



155,000 strikers tell AT&T: 'No concessions!'

By Gary Wilson

JUNE 4 — The 155,000 AT&T strikers are fighting against concessions. And much more.

AT&T, the world's most famous monopoly, is positioning itself to take a big part in Reagan's Star Wars extravaganza. And the first shot AT&T has fired is against the union.

When their contract ran out at midnight on May 31, the AT&T workers were left little choice but to strike. To have accepted the contract the company demanded would have been like volunteering to become a pauper.

Everyone knows that AT&T is one of the richest and most powerful corporations in the world. Its profits last year were \$1.56 billion (\$1,556,800,000 to be exact). Of course, the No. 8 corporation in the Fortune 500 pays its top officers like royalty. C.L. Brown, the chairman and chief executive officer of AT&T, got a 33% raise last year, bringing his total income in 1985 to \$1.66 million.

The workers, however, were told that they must give up their current cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), agree to job reclassifications that downgrade skilled workers and accept a limit on incentive pay for factory workers. The union says that the lower-paid job categories management is demanding would eventually cover 99% of the workforce and leave the membership at the bottom of a two-tier pay system.

Since many of the AT&T workers who would be affected are operators, mostly women and many Black and other oppressed nationalities, this is seen in the labor movement as an attempt to set back gains made by those who are traditionally the lowest paid in the workforce.

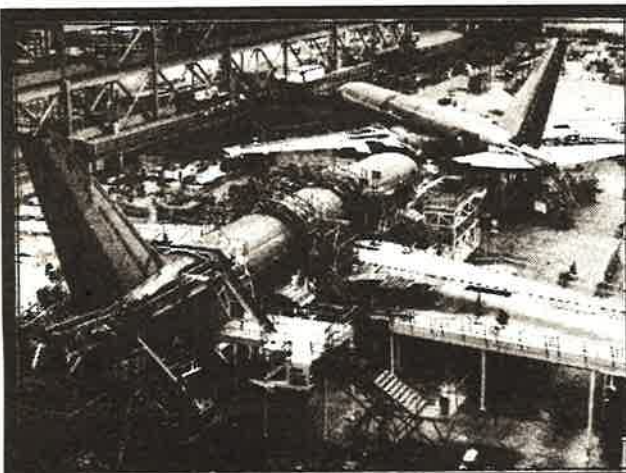
Morton Bahr, the president of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) which represents the workers in collective bargaining, said that givebacks were not acceptable. "It's indefensible," he said. He

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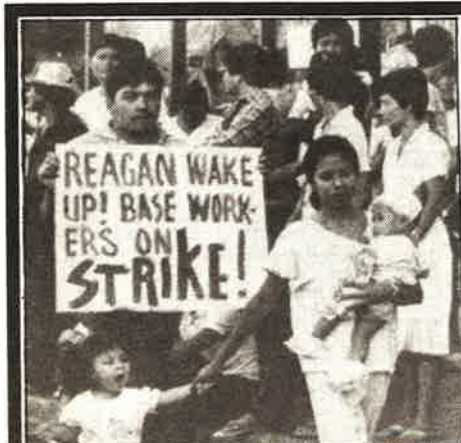


Picketing AT&T in New York City.

WW PHOTO: J. CATALINOTTO



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ANC leader to address June 14 rally in NYC

—p. 5

New Englanders fight to shut down nuke plant

By Phebe Eckfeldt
BOSTON, May 30 — Angry Massachusetts residents, fearful of a disaster, are demanding that government officials shut down the Pilgrim nuclear power plant located in Plymouth, Massachusetts.
Members of the Nuclear Regulatory

Commission (NRC) recently labeled Pilgrim as one of the worst-run plants in the nation and one of the least safe reactors in the country. Boston Edison, owner of Pilgrim, shut down the plant on April 12 citing management problems.
In the wake of Chernobyl, Edison of-

ficials hurriedly denied that the management problems could be connected to safety problems. But the plant experienced two emergency shut-downs in an eight-day period.
The April 12 shutdown was ordered because a main valve began leaking "slightly radioactive" water from the reactor core and a second valve closed and failed to open. An NRC inspection found flaws in the pumps used to provide cooling water which prevents the reactor from melting and releasing radioactivity.
"Pilgrim is a plant where an accident is just waiting to happen," said Bruce Buckbee, a five-year resident of Plymouth, who lives three miles from the plant. "It's time that people realize that Boston Edison is nothing more than a wolf in sheep's clothing." After Pilgrim, the NRC ordered a review of 39 plants nationwide, all built by General Electric.

On May 27 the Plymouth Board of Selectmen held a hearing on the problems at Pilgrim. Some 150 people packed the room but the selectmen refused to let them question Boston Edison officials. People reacted angrily, demanding that they be allowed to speak. When selectmen tried to put them off by saying they could question Edison in two weeks and that there was other business on the agenda that night, the audience grew more angry and more vocal. Realizing they would be unable to placate the people, the selectmen and Edison abruptly closed the meeting and disappeared behind closed doors.
"What infuriates me so much is the arrogance that they wouldn't be willing to stay all night to hear the concerns of the community," said Buckbee.

Edison is not only plagued with safety and management problems but also with picketlines. Some 3,000 Boston Edison workers have been on strike since May 15. They are demanding an improved pension plan and better working conditions.
Boston Edison repeatedly states that the Pilgrim nuclear power plant is safe, but they are talking to a public who is not convinced. Community people and the Pilgrim Alliance, an anti-nuclear group, are busy organizing strategy and education meetings. They plan to come out in full force for the next public hearing to make sure people are put before profits.

Stock Market poisoner was bullish on profits

By Andy Stapp
JUNE 1 — The crime began to take shape in Edward Arlen Marks' head last October. That's when the 24-year-old go-getter started thinking about all that money.
Marks worked for Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith, the world's largest stock broker. Big executives at Merrill Lynch live in \$3 million co-ops and drive \$80,000 Ferraris. They're bullish on America, and Edward Marks wanted to be like them.
At Merrill Lynch it doesn't take long before you hear about the offshore bank accounts, the insider trading, the shredded documents and the millions of dollars stuffed into plastic garbage bags.
Edward Arlen Marks studied all the angles: convertible debentures, liquid aftermarkets, pork belly futures and so forth. Then he discovered a financial instrument called "puts." "Puts" are options to sell stocks at a set price within a given time, on a gamble that the stock will fall before the option expires. If everything pans out, the profit can be ten thousand percent!
Marks quickly saw a way to make \$178,000 on an \$1,800 investment. All he had to do was purchase \$1,800 worth of "put" options in SmithKline corporation, maker of Contac, the country's number one cold remedy. If

the stocks went down from \$88.50 a share to \$80, "put" would work its magic for Edward Arlen Marks, make him rich, give him that House Beautiful with marble-lined bathrooms, just like the other smart operators at Merrill Lynch.
It would be easy, Marks thought, to make SmithKline stock take a dive. Add a little something special to the Contac capsules on store shelves, force a recall of all those bottles, and down goes the stock.
To be on the safe side, Marks slipped his warfarin rat poison into some of SmithKline's Diatac and Teldrin capsules as well, before visiting a few supermarkets. Then a couple of phone calls to the news media and with eight people already dead from spiked Extra-Strength Tylenol, Marks figured he couldn't lose.
Excited by the prospects of the big killing he was going to make, Marks became careless, however, and left fingerprints all over the evidence.
Still, the Yuppie Poisoner will undoubtedly become something of a legend in the executive suites of the brokerage houses. Edward Arlen Marks showed he was indeed a breed apart, a man who would do anything to make his profit. And for the high-rollers in the stock market, profit is always the bottom line.

Try to pass along costs
Boston Edison is trying to get customers to foot a \$10.5 million bill for replacement power while the plant is shut down. Pilgrim was supposed to open on June 1 but instead will stay closed till mid-July. This would mean charging customers \$250,000 a day or a 5% increase on their bill. Said one angry resident, "It's definitely unfair for them to hit rate payers for the cost. That's the utility's responsibility. When they split up profits for shareholders at the end of the year, I don't get a check from them."
Faced with an outraged public who refuse to pay for a plant they didn't want in the first place, Edison backed down a few days later and said it may ask its stockholders to pay the \$10.5 million. Under public pressure, state and local officials also blasted Edison. Consumers are still paying for the actual construction of the plant in their monthly bills.

Free the Tucson sanctuary defendants!

In This Issue...

PHILIPPINES The continued presence of Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base remains a burning national issue among the workers and peasants of the Philippines, writes Lydia Bayoneta in this eyewitness account of the struggle for national sovereignty against the U.S. military bases. The article includes interviews with base workers on strike last April. (Page 9.)	UAW CONVENTION Judging by the reaction of the national leadership, many of the 2,800 delegates to the 28th United Auto Workers Constitutional Convention in Anaheim, Calif., are pressing for a change in direction. The union has lost 270,000 members in eight years of concessions since 1979, and its members see the need for a change. (Page 3.)	TENANTS' MARCH For the 20,000 families in Jersey City, N.J., who desperately need housing, a march has been set for June 28 to demand \$1 billion from the federal government for public housing. The call has aroused strong support, especially in the Black and Latino communities. (Page 12.)	Also... AT&T strike 1 Anti-nuke plant 2 Yuppie poisoner 2 Ruling on disabled 3 South Africa 5 June 14 rally 5 Detroit city workers 6 VDT dangers 7 WWP conference 8 ADC meeting 11
HOME WORK Women working at home for the California-Western States Life Insurance Company, after giving up regular jobs with salary and benefits, found themselves having to work 12 hours a day for less pay as the company continuously raised the weekly quota of claims processed. Now eight of the women are suing for \$21 million. (Page 7.)	COLT STRIKE The strike of 1,000 workers at the Colt Firearms plants in Connecticut has entered its 18th week. New technology for the manufacture of firearms has played a role in the class struggle at the plants that led to this protracted strike. (Page 6.)	MILITARY LAYOFFS Sam Marcy analyzes the latest layoffs at Rockwell International and Hughes Aircraft, which signify a new direction for the military-industrial complex — reversing the growth of the military workforce and following the same trends as in the civilian industries. (Page 4.)	Editorials All out for June 14! 8 Missionaries for capitalism 8
SOUTH YEMEN Vice President Bush has reportedly offered to finance yet another contra war, this one against the government of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, a small, embattled country which fought a long anti-colonial battle against Britain and waged a profound social revolution. (Page 10.)	workers world Vol. 28, No. 23/June 12, 1986 Closing news date: June 4, 1986		



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Auto union meets in shadow of Big 3 assault

By David Sole

Member of UAW Local 15

DETROIT, June 3 — Some 2,500 delegates are meeting in Anaheim, Calif., this week for the 28th United Auto Workers Constitutional Convention, at a time when the Big Three auto giants have unleashed an enormous assault on the union. The shadow of massive layoffs and plant closings and what to do in the face of this crisis hangs over the convention proceedings.

This convention, coming after seven years of concessions to the auto makers, should be a place for a full evaluation and debate of past policies. Leaders who promised to "save jobs" should have to answer to the shocking fact that since 1979 the union has lost about 270,000 members. In fact, a growing number of delegates are pressing more and more boldly for a change in course. And although they may not yet be strong enough to make changes, the top UAW leadership is apparently feeling the heat.

