



South African workers defy emergency laws

Winnie Mandela speaks out despite censorship: 'We shall win!'

By Sahu Barron

JUNE 24 — Judging by developments in South Africa over the past week, it is evident that the State of Emergency imposed by Pretoria has failed abysmally in quelling the revolutionary resistance there. Instead, the white minority regime is showing itself to be increasingly enveloped in a state of unending crises.

On the heels of the massive general strike that crippled the apartheid economy on June 16, the regime was forced to acquit four Black trade unionists charged with treason. Amidst a courtroom filled with anti-apartheid activists shouting, "Amandla," the prosecutor offered "no explanation" as he moved to dismiss the 587-page indictment which charged the four with "furthering the aims of the African National Congress."

Originally, charges of treason were brought against 16 defendants a year ago. Last December, twelve others, members of the United Democratic Front (UDF), were acquitted.

In other developments, ANC leader Winnie Mandela defied the racist regime's restrictions and held an interview with the British Independent Television on June 23. Castigating Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the Reagan administration for opposing mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa, Ms. Mandela said while they continue to sup-

port apartheid, "We shall win in the end."

She also ridiculed the rationale used by the British and U.S. governments that sanctions would only "hurt the South African majority."

"It is not for the British and Reagan administration to prescribe to what degree of suffering we must undergo," she charged. "We have suffered enough."

Calling the state of emergency an open "declaration of war," Ms. Mandela warned that the South African people were "determined to fight to the bitter end."

Her words were echoed throughout the nation as the people moved to intensify their resistance against the fascist regime. On June 22, three bombs exploded in and around the industrial city of Durban. One of the bombs ruptured oil pipelines, causing a mile-long oil slick on the Indian Ocean. The South African oil refining industry has long been a target of the

Continued on page 10

N.J. tenants demand \$1 billion

—centerfold



WW PHOTO

**Sam Marcy on:
Peruvian massacre and
the Mexican crisis —p. 9**



**Reagan
AIDS ruling
can't stop
lesbian, gay
resistance**

—p. 5

WW PHOTO: DAVID SOLE

Cleveland family fights racist assaults

By Alan Roth
CLEVELAND, June 20 — The right of a Black family to live peacefully in any neighborhood it chooses is on the line in this city. After months of racist harassment against Marlene Armstrong and her family, Michael Spraggins, a close friend, said enough is enough and shot back.
This act of self-defense focused national attention on Cleveland's racist violence and led to an apology by her West 88th Street neighbors and a rally of "reconciliation."
Problems began last February when Armstrong and her children moved out of an all-Black housing project and into a home in an all-white working class section of Cleveland's west side. Not long after, "KKK" was spray-painted on Armstrong's house. There were other acts of racist slurs and intimidation from some neighbors. Many other neighbors, however, treated the Armstrongs with respect.

On a hot Tuesday evening on June 10, a group of white men and teens were exploding fireworks across the street, tossing them onto Armstrong's front yard. It was clear that they were taunting this Black family. Spraggins, who was visiting that evening, stepped out to ask them to stop. They refused. He backed up his words with three blanks fired into the ground. They continued and even pulled out guns. Only then did Spraggins take his shotgun and fire, using non-lethal birdshot as ammo. Eight of the racists were wounded.
Even though the police were repeatedly called about the fireworks, knowing full well about the problems the Armstrongs had been facing, they did not bother to respond until the shooting. They arrived and arrested Spraggins, charging him with felonious assault. He is free on \$5,000 bond.
Black attorney Stanley Tolliver, one of Spraggins' lawyers said, "We cer-

tainly do have apartheid here in Cleveland."
Marlene Armstrong has since moved back into the Black community, receiving a royal welcome from her new neighbors upon arrival.
A rally to support Spraggins was quickly called on June 15 outside the home of Black attorney Ed Durden. "Michael was defending his loved ones and their property against terrorists. He should be given a citation for merit . . . The Black community and fair-thinking white people ought to come to Michael's aid. Anything short of letting him free will not be accepted in the Black community," Durden stated.
Marlene Armstrong explained the harassment her family endured for months. "If Michael had not done what he did, you would have seen in the news a Black man dead and a houseful of Black people dead, and no one would have known what happened to us. I am grateful to Michael for saving our lives."
On Tuesday, June 17, another rally took place, this time in the white working class West 88th Street area. It was a standing-room crowd, that included top leaders of the business community, clergy, politicians and the AFL-CIO. Other unionists, Black and white, from the Postal Workers, Transit Workers and AFSCME were there, along with community organizations and local residents.



Marlene Armstrong waves to new neighbors on Cleveland's East Side after being driven out of her home on West 88th Street by racist attacks.

Boycott Haagen-Dazs!

JUNE 23 — The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) has launched the first nationwide consumer protest by Arab-Americans against a major corporation.
The target of the protest is the Pillsbury-owned Haagen-Dazs ice cream company based in Teaneck, N.J., and headed by its founder and current Chairman of the Board of Directors, Reuben Mattus.
The Haagen-Dazs company is the focus of the ADC campaign as a result of Mattus' public support for the terrorist activities and aims of the so-called Jewish Defense League (JDL).
On Nov. 12, 1985, Mattus revealed to journalist Robert I. Friedman ("Inside the Jewish Terrorist Underground," Village Voice) that he provides financial support to the JDL. ("If they needed money, I gave it.")

The JDL, which has a long history of violent activities against both Jewish and Arab-American people, is the primary suspect in the terrorist murder last October of Alex Odeh, the ADC Regional Director of Southern California.
According to the ADC, the consumer protest against Haagen-Dazs will continue until such a time as Reuben Mattus "offers a public apology to the Arab-American community for his stated support of the JDL and publicly repudiates the activities, aims and beliefs of that group and of its founder Meir Kahane."
"Three million Arab-American consumers," the ADC has emphasized, "will not stand by idly while heads of American corporations freely endorse and support groups that engage in violence against them."

Residents apologize
Residents of West 88th St. formally apologized to Armstrong, who upon introduction was greeted with loud applause and a standing ovation. A statement that reaffirmed the right of any one, regardless of race, to live on West 88th was presented, having been signed by 62 families on that street. Unfortunately, the statement condemned the "violence on both sides."
Six of the eight wounded by Spraggins have requested that his charges be dropped. That has not formally oc-

curred. Nor has an investigation into civil rights violations of the Armstrong family shown any results.
This attack comes barely a year after an elderly Black woman was killed in her firebombed home in Slavic Village, and months after crosses were burned in front of the homes of two Black families in mostly white neighborhoods. In fact, such racist incidents are at an all-time high in Cleveland. The city doesn't even have a fair-housing law on its books.
What is needed is a mass response that clearly labels the problem of racism, housing segregation and poverty, along with a call for unity and equality. Community activists are looking to the future to plan such a response.

In This Issue...

SOUTH AFRICA UPSURGE
The state of emergency imposed by the apartheid regime June 12 has miserably failed to stop Black resistance. This week alone racist courts were forced to acquit trade unionists facing treason charges due to mass pressure, bombs ripped through Durban and Winnie Mandela defied restrictions to hold a news conference. (Page 1.)



'LIBERTY' WEEKEND
Twenty-six federal, state and city police agencies have spent a year putting together the largest security effort ever for the July 4 "Liberty" Weekend in New York City. Who are they afraid of? (Page 3.)

CRISIS IN HOUSING
While landlords and real estate developers are raking in billions, gentrification is leading to rampant homelessness in New York and New Jersey. In Jersey City, a coalition is demanding a declaration of a housing emergency and for the federal government to provide a much-needed \$1 billion for housing. (Centerfold.)

BIGOTRY ON AIDS
The U.S. "Justice" Department announced that it will support any boss who fires a worker with AIDS. This not only flies in the face of medical evidence, but it also threatens the basic rights of every person in this country. (Page 5, editorial page 8.)

BINGHAM JURY OUT
Jury deliberations have begun in the trial of lawyer Stephen Bingham, accused of smuggling a gun to prison activist and Black Panther Party leader George Jackson in 1971. Progressives widely believed then that the "gun" story was fabricated by prison authorities as an excuse to murder Jackson. (Page 11.)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
The Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment on the job was illegal and a violation of Section 7 of the Civil Rights Act. While this is a step in the right direction, much more must be done to stop the rampant sexual abuse and abasement of women on the job. (Page 8.)

Also...

Cleveland racism	2
Anti-Arab discrimination	2
Big Mountain	3
Gay workers	4
West Coast referendum	4
International briefs	10
Greyhound	11
Harvard workers	12
Alice Peurla	12
Hormel	12

Editorials

Spanish elections	8
Stop anti-AIDS bias!	8

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Big Mountain Support Committee plans D.C. protest

By Marc Gurvitch

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 24 — Organizers of the Big Mountain Support Committee are preparing for a major East Coast demonstration in Washington, D.C., on July 6. This demonstration calls for an end to U.S. government and corporate genocide and for self-determination for the traditional Diné (Navajo) and Hopi peoples who live on their sacred lands at Big Mountain.

The protest is demanding the repeal of Public Law 93-531, the Navajo-Hopi Relocation Act, which mandates the relocation by July 7 of over 10,000 Hopi and Diné people. If they do not voluntarily leave the land, they have been threatened by both the Reagan administration and Senator Barry Goldwater to be forcibly evicted.

In spite of recent statements from some congresspeople and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officials that no forcible eviction will occur, the people of Big Mountain have no reason to give any credence to the words of U.S. government officials and their agents, based on the history of U.S. government deceit and the attacks on Native peoples.

The justification for the eviction of Indian people is a supposed land dispute between the Hopi and Diné peoples. However, the Elders of both tribes have denied this and called the dispute "phony" and have demanded the repeal of P.L. 93-531.

The real reason behind this genocidal law is the same as it has been for the past 500 years: the theft of Indian lands by European colonizers and later the U.S. government for access to enormous mineral wealth.

There are an estimated \$55 billion of oil, coal, uranium and natural gas in the Black Mesa territory of Arizona. Peabody Coal Co. owns much of the mineral rights in the Big Mountain area. A major stockholder of Peabody Coal is the Mormon Church. Peabody's legal counsel is John Boyden, a former Archbishop of the Mormon Church who also represented the Mormons and the U.S. government-created Tribal Councils from whom Peabody's leases were obtained. Again the age-old imperialist and colonialist partnership of corporate wealth, church and state is being used to rob indigenous peoples of their land, culture and existence.

Apartheid in Arizona

In South Africa, the racist apartheid regime under its "Homelands" policy has relocated thousands of Black Africans from their land and homes to government-created bantustans. Also, the South African government creates so-called disputes between tribes and publicizes them to justify government repression and to cover up the underlying drive for profits that is the underpinning of apartheid.

—Sexual harassment

Continued from page 8

disregard mass sentiment. And millions of working women and their families are sick and tired of sexual harassment on the job and want it stopped.

It was the mass struggle, not the courts, which won the right to vote, abortion rights, and all other gains made by women. This decision on sexual harassment, which reflects mass sentiment, will act as an encouragement to the mass struggle, the only force capable of ending sexual harassment and all forms of discrimination and inequality.



In Big Mountain, the same policies are being implemented by the U.S. government along with its agents in the BIA and the Tribal Councils for the sole purpose of expanding the profits of the energy corporations.

