow up the assault on Libya; this is demonstrated by the speed with which it is attempting again to corral, intimidate and bring into line its imperialist allies. Extreme pressure is being exerted.

The vacillations of the right-wing Kohl regime in the Federal Republic of Germany, the strongest ally of U.S. imperialism on the European continent, have once again shown the deep divisions between the mass of the people and their capitalist rulers. Mass demonstrations have been taking hold in the FRG, especially in West Berlin, and the Kohl regime has moved back somewhat from its collaboration with the Reaganites in the anti-Libyan struggle.

The European Economic Community (EEC), however, has again been intimidated to vote for anti-Libyan diplomatic measures as a way of appeasing U.S. imperialism. This was in response to the crude efforts of the U.S. to club its imperialist allies into line. In a like manner, the Craxi regime in Italy, trying to propitiate the Pentagon, has found cause to take diplomatic measures against the Libyan government.

All of this is due to the severe pressure, both open and hidden, of the U.S. It is using finance capital as a lever against the entire European capitalist community to line them up to take sanctions against Libya. Everywhere, we see a decided, fundamental difference between the masses and their capitalist rulers, and this is most vividly demonstrated in Britain, where the Thatcherite regime has proven itself to be nothing more than a bellicose satellite of U.S. imperialism.

Hidden agenda at Tokyo summit?

The pressures of the Pentagon will be felt in a more hidden way at the May 4-5 meeting in Tokyo of the seven principal imperialist countries. No one should be misled that this meeting

will confine itself to immediate economic measures, such as currency rates, limits on exports, and so on.

Important as these matters are to the capitalist countries scheduled to meet there — Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Japan, the U.S. and Canada — the overriding task of the meeting will be to plan the next step in the struggle against Libya in the Middle East, and to make sure that the imperialists, however divided they may be, will retain or enlarge the stakes each one may have there. None is for a liberated and independent Middle East, where each nation could decide its own destiny free from predatory imperialist interests.

Here at home, only a week after the brutal intervention and despite the heavy fog of capitalist propaganda in which the media and the capitalist press proved themselves to be virtually monolithic in hewing to the Pentagon's line on the military assault, voices from the capitalist establishment are beginning to be heard questioning the "tactics" and the way to "handle Qaddafi." But this is an old refrain that dates to the early phases of the Viet Nam struggle, when a few timid voices from the capitalist establishment began to express in one form or another the vast mass antipathy to military adventure which was just below the surface.

Of course, these voices coming from the capitalist establishment should be carefully evaluated as expressions in part of conflict within the ruling class and also of fear that the popular opposition to the Reagan economic program will take on a mass character insofar as the prosecution of military intervention abroad goes. The tremendous mass sentiment against a Nicaraguan intervention clearly illustrates this potential.

However, when we hear that the Pentagon's massive attack against Libya was "flawed" because there was no adequate consultation with the allies, or with the Congress, such "opposition" in the present situation is nothing more than a cop-out. It is not real criticism at this time.

With its first attack against Libya,

the Reaganite regime violated every principle of international law and grossly tore up the Constitutional provision regarding the declaration of war and its implementation through the War Powers Act.

Moreover, the workers here have no interest in getting the consultation or approval of the imperialist allies. It's important to point out the extreme pressure to which these governments are subjected, but it's another thing entirely to convey the impression that if the allies were to agree with it or if Congress were to support it, that would justify this barbarous war against an oppressed people.

Roots of imperialist war drive

It must be shown again and again that each of the wars conducted by the U.S. ruling class is and can only be an imperialist war, a war of the monopoly capitalists. Differences among them are over tactics; it's not a question of morality. The roots of this war are deeply imbedded in the nature of the capitalist economy, and its inexorable and insatiable drive for super-profits, from which no capitalist ruling class can extricate itself.

They may attempt to change the form of their domination over oppressed people from outright, naked

colonialist policy to that of neocolonialism. When that fails, they resort to Marcos-type, Somoza-type, Duvalier-type dictatorships. When these founder, they seek to temporarily put a so-called democratic face on the same system. Nowhere, however, do they leave without being thrown out by the revolutionary assault of the masses.