This could be seen in the opening remarks of UAW President Owen Bieber. He thundered militant phrases about "going to war" with the auto makers, but Bieber focused again on the old slogans of "foreign imports" and "electing Democrats" to solve the union's problems. He defended the policies of concessions and union-management collaboration under the cover of "new and innovative ideas" while attacking critics who urged a militant struggle as stuck "in the past." Instead of a full debate, Bieber proposed a "commission on the UAW's future" to study a host of problems.

Recently, a new note has crept into UAW literature and official speeches. This is an expose of the Big Three policy of opening plants in anti-union dictatorships like south Korea. Unfortunately there is never any mention of U.S. troops and money keeping these regimes in power, nor any call for labor action to protest these U.S. government policies.

No discussion on Saturn

The UAW leadership also limited any serious debate by urging that issues such as the controversial GM-Saturn agreement were out of order. According to them, discussion should wait another year for the 1987 collective bargaining convention.

But the Saturn agreement seems to many delegates to be more than just a bargaining problem. They feel it reflects the overall direction of the union.

"The Saturn agreement reinstitutes piece work, endangers hard-won benefits and encourages workers to be informers," explained Pete Kelley, outspoken president of Local 160 in Warren, Mich.

Another issue which union members feel needs immediate attention is the corporate practice of trying to get local unions to underbid each other. They do this by holding out the offer of "keeping the plant open with the lowest cost."

In a leaflet to the 3,300 union members of UAW Local 15, GM-Fleetwood, in Detroit, 11 delegates pledged to raise a resolution at the convention that "unity is maintained among the locals in place of competition." That same day, as these delegates boarded planes for California, the Detroit Free Press ran a front-page story stating that GM might close the Fleetwood/Clark Street facilities if enough concessions were offered by Local 276 in Arlington, Texas.

While many workers on the shop floor saw this as a scare tactic to get Local 15 to give concessions (which they refused in June 1985), the lack of

a national policy in the UAW on this question makes it possible to play on the real fears of many workers.

'Referendum' issue

With the obstacles put in the way of full debate on substantial issues and a certain reluctance among many delegates (most of whom are local union officials) to challenge their higher officers head on, most opposition has gathered around the "referendum" vote issue for direct membership election of national union officers. This issue is very popular on the shop floor. Growing discontent with wage and benefit cuts, profit-sharing and a two-tier wage system is being expressed in the demand to make top leaders accountable to the rank and file. Many delegates successfully campaigned on this issue.

This resolution was defeated on the second day of the convention, but only after an unprecedented weeks-long campaign by Bieber and his international reps. One local president reported that Bieber personally cornered him for two hours trying to change his mind. Delegates from Local 22's New Hamtramck assembly plant were threatened with loss of appointed jobs if they voted in favor of "referendum."

What is becoming clear is that UAW leaders have no struggle program to answer a full-scale attack on the UAW and all of labor by the joint forces of big business and the government. Yet, they are still entrenched enough in office to keep the growing tide of dissatisfaction and dissent in line.

This was not true, however, for the 120,000 Canadian UAW members who refused to follow the concession path and broke from the U.S. parent union 18 months ago. This week's convention will ratify that split but many workers in the plants have taken note of the Canadian course and leader-

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Autoworkers suffering from concessions and a loss of 270,000 union members are demanding a bold new direction from UAW leadership.

Court ruling restores SSI benefits But too late for thousands of New York's mentally disabled

By Deirdre Griswold

NEW YORK, June 3 — Beginning in 1978 and continuing until 1983, between 10,000 and 15,000 New Yorkers had their Social Security disability benefits cut off. They had been covered because they were mentally disabled, but then in 1978 the Social Security Administration changed its definition of what constitutes a mental disability. To be eligible, you had to have a diagnosis that matched a rigid list of the most serious mental disorders.

This change in procedures came at a time of great pressure from the ruling class to cut back all social programs in order to increase the arms budget and trim the taxes of the rich. The targets of this heartless policy were those who were least able to fight back. Thousands of people began to be thrown off the Social Security Insurance (SSI) rolls.

The Social Security Administration abandoned this procedure in 1983 when Federal Judge Jack B. Weinstein ruled that it was contrary to the Social Security Act. But the people already thrown off the rolls knew nothing of this, and very few had been able to appeal the cut-off decision within the 60 days required by the regulations. Those who eventually found legal help and reapplied were told they hadn't followed correct procedures and therefore weren't eligible.

It is now eight years since this cruel injustice was first perpetrated. According to the federal court, many of

those cut off were soon hospitalized because of the trauma. A large number are now part of this city's homeless population.

After eight years, the Supreme Court has finally found that the government can no longer deny benefits to those cut off on the basis that they failed to comply with obscure regulations. The victims of the earlier ruling now have the right to sue to get their benefits back.

The decision is seen as a victory for those advocating the rights of the disabled, who had filed class action suits for all concerned, and it may become the basis for similar rulings in other states. That's the good news.

The bad news is that this ruling comes too late for many affected people. The legacy of the previous policy can be seen everywhere there are suffering people living out of shopping bags, shuffling from city shelters to train stations to park benches, eking out an existence full of pain and sickness.

Perhaps some of them may successfully sue to get their benefits reinstated. But will they be able to get their homes back? The relationships they had with friends, family and neighbors? The few possessions they had accumulated over a lifetime and have now lost?

No one living on SSI can afford to rent an apartment at today's market prices. No one on SSI can buy the furniture, clothing and household goods

that it takes to live an independent life. And life on the streets could only gravely worsen whatever mental disabilities were present in the first place.

Capitalism claims to enhance the qualities of the individual, but nothing takes away a person's identity more than becoming a derelict. Once men and women have been cast out and deemed unfit for production, they lose everything: their names, their histories, their links to the rest of the world. They walk the streets and are not seen; they die in doorways and are barely noticed.

In this country, it is estimated that one-third of the population suffers from serious mental and emotional problems at least once in life. The stresses of surviving under capitalism are tremendous, with economic insecurity and cutthroat competition among the most obvious. The recognition of mental disability by the government was an important step in getting some protection against more people becoming casualties of the system.

This struggle, however, shows how fragile such protection is. The lifeline for thousands of people can be cut arbitrarily by a government bureaucracy that is beholden only to the whims of the superrich. What is needed is a government of the workers, that is accountable to the people themselves because it comes from their ranks and has abolished exploitation and profiting off human misery.

Defense plant layoffs mount as arms buildup continues

By Sam Marcy

JUNE 2 — Announced layoffs at several key defense plants have come as a stunning surprise to many who have considered jobs in the military-industrial complex to be safe and secure.

It had been thought that layoffs by the giant corporations, which occur especially after some mergers or acquisitions, would not affect jobs with the military contractors.

The announcement by Rockwell International Corp. that it will lay off 6,800 workers in the next couple of months comes as a shock. Following Rockwell's announcement, the Hughes Aircraft Co. also said it would cut its work force by 5%, and thus eliminate more than 4,000 jobs.

This was followed by yet another announcement, coming from General Dynamics this time, that it will lay off about 900 workers (New York Times and Wall Street Journal, May 30).

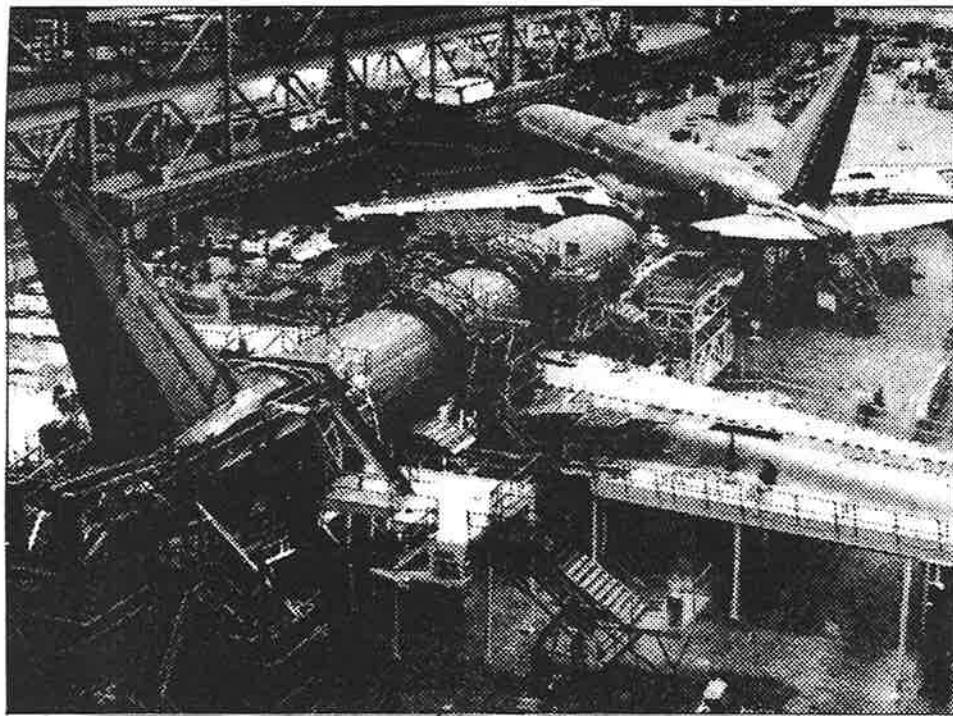
It should be noted that when General Motors took over Hughes Aircraft last year, the usual assurances were made that cost cutting would not prompt layoffs. Now the workers can see what those promises amount to.

New trend in military industry

The magnitude of the layoffs is not in and of itself enormous, although it means a great deal to the workers who are laid off and who have to join the millions already unemployed. What is really of major significance with respect to these layoffs lies not so much in their numbers as that they point in a new direction for the military-industrial complex (MIC).

Hitherto the MIC has been taking on workers, although at an increasingly slower pace. Now the process has been reversed and employment in the MIC is showing the same trend that is so characteristic of all the giant corporations — the steady and consistent cutting of the labor force, more and more layoffs, even as the relative capitalist expansion, so-called, continues.

All the giant corporations, barring none, continue to cut the labor force. Even the biggest among the giants, Exxon Corporation, which was sup-



Many people used to think that workers in the military industries didn't have to worry about layoffs. But recent layoffs point to a new trend in the military-industrial complex: a steady reduction of the workforce.

posed to have ended its layoff period more than a year ago, announced on June 1 that it is laying off more workers, including many in U.S. field offices (Wall Street Journal, June 2).

On the same day, Wells Fargo announced the elimination of 5,000 jobs after its acquisition of the Crocker National Corporation.

Notwithstanding the most touted capitalist prosperity, there is not a single giant corporation which, especially after a merger, acquisition or spinoff, has not carried out layoffs. Some of these layoffs or plant closings get only local publicity. A plant like 3M in New Jersey would have been yet another unknown statistic had not some prominent entertainers publicized its plight.

So what has happened is that the MIC has joined the mainstream of the giant corporations, which are promoting attrition, cost-cutting, forced retirements, accelerations and just plain old layoffs.

Illusion of Pentagon omnipotence

This has brought about a rude awakening also for those who had thought

that the Pentagon was omnipotent in both the economic and military fields. The recent layoffs, which even a New York Times headline called a trend, must also come as a shocker to those who have assumed that the Pentagon could for an indefinite period of time override the economic laws governing the capitalist system.