Big Mountain could become 'another Attica or Soweto'

Coordinator of the July 6 action is Dacajeweah, a Mohawk Indian of the Iroquois Confederacy. He stated to Workers World, "We're calling on all

progressive organizations including political groups, community groups, labor unions and churches to form in opposition to this act of genocide. Big Mountain is the continuation of war between indigenous people and the colonial power of the United States. Big Mountain could become another Attica or Soweto. Our job is to remove this potential danger for people who only wish to live in peace and harmony on sacred land, the home of their ancestors. We pray thousands of our

allies will join us on July 6 in D.C. to alert Congress that the American people join with Indian peoples to demand the immediate repeal of P.L. 93-531."

For more information in D.C., write the Big Mountain Support Group, 1512 U St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20009 or call (312) 234-4938. In New York, contact the American Indian Community House at (212) 598-0100 or the All-Peoples Congress/People's Anti-War Mobilization at (212) 741-0633.

The cost of 'liberty'

By Joyce Chediac

NEW YORK, June 20 — The July 4th Statue of Liberty 100th birthday celebration in this city will be guarded by a mammoth security force, the most costly ever assembled for a public event, announced New York Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward at a news conference yesterday.

Like a nest of cockroaches scuttling across a birthday cake, police and Navy helicopters will hover over lower Manhattan and the harbor where the statue is located. Heavily armed war planes will be standing at alert at military bases in the metropolitan area.

Police divers will examine piers for bombs. Customs agents will search for contraband on visiting ships. The Coast Guard will patrol with 100 ships carrying 2,000 sailors. U.S. rangers will guard parks and monuments. Bomb-sniffing dogs will scout for explosives. Remote control cameras and a huge computer network will watch it all.

Some 22,000 city cops alone will be on duty during the four-day Liberty Weekend, costing the city \$7.29 million, \$4.4 million of this in overtime alone.

This figure does not include the cost of a 52-foot boat which is being used as a mobile command center, or television and computer systems and remote control TV cameras. Nor does it incorporate expenses for the other 25 city, state and federal cop agencies, including the FBI, which will add their muscle to the New York cops.

The massive police force will even include "worldwide intelligence" to "thwart terrorists." This monstrous repressive force has been a year in the organizing.

Reagan will be here on the July 4th weekend, and so will the Cabinet along with other U.S. officials, but they are not usually this closely

guarded. Then why the security overkill? Who are they afraid of?

Could it be the tens of thousands of homeless people forced to sleep in the streets of this, the richest city in the world? Or is it the millions of victims of racism and police brutality that Reagan and his City Hall backers fear?

Maybe its laid-off auto workers who are sick and tired of being offered nothing but minimum wage jobs at McDonalds. Or the farmers who are being kicked off their land by the banks with Washington's blessing. Or maybe it's lesbians and gay men, who are not even permitted to immigrate to this country. Or Native people, whose

land is still being stolen to this day. Or the victims of U.S. genocide abroad, from the Middle East to Africa to Central America.

Is Washington afraid that one of these groups may bring a sign or two?

The cops and ships and planes and troops serve a political purpose. Washington and Wall Street feel it takes military preparation equal to that of a major battle and a totalitarian atmosphere to make sure that the face Liberty Weekend presents to the world is that everything is right in America and that the homeless person and David Rockefeller are equally happy here celebrating their liberty in the land of the free.

Greyhound workers win injunction

Special to Workers World

JUNE 24 — Greyhound Bus Lines announced several weeks ago that they would try to replace union bus drivers by New England Transit, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Greyhound, and turn it into a non-union operation. This would result in a loss of jobs for hundreds of Greyhound workers throughout the entire northeast.

Members of Local 1202 Almagamated Transit Union voted last week not to load bags, sell tickets, etc. for Greyhound's non-union operation — as it was nothing but a blatant and total violation of their contract and attempt to further dismantle and destroy their union.

Greyhound's action was to take place on Wed., June 25. On June 24, a federal court in Boston issued a tem-

porary restraining order barring Greyhound from doing this. A hearing on whether the injunction should be continued will be held on July 2. In New York City, a similar injunction was being sought by the union when news of the Boston order came through. The court in New York City stated that it was its understanding that this also covered Greyhound in New York.

A further important development has occurred in Los Angeles, where Local 1225 has set up picket lines against Greyhound's transferring ticket information jobs from workers who are predominately Black and Latin to an all-white non-union area of the country. The Los Angeles local is both suing and setting up picket lines against Greyhound.

Lesbian and gay workers fight for their rights

By Shelley Ettinger

JUNE 23 — For the millions of lesbian and gay workers in the U.S., the last year has been marked by important gains. At the same time, tremendous struggles still lie ahead.

Lesbian and gay workers — Black, Latin, Asian, Arab, Native and white — toil in every shop in the country. There are especially heavy concentrations of gay workers in the big cities, in the hotel and restaurant industry, hospitals and nursing homes, transportation, office work, and the garment industry. As an oppressed group, it is not surprising that the majority of gay people can be found where the most oppressed — women and Third World people — work.

Like all workers, lesbian and gay people aspire to a decent standard of living, with wages that will pay the rent and feed their families, and with

quality health care and education. But gay workers are also demanding an end to oppression.

Seventeen years after Stonewall, gay and lesbian working people are still confronted with discrimination, harassment and violence on the job. Openly gay people are routinely denied the right to a job in most industries. Most gay workers fear firing, at worst, and harassment and isolation, at least, if they came out on the job.

Denied equal benefits

In addition, in almost every case, lesbian and gay workers are denied equal benefits by employers. For instance, while married workers generally get their husbands or wives covered on the company's health insurance plan, lesbian and gay (and unmarried straight) workers cannot claim the same coverage for their lo-

vers. Nor can gay men and lesbians obtain coverage for their lovers' children.

Lesbian mothers, like other working mothers, need quality, affordable day-care, the right to use sick leave to care for their children and recognition of the special burdens of working mothers.

AIDS is a particularly pressing issue for every gay worker. Workers with AIDS and ARC have been subjected to the most brutal, inhuman treatment, including loss of job and medical benefits, and cruelty at the hands of bosses and co-workers. Workers perceived to have AIDS, or believed to be "at risk" for AIDS, or thought to be friends or roommates or relatives of people with AIDS, are treated much the same. And some employers are planning to begin mandatory blood testing for HTLV-III virus.

(See related article.)

While gay and straight people work side by side, they are for the most part still divided by a wall of fear and bigotry. That wall, of course, was constructed by the bosses, and it effectively blocks gay and straight workers from uniting to fight together for all their demands.

Wherever workers break down that wall, they can wage a winning struggle.

Militant participation in strikes

Several major strikes in the last year were noteworthy for the militant participation of lesbian and gay workers, including the New York City hotel strike, the Columbia University clerical strike, and the TWA flight attendants' strike.

Lesbians and gay men have been in the leadership of the Coors beer boycott on both coasts for years.

In fact, wherever struggles break out — whether it's a strike or an anti-apartheid march or defense of an abortion clinic — gay people are always on the lines.

In the last year, at least three local unions — representing newspaper workers in New York City, public employees in San Francisco and school workers in Berkeley — won medical benefit coverage for employees' lovers.

A Canadian union representing public employees in the province of British Columbia also won such a clause, and is currently engaged in an arbitration case on behalf of a lesbian worker whose right to claim the benefits for her lover was denied by the province.

Last fall at its national convention in Anaheim, Calif., the AFL-CIO passed a resolution condemning AIDS-related discrimination and calling on member unions to bargain for contract clauses protecting workers against such discrimination. The AFL-CIO's Public Employee Department held a major national conference on AIDS in New York City in May.

Several national unions, most notably the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), have also come out with progressive positions on AIDS, and have won non-discrimination clauses relating to AIDS in some contracts. Both AFSCME and SEIU are also conducting vigorous educational efforts among the rank-and-file on AIDS issues.

Protection for gay workers

For some years now, both the AFL-CIO and many national unions have had positions against discrimination based on sexual orientation, and scores of union contracts around the country now include protection for gay workers.

These union resolutions and contract clauses are an important beginning. They were won because of the militancy of the lesbian and gay movement in the years since Stonewall, the courage of gay workers pulling their unions into the struggle, and the increasing support of straight workers.

But there is much more to be done. The words of the resolutions will have to become the action of labor struggle for the demands of lesbian and gay workers if those demands are to be won.

The trade union movement is the logical place to build unity among gay and straight workers, and labor is the natural arena to fight for the rights of gay workers. It is the lesbian and gay movement, gay trade unionists, and the gay and straight rank and file — Black, Latin, Asian, Arab, Native, and white, organized and unorganized, all workers — who will lead the way.

West Coast activists organize against bigoted ballot initiatives

By J. Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, June 21 — Up and down the West Coast, lesbian and gay activists are vigorously organizing against bigoted, anti-gay November ballot initiatives.

In California the struggle is to defeat the "Prevent AIDS Now Initiative," better known as the "LaRouche Initiative." On June 20, the California Secretary of State's office announced that this initiative will be on the November ballot.

Authored by Khushro Ghandhi, western regional head of the LaRouche organization, the National Democratic Policy Committee, the lengthy measure would declare AIDS a communicable disease subject to quarantine — despite the overwhelming scientific evidence that AIDS is not casually transmitted. It would further require that the names of all people suspected of having been exposed to the AIDS virus be reported to public housing authorities. In addition, the measure could be interpreted to require internment or house arrest (quarantine), of those exposed to the

virus; force firings of airline personnel, food and beverage handlers, health care employees, teachers, and the expulsion of students.

Stop internment initiative

Activists opposed to the measure started organizing weeks ago across the state as California Community AIDS Network (CAN). In San Francisco, 150 people attended the initial "Town Meeting" on June 10, called to mobilize the community.

"Stop LaRouche's Internment Initiative!" buttons are being distributed and plans are underway to mount an all-out offensive to defeat the measure. Several lesbian and gay and community activist organizations have already endorsed the CAN campaign, including Mobilization Against AIDS, ARC/AIDS Vigil, Shanti and San Francisco AIDS Foundation, People with AIDS, several lesbian/gay Democratic clubs and the All-Peoples Congress.

In Seattle, Wash., groups are mass-leafletting to educate the public not to sign petitions for "initiative 490," the

state-wide attempt to ban lesbians and gay men from employment in schools, hospitals, juvenile and child care centers, prisons and other facilities. Employers would be penalized for knowingly permitting a lesbian or gay man to work and would be forced to fire the individual.

Don't legalize discrimination!

The measure, which specifically refers to homosexuals, is meant "to discriminate against people," boasts its author, Republican Glenn Dobbs, from Centralia, Wash. In fact, the measure, if passed, would make it illegal not to discriminate.

The Action Committee for Fair Employment, in which the All-Peoples Congress is active, hopes that their "Don't Legalize Bigotry — Don't Sign Initiative 490" leafletting will have a decisive impact on the right-wing's campaign. The first of July is the deadline for 150,000 qualifying signatures.

Progressives are optimistic the bigoted assault will be defeated, and in the process the Seattle-area movement for civil rights will be strengthened.