Once imperialism is ousted, as in Libya, it seeks to regain a foothold, whether by subversion, attempts at counter-revolutionary restoration, or if need be by military force as in Grenada and earlier Cuba and Viet Nam.

The Libyan situation must be seen in the international context of the imperialist assault upon the oppressed countries and the attempt to draw in the Soviet Union, so as to create the possibility of a worldwide confrontation by imperialism, not only against the oppressed countries but also against the socialist countries.

In the pursuit of the working class struggle against the capitalist class at home on every single type of issue, be it economic, political or social, nothing demands greater attention than the so-called foreign policy issues, such as Libya. These are nothing more than an extension of the Reaganite struggle against the working class and the oppressed people at home.



WW PHOTO: AL STERGAR

Milwaukee demonstrators note that source of violence is Washington, not Tripoli.

Who is responsible for Mideast violence?

By Joyce Chediak

APRIL 22 — "Beasts of prey, animals dressed up in human form." Is this Ronald Reagan's latest description of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, or of Palestinian commandos? No. The speaker is George Washington, and he is describing the indigenous people of this country.

The U.S. government committed the worst kind of terror against the original population here. Washington stole native lands and killed off the Indian people, often in mass slaughters. The terror continues to this day. But it was the native people who were branded as "savages," "barbarians," and "attackers of women and children" when they fought back in self-defense.

Today, this very same racist hysteria is being whipped up by the administration and the big-business media to justify Pentagon aggression against another oppressed people, the Arab people.

There are some opponents of the U.S. attack on Libya who, while not going along completely with the racist propaganda, still equate the oppressor with the oppressed. They say they oppose the "cycle of terror." They equate the Pentagon's sending of scores of sophisticated fighter planes to drop

2,000 lb. bombs and cluster bombs on Libya with the Arab people's response to this aggression against them.

Much like the war against Native people here, only one side is the oppressor in the Middle East — U.S. imperialism and its client states and allies. The Arab and other Middle Eastern people who resist are not "terrorists" or "fanatics" any more than native people here are. They are part of the struggle to liberate their land and their people.

Who are the Arab people?

The Arab people are an oppressed people. Their plight stems from the fact that their homelands contain one of the most valuable of natural resources — oil. Oil runs all industry. Oil is a source of fabulous profits.

This oil is controlled by the huge western and especially U.S. oil companies. Washington expanded into the Middle East by force of arms, plundering the oil and leaving most Arab people locked into living conditions of the last century.

Imperialist terror is the daily reality for over 100 million Arabs. It takes the form of starvation, illiteracy and disease. This terrorism strikes a million

Arab children dead every year before they are 1 year old as a result of poverty, sickness and malnutrition.

The economies of oppressed countries are sucked dry by U.S. corporations and banks. The steady plunder of Egypt by Wall Street has so impoverished the population that more than a million poor people live in the cemeteries. Isn't this terrorism?

But terrorism is also death from U.S. weapons. For example:

- In 1948 the U.S. government supported the expulsion of 700,000 Palestinians from their country, the liquidation of Palestine and the formation of the settler state Israel in its place. Thousands died. Palestinians are still refugees.

- The Pentagon provided the weapons and the napalm used by Israel in the 1967 war, which left 35,000 Arabs dead and the U.S. oil companies in a more secure position.

- Israel was given U.S. weapons and the political support to invade Lebanon in 1982 where it slaughtered 50,000 Lebanese and Palestinian people, 80% of whom were civilians. That same year the U.S. government colluded with Tel Aviv and Lebanese fascists in the massacre of 2,000 unarmed

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U.S. more isolated than ever in wake of Libya raid

Demonstrations break out from Beijing to Bonn

By Sharon Shelton

APRIL 21 — The Reagan administration hoped its attack on Libya would be a demonstration of U.S. might, but the real result of its terror bombing has been an explosion of world anger, showing the isolation of U.S. imperialism.