The current military buildup, which began in 1979 during the Carter administration and has been carried forward at such an outlandish pace by the Reaganites, is the longest one in a so-called peacetime period. It rivals the earlier buildup that began in 1938-39 and continued throughout the Second World War, ending in 1945.

But militarism, as an economic remedy for an ailing social system based on the profit motive, soon turns into its opposite. At first it acts as a stimulus, artificially concocted and developed, but it is no more effective than the best drugs. Ultimately, taken over an extended period, especially at an accelerated rate, it turns into a depressant.

This is what the layoffs at General Dynamics, Rockwell, Hughes and others to come signify.

It should be remembered that during the period of 1979-81, when the capitalist recession was at its height, capital flowed into the military-industrial complex and its accessory industries in unending abundance. Practically anything could be had for the military as far as congressional expenditures went. But then, as always happens, the very gargantuan size of the military expenditures showed up as inflationary stock and bond holdings, bloated to the gills. Even if their market value did not diminish, their real value was bloated.

Thus a slow and gradual exit began into other fields, however speculative they might have been.

The layoffs in the military-industrial complex are not just a sop or a ploy calculated to give Congress an incentive to go easier on cutting defense. Cutting \$30 billion from a trillion-dollar defense budget is a mere drop in the bucket.

What is happening in the MIC is the same trend witnessed in the giant corporations, and the small ones as well. Its purpose is to continue capitalist production, expanding it where possible, but with fewer workers. Thus when we hear that the pressure is on in Congress to cut defense expenditures, what ends up happening is not cuts in the weapons systems or cuts in military production, but cuts in the workforce.

What General Motors has done at Hughes Aircraft with the recent layoffs is nothing more than what it has been doing in its auto plants. General Electric, which also has contracts for parts of the B-1 bomber, is doing the same. They are cutting their military facilities in the same way they have been reducing their civilian employment.

Moreover, insofar as the aerospace industry is concerned, U.S. corporations are now facing considerable opposition from their European capitalist rivals. The destruction of the Challenger shuttle gave the Europeans an edge with their Ariane rocket. Last week's destruction of a \$50 million satellite belonging to the Ariane group of imperialist rivals will only serve to heighten the competition.

—AT&T strike

Continued from page 1

likened AT&T's offer at the bargaining table to "an elephant giving birth to a gnat."

The union knows, however, that it is fighting more than just concessions, that it is fighting for workers' rights in the technological revolution that is sweeping every industry in the country and around the world. And that's why all of the labor movement has a big stake in winning this strike.

Solidarity is coming from many unions. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), which represents a small number of AT&T workers, has been honoring CWA picket lines, while a tentative agreement has been reached in their contract which expired at the same time.

There are also many reports of local telephone workers who do not work for AT&T showing their solidarity with the CWA strike. In Ohio, some 350 Ohio Bell workers refused to cross picket lines and in New York City a company official admitted that more than four-fifths of the New York Telephone workers refused to cross pickets on the first day of the strike.

By the second day, the company had a court injunction against the CWA's

picketlines in New York. This blatant government intervention on the side of AT&T is in violation of the union's right to picket. Defending the union's rights both to picket and against government interference in this strike could become an important issue as solidarity actions are taken up by the labor movement.

On the third day, AT&T had hired 3,000 "temporaries" to cross the picket lines and do the operators' work. This is usually called strikebreaking and is another indication that the corporation's real intent is to undermine the union.

What adds significance to this strike is that this is the first contract at AT&T since the telecommunications giant divested itself of the local companies in a drive to move deeper into the high-tech, high-profit computer, Pentagon and space markets. Already AT&T spokesmen are praising Reagan's Star Wars boondoggle as the company gets ready to go after the biggest defense contracts this country has ever seen.

Union contracts at the seven regional local telephone companies that were spun off AT&T expire on Aug. 9, and the outcome of this strike could have an immediate effect on those

negotiations which cover 300,000 workers nationwide.

This is a labor struggle of the 1980s. And it reaches into every corner of this country. The workers are a cross section of the working class — people of every nationality; many are women; some disabled; lesbians and gay men; old and young. In a word, everyone.

AT&T says that they have to have concessions from the union in order to "remain competitive." Of course, this is the same story that the company has told the workers since the robber baron J.P. Morgan took control of AT&T at the turn of the century.

The real reason AT&T is now demanding concessions is that it is determined to undermine the union, which it considers to be an obstacle to its growth in the new technology. What angers the management is that through decades of struggle, the CWA has won a decent contract for workers, like the many Black women who work as operators, who traditionally are the lowest paid.

If the CWA wins, every worker in this country wins. And it will boost union organizing in the telecommunications and computer industries, which is largely unorganized. This is a fight for all of labor to join.

Reagan looks to new round of arms buildup

Reagan's latest maneuver to completely abandon any aspect of arms control by openly repudiating the SALT II agreement is nothing more than an attempt to begin a new round of weapons buildup for yet another injection of the same old stimulant. But this becomes more destructive as it enters a new phase with its inevitable depressing effects. Only a military diversion, only a new adventure abroad, can possibly stave off this absolutely inexorable economic process.

In all this it has to be remembered that the Pentagon is a capitalist enterprise and is subject to the laws of the capitalist mode of production. It is not the omnipotent and absolutist entity which superficial examination often tends to infer.

On the contrary, all that military spending does is aggravate the basic contradiction inherent in capitalist production: the antagonism between the development of the means of production, which under the so-called free enterprise system is private property, and the socializing of the labor process which imperiously demands the casting off of the incubus of the private ownership of the means of production, of capital, and the beginning of a transformation to a rational society based on production for use and not for profit.

Crossroads: 'They will never kill us all!'

By Sahu Barron

JUNE 4 — When the smoke finally cleared, 48 South Africans lay dead on the charred and debris-filled streets of Crossroads, and another 120 were seriously wounded. Pretoria has hastened to depict the ten days of arson and murder visited upon the residents of South Africa's largest squatter camp as merely another example of "mindless Black-on-Black violence." But even before the bulldozers cleared away the smoldering rubble that was once the meager homes of 35,000 people, the real culprit behind these bloody events was exposed — the racist minority apartheid regime!

Crossroads is located near the heavy industrial city of Cape Town and has for more than 10 years been a thorn in the side of the South African authorities. Since 1968, the regime's stringent Urban Removal policy has resulted in the forced relocation of 4 million South Africans from the white-controlled agricultural and industrial areas to designated bantustans.

Although squatter camps are illegal, the population of Crossroads stubbornly continues to rise. In the last two years alone, the number of people there has tripled to more than 300,000. Despite constant demolition of the residents' tin and cardboard shacks and incessant police raids, the people continue to take a defiant stand, returning again and again to rebuild their homes.

Crossroads has become a symbol of resistance at home and abroad. Precisely because of this, a frustrated Botha regime has now pinned its hopes on a Black surrogate force of collaborators to accomplish the squatter camp's destruction, an objective that a decade of police attacks and army storm trooper assaults have failed to achieve.

Eyewitnesses reported that on the night of Sunday, May 18, violence erupted in the main section of the camp, where police-organized gangs opened fire on young, anti-apartheid activists. In the ensuing 10 days of terror, these right-wing bands, who called themselves "witdoeke," an Afrikaaner word for the white strips of cloth they donned, rampaged through three other quadrants of Crossroads. There they burned down over 3,000 homes, sending tens of thousands of their inhabitants fleeing into the surrounding bush.

The worst destruction and loss of life took place in these areas, which were well-known anti-apartheid strongholds, and which provided safe haven for scores of youthful militants escaping imprisonment in the urban Black townships.

Police collusion

Both the victims themselves and opposition groups have attested to pervasive police collusion in these days of carnage. Sworn affidavits of witnesses compiled by the United Democratic Front reveal that the police provided the reactionary marauders with ammunition, light-caliber rifles, grenade launchers and flame throwers. These same affidavits describe how the police added their own fire power to that of their witdoeke auxiliaries, and joined in torching homes as well.

In the brutal aftermath of the pogrom at Crossroads, the racist pigs denied any complicity, saying, "The police don't kill people, nor do they pay people to do this. They try to restore law and order." The United Democratic Front, however, produced living evidence to the contrary.

At a press conference held on May 28 in Johannesburg, the UDF brought forward two rightwingers captured in

the attack. One of them admitted to having been paid \$50 for his participation in the onslaught. A UDF leader, the Reverend Alan Boesak, characterized the violence as "forced removal of the worst kind," adding that "even for the South African police, this must set a record in brutality."

Western press coverage has almost invariably stated that the aim of this cold-blooded massacre was to root out "the radical faction calling themselves 'comrades.'" This so-called faction is, in reality, the South African majority — the millions of South African men, women and children who are storming the last bastion of settler colonialism and racism on the African continent. They are the comrades!

In the words of the militant youth of Crossroads, "They will never kill us all!"



A revolution that cannot be stopped: Black South Africans standing up to the police.

ANC leader to address giant Soweto Day rally

By Gary Wilson

JUNE 2 — Alfred Nzo, Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, will be a featured speaker at the giant June 14 Soweto Day March Against Apartheid in New York City, reports Dennis Mumble, publicity director for the New York Anti-Apartheid Coordinating Council.

Another confirmed speaker for that day is Jesse Jackson and among the entertainers expected is Little Steven Van Zandt, author of the popular anti-apartheid song, Sun City. The action is being planned to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the heroic Soweto Rebellion in South Africa.

On the West Coast, where a similar demonstration will be held in the Bay Area, the Oakland City Council has endorsed the action to be held in that city and has declared June 14 Soweto Day to encourage participation in the march.

Endorsements continue to pour in, according to Johnnie Stevens, chair of the Bay Area Soweto Day Commemoration Committee. Among the recent supporters is the San Francisco Board of Education which passed a resolution in support and declared June 14 Soweto Day in the city's schools, urging students and faculty to actively observe this commemoration. Other endorsers include Mission SAFE, an organization of the homeless, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 265 in San Jose, and Ed Kinchley, executive board member SEIU Local 790 as well as Henry W. Murph, Senior Bishop of the AME Church.

In New York City, the support for June 14 provided by the labor movement has been impressive. Thousands of locals have been mobilizing and word of the event has reached the millions of workers in the city.

Endorsements have come from the New York City Central Labor Council as well as AFSCME Local 420, which is helping to organize the march from Harlem, and UAW District 65 and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Other labor endorsers include Humphrey Donahue, regional director, AFL-CIO; Barry Feinstein, Teamsters; Henry Foner, Fur, Leather and Machine Workers; Thomas Gleason, International Longshoremen's Association; Victor Gotbaum, District Council 37, AFSCME; John Hudson, ACTWU; William Lucy, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Sal Ingrassia, Electrical Workers District 3; Jay Mazur, ILGWU; Paschal McGuinness, Carpenters; Henry Nicholas, District 1199; Jan Pierce, CWA; and Jacob Sheinkman, ACTWU.

A contingent of transportation workers is being organized by TWA, Greyhound and New York City transit workers together with other workers in the transportation industry.

Feeder marches will assemble at 10:00 in the morning. At the United Nations, contingents of labor, students, women's, anti-war, lesbian and gay, religious, Asian and Native groups will gather.

At the Harlem State Office Building at 125th and Adam Clayton Powell Blvd., other contingents will join to march to Central Park. This march will join with a Puerto Rican contingent that will assemble in "El Barrio," the oldest Puerto Rican neighborhood in the city.

