



South African struggle rocks Washington, London

Reagan, Thatcher draw heavy fire for support of Botha regime

By Sahu Barron

JULY 23 — While the struggle over who will rule South Africa rages on in the townships, mines and factories of the apartheid state, the political crisis has spread to London and Washington, Pretoria's main allies.

The Reagan administration, faced with the prospect of ending up on the losing side when Black majority rule finally triumphs, this week attempted some cosmetic changes in its approach, at the same time reiterating its support for the Botha regime.

Meanwhile, however, revelations of U.S. collaboration with the fascist regime in hunting down African National Congress freedom fighters broke in today's press, confirming the tight military and political relations that exist between Washington and Pretoria. They

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The revolutionary struggle in South Africa is causing a political crisis for Reagan and Thatcher. Here, anti-apartheid marchers in London.

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A return
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'No contract,
no work!' —p. 5**

Welfare hotel fire exposes crooked politicians

By Andy Stapp

NEW YORK, July 21 — When the city inspectors checked out the Brooklyn Arms Hotel last June 5, they found 502 violations. The dingy, cramped, forbidding structure, which warehouses 900 of this city's 11,000 homeless children, had no working fire extinguishers, no smoke alarms.

The place should have been a palace, given the rents.

Merco Properties, owner of the leasehold on Brooklyn Arms, rakes in from \$1,500 to more than \$4,000 per family every month. That for one or two small, dingy rooms 12 by 18 feet.

In one of those crowded rooms, four children of the Alvarez family died in a fire on July 11. Seven-year-old Josephine, Edwin, age six, two-year-old Maria and Daniel, age 1-1/2, died in a flash blaze while their parents, Edwin and Susanna Alvarez, were out collecting redeemable bottles and cans to earn money for food. For this, the bereaved couple were arrested and kept in jail for two days and nights.

Neighbors support couple

Public protests forced their release. A lot of people know who should really be punished, and it's not Susanna and Edwin Alvarez.

To call this hotel dilapidated would be an act of generosity. It's a death-trap. Last Feb. 15, an employee had his neck crushed by a defective elevator. A month ago, another freight elevator door gave way, plunging an 18-year-old tenant down 15 floors to his death. Last March 10, 12-year-old Efram Vega slipped in a dark hallway, hit his head on a wall and died. The Brooklyn Arms, like most of the city's other 55 hotels for the homeless, is a place of indescribable misery.

It is also a source of enormous profits for Morris Horn and James Slattery, the cockroaches who own it. For the two rooms provided to the Alvarez

family, the bill was \$2,150 a month.

All the politicians got a cut of this heartless racket. Morris Horn contributed to all the big shots on the Board of Estimate, the body which approves welfare hotel contracts. Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden got \$20,000, Controller Harrison Goldin \$18,000, the late grafter and one-time King of Queens, Donald Manes, \$12,000. Mayor Ed Koch was given \$48,800 for his campaign by Horn.

In New York City, where infant mortality among the homeless is among the worst in the world, the politicians and landlords are becoming instant millionaires. If there were any justice in this city, the slumlords Horn and Slattery, along with those members of the Board of Estimate and the Mayor whom they bribed, would find themselves sitting in that jail cell they had reserved for Edwin and Susanna Alvarez.

What is the penalty for murdering children to make a buck?



Four caskets in a Brooklyn church. What's the penalty for murdering children to make a buck?

'Man, why'd you shoot me?'

By Bill Hackwell

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17 — A San Francisco cop has shot and killed another Third World person in the Ingleside section of the Mission District of this city.

The latest victim in what can only be described as a cold blooded racist killing by the police is Charles Flores. Officer Luis Hamilton shot and killed Flores from six feet away. The cops claim Flores was going for a roofing hammer in his coat, which police say he stole from a nearby store.

A woman and her two children who were standing next to Flores when he was shot were shocked along with

other eyewitnesses who said Flores' last words were, "Man, why'd you shoot me?" Hamilton is assigned to the same station where two other cops gunned down Larry Lumpkin, a Black man, as he sat in his car in May.

Lumpkin's murder has produced outrage in Ingleside's Black community and has spurred the formation of the Citizens Concerned Committee which has launched a petition drive for a full public investigation into Lumpkin's death.