With only three reactionary governments — England, Canada and Israel — daring to publicly support the raid, Washington was further denounced by the Arab League, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Non-Aligned Movement, and on the floor of the United Nations. Peoples China spoke out against the attack, the USSR broke off arms negotiations in protest and Viet Nam suspended talks on U.S. troops who were missing in action during the Viet Nam War.

A news release from the Ghana UN mission called the U.S. aggression against Libya "a flagrant violation of acceptable standards of international behavior" and "the culmination of a persistent onslaught by the U.S. against the rights of people through-

out the world."

Massive protests, held almost every day of the week, many of them in front of U.S. embassies, have spread throughout Europe, the Mideast, Asia, Africa and Latin America. Here are just a few that have occurred since April 15:

April 16

- Ninety Italian cities saw protests involving more than half a million people shouting, "Yankee go home" and "NATO get out of Italy." In Rome, youths smashed windows of a Bank of America branch, and in Milan over 15,000 students set fire to a U.S. flag.

- In Pakistan, marches called by four separate organizations ended up at U.S. missions. The State Department-run American Cultural Center in Lahore was forced to shut down after it was pelted with stones. American Express offices were trashed.

- A rally was held in front of the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan.

- Nicaraguans held a mass rally in Managua, protesting the attack on

Libya and Reagan's demand for \$100 million for the contras

- Protesters in Bangladesh and Peoples China burned American flags.

- In Frankfurt, West Germany, demonstrators blocked a subway line. Other large West German actions took place in West Berlin and Munich.

- In Sweden, angry youths smashed windows at the U.S. Embassy.

- Marches were held across Spain, including a large one in Madrid. In Bilbao, in the Basque country, the protest ended in a fight with police.

April 17

- A demonstration in Lagos, Nigeria, forced the American Embassy to close down temporarily.

- In Mexico City, demonstrators burned the U.S. flag outside the U.S. Embassy, chanting, "Murderers."

- One-hundred Egyptian lawyers in downtown Cairo burned replicas of American, British and Israeli flags.

- Protesters in Czechoslovakia burned a flag at the U.S. Embassy in Prague. A similar action took place at

the U.S. Mission in Warsaw, Poland. Participants were students from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mideast.

- Thirty thousand massed in front of the U.S. Embassy in Paris, denouncing the Reagan administration.

- Other protests took place in Amsterdam, Lisbon, Madrid, Buenos Aires and in Israel, where the Israeli Communist Party called a demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

April 19

- Massive demonstrations swept England. Ten thousand people sat in front of the U.S. Embassy in London, chanting "Thatcher, Reagan, CIA, How many kids have you killed today?" The two U.S. airbases used to launch the Libya raid were targeted by protesters. In Scotland, 11 were arrested outside the Royal Navy nuclear submarine base at Faslane.

- An estimated 20,000 people protested in five West German cities. In Hanau, near Frankfurt, youths wearing masks marched to a U.S. Army barracks, burned a flag and fired signal rockets into the compound. More than 5,000 rallied in front of the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, and about 6,500 marched in West Berlin.

- Chanting, "American imperialists" and "Reagan assassin," progressives protested in Tunis, and in Karachi, Pakistan, students marched on the U.S. Embassy.

April 20

- Protests erupted at seven U.S. and English bases in England. Sixty-one were arrested at a base in Cornwall as they were breaking down the base's fence.

- Police near Bremen in West Germany attacked demonstrators with water cannons, clubs and tear gas as they blocked a road leading to a U.S. Army barracks.

Dozens of protests in U.S. answer Reagan's attack on Libya

By Andy Stapp

APRIL 22 — Not everyone is going along with it. Millions of people here are not buying the racist and jingoistic hate campaign against Libya. Perhaps it's the pictures of the dead children. Or maybe it was those smirking U.S. officials telling one lie after another about how no bombs fell in civilian areas.

And much of the resistance surely comes from a bone-deep hatred of the Reagan administration, contempt for its contra wars on the people of Angola and Nicaragua, its cruel cuts against the poor in this country and, of course, from memories of Viet Nam.