WW PHOTO: BRENDA SANDBURG

D.C. Gay Pride Day. On June 22, over 11,000 lesbians, gays and their supporters participated in Gay and Lesbian Pride Day celebrations in Washington, D.C., which included a march and afternoon rally and festival.

An enthusiastic contingent from the People's Anti-War Mobilization (PAM) and All-Peoples Congress (APC) carrying banners and signs that read "Stop AIDS — money for healthcare not warfare" and "Stop the rightwing attacks — fight racism, sexism, and lesbian and gay oppression" received continuous applause from hundreds of on-lookers who lined the route of the march. Lesbian and gay activists later stopped by the PAM/APC booth to buy literature and buttons.

An attractive display of articles from Workers World newspaper on the lesbian and gay struggle was set up and many copies of the recent issue as well as subscriptions of the paper were sold.

Reagan AIDS ruling fuels anti-gay bigotry

By Leslie Diane Feinberg

NEW YORK, June 22 — The Justice Department ruled today that bosses and public health officials can openly discriminate against people with AIDS. The decision sharply contradicts earlier recommendations by staff lawyers to restrict employers and others from such unwarranted actions.

This decision is clearly aimed at promoting bigotry. The clear fact that no one has ever been reported to contract AIDS through casual contact is universally accepted in the scientific community. This decision flies in the face of the American Medical Association's statement of support last week for children with AIDS who want to attend school.

Fear campaigns such as the one the U.S. ruling class has whipped up around AIDS are meant to divert attention from the real causes of today's high unemployment, poverty and war by scapegoating gay men, bisexuals, IV-drug users, male and female prostitutes, and prisoners. Haiti and Africa have been accused by the ruling class bigots and their media mouthpieces of "exporting AIDS," although the disease was first reported in North America, and the U.S. has the highest number of reported cases in the world.

Lesbian, gay community resists

Today's reactionary decision is not the first attempt to legitimize firing, evicting, harassing and denying benefits to people with AIDS, their loved ones or those believed to be "at risk." But these attempts have been met with the organized resistance of the gay and lesbian community and of progressive straight and bisexual people who refuse to let them get away with it. Many battles have been won in this just fight.

Taking the lead of the notoriously anti-gay Pentagon, the insurance companies and some politicians have called for mandatory testing for HTLV-3 exposure. But this has been fought by opponents who point out that HTLV-3 is not conclusively proven to be the cause of AIDS and a positive test result does not mean a person will get sick or spread illness.

Suggestions to impose a quarantine on people with AIDS have been opposed. Since AIDS is not transmitted through casual contact, what is the point of state intervention if not for political repression?

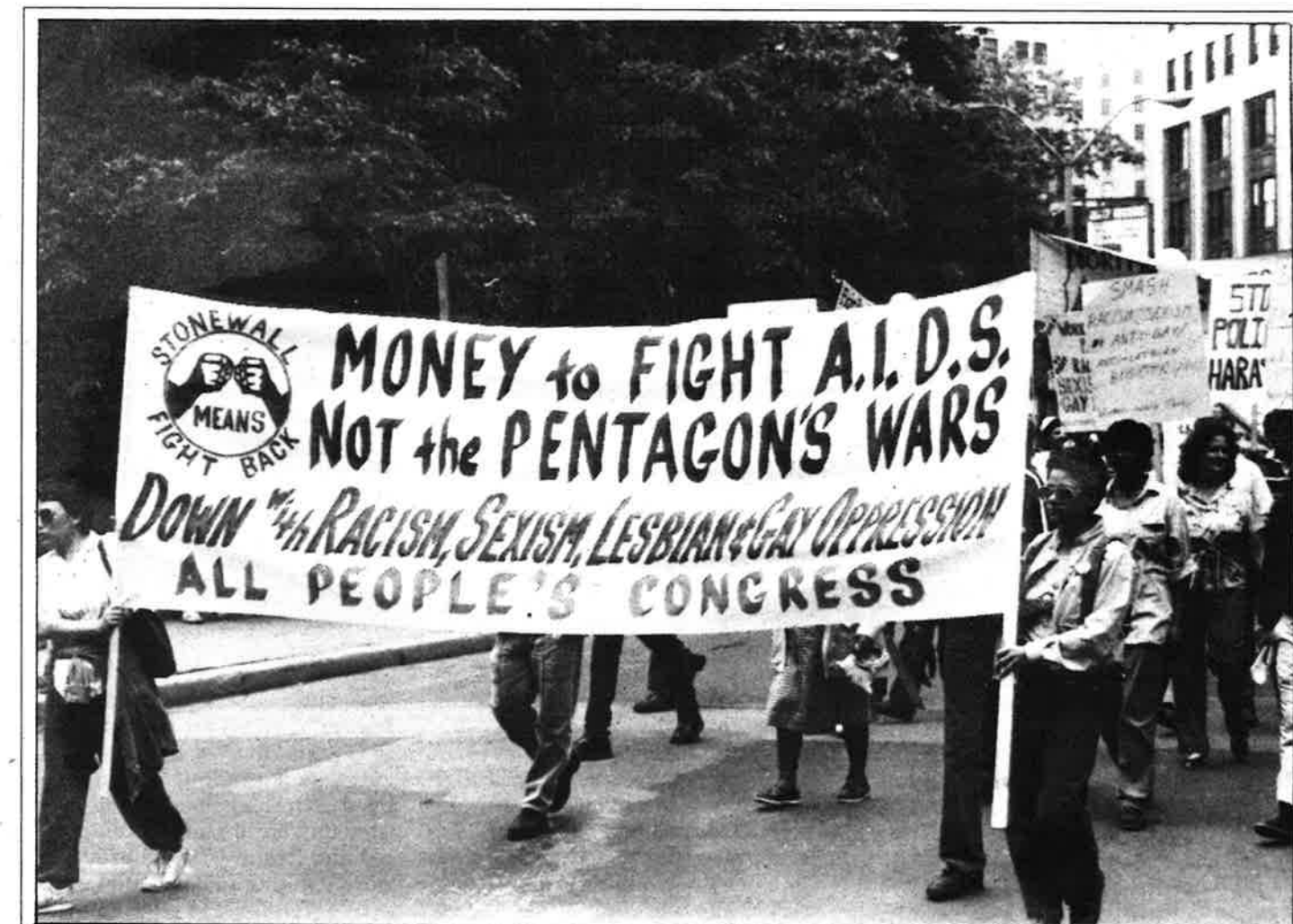
It took mass demonstrations to get the government, media and medical establishment even to admit there was a public health emergency. How long would it have taken authorities to alert the population?

Memos the Reagan administration tried to keep from public eye reveal that for two years administration officials actively covered up the lack of AIDS funding, while AIDS took on epidemic proportions in this country. Reagan has called for cuts in AIDS research and has maneuvered to divert funds from sickle cell anemia and Native and rural health care — something which was met with outrage by activists who stressed that health care is a right for all.

'Health care, not warfare!'

This same administration which is denying adequate funds for AIDS has channeled **one trillion dollars** over the last three years to feed the monstrous appetite of the U.S. military machine. Marchers in many anti-war protests in the U.S. have demanded: "Money for AIDS research, not Star Wars! Health care, not warfare!"

While the big business press has tried to use AIDS to fan up anti-gay bigotry, it has ignored the caring



WW PHOTO: DAVE SOLE

Lesbian/gay pride day revived in Detroit. At least 2,000 people marched and rallied in downtown Detroit on June 15 in the first Gay and Lesbian Pride demonstration in that city in many years. Organized by the Michigan Organization for Human Rights (MOHR), the activity drew participation from all across Michigan and other parts of the Midwest. The response from people on the streets was very supportive. The All-Peoples Congress had a strong delegation under the banner, "Money to fight AIDS, not Pentagon wars!" A few days before the demonstration the City Council passed a resolution recognizing Gay and Lesbian Pride Week.

network built by the gay and lesbian community to meet the needs of people with AIDS. It hasn't told the story of the parents, friends and neighbors who have embraced their loved ones with AIDS and have stood by them.

Where were the blaring headlines about the two-thirds of parents polled who said they would send their children to school despite AIDS scare headlines? Or about prisoners at Rahway prison in New Jersey who donated a TV and over \$1,000 collected from their slave-labor wages for children with AIDS? Or about Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis who gave his diving medal to Ryan White, the Kokomo, Ind., youth with AIDS who recently returned to school after a court order had barred his way for four months?

This solidarity is real, tangible and it is growing. More and more, people are showing they haven't fallen for the half-baked lies and slander appearing daily in the capitalist media.

It is a slap in the face to the lesbian and gay community and their supporters that this ruling comes the very week that lesbians and gay men will commemorate the historic Stonewall Rebellion.

Yet, the Reagan administration would do well to remember what happened when in June 1969 in New York's Greenwich Village, police raided the Stonewall bar. Pushed to the wall, transvestites, gay men and lesbians fought the police in running street battles for four nights, burning cop cars, forcing the police to retreat again and again. It marked the opening gun of a mass movement to resist centuries of oppression.

This determined movement continues to this day. The gay and lesbian community is very proud and fighting back, winning wider layers of support. It's a life and death struggle that will be won!

One man's fight for medical care

By J. Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, June 21 — While reactionary right-wingers are stepping up their campaign of bigotry and fear, those with AIDS and AIDS-Related Complex (ARC) continue to fight for the medical care and assistance they justly deserve.

At an eight-month-long "ARC/AIDS Vigil" here, Gary Harmon, a Black gay man with ARC, has been symbolically chained to the federal building doors. After fighting the government bureaucracy for eight months, Harmon won a precedent-setting battle when he was finally put on SSI and SSA in April, as a disabled person with ARC.

Harmon, who has cancer and other health problems, was diagnosed with ARC about one year ago. He was forced to leave his job as manager of a well-known East Bay restaurant. His family disowned him. Alone and unemployed, he knew the frustration

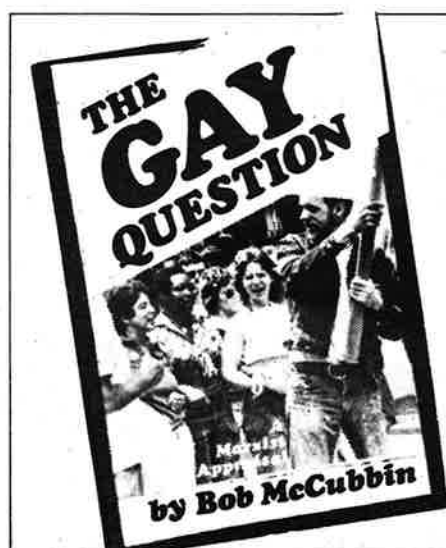
that many people with AIDS and ARC face as they try to survive.

'Go away young man 'til you're sicker'

Then, encouraged by a friend, Harmon began his one-man fight with the system to get the help he needed. Told, "Go away young man 'til you're sicker," he went from one agency to another, one doctor to another, often hand-carrying signed letters documenting his condition.

Harmon lost weight and had to use a cane. He had no home. He was re-hospitalized periodically for more cancer operations.

But he finally won his battle for benefits. He now receives SSI and SSA assistance. At the "vigil" he remains a source of inspiration and assistance for the participants, especially those with ARC, who are among thousands who lack medical care and housing while the government bureaucracy debates the severity of AIDS-Related Complex.