Buses coming from out of town are to go to Central Park West between 61st and 92nd Streets.

The marches will end with a rally at the Great Lawn in Central Park at 1:00 p.m.

In California, a march will leave Oakland City Hall at 12 noon and proceed to Mosswood Park for a rally at 2:00 p.m.

For more information on the New York City marches, contact Cleveland Robinson or Jim Bell at (212) 673-5120 or the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network at (212) 741-0633.

In the Bay Area call the Oakland office at (415) 547-3654 or the San Francisco office at (414) 821-6545.

Remember the 10th Anniversary of
the Soweto Rebellion

**MARCH
AGAINST
APARTHEID!**

**June 14
Saturday**

New York City: Assemble 10 am at:

United Nations — Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (48th St. & 1st Ave.)
Harlem — Harlem State Office Bldg.
(125th St. & Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.)

March to the Great Lawn in Central Park.

For more information call:
Cleveland Robinson or
Jim Bell at (212) 673-5120
or the

U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network
at (212) 741-0633

• **FREE SOUTH AFRICA! • FREE NAMIBIA!**
• **NO U.S. AID TO UNITA!**
• **BREAK ALL U.S. TIES TO APARTHEID!**
• **VICTORY TO ANC & SWAPO**

BAY AREA/OAKLAND

Assemble 12 pm Rally 2 pm
Oakland City Hall to Mosswood Park
(MacArthur & Broadway) Oakland
For information call:
(415) 821-6545 or 547-3654



Colt munitions strike enters strong 18th week

By Dick Lenzi

HARTFORD, June 3 — On Jan. 24, over 1,000 members of United Auto Workers Local 376 walked off their jobs at Colt Firearms plants in Hartford and West Hartford, Connecticut. Eighteen weeks later their struggle continues.

The strike was provoked by company proposals for takeaways in medical insurance, a one-year wage freeze and no cost-of-living allowance. Colt does not even claim to be losing money from its gun-producing operations. Instead they warn of "future market uncertainties."

The company receives about \$174 million worth of federal contracts and is the sole producer of the army's M-16 rifle.

For ten months, Local 376 members worked without a contract. The union used this time in the plants to whittle down a six-to-nine-month inventory the company had built up. One way in which this was done was the solid refusal of workers to work overtime.

The strategy was so successful that Colt tried to implement a policy of forced overtime for the entire workforce. Harassment and intimidation were used against the workers. Twelve were fired, many more suspended and over half the entire union membership received disciplinary notices. Those "disciplined" wore the notices around the plants proudly as evidence of their solidarity.

Other issues are directly involved in the struggle even while not involved in the negotiations. The development of new technology has long been a weapon of Colt management in the relentless class war on the shop floor.

Effect of new technologies

Since the mid-nineteenth century, Colt has been a major arms supplier to

the U.S. military. Much of the company's production technology has been determined by the nature of the articles manufactured in the plant.

Firearms historically were the first mass-produced metal article. The Colt plant in Hartford was one of the first places in the country where the interchangeable parts system of manufacture was used to break down and divide the former craft skills of the workforce. Many machine tools were actually designed and built in the plants specifically to effect the changes in the production process.

From a paternalistic employer of a few skilled craftsmen, Colt grew to resemble other mass-production and assembly industries. New technology has helped to further break down the detailed-type skills of various aspects of the manufacture of military weapons.

The attacks on Colt workers have not only continued but they have escalated in the past decade. Colt was the site of important research for a study published by the University of Connecticut entitled "Connecticut workers and technological change." The book demonstrates the effect of high technology, especially numerically controlled machines, on the jobs of Colt workers. Both in terms of its increasing concentration of management decision-making power and in long-term employment levels, high technology poses a new and deadly threat.

In spite of this onslaught, Colt workers mounted their counterattack on the job. They proved to those bourgeois theoreticians of the "disappearance" of the class struggle that the class struggle is still very much alive. Even under difficult conditions, such as the replacement of many machine tools with new computer-run

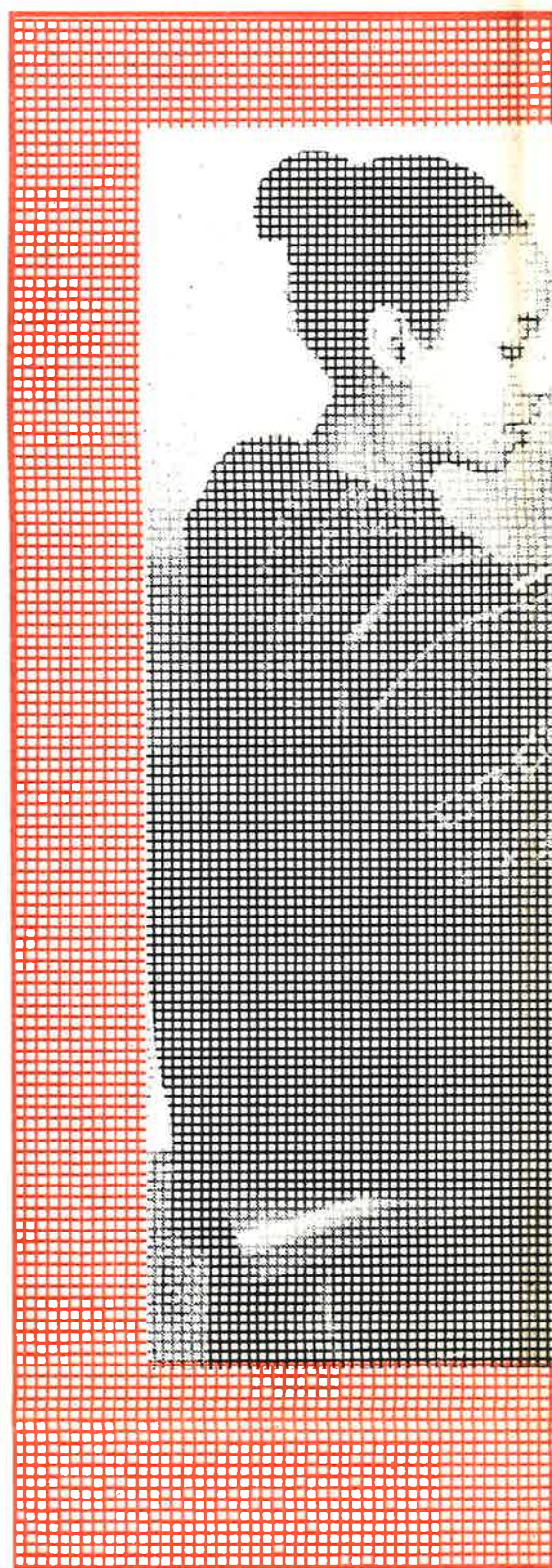
machining centers, fighting back was not only possible but effective.

No matter how bosses try to eliminate workers, they are forced to realize that their technology cannot run by itself. As a toolmaker from the West Hartford plant told this reporter while on the strike picketline, the company has yet to restart some of their most advanced equipment since the strike began, and this in spite of hundreds of newly hired scabs.

The introduction of mass production techniques at Colt during the early 20th century did not relegate the workers to the sidelines. In fact the opposite happened; the path was cleared for the rise of industrial unionism. After several unsuccessful attempts that were defeated by the bosses' use of company unions, spies and state police, Colt was organized during the CIO upsurge. On May 13, 1941, some 6,000 workers emptied the Hartford plant and forced the company to recognize their union. A company union was swept aside in an NLRB election by a seven-to-one vote.

The new technology being introduced throughout industry is creating conditions that force working people to begin responding to corporate attacks. Colt workers have been forging ties with the rest of the area's labor movement and with oppressed communities as well. The struggle around the Colt 45 workers who blocked a factory entrance during a scab shift change, shows the potential for mobilizing even broader support (see last week's issue of Workers World).

Community groups, local activists and union members can help the Colt strikers by contacting Local 376's office at 920 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, Conn. 06114, and by joining their picketlines. For information call (203) 249-1346.



Detroit city workers prepare for fightback

By Cheryl LaBash
Executive Board Member
AFSCME Local 457

DETROIT, May 31 — The June 30 expiration date of the city workers' contract is nearing. Today, a standing room only crowd of workers, stewards and union officers gathered to discuss negotiations with their bargaining committee. The city is armed with a record \$57 million budget surplus after nine years of concessions from the workers. But the leadership of the union is prepared for a fight.

Chief negotiator Al Garrett recognized the national anti-labor offensive when he warned, "The day unions could go to the table, smile, and say 'give me some' is over. We will have to fight for what we get. It may mean rallying at Kennedy Square, picketing the City County Building, slowing down or even stopping work, but we will only get what we fight for. And, if we don't fight, there's plenty of 'equity formula' left." By equity formula, Garrett referred to the current contract provision tying pay hikes to increased city revenues. Over the life of the expiring contract, it yielded less than a 3% wage increase.

The negotiators presented a full range of demands to restore all concessions given up since the 1977 contract instituted the divisive two-tier wage system. Other concessions included loss of cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), wage freezes, reduced sick leave and co-pays for medical insurance. What this means is that entry

level typists make less than the poverty line for a family of four.

Another important demand is to include the recently organized Community Nutrition Workers (CNW) in the master-agreement covering all city workers. CNWs are an example of the back-door union-busting tactic called contracting out. It is found across the country in both public and private workplaces. CNWs received no benefits like sick time or medical insurance, no retirement benefits and often were not paid for months while their contracts were reprocessed each year. Although the CNWs joined Local 457, all city locals support winning this demand at the city-wide table.

In past contract negotiations the city administration has tried to present the union demands and the reluctance to accept concessions as a blow against the community. This tactic cropped up in Mayor Young's April 14 budget address. The mayor counterposed buying much needed new buses and hiring more police to "unreasonable" demands by the unions. Yet, as any typist, nurse or other health clinic worker knows, in spite of the drastic concessions taken by workers over the last nine years, infant mortality has soared and waiting time at the clinics has lengthened. City services from garbage collection to bus service have deteriorated. The city workers and the community they serve are natural allies in the fight for a decent life against budget cuts, unemployment and concessions.

On The Picketline

Congress workers organize.

Food service and other workers in the Congressional office complex in Washington are demanding the right to organize. When the labor laws were passed by Congress years ago they kept the workers in Congress exempt. This exemption also applies to the Civil Rights Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Privacy Act and others. The 245 workers in House restaurants are mostly Black women and earn between \$4.80 and \$8.53 an hour. Janitorial, carpentry and electronics workers as well as service workers in the Senate are also affected. The machinists have announced that they have signed up two-thirds of the workers already and expect to win an election if it is held. All these exemptions to labor rights laws were passed by congressmen who took extensive campaign contributions from unions and claim to be the "friends of labor."

Northeast. The Reagan administration issued a 60-day "cooling off" order requiring workers to return to work. But the order was used illegally since the cooling off period under the law was designed to be used before a strike took place, not during.

In the several weeks since returning to work there have been massive layoffs. These also violate the intent of the 60-day cooling off period which is supposed to keep the old work rules in place. One steward on the Maine Central reported 50% layoffs. Another worker with 17 years seniority described the loss of 2,000 jobs as a "wholesale slaughter."

The job security issue which sparked this strike stems from the fact that the rails on the main lines have been replaced in recent years with hi-tech stainless steel rails with cuts of maintenance workers from six workers every six miles several years ago to two workers every 50 miles under the latest layoff.