In the very first stages of a war crisis, when all the capitalist news organs speak in one voice so that there is virtually no difference between the propaganda of the gutter tabloids and the "respectable press," it is not exactly big news that a sizable chunk of the population can be roped into supporting government policy. In the beginning "everyone" supported the war against Viet Nam, "everyone" thought the atomic destruction of Hiroshima was a good thing, "everyone" supported the 1898 invasion of the Philippines.

This phony consensus tends to melt

away when people have time to collect their thoughts, when reality begins to intrude on the distortions and frauds coming from Washington and the cheerleading press. What is so heartening in the case of Libya is the way so many rejected the lies right from the start.

Look at the results of the San Francisco Chronicle poll of April 18, taken only four days after the bombs fell on the people of Tripoli and Benghazi. More than 39,000 calls were tabulated by this Chronicle poll, 70% of whom condemned Reagan's order to attack Libya. The count showed 11,675 for the bombing, but 27,963 against it. What a shock for the White House! Reagan, after all, was the governor of California at one time.

Dozens of protests

The number and militancy of the demonstrations also took the governor off guard after so much care had been taken to brainwash everyone with the official story.

At the colleges, students were out in less than a day, at Oberlin, Wesleyan University, the University of Colorado, the University of Minnesota and the University of Pennsylvania. Many high school students were out in

downtown Buffalo on April 16 in the rain, chanting "The real terrorists in the world today are Reagan and the CIA." In Boston protestors greeted Pentagon boss Caspar Weinberger, while others demonstrated in Detroit, Baltimore and Philadelphia. At a rally for jobs, peace and justice in San Francisco, 20,000 applauded speakers who denounced the bombing, even though organizers had earlier tried to keep Middle East issues out of the demonstration.

Members of the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS) held sit-ins in Washington, San Francisco, Texas and New York City. GUPS also picketed at the UN to protest the bombing and also to oppose the repression in Jordan.

Also in New York, 500 people turned out for a noon-time demonstration against Reagan during a Presidential visit on April 18.

Less than 10 days after the bombing, Reagan may be able to claim he still has the majority, but the support for his war policy is thin, extremely controversial and facing opposition from many quarters.

Reported by Vera Spruill in Buffalo, Gloria La Riva in San Francisco and Joyce Chediak in New York.

-Who's responsible

Continued from page 9
civilians in the Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camps.

- In 1984 the U.S. battle ship New Jersey staged a massive bombardment of Lebanese towns and villages.

These are just a few examples of U.S. and Israeli terror in the Middle East. Wouldn't any worker here fight back when faced with such atrocities? It should certainly not come as a surprise that the four Palestinians who hijacked the Achille Lauro last October were from the Sabra and Shatila camps, or that one of the Lebanese youth who commandeered a TWA plane a few months before had his whole family killed by the battleship New Jersey. The murder of innocent Libyan people by U.S. bombers last week only adds to the determination of Arab people to be free.

Washington and the media, while lambasting the Arabs, at every turn, do not explain to people here why oppressed people abroad are so angry at the U.S. government.

Imperialism is directly responsible for all the bloodshed connected to the Middle East. Arabs and other subjugated people around the world will continue to struggle, even sacrificing their very lives until their just grievances are addressed. They are not to be blamed for their oppression, but should be supported in their struggle for freedom.

The way to do this here is to demand that Washington, the Pentagon and Wall Street get out of the Middle East and stay out.



Philadelphia

WW PHOTO: BETSEY PIETTE



Boston

WW PHOTO: CHRIS MYERS

AIM leader hits U.S. war on Native people, Libya

By Stephanie Hedgecoke
SAN FRANCISCO, April 17 — Wabun-Inini, also called Vernon Belcourt — colonial missionary name — of the Anishinabe (Chippewa) Nation and an American Indian Movement (AIM) Central Council member, spoke tonight on the U.S. war against Indian people from Big Mountain and White Earth to Central America.

Almost 250 people, with a large Native presence, filled the auditorium at the San Francisco Women's Building. The meeting was sponsored by the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), Big Mountain Support Group, and All-Peoples Congress/People's Anti-War Mobilization (APC/PAM), and endorsed by many organizations.