In addition to helping to circulate these petitions, the Southern Africa Freedom Committee of the All-Peoples Congress has called for a public meet-

ing on Aug. 21 to expose these murders along with the recent hangings of Jacquelyn Peters and Timothy Lee in Contra Costa County. Police quickly labeled these hangings suicides, but anti-racist activists have called them murders.

Johnnie Stevens, organizer of the Southern Africa Freedom Committee, explained that the need for a fight-back to combat the racist Reaganite backlash is essential at this time. "This meeting will give us the opportunity to deepen the anti-apartheid movement and to condemn and expose racist murders here at home as well as in southern Africa."

In This Issue...

HOMEWORK

They labor at home, without safety or health provisions or benefits, in what a union official calls "a return of sweat shop conditions." And now the Labor Department wants to extend "homework" to millions more workers, mostly women. (Page 4.)

SUPREME BIGOTRY

Angered by the Supreme Court's recent attack on lesbian and gay people, protestors have taken to the streets from Philadelphia to California. In San Francisco, 3,000 demonstrated against the appearance of Sandra Day O'Connor, chanting "We will fight!" (Page 4.)

LTV

The giant conglomerate LTV is using the bankruptcy court to swindle its workforce, but as the prime creditor, these workers are now in a legal position to take the operation of the firm. (Page 9.)

BANK AMERICA

California's BankAmerica has recorded a loss of over \$640 million, the second largest in U.S. history, and the news is sending shockwaves all the way to Wall Street. (Page 3.)



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

SOUTH AFRICA

U.S. and British foreign policy are approaching a state of crisis over the question of their business and banking ties to the South African regime. The capitalists of both countries have vast economic interests at stake. (Centerfold.)

STEPHANIE PELTIER

"It is ironic that they would rededicate that big copper statue in New York while at the same time the deadline for the removal of Native American people at Big Mountain came up," Stephanie Peltier told a San Francisco gathering. Her husband, Leonard Peltier, a leader in the American Indian Movement, has been in prison for over ten years. (Page 12.)

UC Santa Cruz protest for divestment.



San Francisco

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

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BankAmerica loss jolts Wall Street

Billion dollars in bad loans unmask crisis in banking system

By Robert Dobrow

JULY 21 — Two earthquakes hit the Los Angeles area hard last week. But the stunning \$640 million loss of California's BankAmerica is what is shaking the ground and rattling windows clear across the country and sending Wall Street bankers running for cover.

The loss is the second largest ever for a U.S. bank, after the over \$1 billion lost by Continental Illinois Bank in 1984. The difference with BankAmerica is that it is an even bigger bank. Until recently it was the country's biggest and most profitable. At number 2 it was still the economic powerhouse of the West Coast.

It has more money in agriculture, more loans to consumers and more investments in real estate than any other bank. It has a global empire with branches in over 100 countries, including South Africa, south Korea, Turkey, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Nigeria and Mexico.

Sitting on its board of directors are representatives from a virtual Who's Who of industry — AM International, Armour & Co., Atlantic-Richfield, Chrysler, DuPont, Ford, General Dynamics, Goodyear Tire, Greyhound, H.J. Heinz, International Harvester, Northrop, Ralston Purina, Standard Oil of California, TRW, United Airlines and Westinghouse.

And yet all this influence and loot could not reverse the bank's sagging fortunes. It could not paper over a billion dollars in bad oil and gas loans, bad real estate loans and bad foreign loans.

Chickens come home to roost

The crisis for BankAmerica exposes the real character of the administration's "booming economic recovery." It unmasks the phony character of last month's stock market rise. It uncovers the real state of the capitalist economy behind the sugar-coated pronouncements from the apologists for the profit system.

The oil glut, the crisis in the farm belt, the continuing sag in manufacturing, the relentless unemployment and growing poverty among the masses of people, the inability of the oppressed nations to pay back exorbitant interest to the Western bankers — these chickens have come home to roost at the doorsteps of BankAmerica.

What caused one Wall Street banker to describe the event as "very, very traumatic" is the possibility that the earthquake at BankAmerica could not only topple the country's second largest bank, but have a disastrous effect on the entire U.S. banking establishment.

It's true that BankAmerica is a West Coast bank. But among its top ten shareholders are Morgan Guaranty,

Citicorp, Prudential-Bache, and Manufacturers Hanover, with the giant J.P. Morgan & Co., leading the pack. These are all Wall Street sharks.