Reagan attacks rail workers.

A critical struggle for job security is unfolding in the railroad industry as workers at Guilford Transportation were ordered back to work by the Reagan administration. The Guilford strike spread from Maintenance of Way workers in the Guilford-owned Boston & Maine and Maine Central railroads to solidarity walkouts throughout the Conrail system in the



Women sue insurance giant, expose conditions for home workers

By Veronica Golos

MAY 31 — "It became where I was working from 5 in the morning to 9 at night," said Beverley O'Connell. She is one of an estimated 10 million homeworkers in this country, and one of eight women who are suing California-Western States Life Insurance Company for fraud.

In 1982, the women at the company were offered the choice of working at home. Most of them had worked for the company for years, and had hoped, by working at home, to circumvent the expenses for commuting, clothing and child care. The women gave up regular hourly wages and benefits, and agreed to accept payment of 90 cents per claim and quotas of 250 to 350 claims a week. Processing claims involves checking to make sure the claim is correct and then coding it into the computer to authorize payment.

The company installed computers in the women's homes, which they had to lease for \$50 a month. The company then cut its in-house clerical force, added more at-home jobs, and then proposed upping the quota to 400 claims a week. The women wound up working 10, 12, and even more hours a day for less pay.

Finally, the women quit their jobs, and decided to sue the company, seeking \$20 million in back benefits and \$1 million in punitive damages.

Their case highlights the exploitative conditions for workers who labor at home.

5 million work at home

There are 50 million women in the workforce. According to 1984 statistics, 48% of women with children under one year old are in the workforce. Five million homeworkers, half of them women, are employed by companies. Most of them are 26 to 45 years of age, and 75% are married.

Studies have found that the income of homeworkers is a quarter less than that of regular office employees in the same job, while 74% of all working women are concentrated in the clerical, service and sales areas. The leading occupations for women are secretaries, cashiers and bookkeepers, jobs which are all being computerized.

Women enter the workforce out of necessity. However, due to discrimination, women are paid less and are concentrated in the lower paid jobs. The lure of homework for women workers is largely due to the lack of any day care facilities. Private day care centers charge on the average \$4,000-\$6,000 a year per child; not an answer to the 9.8 million families headed by women earning a median income of

\$12,000. Out of six million U.S. employers, only 1,800 provide any kind of day care. It is estimated that 23 million children require day care, but in 1982 there was only federally supported day care for 500,000 children, insufficient for the city of New York alone.

At the same time, child care and other services are being cut. In 1981, the Reagan administration cut the largest federal program providing money to states for child care by 21% and also reduced related programs. Payment for child care workers is notoriously low. The AFL-CIO News estimates that most day care workers, usually women, earn less than dog pound attendants, mostly men.

The introduction of homework raises serious issues for the labor movement. Unions have pointed out that what homeworkers really do is piece work for low wages, and that the dispersal of these workers makes it more difficult for them to organize. In addition,

many companies employ undocumented workers at sub-minimum wages in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, which was passed to prevent employers from circumventing the minimum wage and child labor laws.

Some unions such as the Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the Ladies Garment Workers Union have developed child care centers, and SEIU and AFGE are also concerned with the issue.

By 1990, it is estimated that half the workforce will be women. In order to insure that women and others are able to stay in the workforce, and join and stay in unions, the issue of day care must be raised. In addition, union protection and benefits should be guaranteed those women and other workers who choose to work at home. This has already been done at the University of Wisconsin Medical Center, where the union demanded and won full benefits and union representation for homeworkers.

New study confirms VDTs are dangerous to your health

By Andy Stapp

JUNE 3 — Video display terminals (VDTs) are putting the health of ten million workers in this country at risk. That is the clear finding of the four-day International Scientific Conference on Work with Display Units which just met in Stockholm, Sweden.

Thirty-six trade unions from eight countries attended the gathering, including the U.S.-based Service Employees International Union and the Newspaper Guild.

Many of those who work on VDTs are women in low-paying jobs. The Stockholm conference heard medical evidence about the higher rate of deformed fetuses among mice exposed to VDT-pulsed magnetic fields. Such tests had been done before with chicken embryos with the same results.

But all these tests are somewhat superfluous given the 50% rate of miscarriages and other pregnancy problems found in airline reservation sales agents who work with VDTs. The real guinea pigs are human beings, victims of manufacturers and employers who brought this equipment into the work place without ever testing it for safety.

Other VDT-related illnesses included severe headaches, eyestrain, and excruciating paroxysms of the

sciatic nerve.

VDTs have become a basic tool of the high-tech revolution. By the year 2000 the number of people working in front of these TV-like screens will approach 40 million in the U.S. alone. Yet the federal government has balked at regulating this technology because both the makers and owners of the VDT equipment claim that imposition of safety standards would be too costly and drain their competitiveness in world markets.

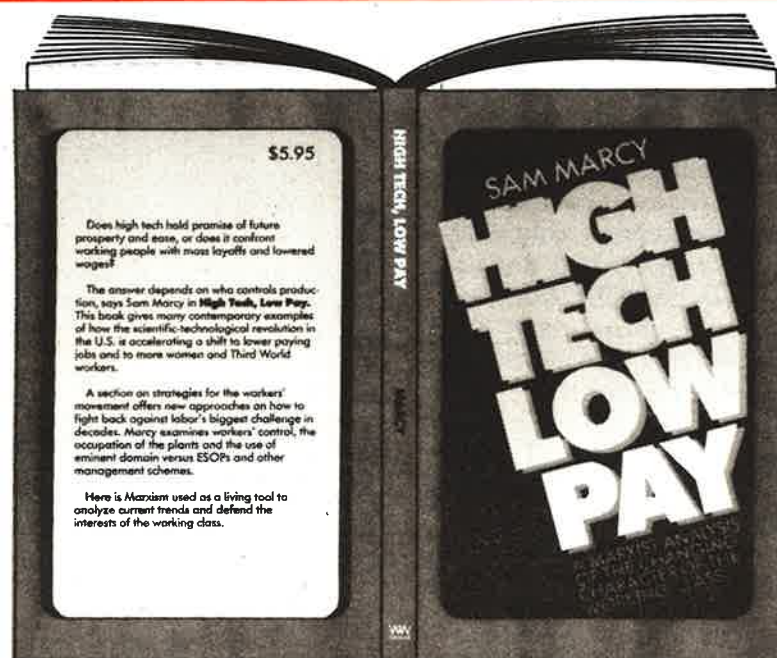
Upon entering the White House in 1981, Reagan told Business Week magazine that he just didn't see "any need for OSHA" (the Occupational Safety and Health Administration). In this spirit, there have been no regulations providing VDT workers with hourly rest breaks, physical examinations or protection on the size and brightness of the characters on their screens. Many have been working now eight hours a day for years in these dangerous conditions, pushing some into nervous breakdowns and a variety of other debilitating injuries.

The trade unions which attended the Stockholm conference adopted a statement calling for "adequate protections immediately" for VDT users, specifically the introduction of already available technology to shield workers from magnetic fields and very low frequency radiation.

Aluminum strike. Workers at the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) went on strike after bargaining reached an impasse last Saturday. The 15,000 workers are members of the United Steel Workers and the Brick and Glass Workers International. The unions rejected contract terms in the company offer which would have eliminated dental and eye care benefits, vacation time and bonus provisions and cost-of-living raises. "They wanted concessions while the company was making money," said USW spokesman Bob Moffett. "They wouldn't budge an inch during negotiations." At Reynolds Metals, 9,500 workers remained working under the old contract.

Hi-tech Lockout. In violation of the no-lockout/no-strike provisions of their contract the Sundstrand Corporation locked out 1,050 members of the United Auto Workers after a breakdown in bargaining. The company manufactures components and systems for aircraft and has warned that it would hire permanent scabs and transfer work to other plants in the event of a strike. Union members had rejected what the company claimed was its final offer for a three-year contract. This is another instance of vicious hard-ball bargaining by a company in an industry dominated by the military-industrial complex.

— Louis Napier



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EDITORIAL

All out for Soweto Day!

THE UPCOMING JUNE 14 rallies provide an opportunity for us here in the U.S. to demonstrate support and solidarity with those fighting for the liberation of South Africa.

The date was chosen with history in mind. It commemorates the heroic uprising of the youth of the Soweto township 10 years ago which was the opening blow of the current revolutionary battles against the apartheid state.

But it also comes at a time when the oppressed Black people of that nation are again making history. Nearly two years of open street battles have raised the question of who really governs the 32 million people who live within the borders of South Africa.

On one side are the Pretoria racists. They hang on to the rule of the Black townships only with their tanks, their guns, their clubs, their dogs of war. They send illegal armies to invade neighboring Black countries. They can destroy, but can no longer control.

On the other side the Black population looks for guidance and governing not to Pretoria but to the young "comrades" of the townships and to the African National Congress. The millions in the Black working class look to the COSATU union confederation which has already shut down South Africa on May 1 and plans to do it again June 16-18. The attitude of the Black youth was clarified by a recent banner: "They will never kill us all."

But how many are killed depends not only on the crude brutality flowing from Pretoria. It depends also on the material, diplomatic and political support from the racists in Washington to the apartheid state. For despite the crocodile tears Shultz or others in the administration may shed for apartheid's victims, every U.S. vote in the UN vetoes sanctions against South Africa. Every attack by Pretoria's army on Angola is applauded in the Pentagon.

This backing from Washington makes it all the more important for workers and progressives in the U.S. to take a stand for the liberation of South Africa.

On June 14 there are anti-apartheid demonstrations set for New York, Oakland, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, and Atlanta. That these actions have the backing of trade unions, especially those with Black leadership, and other mass organizations, promises to make them significant protests.

For in the U.S., too, there are two sides. On the one side the ruling class, who view the apartheid state as an ally. On the other side are the workers and oppressed people here who see the Black population of South Africa as their sisters and brothers.

Break the links between Washington and Pretoria! Smash the apartheid state! Victory to the African National Congress! U.S. hands off Africa! All out for June 14!

Missionaries for capitalism

DURING THE RECENT election campaign in France, voters who went to work in the Paris subway saw a poster plastered up in the cars which declared, "Socialism is a lie and a fraud." Many people recognized the name of the organization which put out this propaganda message. The National Inter-University Union is a well-known ultra-right wing group. What a lot of people in Paris did not know, however, is that this organization had received \$575,000 from Washington for the purpose of interfering in the French election. That subway poster was paid for by the USA.

Funding for such enterprises is carried on every day by the so-called National Endowment for Democracy, a government agency set up in 1983 for the purpose of buying political support in other countries' book publishing industries, newspapers, labor unions and political parties.

Ostensibly, the aim is "to spread

democracy, free enterprise and global pluralism" but the real goal is to fight progressive movements and promote the cause of capitalist exploitation.

The National Endowment has sent \$100,000 to the Nicaraguan newspaper La Prensa as a pay-off for its anti-Sandinista stance. It funnels cash to clerical anti-communist elements in Poland and finances rigged elections in Grenada. Before Reagan, this kind of dirty work was carried out almost entirely by the CIA, but now the subversion is more open, the meddling in other countries' internal affairs more flagrant.

There was one advantage to Washington about the old CIA method. It was secret, with the money sent and received clandestinely. Those who take funds from the National Endowment for Democracy, on the other hand, are much more likely to be exposed for what they really are, paid agents in the service of U.S. imperialism.