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Capitalist profit drive behind housing crisis in U.S. cities

Following are excerpts from a talk given by a housing activist at the May 24-25 Workers World Party national conference.

THE MOST GLARING example of the decline of capitalism, and the most urgent example of the need for socialism, is the housing crisis in the big cities, especially on the East and West coasts. Beautiful new luxury buildings are going up like mad, empty buildings are everywhere. Yet thousands upon thousands of people are living in the streets, in subways and train stations.

Families are doubling up, living in cars and abandoned factories. Tens of thousands are on waiting lists to get into decaying public housing. Neighborhoods are filled with block upon block of dilapidated buildings while children are playing in empty lots filled with glass and rubble.

Why do people have to live like this? Is there some devastating natural disaster sweeping the big cities of this country?

Thousands of years ago when technology was low, before machinery and mass production, everyone had a home. No one was homeless. Now, when there is all the technology to build a home for everyone, people are cast into the street.

It's not, however, natural disaster and it can be changed. All the empty buildings can be matched up with all the homeless people and the problem can be solved. But then, that's not capitalism.

Under capitalism, the workers build the buildings, the landlords own the buildings and the workers buy the right to live in the apartment. If they can't pay the rent, the owner has the right to throw the tenants out.

Profit is behind all the landlords' dirty tricks. Landlords start fires to drive tenants out. Landlords cry that they're going broke, yet they can af-

ford to leave apartments empty for months without rent. When the building is finally vacant, they slap up a few repairs and rent it as luxury housing. When this happens to a whole neighborhood they call it renaissance — we call it gentrification, displacement, racism and genocide.

Monthly, workers are forced to pay a larger percent of their paycheck for rent especially in New York and other East and West coast large cities. Landlordism takes advantage of the shortage of land and liveable housing to jack up the rent, and the sky is the limit.

On the other hand, in many industrial cities like Buffalo, where there is now high unemployment, many workers are forced to sell their homes at a great loss, because the value of their homes has dropped.

Years ago, the bosses and the government planned for housing in the cities at a more nominal cost to tenants, because the bosses wanted a stable workforce, notwithstanding that housing aid was won as a result of the struggle. But now bosses build high tech plants in the suburbs, and workers have to travel far to go to work. It's part of a plan to bust up the inner cities with their great multinational working class capable of resisting.

Just as workers have to struggle against a wage cut, so do tenants have to struggle against a rent increase. Tenant and block associations can win an individual building struggle here and there, especially where rent control laws are stronger. But increasingly their enemy is not the small landlord who like the small farmer is being gobbled up. Increasingly, the owner of their building is a big developer who owns not one building but many, in many cities, and even in many countries.

And these developers borrow from the banks and are partners against

the tenants. The developers and banks buy more than buildings, they buy city councils, mayors and legislators and the media.

The logic of the struggle forces tenants to direct their demands against the capitalist government with a city-wide offensive. Such an offensive, like the march planned in Jersey City for June 28, can demand that the city declare a housing emergency and demand that the federal and state governments put forth the greatest infusion of funds to solve the crisis in housing.

Every building is the product of social labor. It takes workers to extract copper and iron ore, cut the lumber, forge the steel, make the concrete and bricks and workers to build the buildings. Yet the world's apartment builders are being laid-off and can't get an apartment, just like the auto workers can't afford to buy a car.

When the capitalists cannot provide for such a basic human need like shelter, then we are at the dead end of the capitalist system. Just as the Iroquois built the long house and then lived in the long house together, so can we today build many millions of houses and live in these houses, if we all work together in a socialist world.

NJ tenants



Demonstrate June 28! Jersey City tenants demand \$1 billion for construction of low-cost

Tenants denounce rent hikes

By Sue Davis

NEW YORK, June 17 — "We've got to realize that housing is a business, not a philanthropy," asserted John Gilbert, president of the Rent Stabilization Association that represents 25,000 landlords, concerning rent hikes approved by the City's Rent Guidelines Board today.

Tenants booed the 6 and 9% raises for one- and two-year leases at the board's meeting this morning. These increases will go into effect after October 1 in 556,000 of the city's 943,000 rent-stabilized apartments. This year's percentages are higher than last year's, which were 4 and 6.5%.

The board, with only two tenant representatives out of nine members, voted the higher increases because landlords pled hardship due to an alleged 89% rise in insurance costs over the last year. Tenant organizers countered in public testimony on May 22 that sharp decreases in fuel costs more than offset any such fees. However, the already-rigged board sided with the landlords, never once seriously considering the tenants' demand that the landlords prove their hardship by opening their books.

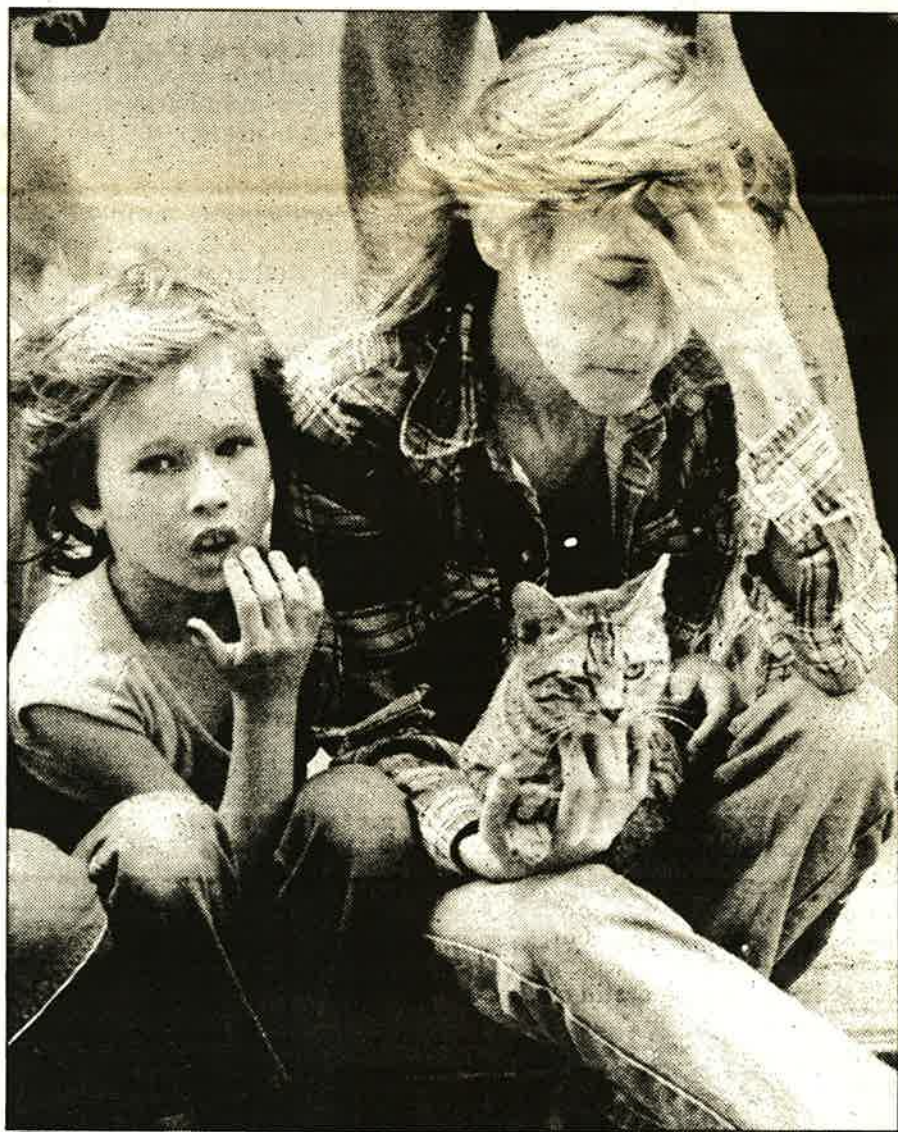
Landlords will also be able to charge an additional 7.5% "vacancy" increase to new tenants and a \$15 surcharge for apartments that rent for less than \$350 a month. Since the median rent for stabilized apartments was \$317 in the city's last housing and vacancy survey taken in 1984, the vast majority of those tenants fortunate

enough to be in stabilized housing will be forced to pay this additional hike.

Yet, no statistics have to be gathered to show that these increases will impose a severe hardship on all working and oppressed people. Few workers in New York City received a 6 or 9% pay raise this year. For many living on low wages or a fixed income, who are most often Black and Latin families near or below the poverty line, single working mothers, or mothers on welfare, these rent hikes can only lead to more evictions and force many thousands more into so-called "shelters" for the homeless.

Mayor Koch, who has been criticized as being bought and paid for by the big real estate interests after their huge contributions to his election campaign were made public last year, recently announced a \$4.2 billion plan to build, preserve and rehabilitate 252,000 housing units. This is the first time Koch has admitted the need for improved housing since federal budgets cut funding in 1981, effectively killing public housing projects.

Housing activists are skeptical. To implement this conservative plan, \$10 billion is needed at \$40,000 per unit. Even a recent New York Times article admitted, "The city needs a half million units to house the homeless, rehabilitate rotting tenements and produce new or renovated housing affordable to 96% of the city's households that cannot afford current market prices." Estimates run as high as \$20 billion to solve the problem this year, with \$1



Children are increasingly bearing the brunt of the NYC homelessness crisis caused by gentrification. Here, family forced by blaze to flee NYC welfare hotel.

billion needed each year thereafter for maintenance.

Obviously, drastic measures are needed immediately to help the 390,000 eligible families who have applied for housing assistance programs and are still waiting, as well as the over 200,000 people who are on public housing waiting lists.

The most obvious measure would be for tenants to implement the slogan that housing is a right, not a privilege, or as John Gilbert thinks, a "business." Landlords like Gilbert,

whose thinking is as antiquated as the very word "landlord," must be evicted from their property, with tenants' councils seizing housing and expropriating it for their use.

Just as peasants from the Philippines to Haiti are organizing against their landlords, tenants in New York City must unite and strike back. Only a mass movement, like the one that won rent controls in the 1940s in New York City, can end the ownership of private property and provide for the housing needs of all.

tenants demand \$1 billion for housing



tenant activists hold press conference in Journal Square to build for June 28 protest to cost housing in that city, hard hit by a wave of evictions and rent increases.

Special to Workers World

JUNE 24 — Many members of the June 28 One Billion Dollar March for Housing Coalition are tenant organizers. Some are community leaders fighting to save bilingual education and keep open a school. Some are union members at the Jersey City Medical Center, fighting against privatization and for a decent contract. Some are teachers who face layoffs.

But most are tenants who have never had to answer back to the chilling questions of the news media, or have never before organized and led a coalition meeting. Out of the desperate conditions of landlord greed, budget cuts, housing deterioration, evictions, condo conversions and worsening poverty, has emerged a bold movement with confident new leaders.

Demand for \$1 billion

The Coalition demands one billion dollars to relieve the housing emergency, based on a simple formula. Jersey City represents one one-thousandth of the U.S. population, and one billion dollars is one one-thousandth of the trillion-dollar federal budget.