In 1984, the collapse of a small rural bank in Oklahoma started the chain reaction which led to the fall of Chicago's Continental Illinois. The bankers don't want to even think of what the collapse of a super-giant like BankAmerica might do.

Bank failures up despite recovery

Nor are the problems at BankAmerica unique to it alone. Last week, one of Oklahoma's biggest banks failed. In Texas, the giant Interfirst of Dallas reported a huge loss. Even Citicorp and Manufacturers Hanover posted lower profits than expected.

More banks failed in the first half of 1986 than in any other six month period since the Great Depression.

According to one worried banker quoted in the New York Times (July 20), "loan losses usually begin declining one year after a recovery begins, but instead they have been rising — and worse, they are likely to soar this year. In 1981, the nation's 25 largest banks had to charge off .29% of their total loans. That rose to .44% in 1982, to .6% in 1983, the first year of the recovery, then to .64% in 1984 and .9% in 1985. This year, it will exceed one percent, a level considered very high."

At the same time, for the masses of people, Reagan's "recovery" hasn't put a dent into unemployment, homelessness and hunger while wages have steadily gone down.

The crisis is a crisis of the system, and it leaves few alternatives to the bankers. They can continue to squeeze the oppressed countries to pay back the loans by demanding even more austerity measures, belt-tightening, devaluation, etcetera. But you can't squeeze blood from a stone. And these countries are already overripe for revolutionary struggle against imperialist domination and oppression.

They can demand more givebacks and concessions from the unions and

workers here at home and try even harder to batter down wages and living conditions. But workers here will only take so much. The inevitable fightback is coming.

The economic crisis leads them in all these directions as well as into other illicit and illegal ventures. Two hundred years ago the biggest bankers and merchants made super-profits from financing the slave trade. Today they pay workers in south Korea, Turkey and Haiti pennies a day. They also are up to their ears in the global drug trade.

BankAmerica was recently caught laundering money, that is secretly hiding deposits, for the criminal underworld. They were fined \$4.75 million. Everyone knows that the sale of he-

roin and cocaine is now a multi-billion-dollar business. Marijuana has become the most valuable cash crop in U.S. agriculture. The banks simply can't resist this type of money, with the enormous profits to be made on the interest alone!

So it's no surprise that along with BankAmerica, other financial institutions involved in the money laundering scandal include the First Boston Corporation, Chase Manhattan, Manufacturers Hanover Trust, Chemical, Crocker National and Irving Trust.

Selling drugs, financing war, busting unions and promoting hunger. This is the program of the capitalist banks. This is what they are driven to do to save their rotting system, a system overripe for the dustbin of history.

Hartford protest to demand freedom for Puerto Rican prisoners

The Puerto Rico Committee Against Repression (PRCAR) is building a mass demonstration to be held on Aug. 30, in Hartford, Conn. Aug. 30 commemorates one year of imprisonment of the Puerto Rican independence activists. These liberation fighters were jailed by the U.S. Federal government under the preventive detention law. This law can potentially be used to hold indefinitely any group that the state considers a threat. The meeting place is at Zion St. and Park, in Hartford, at 10:30 a.m., and it will continue to South Green Park and Main St. for a rally and speakers. To build this event the PRCAR in New York City will be having a fundraiser Aug. 2. All proceeds go to help pay for buses going to Hartford. It will be a night of poetry and music for freedom at Tin Pan Alley, 220 W. 49th St., N.Y., at 7:30 p.m. Cost is a \$5 contribution plus cash bar and food. Also in August a United Nations hearing will take place to discuss the colonial status of Puerto Rico. For more information please call (212) 286-0924 (PRCAR).



Crash of Stealth aircraft reveals new arms buildup

Billions spent on project hidden in war, intelligence budget

By Ron Holladay

SAN FRANCISCO, July 14 — The crash of an F-19 Stealth fighter aircraft in the mountains of California on July 11 offered a brief glimpse behind the curtain of secrecy which the Pentagon and the CIA have maintained on this extremely significant military escalation.

The whole concept of Stealth technology is to make combat aircraft and Cruise missiles nearly invisible to radar detection, sound detection and even detection by the human eye. The whole concept means another escalation in the monstrous arms buildup of the U.S. and poses a significant danger to world security by, in theory at least, making it possible for the U.S. military to attack the Soviet Union with total immunity from Soviet defenses.