Socialist conference examines 'contemporary problems of workers'

On May 24-25, Workers World Party held a national conference on "Socialism: Why we need it. . . How to fight for it." In coming issues, Workers World will report on the different plenary discussions at the conference. The following is a synopsis of the discussion on "Contemporary problems of the working class."

By John Catalinotto

"GM, Ford, Chrysler posted profits of \$10 billion in 1984 and 1985, by far their greatest in history. But has there been a recovery for our class?" asked Bill Roundtree. Roundtree talked of the experience of workers in his own city, Detroit. "Auto workers from 1979 to 1982 experienced a recession. It was a classic crisis of overproduction. Auto sales dropped about 50%, with 300,000 auto workers laid off. Thirty plants were shut down. And production ground to a virtual halt.

"Chrysler workers gave up \$22,000 each in benefits and wage cuts. GM and Ford workers contributed billions more in contract concessions. During this time, many productive plants were shut down and replaced by new high-tech units."

Despite the so-called recovery from 1983 to today, Roundtree said, "Auto sales and auto production in 1985, the peak of the recovery, remained 10-15% behind the level of 1978. But with prices higher, wages lower and the work force reduced, the companies enjoyed their greatest profits in history."

Roundtree pointed out that during the recession-recovery cycle, 170,000 laid-off auto workers and hundreds of thousands more in supplier industries were never called back to work. And of the laid-off workers who found new jobs, one-half took pay cuts, and two-thirds of them earn less than 80% of their former income.

"High tech results in cutting wages and contracting the work force," Roundtree added.

The Pentagon and high-tech

Robert Dobrow focused his remarks on the role of the military in the scientific-technological revolution. "The Pentagon is the hidden hand pushing high tech." Automated factories like GM's Saturn plant or GE's factory of the future got their initial push from the Pentagon.

"Back in 1973," said Dobrow, "the Air Force began researching it. It was a secret program called ICAM, Inte-

grated Computer Aided Manufacturing, the precursor to high-tech union-busting and layoffs.

"The Pentagon pushes to relocate plants away from the union environment and multi-national character of the big cities in the Northeast and Midwest and into areas where racism is widespread, where unions are scarce and where rebellion, they hope, is less likely. Ninety percent of all Star Wars contracts have gone to four states — California, Washington, Texas and Alabama."

Though the Pentagon may run away from the proletarian centers, they can't run away from Karl Marx's Labor Theory of Value, Dobrow stressed. "They must rely on labor, the collective labor of millions and millions of workers.

"One of the biggest war contractors learned this lesson last March in a none-too-polite manner when 8,000 GE workers walked off their jobs to demand respect.

"It is the workers exploited by finance capital and the military-industrial complex who produce everything from the heights of Star Wars to a paper clip. They produce it all, and they can control it all," added Dobrow.

High-Tech and the Disabled

"High technology," said disabled activist Betsey Gimble, "has the potential of eliminating the physical and cultural barriers faced daily by the disabled in all areas of life.

"The capitalist system, however, is withholding high tech from the disabled much like it is being withheld from the developing countries." With examples regarding a machine that can read books aloud to those with vision impairments, Gimble showed how little of the technology is made available.

"Fortunately for the world," Gimble continued, "not everyone succumbs to the ruling class notion that disabled people are less than human, that we are at best entitled to second rate status.

"The presence of numerous activists from the disabled community at this conference shows that we have taken to heart Marxism and Leninism, which provides us with not only an historical analysis of the laws governing society to explain our oppression,

Continued on page 10

Eyewitness the Philippines

Filipino workers at U.S. bases tell of exploitation, racism

At the invitation of the KMU (May 1st Movement) labor federation, Lydia Bayoneta traveled to the Philippines for the International Solidarity Affair 1986.

By Lydia Bayoneta

MANILA, Philippines — The presence of the two largest overseas U.S. military installations in the Philippines, Clark Air Force Base and Subic Bay Naval Base, is a continuing problem for the Filipino people.

There has been little mention of these bases by the big business media in the U.S. since the U.S.-backed dictator Ferdinand Marcos was booted out of the country. However, these two military installations are a burning national issue here among the workers and peasants.

In the town of Maraveles, Bataan, many hours from Manila, a demonstration of over 300 people was recently held to protest the brutal U.S. bombing of Libya, and also to demand that all U.S. bases be removed from the Philippines. Many of those attending the demonstration were local fishermen and their families, as well as workers representing a cross-section of all age groups. Their signs and banners, militant chants and speeches clearly showed that this is an important issue, even in areas which are not near the bases, or not major political centers such as Manila.

Base workers tell of exploitation

A little-known aspect of the struggle of Filipinos against the bases is the sentiment of the many Filipino base workers toward the presence of the bases in their country. The U.S. media, when it talks about the workers at all, usually implies that the base workers favor the presence of the bases because of the jobs which are provided.

This view suffered a severe setback in March when most of the 39,000 workers at both Clark and Subic went on strike to demand decent wages as well as severance pay for laid-off workers.

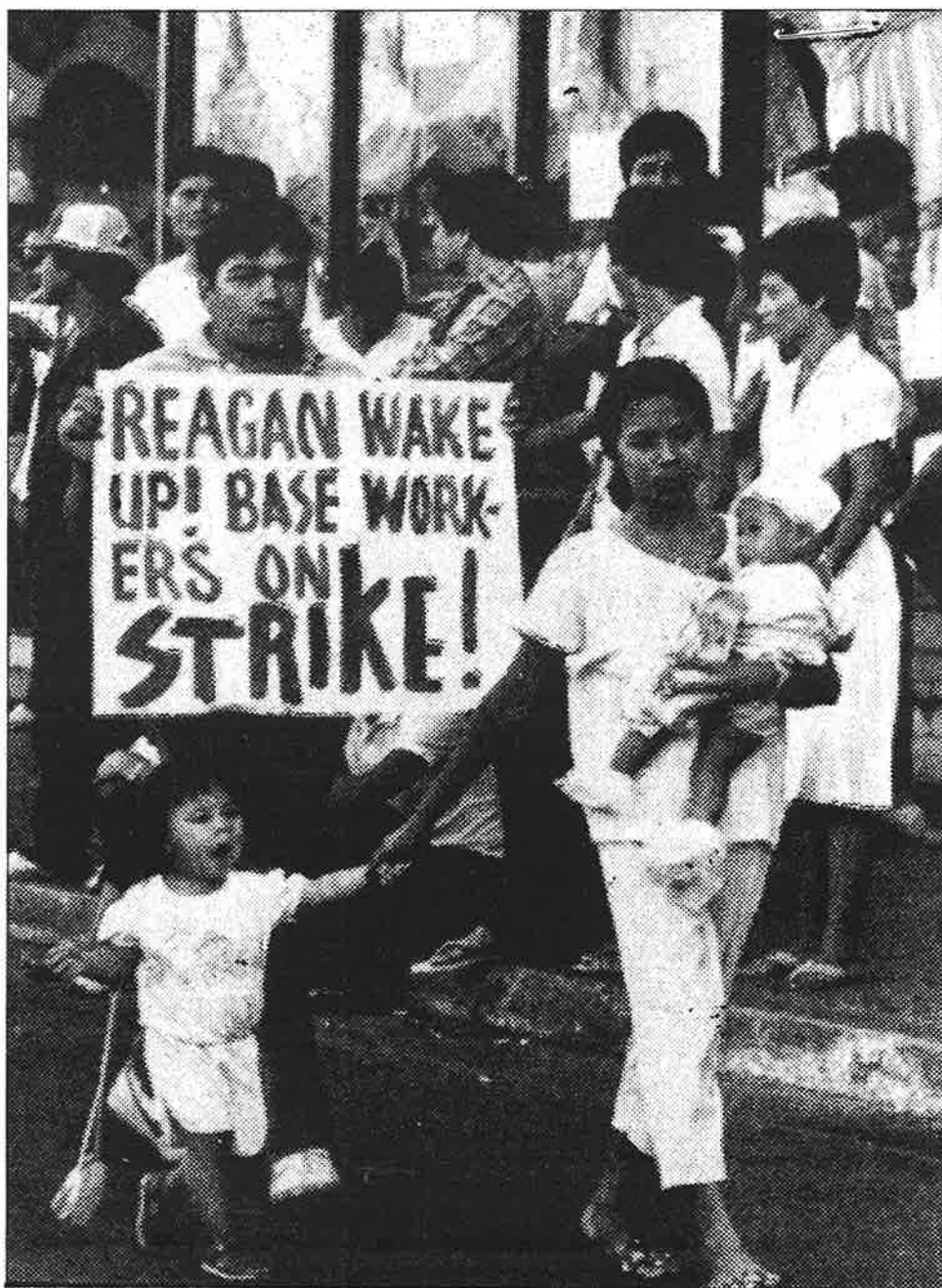
I was able to interview a number of the workers at the Subic Bay Naval Base, including some of the strike leaders, who asked that their names not be revealed because of the danger of reprisals and even arrest. A long-standing issue of primary concern to all of the workers is that of racism, and of unequal pay for equal work.

The wages and working conditions are dictated by the base agreements with the United States, and governed by special laws in the Philippines. The worst of these, passed in 1968 (before martial law) specifies that all terms and conditions of employment must be based on local wages and working conditions. Since the Philippines, as an oppressed nation, has one of the lowest wage standards in Asia, this principle condemns the base workers, many of whom are highly skilled, to extremely low wages. Filipino workers receive one-seventh of the wages paid to U.S. nationals doing the same job. The average pay for skilled Filipino workers is from 50 cents to \$1.00 per hour. Contract and "casual" workers earn even less.

This discrimination extends to benefits and health care as well. For example, if a worker has an accident on the base, no matter who is at fault, only first aid is administered. As quickly as possible he or she is taken off the base and left to his own devices. I was told of one worker who was run over by a fork lift, and another who had his fingers cut off. Both were treated in this manner.

The base agreements also state that

Continued on page 10



Philippine workers and families picket Subic Naval Base during recent strike.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Anti-U.S. revolt in s. Korea.

Despite brutal repression and mass round-ups the struggle in south Korea is developing a mass anti-imperialist and revolutionary momentum.

Thousands of youth chanting anti-U.S. slogans, hurling rocks and gasoline bombs, battled police through the streets of Chunju, a city 125 miles south of Seoul. According to the June 1 New York Times, even after the police brutally broke up the original demonstration, more than 5,000 demonstrators regrouped in the back streets and alleys to continue the struggle.

In Seoul on Friday, May 30, police used water hoses and tear gas to end the militant occupation of the offices of the Korean American Bank.

The U.S. is the target because 40,000 U.S. troops occupy south Korea. They protect the investments of over 2,000 U.S. corporations and prop up the military dictatorship of Chun Doo Hwan.

Young women students at Ewha Women's University organized a boycott of classes, proclaimed a "Liberated University" and held an anti-government, anti-U.S. rally.

At Seoul National University a mass student rally declared, "American imperialism should be driven out!"

At Chonnam University police broke up a rally to form a new intercollegiate body called "Struggle Committee for Anti-Imperialism and Anti-Fascism." Students then burned the office of the right-wing university president and for the first time in the recent period hoisted a red flag.

Protest in Taiwan. In one of the largest demonstrations in years, hundreds of people in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan, attempted to march against martial law. The demonstration was attacked by police before it reached the presidential palace, according to the Washington Post.