Gloria La Riva, of APC/PAM, opened the meeting by pointing out that at this crucial time "the many struggles around the world show a pattern of imperialist escalation but also an escalation of resistance." When La Riva introduced Wabun-Inini, who also represents the IITC, the spirited audience gave him a standing ovation.

Wabun-Inini expressed solidarity with the revolutionary government of Libya. He said that one reason for the criminal U.S. attack is the great social progress the Libyan people have accomplished since 1969. The Treaty Council has visited Libya twice as guests of the Libyan Peoples' Bureau. The Native leader asked Nihande Imara of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party to read an article on Libyan history, in which she pointed out that today Libya has the highest per capita income in Africa.

Wabun-Inini said of the many struggles of indigenous and third world nations, "The bottom line is — the cancer that's afflicting us is colonialism, exploitation of land, resources and labor." The AIM leader recalled in particular the history of the continuing U.S. war on Indian people, "characterized by forced death marches, germ warfare, terrorism and forced relocation."

The Miskitos in Nicaragua

Wabun-Inini, who has worked with the indigenous Nicaraguan peoples and the Sandinista government to establish a framework for autonomy, told of the history of colonial oppression in Nicaragua. "The CIA seized on the historical differences (caused by colonialism) and are manipulating Miskito people just as they manipu-

lated the Muong and Montagnards" in Southeast Asia.

Myrna Cunningham, a skilled Miskito surgeon and the governor of the Northeast (Miskito) Region, is only one of the many pro-Sandinista Native leaders that the bourgeois press never report on. She was captured by the contras, assaulted, raped and almost killed, escaping with the help of Miskito Elders. Wabun-Inini quoted Cunningham who said, "It's revolutionaries versus counter-revolutionaries. There's Miskitos with the Revolution and there's Miskitos with the counter-revolution."

Wabun-Inini explained that the CIA uses the colonial Moravian religious indoctrination of the Miskitos in its manipulation of innocent people, "tearing their families apart." In response to this manipulation, the Sandinista government implemented an amnesty decree to begin the process of reconciliation and repatriation. The decree has been very successful, as hundreds of Miskitos have since been repatriated.

Wabun-Inini gave slide shows on Nicaragua and on the work of the IITC, which represents 99 traditional and indigenous nations to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Treaty Council plans a return trip to Nicaragua in two weeks, their sixth, to review the autonomy process by request of the government and indigenous leaders.

Wabun-Inini is a member of the Anishinabe Akeeng Defense Committee. Wabun-Inini called the March 11 House of Representatives' voice vote on White Earth (with only eight mem-



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

AIM leader blasts Reagan attack on Libya before San Francisco audience.

bers present) "the most massive land grab in modern times." A constitutional test on Public Law 99-264 will be filed, he said.

Wabun-Inini also discussed the current U.S.-threatened genocidal relocation at Big Mountain in Arizona and the targeting of several Indian reservations as potential sites for federal radioactive waste dumping. "We're going to oppose it and we're going to stop it!"

IITC condemns attack on Libya

Following the terrorist U.S. bombing of Libya on Monday, Wabun-Inini and IITC Information Office director Bill Wahpepah held a press conference in San Francisco Wednesday to con-

demn the U.S. attacks. They stated that, "The International Indian Treaty Council considers this violent attack on Libya by the Reagan administration to be an act of genocidal racism against the people of Libya and Arab people in general, as well as an obvious attempt to intimidate the Arab nations of the region."

Wabun-Inini also did various radio interviews Wednesday in which he linked the attack on Libya to the genocidal attacks on Native American nations. He told this reporter that listener response was very enthusiastic.

Stop the U.S. war against indigenous and third world peoples! No to the Big Mountain and White Earth land grabs and no to contra aid!

'Broken Rainbow' tells story of Big M'tn

By Hachett

"BROKEN RAINBOW" won an Academy Award as the year's best documentary film. It tells of the mass relocation of the Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi peoples from the Big Mountain, Ariz., reservation. The film exposes the heinous crime taking place today of forced removal by the U.S. government through manipulation, trickery and chicanery.