It is already reliably reported by Air International, a well-known British aerospace monthly, that part of the first squadron of 75 aircraft is operational "in support of reconnaissance activities originating from Alaska, Japan, and the United Kingdom." The only reconnaissance target within reach of all three of these bases is the Soviet Union. The above quote, written under the strictures of security laws which threaten jail terms to per-

sons who use classified information, almost certainly means that the aircraft are being used for spy overflights of the socialist countries. This opens the possibility of another U-2 incident when the U.S., with an earlier technology, thought it could overfly the Soviet Union with total immunity. It should be recalled that the infamous U-2 incident ended with the Soviet Union shooting down the U-2 spy plane and capturing the CIA pilot.

Just exactly what is the Stealth project? How does its secret financing take money from the poor and workers? Why does it threaten the stability of the world? The concept of Stealth is to use less radar reflective materials such as new high-tech graphite compounds, plastics and other non-metallic materials and build them into a small aircraft with no sharp curves in its outer structure. Most radars are tuned to pick up metallic objects and objects with sharp corners; therefore a structure such as this is less visible to radar.

Stealth also buries jet engines deep within the structure with complex shielding so the engine heat is protected from infra-red detection and sound detection. It is reliably reported by Air International that more than one billion dollars was spent in the sin-

gle year of 1983 on the first squadron of 75 Stealth fighters, and it is planned to spend more than \$30 billion after full testing is completed. Less is known about the Stealth bomber and the Stealth Cruise missile projects, but it is fair to assume that they too are being developed to evade existing surveillance technologies.

The billions of dollars spent on this project are carefully concealed within the war and intelligence budgets so that there can be no public scrutiny of the projects. This offers untold opportunities for Lockheed and Northrup, the two main contractors, to make even more obscene profits than they usually make.

Just think how many residences could be built to house the millions of homeless in our cities and think about how much AIDS research could be funded if these funds went for human services. Instead these billions go to fund another escalation of the arms buildup.

People should demand that all information on these projects be made public and further demand that there be no more secret military projects, such as the Manhattan Project, which resulted in the nuclear bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

BofA plans big layoffs

SAN FRANCISCO, July 19 — In the face of mounting losses, Bank of America may eliminate up to 10% of its workforce, according to an article in the July 18 issue of the San Francisco Examiner. The cutbacks could result in the loss of as many as 7,500 jobs in addition to the 5,000 jobs the bank already has announced it will cut this year.

With an 80,000-member workforce, Bank of America has eliminated more than 13,000 jobs since 1982, mostly in the Bay Area. Last year, the company laid off 5,500 employees.

Homework rule will return worst sweat shop conditions

By Joyce Chediac

JULY 22 — An exhausted woman and her two children slump over machines, toiling furiously from early in the morning to late at night to make the company piece rate. They work at home. There are no safety or health provisions, no benefits.

Is this merely a scene from the distant past? No. It is also a projection of the future, if the bosses have their way.

Labor Secretary Bill Brock has announced plans to lift a 43-year-old, hard-won ban on the manufacture of clothing and jewelry by workers employed in the home. This move is the first step in a bosses' drive to set up home-based work on a large scale, especially for those who work on computer terminals.

"It will return the worst sweat shop conditions to this industry on a wholesale scale," commented Max Zimny, general counsel for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU). Zimny explained that many workers who already toil illegally in their homes do so in cramped, unsafe, unhealthy conditions. Under the new regulations these conditions would only worsen. The ILGWU's position on homework is that of the AFL-CIO and the trade union movement as a whole.

The ban on homework, or cottage industries, was imposed in the early 1940s due to mass pressure from the unions. Studies at that time found that home labor was often used by employers as a way to avoid minimum wage and child labor laws. "Low wages, unregulated hours, poor working conditions and child labor are familiar aspects of this system of production,"

said a 1930 Labor Department report.

The Brock regulations give the federal government the responsibility for enforcing minimum wage and child labor laws. This is like asking the fox to guard the chicken coop. The Reagan administration has already decapitated federal inspection agencies and backs a less-than-minimum wage for some workers. In truth, these new regulations give the corporations the green light for slave labor and child labor.