Taiwan has been under martial law by the fascist Kuomintang clique since 1949. All opposition parties are banned. The Kuomintang controls all newspapers, radio and TV stations. Unions are outlawed. Hundreds of U.S. corporations have established electronic assembly and textile plants, where pay is less than \$20 per week.

The Kuomintang are remnants of feudal landlord and corrupt military elements who escaped to Taiwan after their defeat by the Red Army in the Chinese Revolution. With massive U.S. aid and equipment, they have maintained an iron grip on this island province of China, while vowing to return and overthrow the revolutionary gains of People's China. But history is now catching up with this decadent band of robbers.

• • •

Belgian strike wave. For the third time in a month, striking public employees have shut down trains, buses, post offices, schools and other government facilities throughout Belgium.

Workers in this highly industrialized West European country of 10 million are militantly resisting the largest budget cut in government spend-

ing since World War II. The Belgian government is presently occupied by a center-right coalition led by Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

The 10% slash in the budget will affect everything from unemployment and health benefits to scientific research and education. Trade union leaders have denounced this attack on living standards of broad sections of the population, predicting that it will exacerbate the already high unemployment and deteriorating public services. Planned strikes and job actions are now being extended to huge private corporations.

• • •

Cuba ends 'free' markets. On May 18, the Cuban government announced it was officially ending a six-year experiment with free peasant markets. Fidel Castro explained to the Cuban people in a radio broadcast, "The peasant free market will pass without glory, leaving behind a great lesson, much damages, and many millionaires."

"The struggle against all kinds of exploitation and parasites is a struggle without truce, because such a deviation could damage the revolutionary cycle of the people. The free market became an obstacle to the development of the cooperative movement and was useful only to a group of intermediaries to get rich individually.

"Before the activity of certain individuals who want to become rich at the expense of the sweat of others, we make clear that one thing is respect of

initiative and quite another thing is tolerance of abuses and enrichment."

President Castro's talk particularly denounced middlemen who bought the products of farmers in the countryside and then brought them into the cities and sold them at a profit. He explained that the experiment with free peasant markets was "a source of enrichment for neocapitalists and neobourgeoisie."

• • •

Peru, new repression. In the huge shantytowns of Lima, Peru, the government has staged a new series of massive raids and roundups. Some 2,000 people were arrested in one raid, 600 people in another surprise attack in what police claim is an attempt to root out the Shining Path guerrilla movement.

Shining Path is growing beyond its base in Ayacucho province in Peru's central highlands among the desperately poor and landless Indian peasants. Ayacucho has been under martial law since 1982. Trade unions, peasant federations and international human rights organizations have denounced the widespread use of assassination, torture and death squads by the military in this province.

In recent months, rebel forces have expanded their operations not only to Lima's shantytowns, but the important Alti Plano plateau bordering Bolivia. Here the Garcia government has tried to develop a counterinsurgency program among the Quechua and Ay-

Continued on page 10

—Eyewitness the Philippines

Continued from page 9

the bases may not be “isolated” in any manner. This has been interpreted to forbid picketlines during a strike. During the recent strike, picketers were severely attacked by military police from inside the base, and local police from the nearby town of Olongapo. Although they fought back courageously, many strikers were injured.

Problem of racism

Another problem is racism. Filipino workers are routinely insulted and treated as second-class citizens in what is after all their own country. They are segregated in most social functions (stores, cafeterias, etc.) from the servicemen and U.S. nationals. Anything bought on the base, such as food, must be consumed on the base. They are not even allowed into stores which sell durable goods to U.S. nationals. They are subjected to constant arbitrary searches carried out in a highly insulting manner.

Recently, massive layoffs were announced. Some 5,000 base workers face losing their jobs. The excuse used by the U.S. military authorities for both the layoffs and keeping wages down has been that these measures are mandated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act to balance the federal budget.

A spokesperson for the base workers said that the issue facing the base workers “is one of national sovereignty, not just economics. The problems faced by workers,” he said, “must be seen from the point of view of what is best nationally, and economically for the Filipino workers as a whole. Consequently, the base workers favor the removal of Clark and Subic from the Philippines. However, for so long as they are here, we demand equity in what is due to us.”

Another worker-leader noted that the many social problems cannot be taken out of the context of the relationship of U.S. imperialism to the Philip-

pines. The U.S. military bases are directly responsible for many horrendous social conditions in the communities located near the bases. The present-day city of Olongapo was at one time a quiet fishing village. Today, fishermen almost daily are forced to suffer harassment by the military police. Their boats get impounded for infringing on “restricted areas.” Not long ago, marines were sent out to burn fishermen’s work huts under the pretense that they might be used by the New People’s Army. Stray bombs are occasionally dropped on villages near “the quarry” target range, and unexploded shells are a constant hazard for children in the area.

Of 250,000 people, the city of Olongapo has 26,500 out-of-school youth, aged 9-18, without jobs. There are over 3,000 “street children” with no homes. Drugs and prostitution are problems — there are 16,000 registered prostitutes in Olongapo. The only place where prostitution is legal in the Phi-

ippines is near the U.S. military bases. Recently, a child prostitution ring was uncovered, organized by an American serviceman. Using the extraterritorial rights of the bases agreements, he was spirited away to Guam where he received only one-year imprisonment.

Because of these conditions, women activists from anti-imperialist groups and unions have begun organizing the prostitutes, most of whom are poor and highly exploited, to raise their political and social awareness.

Overseas bases threaten U.S. workers

In addition to being a tremendous burden and violation of the sovereignty of countries like the Philippines, U.S. military bases are also a tremendous drain on workers in the U.S. who must pay for them in taxes and in cuts in social services.

They are also a threat to peace. The bases are used as springboards of aggression all over Asia, as well as toward the Filipinos and the growing nationalist anti-imperialist struggle there. U.S. workers should join workers in countries all over the world in demanding that the U.S. withdraw from these bases!

—WWP conference

Continued from page 8

but has given us a method of struggle so that we can overcome our own oppression and exploitation, alongside the bulk of humanity.”

How Reaganism hurts the oppressed

Willie Hill examined how the governmental policies known as Reaganism have hurt the oppressed communities. Hill used stories told in the first person to paint his “portrait of Reaganism.”

“My name is Nikki. I am 5 years old. I can write my name and I know all my colors. I learned at Headstart. I could even write my address. But I don’t

know it now. We don’t live anywhere.

“We’re at Burger King today. Right next to the mission where we stayed last night. It was cold and dirty there. And there were scary men there.

“I asked my Mom could I have some french fries, but she didn’t answer me. The baby is crying because she is wet. But we don’t have any more pampers for him. If I ask her again she’ll get mad. But I’m hungry.

“I am a victim of Reaganism.”

The fight for housing

Rachell Duell centered her talk on the housing crisis in the big U.S. cities, especially on the East and West Coasts, which she described as “the most glaring example of the decline of capitalism.”

“The workers build the buildings, the landlords own the buildings, and the workers buy the right to live in the apartment. The landlord’s building is his capital, not your castle.

“How do we struggle right now to end the desperation of the tenants’ conditions? Just as workers have to struggle against a wage cut, so do tenants have to struggle against a rent increase.

“But increasingly the enemy is not the small landlord, who like the small farmer is being gobbled up. Increasingly the owner of the building is a big

developer who owns not one building but many” in partnership with the big banks.

“The developers and banks buy more than buildings, they buy city councils, mayors, and legislators and the media. Tenants can find themselves alone and isolated, fighting the whole capitalist class. The logic of the struggle forces tenants to direct their demands against the capitalist government, with a citywide offensive.”

Duell went on to describe a tenants’ march planned for Jersey City, N.J., scheduled for June 28, when the tenants will demand \$1 billion investment to build 20,000 housing units. (See article, page 12.)

Although the focus of this plenary was to examine the problems rather than to plan strategy for their solution, each talk reflected the revolutionary optimism that permeated the entire conference.

Roundtree, for example, called attention to its being the 50th anniversary of the Flint sitdown strikes, an action that forced GM to recognize the UAW and spread throughout the auto industry within two months. It is this type of action, he said, “that holds the key to the problems caused by high-tech. Only through workers’ control can we guarantee our livelihood. Only socialism provides the answer.”

—UAW meet

Continued from page 3

ship. It isn’t too uncommon to hear it said that “we should be with them” or “we need Bob White [Canadian union president] for our president here.”

The struggle at the 28th Constitutional Convention is really only a pale echo of a much greater, more explosive struggle building up below the surface. To be effective, UAW opposition forces will have to go beyond the referendum vote and minor changes. Even opposition to concessions has folded time and time again because there has been no alternative program put forward to challenge management’s “right” to close plants, ship work overseas, automate away jobs, etc.

UAW workers and leaders, dissatisfied with the growing crisis inside the union, must begin to assert and counterpose **labor’s** rights. These include a right to a job and the right to have a say over plant closings. It means organizing millions of unorganized workers and the unemployed. It means political action to aid workers in south Korea, South Africa and other anti-union countries. It means, in short, a classwide struggle against the rich and powerful corporations and their government and not collaboration or retreat.

Auto workers on the job and those hundreds of thousands laid off are demanding answers. If answers don’t come from Anaheim, then they will inevitably find them elsewhere.

Free the Puerto Rican prisoners!

—International briefs

Continued from page 9

mara-speaking Indians to suppress the growing anger and resistance. Despite these efforts, police officials claim the rebels have carried out more than 110 bombings, causing “incalculable damage” to banks, power stations, government offices and bridges. Cattle and material have been expropriated by Shining Path from farms and distributed to peasant communities who have been promised land for decades by the government.

• • •

Reagan attacks Irish fighters.

President Reagan stepped up his campaign against the Irish struggle for national liberation from British imperialism by directly demanding on May 31 that Congress ratify a new extradition treaty which would make it easier for Britain to gain custody of Irish nationalists residing in this country.

Hailing British Prime Minister Thatcher for taking the “great politi-

cal risk” of supporting the U.S. bombing of Libya, Reagan said the treaty “would prevent terrorists who have kidnapped or maimed people in Britain from finding refuge in our country.” According to Reagan, “Britain” includes northern Ireland, which is occupied by thousands of London’s colonial troops. For more than 800 years now, these Crown forces have terrorized, kidnapped and maimed Irish people who want independence and self-determination.

Reagan, however, considers support for the United Kingdom, in its colonial repression of northern Ireland, an act of international imperialist solidarity.

The U.S. government has provided billions of dollars worth of weapons to the Crown forces over the years, while repressing support for the Irish nationalist. On May 21, eight individuals, three of them Irish, were arrested in Boston by the FBI on a charge of attempting to purchase firearms for the Irish Republican Army.

— Sara Flounders

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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Reagan plans 'contra' war on Arabian peninsula

By Bill Doares

JUNE 2 — At a time when it claims it has no money to ease the plight of the hungry and the homeless, the Reagan administration is offering to finance yet another army of rightwing cut-throats in an effort to "destabilize" the government of a small oppressed country. The target this time is the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), a tiny country on the Arabian Peninsula. It is 7,000 miles away from the United States and has a smaller population than Nicaragua.

On April 11, Vice President Bush met with South Yemeni "contra" lead-

ers in Sanaa, the capital of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen). This meeting and the offer to fund the rightwing groups was reported on May 25 in Lebanon's main daily newspaper, Al Nahar.