The Coalition is also eyeing a reported one billion dollar surplus in the

state budget, a "surplus" which came from the sacrifice of the people in earlier layoffs and program cuts. The Coalition insists that the money is available at both levels of government and that the people in the hard-hit cities have to win it back. On June 28 the people will be marching for these monies.

By city admission, more than 20,000 families are on waiting lists in Jersey City to get into the housing projects. Coalition members have told the Jersey City City Council that if a nearby chemical plant blew up and 20,000 families were displaced, an emergency would exist and the state and federal government would be called upon to infuse the greatest amounts of funds to relieve the emergency. The present housing emergency in Jersey City didn't happen overnight, but the 20,000 families and more are in desperate need of housing, and this the Coalition demands, constitutes an emergency. Twenty thousand housing units can be built at \$50,000 a piece with the one billion dollars.

The Jersey City City Council will vote on a resolution declaring the crisis in housing an emergency and will call upon the state and federal governments to infuse the necessary funds. This vote in council will take place two days before the One Billion Dollar March for Housing.

'Suspend evictions!'

"If they declare a housing emergency, then we should be able to get them to suspend evictions," said one coalition worker, Ruth Hines, the mother of three, herself facing eviction.

To continue the fight for one billion dollars, Coalition members will announce the formation of a "Committee of One Hundred," a committee which will include all those who are hard hit and want to keep up the fight. This committee will press for a city funded trip to Trenton, for a visit with Governor Kean to discuss that "surplus" and will follow with similar pressure on the White House. The committee will also consider ways to demand that federal monies going to the luxury housing waterfront development here called Newport City be diverted to Jersey City.

The march for One Billion Dollars will take place on Saturday, June 28, at 11 a.m. at Martin Luther King Drive and Virginia Avenue, and march for a rally at Journal Square at 1 p.m. and to City Hall for a wind-up rally at 3:30 p.m.

The Coalition office is at 317 Grove St., Jersey City 07302, 201-433-2332. Donations are needed to carry on the work. The Coalition has already received calls from other cities interested in taking up the same demands.

March organizers are sure that the unity of formerly separate neighborhoods that has been ever present in the building of this march will be felt on June 28 and will lay the basis for a strong united movement in this city that will result in decent low-cost housing.

Gentrification swells ranks of homeless in New York City

By Bill Del Vecchio

NEW YORK, June 21 — Why are new families streaming into welfare emergency assistance centers night after night to plead for help, joining with the 4,100 other homeless families living in squalid welfare hotels and barracks-type shelters?

Mayor Koch told reporters several months ago that he thought these families were leaving their homes voluntarily so that they could trick the city into finding them better apartments!

But yesterday Koch's Human Resources Commissioner felt he had to contradict his boss slightly and offer his own explanation for the growing homelessness crisis. People are homeless because of "rent-related problems" and "over-crowding problems." These were the amazing discoveries of three studies Commissioner George Gross had ordered after the furor caused by Koch's statement.

While Gross' transparently self-serving reports didn't offer much enlightenment as to what did cause the crisis, he was quick to point out what he thought didn't cause it: gentrification.

Gentrification flourishes under Koch

The Koch administration is understandably defensive about the subject of gentrification. During the nine years under Koch, co-ops, condos and luxury rentals have flourished while thousands of displaced poor people have made their beds in doorways and sidewalks.

Gross' statement that gentrification is not to blame for the current homelessness crisis is based on the thin premise that 50% of the families surveyed in the shelters had come from oppressed neighborhoods such as the South Bronx and East New York that haven't really been redeveloped or gentrified.

But what about the other 50%? And what about the impact of gentrifica-

tion on the city as a whole?

Thanks to Koch's giveaways to greedy landlords and billionaire real estate developers like Donald Trump and Harry Helmsley, affordable housing for poor, working class and even middle class people has become virtually non-existent.

While real income of New York City tenants dropped 4.2% between 1977-1980, rents increased 26.2% during the same period. Since then rents have continued to soar, reaching to between \$2,000 to \$3,900 a month for a typical 2-bedroom apartment in Manhattan. Between 1981-1984, 33,000 rental apartments were taken away from the rental stock of the city.

Doubling up in public housing

Soaring rents and dwindling numbers of apartments have taken their toll on the people of this city. In public housing projects, over 40,000 families are living doubled and tripled up with relatives and friends who have no other place to go. In private housing this same situation prevails, only on a much larger scale.

One-fourth of the renters in New York City are paying 50% or more of their income on rent. And while renters are paying through the nose, conditions are deteriorating: approximately 456,000 apartments are considered "substandard" and in need of major rehabilitation.

What is the city doing to alleviate the problem? Single homeless men and women are herded in shelters at night and dumped back out on the street at the crack of dawn. Homeless families are generally placed in one of the dilapidated hotels that have opened their doors and created a modern-day version of the alms-houses and work-houses depicted in Charles Dickens' novels.

For between \$49 to \$110 a night, families are stuffed in one or two rooms with no cooking facilities. With no space to even walk in their rooms, chil-

dren play in the halls, stairs and in the streets of midtown Manhattan. They live on junk food snacks and take-out food.

The infant death rate among the people who live in the welfare hotels is higher than in the poorest neighborhoods of this city and is even higher than many of the poor, developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Is there anything that can be done to solve this dilemma?

Sure, there are several things that can be done. Activists fighting for the homeless have proposed that the city seize the worst welfare hotels instead of giving their owners fabulous profits. One particular hotel, the Holland on West 42nd, is making \$3 million a year profit, even though it has over 1,000 building and health code violations.

For the \$17,000 to \$70,000 a year per family the city is paying for welfare hotels, the city could afford to buy each family its own co-op apartment. Obviously the whole welfare hotel situation is a corrupt scam in which the homeless suffer, the taxpayers get ripped off, and Koch's sleazy hotel owner friends get rich.

And what about the 100,000 vacant apartments that the city owns? Why isn't anything being done to turn these into affordable housing for poor and working people?

And what about the tens of thousands of vacant rental and unsold co-op apartments? Should they be allowed to sit empty while people are sleeping on newspapers in Grand Central Station?

There are many measures that could be taken to ease the housing crisis in this city, but no one can count on the corrupt Koch administration to take them. Only a militant, mass movement of all the working and poor people can force Koch and his gentrifying buddies to back off and give the people what they need.



EDITORIAL

Spanish election

WHAT WAS the meaning of Sunday's election victory of Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' Socialist Party? Was it an endorsement by the Spanish people of Gonzalez's pro-NATO policies or his economic austerity measures? That's certainly what the U.S. ruling class would like to read into the Spanish election. Although labeled a socialist, Gonzalez has worked hard to bring Spain into NATO and keep friendly ties with Reagan and other imperialist leaders despite the strong anti-imperialist and anti-nuclear sentiments of the masses.

But there's more to the election than meets the eye of the imperialist press. The Spanish workers and oppressed peoples are well aware of the high unemployment and of Gonzalez's efforts to institute Rea-

gan-type cutbacks. They are well aware of his pro-NATO stance and have put up strong opposition to it.

The Spanish people are also, however, still very mindful of the 36 long years they suffered under Franco's fascist dictatorship. The old fascist right and conservative Popular Coalition made attempts to launch a comeback by playing on dissatisfaction with Gonzalez' policies. This made the voters rally behind the Socialist Party.

What was significant about the election was that the rightists got nowhere despite the 22% unemployment rate and Gonzalez' push for NATO. Instead of the right gaining ground, it was the left, the Communist Party and parties representing the struggle of the oppressed Basque and Catalan peoples, that won additional seats.

Stop anti-AIDS bias!

THE DECISION by the Reagan "Justice" Department to encourage blatant discrimination against people with AIDS is an insidious threat to the basic rights of every person in this country. (See related article, page 5.)

The Justice Department, headed by the notorious Edwin Meese who built his career as an assistant district attorney in Berkeley, Calif., in the 1960s going after students active in the Free Speech Movement, makes no claim that its decision is based on scientific necessity. No, in fact, it even admits that this decision goes against all medical knowledge.

So what is the purpose of publicly announcing that the government will support any boss who chooses to fire a worker who has AIDS or is accused of having it?

Like so many actions by the Reagan administration, this announcement has the sole purpose of sowing bigotry and divisions among the people who are being exploited by the rich and powerful who control this country. It is meant to instill fear between co-workers. And it is a blatant attempt to build up rightwing, reactionary ideology by encouraging homophobia and anti-gay backwardness, since the majority of those who have AIDS are gay men.

From the cold heights of the

White House, daily pronouncements have spewed forth without stop, attacking every progressive gain ever made by the majority of this country. That is, the progressive gains made by union members, the Black, Latin, Asian and Native communities, women, the disabled, lesbians and gay men, and all the other oppressed.

The unrelenting attacks by the Reagan administration and big business on the working class are the heart of the so-called Reagan Recovery that the big business media hail every day. This is the basis for the soaring stock market. The Justice Department's decision is meant to be one more setback for the working people of this country and another boost for the Chamber of Commerce crowd.

But there is no reason to assume that this marks the end of progress. The working class has taken some blows but it is not defeated.

Just as the workers' movement, including the trade unions, must fight to defend affirmative action and all the other gains made by the nationally oppressed as well as women, it has to be on the front lines in making sure that this Justice Department announcement on AIDS never becomes more than another piece of dirty paper littering the White House floor.

Extent of harassment

A FRIEND of the court brief filed by the Working Women's Institute in the current Supreme Court decision revealed the following:

- The Federal Aviation Administration conducted a 1985 study which revealed that 40% of its female employees have experienced sexual harassment and 66% have experienced sexual discrimination or both.
- A 1981 study of sexual harassment in the federal workplace found that 42% of women govern-

ment workers had been sexually harassed in the two years prior to the study.

From the different studies it examined, Working Women's Institute concluded that:

- 40-90% of women in this country have experienced sexual harassment on the job at some time during their lifetime.
- Sexual harassment affects women in the 16-66 age range.
- Sexual harassment of Third World women has racial overtones.

GIVE ME YOUR CORRUPT,
YOUR GROSSLY WEALTHY,
YOUR TORTURERS AND
MASS MURDERERS, YOUR
TYRANNICAL DESPOTS
YEARNING TO SAVE THEIR
NECKS. SEND THESE, THE
DEPOSED AND DESPISED
TO ME. NO GAYS, LESBIANS
OR INTERNATIONALLY
KNOWN AUTHORS
NEED APPLY.



Behind Supreme Court ruling on sexual harassment

By Joyce Chediac

JUNE 22 — Under pressure from the millions of working women, last week the Supreme Court declared sexual harassment on the job to be "illegal" if it is "so severe or pervasive" that it amounts to a "hostile or abusive working environment."

While this ruling is an important and long-needed step, it only begins to deal with the problem of sexual harassment on the job.

The unanimous Court decision, written by Justice William H. Rehnquist, definitively establishes that sexual harassment in the workplace violates Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits racial and sexual discrimination. This provides a basis for further moves to protect the rights of women.

However, the high court ruling is limited in scope and does not hold the employer responsible, a measure which is crucial if women are to have an area open for redress and if sexual harassment is to be stopped.

Rehnquist actually declined "to issue a definitive rule on employer liability," and overturned a decision made by a Washington, D.C., federal court of appeals which held bosses "absolutely" liable. Justices Marshall, Brennan, Blackmun and Stevens wrote a separate opinion concurring with the Washington court of appeals.