Trade unions have pointed out that homeworkers really do piece work at low wages, and the dispersal of these workers makes it more difficult to organize them. There are already about 5 million people who work for corporations at home. Half of them are women. Homeworkers make 25% less than office workers in the same job. Women are especially vulnerable to the menace of homework because they have the additional burden of childcare.

To find out what homework is really like one need only talk with Beverly O'Connell, one of eight homeworkers currently suing California-Western States Life Insurance Company for fraud. "It became where I was working from 5 in the morning to 9 at night," said O'Connell.

Four years ago women at California-Western were given the choice of working at home. A group responded, seeking to avoid the costs of transportation, work clothes and especially of childcare. To work at home they were required to give up their regular hourly wages and benefits, accept a piece rate, and lease machinery at their own expense. When they were es-

tablished at home, the company increased the required piece rate. The women found themselves working 10 and 12 hours a day for less money.

The Wall Street Journal, mouthpiece of the biggest corporations and banks, is ecstatic over these new regulations. A July 16 editorial backs homework because "cottage industries are non-unionized, wages are lower and benefits less onerous for employers." The Journal calls "the growing information sector" as "the most fertile ground for union organizing in the next decade," and cheers "the prospect of millions of information workers telecommuting from home — out of reach of union organizers."

This attempt to return a large sector of the working class to the worst sweat

shop abuses of earlier times certainly exposed Labor Secretary Bill Brock, who poses as a "friend of labor" and has, in fact, been invited to several international trade union conventions. But most of all, it exposes capitalism as a ruthless system of exploitation which will not hesitate to go back to the dark ages of labor relations if it means extracting greater profits.

This situation cries out for an all-out effort to organize the unorganized, particularly service and clerical workers. A struggle is needed to win adequate wages, decent working conditions and benefits like childcare so that workers will not be forced to accept homework and will be able to remain in the plants where they can collectively assert their rights.

Thousands in Calif. march against anti-gay court ruling



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

San Francisco gays tell Supreme Court: "We're not immoral. What's immoral is the fact that people are starving, jobless, homeless!"

By J. Marquardt

SAN FRANCISCO, July 17 — Between 2,000 and 3,000 people demonstrated at the Hilton Hotel here tonight where Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor was speaking. Enraged by the June 22 Supreme Court decision, in which O'Connor voted with the majority to uphold Georgia's bigoted anti-sodomy laws, local gay organizations called tonight's visible, vocal action.

Chants of "They say we should hide, we say Gay Pride" and "They say take away our rights, we say we'll fight" kicked off the lengthy rally. The crowd grew and blocked off the entire street as hundreds of marchers arrived from the Castro.

'Age of Repression'

Among the many speakers was Pat Norman, a Black lesbian city official who is currently running for the Board of Supervisors.

"This is the age of repression that

we have not experienced for 50 years — since Hitler," Norman stated. "We have been here since the beginning of time . . . we will not ever go away. No amount of repression will stop us. We are not sinners. We are not immoral. What is immoral is the bombing of El Salvador and Nicaragua, racism, the fact that people are starving, jobless, homeless, the LaRouches of this country, and the fact that the governor of this state has not yet come out against LaRouche."

Norman also announced the Nov. 14 national conference in New York City to plan a national march in Washington, D.C., in 1987 to fight the attacks on gay rights.

The rally eventually turned into a militant march three times around the block-sized hotel. Chanting "Civil rights or civil war" and "Gay people fight back" as the cops, many on motorcycles, became testy, the marchers clearly expressed their anger and determination to fight.



Protesting the real terrorists. A march of 1,000 people from San Francisco's La Raza Park to Dolores Park on July 19 marked the seventh anniversary of the people's victory over the Somoza dictatorship in Nicaragua. "Who are the real terrorists in the world today?" they chanted, answering, "Reagan, the contras and the CIA!" The march and rally to celebrate and defend the Nicaraguan Revolution was sponsored by several organizations, including the Nicaragua Information Center, Casa de Cultura Nicaraguense, Friends of Nicaraguan Culture, the All-Peoples Congress and CISPES.

WW PHOTO: PETER DINN



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Bigoted Court decision hit. Chanting "Civil Rights or Civil War" and "Gay, straight, Black, white, same struggle, same fight," 1,000 lesbian and gay people and supporters rallied on July 17 in front of the "Liberty Bell" in Philadelphia to protest the recent homophobic Supreme Court anti-sodomy decision. The spirited picketline and rally was called by the Philadelphia Lesbian and Gay Task Force (LGTF). Speakers were civil rights activist Father Paul Washington and LGTF Director Rita Addressa, among others. The rally ended with cultural presentations and militant calls for unity and struggle.