In the 18 years since it won independence from Great Britain, Democratic Yemen has faced two full-scale military invasions by the U.S.-backed North Yemeni regime, constant attacks by an army of feudal contras based across the border in Saudi Arabia, and a massive U.S. military buildup in the Arabian Sea and in neighboring Oman. It has also faced constant attempts at economic stran-

gulation by the pro-U.S. monarchies that dominate the Arabian Peninsula. In 1977 its largest industrial plant, an oil refinery, was forced to close down when Saudi Arabia cut off supplies.

This constant U.S. military and economic pressure led to a coup attempt in January by a conservative faction of the Yemeni Socialist Party in which many leaders and activists of the Yemeni Socialist Party were slain. Now the Reagan administration is trying to take advantage of this tragedy to launch new attacks on the PDRY.

Why is Democratic Yemen on Washington's "hit list"?

The PDRY is the product of a profound social revolution that began with five years of armed struggle against British rule. After the defeat of British imperialism, the new revolutionary government encouraged the workers, farmers and fishermen to seize the means of production — factories, farms and fishing trawlers. Industry was nationalized and state and cooperative farms and fishing cooperatives were established. Arms were distributed to the masses to defend their gains and a people's militia was created.

Government posts were filled with workers' and peasants' representatives. In 1974 a Family Law was passed which abolished polygamy, bride purchase and child marriage and gave women full legal equality.

Since independence, Democratic Yemen has built hundreds of schools, dozens of hospitals and a university, vastly improving the life of the Yemeni people. Workers in the United States might well ask, why isn't the U.S. government also building schools and hospitals instead of starting a new war half-way around the world?

But to Reagan's friends on Wall Street the very thought of a country struggling to build socialism in the Middle East is intolerable. Their great fear is that the example of a successful anti-imperialist revolution may inspire the masses of Saudi Arabia and other oil-rich countries to rise up

against U.S. domination. So the CIA and Pentagon are trying to destroy Democratic Yemen just like they are trying to destroy Nicaragua, Angola and Afghanistan.

The global nature of the Pentagon's war plans needs to be answered in full by the U.S. anti-war movement. No U.S. intervention from Central America to the Arabian peninsula!

Speakout hits violence against Arab-Americans

By Corinna Lewis

NEW YORK, May 29 — A forum was held here this evening to speak out against terrorist attacks across the U.S. on people of Arab origin. The meeting was organized by the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC).

In the last year, ADC offices in New York, Boston, Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco have been vandalized and bombed. Alex Odeh, the West Coast regional director, was murdered by a trip-wire bomb in Los Angeles.

The meeting brought together leaders from the Black, Jewish and Philippine communities. Speakers included Wilhelm Joseph, co-chair of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, Rabbi Susan Einbinder and Ding Pajaran, of the Committee to Advance the Movement for Democracy and Independence — Philippines.

Since Reagan's terror bombing of Libya, the ADC reports a big increase in the number of attacks against Arab people in the U.S. Such incidents included the beating of five Arab students in Syracuse, N.Y., death threats to the national office of the ADC, attempted bombings and shattered windows of Arab institutions, family homes and mosques.

In almost every case, the victims were first abused with racist epithets, then told to "go back to Libya." None of the victims were reported to be Libyan.

Was racism behind murder of Philadelphia Arab family?

By Joe Jacques Piette

PHILADELPHIA, June 2 — Isma'il Raji Faruqi was the last Palestinian mayor of Ramla and governor of Galilee, before the Israeli takeover in 1948. An outspoken supporter of Palestinian rights, he was an internationally known Islamic scholar who taught at Temple University here. Lois Faruqi, his wife, was an author and lecturer on Islamic art.

Both were murdered this week by an unknown attacker in their suburban Philadelphia home. Police and the FBI have "not ruled out" political motives, but claim evidence strongly points to a "burglary gone awry."

The Montgomery County coroner, Theodore Garcia, however, concluded that the killer acted out of "premeditated, vengeful rage" as shown by the number of "deep penetrating wounds" on the victims. Isma'il Faruqi was "hacked and stabbed" 13 times in the chest, his wife twice in the chest, by a "Rambo-type survival knife." Their daughter, two months pregnant, required 200 stitches to close six stab wounds in her chest and arms. The house was not ransacked

and nothing was missing.

Faruqi had recently revealed to an acquaintance, a Villanova University professor, that he was concerned about his safety and afraid of the Jewish Defense League. That group has been widely believed to be involved in the West Coast murder of Alex Odeh, a leader in the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Just a few months ago, the publisher of Al-Raya, a local Arabic newspaper, was severely assaulted, his office ransacked and equipment destroyed. He then received an anonymous note that he would "not survive" if he continued to criticize Israel.

Anti-Arab racism and terrorism is increasing in this country in the wake of the hysteria whipped up by the big business press and politicians, especially after the recent U.S. attacks on Libya. Violence against Arab people, both here and in the Middle East, must be stopped. No matter who directly caused the death of the Faruqis, the U.S. government's anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab campaign is ultimately responsible for creating the climate for this racist violence.

LITERATURE FROM WORLD VIEW FORUM

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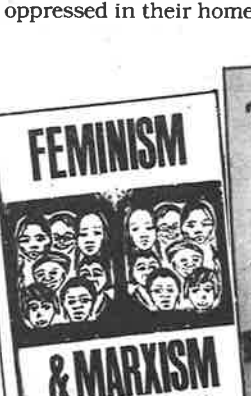
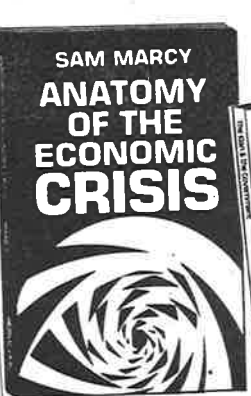
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Jersey coalition campaigns for \$1 billion for housing

By Deirdre Griswold

JERSEY CITY, N.J., June 3 — You can stand on the crumbling piers of this old industrial waterfront city and look across the Hudson River at the towering skyscrapers of Wall Street. There is the money; there is the sweat and blood of thousands of Jersey City workers who for generations have produced the goods and the profits that are traded on the financial markets.

Now the workers of this city are in a desperate crisis, one that is multiplied across this land in scores of older cities where powerful real estate interests for years have prevented the construction of housing that working people can afford. There are 10,000 families on waiting lists here for public housing, and an estimated 10,000 more who are in need of it. Many of them live in abandoned buildings and warehouses, in subway stations, even in vacant lots.

Jersey City, so close to the lower Manhattan business district, has become a prime target for development sharks like Simon & Lefrak, which is building 9,000 luxury units along the waterfront. As a sop to public pressure, it will also include 262 units for "moderate income" people—a drop in the bucket and still not affordable for Jersey City's poor.

But this dismal news is not the end of the story. There is a new spirit stirring here, especially in the oppressed Black and Latino communities. People are deciding that they have to do something about this wretched situation themselves, and they are showing energy and enthusiasm despite countless disappointments in the past.

What's happening is that the community is rallying behind a march for housing to take place June 28. They have built the \$1 Billion March for Housing Coalition, which is demanding that the federal government cough up a billion dollars — or the cost of one Trident submarine — to build 20,000 housing units at \$50,000 each, enough to house those now in serious need.

One billion dollars is also about one-thousandth of the federal budget, and Jersey City has one-thousandth of the nation's population.

The Coalition has been taking turns meeting in the Black and Latino neighborhoods. Last week people gathered in a Black church, and people from the Latino community came despite difficulties in transportation between the two areas. This week it will be meeting at St. Boniface's Church in the downtown, mostly Lat-

MARCH FOR \$1 BILLION!
WE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN JERSEY CITY!
GATHER AT M.L.K. DR. & VIRGINIA, 11 A.M.
JUNE 28 → **RALLY: JOURNAL SQ., 1 P.M.**
FINAL RALLY: CITY HALL, 3:30 P.M.
JUNE 28TH MARCH COALITION 317 GROVE ST. 433-2332

ino community. The Federation for Fair Housing, a Latino group that has been fighting for years, has extended a special invitation to the Black brothers and sisters to feel welcome there.

In the Black community, youthful rap groups have taken the march to heart. Last Saturday, a group of dozens of teenagers cleared a city lot of trash. While they worked, the youth set up a sound system and played rap songs written especially for the march, while older people barbecued chickens and hotdogs as a benefit for the upcoming activity.

On the same day, in the Latino community the Federation for Fair Hous-

ing set up a table in the shopping area where it passed out thousands of fliers. A sound car cruised the neighborhood, at one point stopping at the building of a notorious slumlord for an on-the-spot street meeting.

Next week there is a disco-dance scheduled at Snyder High School, and a talent show is planned for a few days later. Both are to benefit the march and mobilize for wider leafleting and posterizing of the city.

At the office used by the Coalition, which is at the All-Peoples Congress office right near the Grove St. stop on the PATH subway, a 10-foot high paper mache Statue of Liberty is

slowly taking shape. In a few weeks, Jersey City will be inundated by sightseers for the big business-organized centennial celebration of the Statue, which stands in New York Harbor right off the Jersey City waterfront.

But the Coalition's statue has a very different message. Liberty will be carrying a sign, "I need a home" and carrying a shopping bag instead of a torch, symbolizing all the homeless people who must carry their life's possessions around with them in a bag.

The Coalition's offices are at 317 Grove St., Jersey City, N.J. 07302; telephone (201) 433-2332.

Feds order Detroit to demolish homes

By Kris Hamel

DETROIT, May 17 — The city of Detroit is being asked by the federal government to demolish 1,900 homes at four public housing projects or else lose millions of dollars in federal housing aid. The city would also have to sell or destroy three senior citizens' buildings, under the plan submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The public housing vacancy rate in Detroit is 35% and in some housing projects is as high as 50%. Does this mean that there are no more poor and oppressed people in the city who are in need of decent housing? Or that thousands of homeless Detroiters now all have a home and therefore these vacancies are "surpluses" that can never be filled? Not at all! Decent, affordable

housing, as well as jobs and food to eat, are still very much needed in Detroit, a majority Black city hit hard by the economic crisis and Reagan's cutbacks.

Detroit has seen continual reductions in federal housing aid since 1980. The high public housing vacancy rate is due in part to the incredible deterioration of most of the projects. No federal money for maintenance has been forthcoming and many units are in need of major repair and overhaul. No one wants to move into a unit that cannot be lived in, especially when a tenant must pay 30% of their income for rent! Nevertheless, there were 1,040 applicants on the Housing Department waiting list in March. The actual need for housing in Detroit is much, much higher.

The Reagan administration has no plan to solve this problem except by demanding that Detroit tear down the existing housing. The city wants to rebuild public housing units as part of the HUD plan, but the federal government doesn't want to pick up the cost. The HUD administrator in Detroit, William Harris, said, "Given the national budget picture, I don't see new units being made available at this point."

This scandalous situation is being played out in cities across the country as part of the racist, anti-poor and anti-working class offensive of the Reagan administration and its Democratic allies. That people go homeless when there's a glut of housing available is a crime of the capitalist system.

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Workers World at June 14

There will be a large distribution and sale of a special Soweto Day issue of Workers World newspaper at the June 14 anti-apartheid demonstrations. If you would like to participate, call your local branch of Workers World or (212) 255-0352. (See listing, page 10.)

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