The huge U.S. corporations breathed a sigh of relief when the Court refused to take a stand on corporate liability. It means they won't have to face lawsuits from the millions of sexually harassed women. The Wall Street Journal, which speaks for the biggest companies and banks, wrote an editorial today praising the decision because it holds only the harasser culpable.

Sexual harassment widespread

In addition, the high court did not rule on the specifics of the case before it, but sent it back to a lower court. The case in question was a suit filed by Michelle Vinson against Meritor Savings Bank of Washington, where she had previously worked, and against a

branch manager. Vinson charged that the supervisor, threatening her job and her life, had forced her to have sexual relations 40 or 50 times, had actually raped her and fondled her and other women working there.

Michelle Vinson's horrible ordeal is not an isolated case. Sexual harassment at the workplace is rampant. Millions of women must deal with it to a lesser or greater degree.

Women are sexually abused, humiliated, violated and harassed in every job category, from farmworkers, domestic workers, waitresses and office workers to the non-traditional jobs such as construction and carpentry, even to women executives. But it is the most oppressed women, such as those in non-union jobs (bank workers like Vinson are unorganized), Black, Latino, Native and Asian workers, and single heads of families who suffer the most because they are least likely to be able to quit and seek other jobs with hopefully less sexual harassment.

Surely women's right to work free of unwanted sexual advances or forced sex is the most basic of rights. But as things stand now, if she is sexually harassed on the job she has no recourse and risks ostracism or even being fired merely by calling attention to her plight.

Reagan's rightwing stand

Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, pointed out that the Court decision is "on the balance a victory for working or employed women" and a "defeat for the Reagan Justice Department." The Reagan administration had tried to prevent the Supreme Court from hearing this case at all. The Justice Department took the stand that Vinson's suit should be thrown out on the basis that the relationship between Vinson and her supervisor had been "voluntary!"

Why did the entire high court, including arch-conservative Rehnquist, whom Reagan has named to become the new head of the Court, disregard the Reagan administration's position? Even though these justices are appointed for life, they cannot completely

Continued on page 3

The Peruvian massacre and the Mexican crisis

By Sam Marcy

JUNE 24 — There is a common denominator which links together the situations in Peru and Mexico. It is the pervasive and abiding power and influence of the imperialist monopolies, particularly the multinational corporations and banks, and most importantly the huge U.S. banks, which continue to exercise the most corrosive influence.

Like an incubus, their power hangs on relentlessly and yields to no bourgeois reformist, let alone rhetorical, solutions by these respective governments.

Naked repression in Peru

At the moment the Peruvian authorities have just resorted to the most naked and brazen brutal force as the solution to the country's social crisis. In Mexico the de la Madrid government, notwithstanding the severity of the economic and financial crisis there, still enjoys enormous support, at least as it has been expressed electorally in the recent period.

The storming of the Lurigancho and El Fronton prisons in Peru by the military, with the tacit or expressed approval of President Alan Garcia, may seem like just one more military suppression — of which Peru has seen a considerable number, dating back to the days of 1619. As recently as the 1960s, the government at that time sent out assault troops to attack defenseless Indians who had occupied the landed estates of the latifundists. These big landlords owned vast tracts which of course had originally been inhabited by the Indian communities.

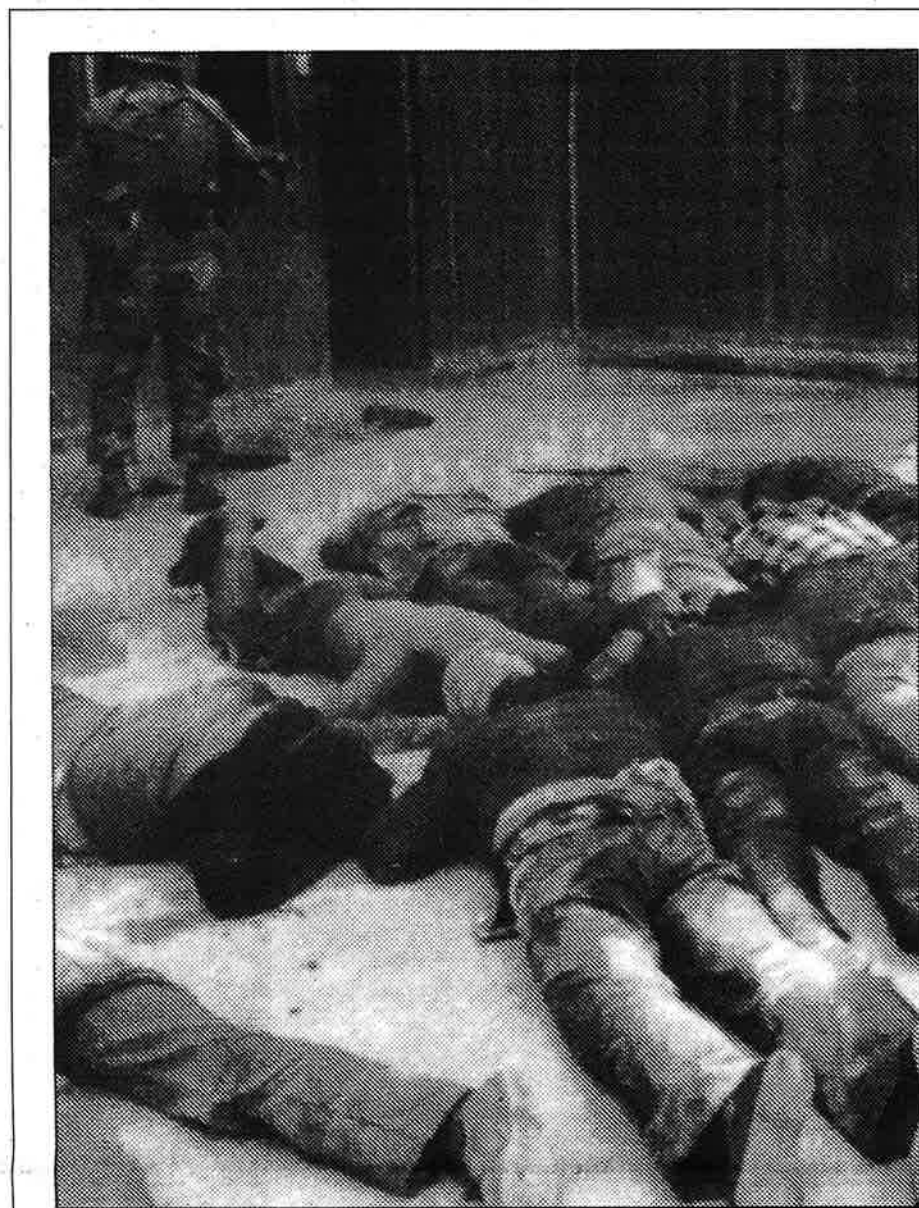
What distinguishes this military suppression is that it was carried out by a government widely heralded abroad as progressive, left-of-center or even social democratic. The Garcia government in its short tenure in office has been very long on anti-imperialist rhetoric but deaf and blind to the urgent needs of the masses, particularly the vast peasant mass who, notwithstanding significant industrialization in the last two decades, still constitute more than half the population. Nor has it paid any attention to the mass of the rural and urban poor or to the working class.

The use of military force by a bourgeois government is in itself not extraordinary. But to send out a military expedition with machine guns and helicopter gunships, firing thousands of rounds of ammunition and missiles to not just subdue but exterminate hundreds of political prisoners, not only is that an unparalleled act of barbarism but it can only be the result of a very acute social and political crisis, epitomized by the country's indebtedness to the imperialist banks.

It is said that the Garcia government was facing a revolutionary insurrection and that this occasioned the use of the military to suppress the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas. But this is a case of a large-scale military attack on imprisoned people.

The Shining Path guerrilla movement is not a phenomenon which appeared only yesterday. It has had widespread support among Peru's vast peasantry, one of the poorest and most exploited in all of Latin America.

Sendero Luminoso has continued the struggle for quite a few years, facing innumerable assaults from the military and conducting guerrilla raids against the state authorities. Whatever its ideological bent in the wide spectrum of anti-imperialist po-



El Fronton prison.

The extermination of hundreds of political prisoners in Peru is an unparalleled act of barbarism resulting from an acute social and political crisis.

litical tendencies in Peru, it has earned support from the masses of peasants and some in the urban centers. The use of such barbarous military power to exterminate the movement — and that is the aim — can be of no avail.

The sheer number of prisoners killed, as many as 400 by some estimates and 150 according to the government's releases, clearly indicates that the Garcia government was either forced to rubber stamp the independent actions of the military or has been in intimate collaboration with it.

No doubt the imperialist press is glad to take advantage of this criminal assault by the Garcia government in order to undermine it at this time. Its anti-imperialist demagoguery, particularly on its international indebtedness, is extremely annoying to the Wall Street bankers who have to deal with a whole array of governments of oppressed countries which have burdened the masses with crushing indebtedness to the imperialist banks.

Shining Path and Garcia's posturing

Garcia was undoubtedly aware that he was reaching a civil war crisis as the guerrillas stepped up their attacks against the government. In an attempt to divert public attention and especially to gain international prestige as a progressive, anti-imperialist government, he recently invited the Socialist International to meet in Lima.

It boomeranged. The Sendero Luminoso understood the Garcia maneuver very well and were not about to let him stage a farcical demonstration of anti-

imperialist posturing on the issue of the debt with the imperialist banks.

Social-democracy has never had strong roots in Latin America. Holding the meeting there for the first time was calculated to lend political support and credibility to the Garcia government and to give it a socialist coloration. But the military had no need of such maneuvers and went about its plans to exterminate the political prisoners, a ghastly act and as illustrative of the acuteness of the social crisis as one can imagine.

Both Peru and Mexico have had historical periods in this century rich in significant and even revolutionary social and political reforms in the struggle against imperialism and capitalism and the breakup of the huge landed estates (latifundia).

Mexico's history of revolutionary reforms

Mexico, where the economic crisis has become particularly acute, is approaching the 50th anniversary of the revolutionary social and political reforms instituted by the Cardenas government (March 18, 1938), which served as an example to all Latin America.

Harvey O'Connor, author of "The Empire of Oil," is certainly not given to hyperbole, yet he described the Cardenas reforms as "a beacon of hope for the oil-rich but poverty-stricken lands of Latin America and the Middle East."

The most spectacular action taken during the administration of Cardenas was the expropriation of the for-

eign oil companies and the establishment of Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex), a government agency designed to administer the industry for the country. The Cardenas government also nationalized the railroads and placed them under the management of labor.

When the Cardenas government expropriated Standard Oil, Shell and several other smaller companies as a result of the decree of March 1938, it seemed as though Mexico had at last declared political as well as economic independence from imperialism. Everywhere in imperialist circles there were dire predictions about how all Mexico would collapse and the Mexican government would have to crawl back in a humiliating retreat. But nothing of the sort happened.

By the end of his term in office the Cardenas administration had not only taken over a considerable number of foreign concerns but had created many peasant cooperatives, using the land expropriated from the large private owners for this purpose.

Under the Cardenas regime the trade union movement expanded and progressive social legislation on behalf of the workers as well as the peasants made Mexico an example for all of Latin America.