Before it could get a fair hearing at the Academy, Los Angeles supporters of the Big Mountain resistance had to

organize mass propaganda campaigns in order to penetrate the media and counter the right-wing propaganda against this documentary.

With the popularity of this film, the Big Mountain story has finally reached the attention of the public on both a national and international level thus breaking through the isolation created largely by a media blockade.

This low-budget documentary nevertheless accomplishes much. Its purpose is to raise public awareness, to rally support and to raise funds in order to continue the struggle against the 1974 Navajo/Hopi Land Settlement Act and to stop the most pressing bill, Public Law 93-531 pushed through by Reagan in 1981. PL 93-531 mandates July 7, 1986, as the deadline where the National Guard will be used if the people are not off their lands.

The struggle against U.S. encroachment and forced relocation is told by the elders, mostly women, who are leading the people's resistance. The struggle at Big Mountain, one of the most isolated parts of this country, is becoming more and more widely known due to the fightback spirit of the people.

Viewers see the experiences of the Dineh and Hopi through their eyes. An audience unfamiliar with Native tradition will be enlightened by the film's treatment of the land, the economic lifestyle of the people, their culture and their language.

Largest reservation

The Navajo reservation is the largest Indian reservation in the U.S. with the largest population, now exceeding over 180,000. One might ask what would the Native nations do with their lands, their people and their livestock if the U.S. were to leave the people,

both the Dineh and Hopi to decide and control for themselves their future? The film gives you a look at a life that goes beyond mineral exploitation and plunder.

The legal findings by the Indian Law and Legal Resource Centers reinforces the arguments, and the truth on the side of the people.

The film also shows the other side. Arizona Democratic Congressman Morris Udall, one of the major backers and lawframers for the relocation, exposes his very racist and profit-hungry outlook regarding the original people and their lifeways. Like Botha, Udall would rather have apartheid laws prevail in the name of progress. Meanwhile he'll go on bulldozing homes and eradicating the medicinal herbs, the grazing lands for livestock, and relocating the original peoples to distant places with no homes or a means in which to survive in what is to the Native people both a foreign and hostile environment.

The film shows the fightback spirit of the people, who tear up the fencing laid by the government in remote areas. It depicts the seriousness of the women determined to stop this intrusion and the partitioning of the people's lands.

"Broken Rainbow" exquisitely and perspicaciously amplifies the voice of the struggling Dineh and Hopi and can only succeed in building wide support for the resistance at Big Mountain.

The Big Mountain Defense/Offense Committee advises supporters to use the film as an organizing tool. To arrange for rental or for showings in your area contact: Tory Mudd and Maria Flores, Directors c/o Earthworks, P.O. Box 2245, Malibu, Calif. 90265 or call (213) 456-5771.

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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'Together the riders and workers can win!'

By Shelley Ettinger

NEW YORK, April 22 — Some 1,000 workers turned out in the rain today for a march and rally against union busting and cutbacks in the transportation industry. The demonstration was marked by a tremendous spirit of fightback and unity among the multinational crowd of working women and men.

And at the close of it transit union leaders pledged, in the words of Harold Mendlowitz, President of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1202 (Greyhound), that "this is just the beginning. Every union in transportation is going to stand up for every other union from now on."

In fact, the success of today's action marks a highly significant move forward for workers in the transportation industry, and for the labor movement as a whole. The potential clearly exists to keep building ever greater unity for a powerful fightback against the current anti-labor onslaught.

With strikes currently in progress at TWA and at several railroads; with public transit facing severe cutbacks that will curtail service, increase safety hazards, and cost many workers' jobs; and with transportation companies from Greyhound to TWA using the cover of "deregulation" to openly violate union contracts — the time is ripe for such a fightback.

TWA strikers lead

The biggest contingent at the rally, striking TWA flight attendants of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA), infused the crowd with the remarkable enthusiasm and militance that have characterized their six-week-old strike.

IFFA led the march from the Port Authority Bus Terminal to Grand Central Station — the city's railroad hub

— and airline ticket offices across from it. There, the massed workers chanted "Don't fly TWA" and "the workers united will never be defeated," and sang Solidarity Forever.