Role of military in Peru

When a leftist military junta took over in Peru in 1968, it also carried out a series of very important and indeed revolutionary measures which lifted the country from its abject status of one most severely oppressed by the imperialist bourgeoisie and its comprador oligarchic apparatus in the country.

As in Mexico, the junta expropriated Standard Oil of New Jersey, the biggest oil company there. But in a certain sense it went even beyond Mexico by openly proclaiming that there would be no compensation for the expropriations. And there wasn't any.

By expropriating some six or seven oil companies, most of them small ones, the junta under the leadership of President Velasco took a bold and daring stance in the struggle against U.S. imperialism. And unlike during the Cardenas regime, when the U.S. immediately took hostile measures to undermine the Mexican government, in this period the U.S. government under Nixon was already so harassed abroad and at home as a result of the imperialist war against Viet Nam that it took no retaliatory measures at all.

The junta's decree of June 24, 1969, which initiated agrarian reforms, seemed aimed at the total elimination of foreign control, particularly control of agricultural exports such as sugar cane and its derivatives, rice and other crops. The vast cattle estates of the Cerro de Pasco Corporation in the central Sierra were expropriated, including the sugar cane plantations of W.R. Grace & Co., as well as its industrial installations.

In the field of social legislation affecting the workers, the government promulgated Article 22 of its General Law under which "full-time workers in industrial enterprises would enjoy the benefits of progressive participation" through what it called the "Industrial Community," in which the workers would attain "ownership of the company of up to 50%."

The law was very complex, and while it seems very similar to what in this country is known as a company-sponsored "co-ownership" plan, under the circumstances of the leftist regime

Continued on page 11

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Revolutionary Korean youth.

The brutal repression of the Chun Doo Hwan dictatorship and the massive militant demonstrations of hundreds of thousands throughout Korea are shaping a new generation of young activists.

The June 16 New York Times reports that the students in Korea have a militant, activist tradition. Student demonstrations in 1960 brought down the government of U.S.-backed dictator Syngman Rhee and challenged succeeding dictators. But, worries the New York Times, "today's militant students are a new breed, more radical in their ideology and in their tactics."

Especially worrisome to U.S. and south Korean government officials are the clandestine "study circles." These highly secretive study circles, involving hundreds of small groups of serious young activists, increasingly serve as the basic organizational unit in demonstrations and protests.

A former student activist, who is now a clandestine labor organizer, explained in the interview that students in these study circles follow a set curriculum. First they discuss current political problems, then the revolutionary theories of Marx and Lenin are studied and finally case studies of change in China, Cuba and the Soviet Union. The article described how the students who emerge from this underground education and activism share

some basic tenets: a belief that the south Korean economic system must be changed, a conviction that the U.S. exerts a malignant influence and a consuming desire for reunification with north Korea. Based on their firmer political understanding of the roots of Korea's problems revolutionary commitment continues beyond student radicalism.

In recent weeks besides the massive marches demanding elections and the street battles with the brutal police forces, groups of students have occupied the U.S. Embassy, a Korean-American bank and an American Cultural Center. The 40,000 U.S. troops who occupy south Korea and the 2,000 U.S. corporations who pay slave wages are an increasing target both of student protests and of workers' strikes.

• • •

Contra corruption. The U.S. General Accounting Office can't account for millions of dollars allocated to the counter-revolutionary contras.

That the Pentagon's organized and financed war against Nicaragua is in the hands of thieves is hardly news. Contra leaders were all officers and collaborators of the former corrupt Somoza dictatorship, the brutal regime that looted Nicaragua for 40 years while safeguarding U.S. investments.

But now, corruption is so pervasive

that the rank-and-file mercenaries in the field go hungry while their officers set up private bank accounts and are involved in currency speculation and other illegal financial dealings. There is anger in U.S. ruling circles that these gangsters hired by the U.S. would attempt to double cross the Pentagon.

This week's press exposes reveal padded receipts for millions of dollars in weapons and equipment. Tens of thousands of belts, boots, canteens and guns are nonexistent and so are thousands of the troops listed on the phony payrolls. For the actual mercenaries even their rice and beans have been replaced with rotting food.

Lower-ranking contra officers made these charges while declaring that their only solution was more money for the contras!

• • •

Qaddafi interview. In his first interview with Western journalists since the U.S. terror raid on Libya, Col. Moammar Qaddafi explained in graphic detail the personal impact on his family of the attack. Some 120 aircraft took part in the Pentagon bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi on April 14.

Colonel Qaddafi was at home with his wife, Sophia, and their seven children when U.S. fighter bombers at-

tacked. His wife, suffering from a slipped disc, had been strapped to her bed by doctors. Col. Qaddafi described how he struggled to unstrap his wife and rescue their children while their house was collapsing around them. Three of their children were injured in the terror bombing and their infant daughter was killed. Over 100 other civilians were killed, thousands injured; a center for disabled people and a women's school were also hit by U.S. bombers.

Qaddafi denounced this cowardly bombing as the first open attack on a head of state. "Tell the American people I have no house; they should know this," he requested.

The U.S. corporate press and government officials have arrogantly bragged since the attack that Qaddafi appeared badly shaken. However, U.S. imperialism was both unsuccessful in overthrowing the popular government in Libya and was shaken by world outrage. Over 100 governments condemned the U.S. attack; only three governments supported Reagan. The day after the bombing, militant demonstrations were held all over the world.

—Sara Flounders



In Soweto even very young children know the symbols of Black resistance.

—South Africa

Continued from page 1

movement, because it represents a weak link in the apartheid economy. While South Africa is rich with strategic minerals, it has virtually no oil deposits within its own borders, making it dependent on U.S. and other multinational oil corporations for its petroleum needs.

The imposition of martial law has resulted in even more stringent censorship against the media. Yet news reports that are published daily attest to the deepening of the revolutionary process engulfing the Black townships. In answering the ANC's call to make them ungovernable, Black townships have replaced apartheid rule with organs of peoples' power. In addition, these developments have been accompanied with growing expressions of solidarity with anti-imperialist forces around the world and especially the socialist countries.

The New York Times recently re-

ported on Pretoria's growing alarm at the pro-socialist slogans and red flags which have become regular features of anti-apartheid activity. It also disclosed that Black residential areas are changing the names of their communities to show acknowledgement of those countries that have consistently given support to the cause of liberation in that region.

In one such area in Alexandra township, for example, the residents have changed the community's name to "Cuba" in recognition of that country's internationalist solidarity with Angola in the face of incessant apartheid military aggression.

The New York Times further reflected the regime's concern about the fact that the people are more readily identifying the apartheid system as inherent within capitalist relations and seeing the establishment of socialism as the only way to insure genuine freedom. Of course, the Times as the voice of the U.S. ruling class, as well as the apartheid regime will never concede to the destruction of a system that they are both responsible for creating. Only the people, heroic and steadfast in their resistance, can overcome the last bastion of settler colonialism and racism in Africa. And they will.

Commemorate Freedom Charter

NEW YORK, June 22 — On Sat., June 28, an all-day event here will commemorate the founding of the South African Freedom Charter. Speakers will include representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa, the South West Africa Peoples Organization and the Special UN Committee Against Apartheid. Also speaking will be Congressman Major Owens and Assemblyman Roger Green. There will be an art exhibit, films, South African literature, displays and cultural events.

The program will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton St. (corner of New York Ave.), in Brooklyn, N.Y. For more information phone (212) 490-3487.

ically and economically."

Stevens added that delegates of Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe also plan to attend the conference.

In order to further the understanding of U.S. anti-apartheid activists, a special conference panel is planned for the 6 p.m. Friday opening session. This panel will focus on the similarities and differences between the U.S. civil rights movement and the struggle for national liberation.

Other conference features include a Solidarity Rally, to be addressed by ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo, 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center in the San Francisco Western Addition. Workshops are also planned on the various aspects of building solidarity with the struggle, including the importance of financial and material aid to SWAPO and the ANC.

Funds and volunteers are needed to build and sustain this historic event. For more information, contact (415) 282-0663 or (415) 821-6545.

Bay Area meeting in solidarity with So. Africa

By Stephanie Hedgecock

SAN FRANCISCO, June 18 — The Bay Area anti-apartheid movement will be strengthened and reinvigorated by the upcoming West Coast Regional Conference in Solidarity with the Struggling Peoples of Southern Africa.

This conference, planned for June 27-29 at San Francisco State University, was the subject of a live radio interview tonight on KPOO-FM with conference Preparatory Committee member Johnnie Stevens, of the All-Peoples Congress/Southern Africa Freedom Committee.

"This is a most historic conference," said Stevens. "There will be high-ranking delegations from both the African National Congress (ANC) and the South West Africa Peoples' Organization (SWAPO) of Namibia.

"New strategy will be put forth. The delegates will have reports of the struggle, and we will learn how we on the West Coast can support the ANC, SWAPO and the front line states polit-

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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POLITICAL PRISONERS

Bingham trial goes to jury

By S. Hedgecock

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., June 20 — The trial of former prison lawyer Stephen Bingham went to jury deliberation today following the closing arguments of prosecution and defense lawyers.

Bingham could face life imprisonment if convicted on charges of two counts of murder and one count of conspiracy for allegedly smuggling a gun to Black prison activist George Jackson. Prison officials allege Jackson used this gun in an "escape attempt" on Aug. 21, 1971, when Jackson was murdered.

The Bingham trial has exposed

many inconsistencies in the testimonies of the San Quentin prison guard witnesses. And the defense also knocked gaping holes in the state's scenario of the circumstances surrounding Jackson's death.

Defense attorney Gerald Schwartzbach told the jury Tuesday of the significance of Jackson's murder by California prison guards: "George Jackson wasn't just an inmate in San Quentin prison. He was a leader for prison rights and of Black inmates. He had published a book, 'Soledad Brother,' which had received international acclaim. He was known to

the world."

Schwartzbach explained, "They wanted George Jackson to think he would escape," in order to provide an excuse for guards to assassinate the revolutionary field marshal of the Black Panther Party.

Before Marin County Superior Court Judge E. Warren McGuire sent the case to the jury, Schwartzbach had reminded the panel that former civil rights worker Bingham had lost 13 years of his life fleeing the smuggling charge frame-up.

"You can end his nightmare," Schwartzbach said.



Steve Bingham holds flowers given him by a supporter as he speaks with lawyer outside of courthouse.

—Peruvian massacre

Continued from page 9

gence engendered by the military takeover it operated as encouragement for the workers to become aggressive in their demands. As a consequence, much was won.

Although the idea behind this legislation was to conciliate the workers with the bourgeoisie through the government, it nevertheless could be helpful if the independent organizations of the workers were able to take advantage of it without losing their class autonomy. Suffice it to say that in their totality the reforms and progressive social legislation of that period were in many respects analogous to the Cardenas period in Mexico 30 years earlier.

Reforms strengthened bourgeoisie

These measures in both Mexico and Peru, although they had vast progressive social and political significance when promulgated, were in no sense socialist measures. They should more properly be considered as belated attempts to complete the bourgeois democratic revolution, which never gets fully completed except by a socialist revolution.