Karen Lantz, IFFA Vice President, told the crowd there, "TWA can't beat us back as long as we're united together."

At the Port Authority rally, speakers

represented the range of transportation unions. They included President Sonny Hall of Transport Workers Union Local 100 (NYC transit workers), Nick Whittaker of ATU Local 1202, and representatives of the United Transportation Union (railroad workers) and of flight attendant unions representing United and American Airlines workers. Harry Avrutin, Secretary of the NYC Central Labor Council, gave a solidarity message, and statements of support from Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins and Representative Major Owens were read.

Larry Holmes, National Coordinator of the All Peoples Congress, also addressed the rally. He raised both fists to represent the community and transit workers and said, "Together, the riders and the workers can win. We can win!"

A contingent of 50 members of the IBEW, electrical workers on the Long Island Railroad, travelled in to the city for the march and rally. One 30-year worker said, "This is just what we need, an industry-wide fight. That's the only way we can stop these attacks and survive."

Also participating in the demonstration were AFSCME, the Musicians, District 65-UAW, the AFT, the Newspaper Guild, Teamsters, and other unions.



WW PHOTO: SUSAN ROTGARD

Workers march in midtown New York City against union-busting and cutbacks in transportation industry.

On The Picketline

Hormel struggle continues.

Three days of hearings by UFCW international officials to put Local P-9 into "trusteeship" — i.e., an ouster of the local leadership and a takeover by the international union for refusing to end their strike — have been completed and a decision is expected in three weeks. The hearings follow on the heels of the successful protests April 11 and 12 in which more than 5,000 strikers and supporters participated. The strikers have received a million dollars in donations from local unions and activists around the country which has enabled the local to continue strike benefits of \$50 a week — \$10 more than the international was paying before it suspended strike benefits a month ago. The international union may seek to negotiate a new contract with the company if it succeeds in taking over the local. The company, which is highly profitable, stated publicly it would like such an accord. This agreement, however, would leave the strikers out in the cold

with none of the issues of the strike resolved. The company may also now be in a hurry to try to settle this strike because other UFCW contracts with Hormel expire Sept. 1 and many of the leaders and members of the other locals support the Austin strikers.

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Free press? The San Francisco Chronicle has installed super security systems to isolate typesetters in a small area in the building and will not allow them to visit any other areas. Special electronic pass cards have been issued which not only restrict movement but keep workers out of the building if they are not scheduled to work. This contrasts with previous years when workers could go back and forth between production and editorial departments and there was a friendship and camaraderie between workers in the different areas. Last summer at the Chicago Tribune, production workers were driven out by

guards with clubs and vicious dogs, a lockout that forced workers on strike for the past nine months. The rules at the Chronicle should be taken as a danger signal that management is intending to create another lockout.

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Union workers paid more. It pays to organize and bargain for wages. The average weekly pay of unionized workers in 1980 was \$320, \$42 higher than non-union. In 1985 the average was \$419, \$104 higher. Unionized Black workers made \$338, \$101 more than non-union. Latino workers made \$338 in unions, \$107 higher than non-union. And women, including Black and Latin women, made \$356, \$89 more than non-union. The widening of this gap during the assaults on our living standards under the Reagan administration also shows that organized workers are also much more able to withstand these assaults than unorganized workers.

Silver miners strike. The largest silver mine in the U.S. was closed down when members of the United Steel Workers refused to vote on a wage cut proposed by the Sunshine Mining Company. Even though the union contract still has a year to go, the company tried to reduce wages from \$14 an hour to \$9 and offered to issue stock and keep the mine open in exchange. The locals of the USW non-ferrous council are hard hit by the economic crisis and company demands for concessions. Formerly the militant Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union, these locals merged with the USW and include the copper miners on strike at Phelps Dodge and the Kennicott workers now facing difficult bargaining. They face multinational corporations with low-paid operations in South Africa or Latin America who use these operations to gain the upper hand in bargaining against unions here in the U.S.

— Louis Napier

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