What we see then is that measures taken earlier in Mexico and in the period of the junta in Peru, measures in and of themselves progressive, strengthened and developed the bourgeoisie. There is no question that the industrialization in both countries enhanced the power of the compradore bourgeoisie.

With the passage of time, the peasantry and the mass of the working class have become more impoverished. The economic laws of capitalist society, particularly in times of capitalist inflation and unemployment, have taken their toll on the oppressed and exploited masses.

In Mexico and Peru the economy is characterized by both private and state capitalist enterprises. In both countries mining remains in the hands of the private sector.

In Mexico, transportation and communications, petrochemicals and electric power production are owned and operated by the state and are generally under semi-autonomous executive (presidential) agencies. Private enterprise controls most manufacturing in both heavy industry and consumer goods. The hand of the imperialist monopolies through their financial instrumentalities is everywhere present, often in disguised form, and is particularly strong as a result of the fortuitous discovery of huge petroleum reserves almost a decade ago. Instead of strengthening the economic and political independence of Mexico, this development has in reality weakened it. Nothing so much symbolizes the

problem facing the government and people of Mexico as well as Peru as the indebtedness to the imperialist banks, which operates as a crushing, overwhelming burden to be foisted on the backs of the masses. Measures which decades ago might have aided in the progressive economic development of the country under the present circumstances actually retard it.

The effect of nationalization

Former President Portillo nationalized the banks of Mexico in 1982. Had this happened some 50 years ago, it might have aided in the progressive economic development of the country. At the present time, however, with an acute economic and political crisis in Mexico, the nationalization of the banks has operated to accelerate inflation, even though it is objectively a progressive measure.

Nationalization at the right time could be a stimulus to the productive forces and the development of the country. At other times, however, it can retard the economy and generate inflation. In Peru, the nationalization of the banks in the 1970s helped stimulate economic development and the growth of the industrial sector.

The expropriation of foreign companies or the nationalization of individual domestic firms through the act of transferring them to the state doesn't abolish exploitation. It merely transfers it to the state, which is itself only the collective expression of the interests of the national bourgeoisie.

The social and political gains made by the workers and peasants merely reflect that they have now gotten back a portion of the previously accumulated surplus value from the hands of the foreign exploiters or individual domestic capitalists. This is the economic essence of the process of capitalist accumulation.

In Mexico the nationalization of the banks has not meant the expropriation of the deposits and holdings of the foreign bankers, just freezing their assets for the time being. It has not halted the flight of capital, which has gone on for a considerable period.

We thus see rising inflation, which lowers the value of the currency and at the same time has operated as a stimulus for the flight of capital, a development not fully covered in the capitalist press here. It is too sensitive an issue.

It shows up the collusion between the Mexican bourgeoisie and the imperialist banks. Estimates of the amount of capital in flight since the beginning of the crisis are not known and are kept secret, but it runs into the many billions.

Issues in Helms vs. liberals debate

At the moment the liberal elements

of the imperialist press here and some of the big banks themselves are amenable to what they consider a "just solution" to Mexico's \$98 billion indebtedness, on which the interest alone runs into the billions and continually increases the debt.

As a result, a portentous, truly ominous development is slowly emerging in the inner struggle of the U.S. ruling class over the Mexican indebtedness and how to handle it. One section is for making concessions if the Mexican government carries out further drastic austerity measures, which are sure to cut deeper into the standard of living of the masses.

Another faction, which has not been significant in the U.S. international affairs establishment until very recently, is the grouping headed by Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina — an ultrarightist and a rabid Mexico-baiter who is most vociferous in his support for the Nicaraguan counter-revolutionary mercenaries.

Slowly and gradually the capitalist media are giving him more coverage. He has utilized his legislative immunity to raise the issue of "corruption" in the recent elections in Mexico, especially the results for the de la Madrid government.

But the corruption issue has another facet. Much of the flight of capital abroad from Mexico is called "tainted money." Helms is trying to focus in on the political leaders of Mexico, hinting without spelling it out that there may be as much corruption in the flight of capital there as occurred during the Marcos regime in the Philippines. He also has raised to a governmental level the accusations against General Noriega of Panama, which the New York Times published on June 12.

While as an individual senator, Helms has been unable to rouse the ruling class to go further than the Reagan administration, it remains to be seen whether the venomous attacks against Mexico coming from the ultraright are being inspired and perhaps promoted by more substantial sections of the ruling class and the banks.

The rightists want to link the political struggle against Mexico over the issue of the Nicaraguan contras with their dissatisfaction over the slow pace of debt negotiations, what they regard as stalling by the de la Madrid government in accepting the draconian measures demanded by the IMF and the big Wall Street banks.

For years the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) in Mexico has been able to suck in most of the progressive and working class organizations who in one way or another have supported it against the Right, whether critically or not, since the days when it was a revolutionary party. As a result there is no formidable working class revolutionary outlet at the moment as against the bourgeoisie, which is what the PRI really

represents. It does so notwithstanding all its leftism and its anti-imperialist posture as inheritor of the traditions of the Mexican Revolution.

Thus we see that no matter how many progressive social and political measures are taken or how many nationalizations are carried out by a state, the ultimate issue is the class character of the state itself.

If the state itself is bourgeois, if there has been no revolutionary overturn of property relations in general, if the bourgeoisie continues to be the possessing class and private property is the fundamental social institution, if the proletariat and the bourgeoisie remain in the position of exploited and exploiter, if there are millions of landless peasants flocking to the urban centers without the prospect of economic improvement, without jobs and without money, if the connections with imperialist monopoly remain even while continually changing their form — in other words, as long as the bourgeois mode of production remains — no amount of natural wealth can withstand the corrosion of monopoly imperialist relations.

Only with a thoroughgoing socialist revolution, a revolution which breaks up and destroys the old relationship between the classes and puts at the head a truly revolutionary government to effectuate the socialist transformation, can there be any hope of ridding the country of poverty, hunger, disease and demoralization.

—Harvard workers

Continued from page 12

tactics to win. It has forged a strong unity with the students especially around the issue of Harvard's investments in South Africa. A TV show linking the plight of the workers with that of the community was put on Cable TV in different languages.

Ads were taken out in community papers showing the sexist treatment of the waitresses.

Delegations of community leaders, politicians, students and faculty have visited Harvard's chief negotiators showing support for the union workers.

Union delegations have gone to the Harvard administrators' neighbors explaining there will be 24-hour pickets in their fancy neighborhoods if their neighbor mistreats Harvard workers.

Workers have passed out leaflets explaining Harvard's mistreatment was done to Harvard's other workforce and surrounding communities.

The Harvard workers are standing strong not to be McDonaldized and that these hundreds of full time jobs will not be taken from the communities.

Harvard workers, supporters rally against attacks on union

Local 26 vows: 'We won't be McDonaldized!'

By Ed Childs
Chief Shop Steward
H.E.R.E. Local 26

BOSTON, June 21 — Over 400 Local 26 members at Harvard University and their supporters rallied today to stop Harvard's assault on their job security. Local 26 represents 550 Harvard food service workers.

The loud foot stomping rally was opened by the union's own fight song done by the All-Peoples Singers. Then a string of community and labor supporters that Local 26 had made bonds with during past struggles spoke.

Rev. Graylan Ellis-Hagler expounded, "No one ever makes progress without struggle. My congregation and me pledge to support you even if we need to be arrested."

Students, faculty and nine unions from the Harvard clerical workers to the Mass. Construction Trades all pledged to stop Harvard's frontal attack on Local 26.

The Chief Stewards spoke showing that Harvard's \$4 billion in assets are

getting larger but as they profit from their investments in South African slave conditions we see how low Harvard will go to McDonaldize us.

Dominic Bozzotto then led the rally into the streets where the workers chanting "Stop Union Busting!" marched to the Harvard administration offices. There they tallied their strike authorization vote taken earlier, and the 93% "yes" vote was put on a big billboard and lifted up by helium balloons for all to see.

Harvard's vision of the future for the food service department is to create a part time, no benefits labor force that is contracted out to non-union contractors. The Harvard workers have labeled this McDonaldizing. This is what Harvard's Business School has taught many other employers to do.

'Whatever it takes'

Local 26 members have adopted the slogan "Whatever it takes." The union knows it needs to take imaginative

Continued on page 11



Hormel workers have fought long and hard against union busting. Here, TWA workers show solidarity with P-9 strike.

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Alice Peurala

By Jeff Sorel

CHICAGO, June 23 — Alice Peurala, the first woman president of an industrial steel workers' union local, died this week of cancer at the age of 58. Peurala, a life-long socialist, was widely respected among workers in the Chicago area as a strong voice for the rank and file.

Born into a labor family — her father helped found the local of a St. Louis foundry — she worked as an organizer for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees Union in St. Louis and after 1950 in Chicago.

She went to work at U.S. Steel's big South Work's mill in 1953. In 1969, she challenged U.S. Steel's refusal to promote her and other women to steel job classifications in a sex discrimination suit, which was successfully settled out of court.

The reputation she won from this suit helped her to be elected the first woman grievor at the mill in 1976. Many workers considered her the

best grievor in the mill, and she became known especially as a fighter for the rights of Black, Latin and women workers.

She was elected President of Local 65 in 1979, heading up a progressive slate. But she took the helm at a time of layoffs and shut-downs by the steel companies and concessions by the international union officials. Although she spoke out strongly against the self-defeating concessions, by the time she ran for reelection in 1982, the work force at South Works had shrunk from 7,000 to 2,000 and she was defeated. Three years later, after the mill was almost totally shut down and the work force down to 800, she made a successful comeback and was reelected as president.

In the words of former District 31 Director James Balanoff, "She was a grand person to whom the working man and woman always came first. She couldn't be bought." Alice Peurala is gone, but the fighting spirit she embodied will live on in a resurgent labor movement.

Hormel strikers to build tent city to protest treatment

Special to Workers World

JUNE 22 — Hormel workers of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local P-9 in Austin, Minn., are building a tent city to protest the treatment of Hormel strikers and the economic devastation hitting workers and farmers nationwide.

This "Solidarity City," which will be constructed from June 22-28, is expected to draw other trade unionists, farm groups, civil rights organizations, religious groups and students nationwide as well as other workers from the Hormel chain of local unions.

A show of solidarity with P-9 is especially important at this time. On June 2, a federal district court backed a decision by the UFCW International union to impose trusteeship on P-9, suspend the local's elected leadership and place it under the control of the International's trustee.

As a result, P-9 President Jim Guyette has been suspended. The funds of P-9 have been frozen, including emergency monies for striking families. The court has also prohibited

P-9 from publicizing the Hormel boycott.

Despite these tremendous difficulties, Local P-9 has maintained its leadership and is continuing the struggle. In his first news conference since the June 2 court ruling, Guyette explained that although he was complying with the court order, he would continue to fight along with P-9 members and that the consumer boycott of Hormel products is still growing nationally.

Guyette said that the court order would be appealed so that "trade union democracy and freedom of speech can once again return to Austin, Minn., and replace the virtual dictatorship we are living under today."

P-9 has also petitioned the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to ask for a union election in an effort to get Local P-9 recertified as the bargaining agent.

To help support this embattled union send funds to: Hormel Workers, American Labor Relief Fund, c/o NRFAC, 312 21 St., Newport, Minn. 55055.

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