Detroit strikers: 'No contract, no work!'

By Cheryl LaBash
Executive Board
AFSCME Local 457

DETROIT, July 23 — In the first week of the city workers' strike here AFSCME members and their union leadership faced down threats of calling out the National Guard to carry out the Aug. 5 primary election and attempts to force strikers back to work through injunction.

Other serious attacks on the strike include the firings for supposed lack of funds of Contractual Nutrition Workers (CNW) who recently joined the union, nearly 20 arrests and at least three picketers run down by scab or management cars and riot police at the Water and Sewage Treatment plant and Russell-Ferry D.P.W. Garage.

Yet going into week number two, the strikers are determined and strong. The AFSCME members are determined that with no contract there will be no work. Spontaneous roving pickets go from trouble spot to trouble spot. Morning and evening, workers from across the city beef up lines at the Election Commission to stop scab job applicants.

Union solidarity

The 7,000 AFSCME strikers are strengthened by the inspiring solidarity of 5,000 additional city workers who are refusing to cross the picket lines. These include Teamster garbage truck drivers and dogcatchers, Amalgamated Transit Union bus drivers and others.

The Metro AFL-CIO called on the mayor "to offer striking AFSCME members a fair and just contract and to enter into round-the-clock negotiations to achieve a contract settlement."

Tom Turner, President of Metro AFL-CIO, condemned the request for National Guard troops by Detroit Election Commission Director Ed Wilson as "despicable and inexcusable. It is obvious that he is interested in igniting violent confrontation."

A statement by Owen Bieber, international President of the United Auto Workers Union, also supported the AFSCME strike.

Rodney Prince, a bus mechanic from AFSCME Local 312, told Workers World, "Bus drivers will hold out. They're sticking with us. There's a good response from them on the picket lines. Drivers even honored our picket lines and forced the city to come outside to give them their layoff slips. If we're going out, we may as well hold out for 26%. We're like senior citizens on a fixed income, but nothing else is fixed."

The city management reconfirmed its unwillingness to bargain with AFSCME by going into both federal and circuit courts for injunctions on the very first day of the strike. Chief negotiator for AFSCME State Council 25, Al Garrett, demanded that the city bargain at the table, not in the courts. He rightly pointed out that the city was undermining negotiations.

The city's federal court action is based on the Water and Sewage Treatment Plant operating under federal court order to correct pollution problems. The injunction, which was granted, opened the gates to sludge haulers and contractors bringing in chemicals to treat the sludge for disposal.

Until the injunction, militant strikers from Local 207 had shut down all contractor traffic.

Injunction denied

The main effort to force city workers back to work, though, was in Wayne County Circuit Court. There, in a vic-

tory for the union, a blanket injunction based on the illegality of public workers' strikes was denied.

The swift effort to crush this strike through injunction is a lesson from recent labor disputes learned by those who manage Detroit's finances on behalf of the banks, General Motors and real estate developers.

Recently, in Philadelphia, an injunction and fines forced sanitation workers back to work after an 18-day strike. The workers initially defied the court order. By doing so, the Philadelphia strikers defended the most basic right for workers under a capitalist economic system. That is the right to withhold our labor to win a better share of the wealth we create for the boss.

Whether an injunction limits pickets to make them ineffective or orders "essential" workers back to work, the courts are a tool to bludgeon workers into submitting to the nationwide attack on our living standard. Although the courts are made to appear neutral, they only rule in favor of workers when they ratify what workers have already won through struggle.

In fact, when Judge Sharon Finch agreed in Circuit Court to order the city and the union to bargain but refused to issue a back-to-work order, her decision reflected the strength of the strike, the dissatisfaction of the Detroit community with the priority given by the city administration to big business and the strength of the workers' movement in Michigan over the last 50 years.

The city management's court action is aimed at overturning what workers as a whole have won in Michigan since the powerful and explosive union organizing movement of the 1930s as well as the AFSCME strike.

The city's injunction argument is based mainly on a 1947 state law prohibiting public workers' strikes. However, in 1968, the Michigan Supreme



Detroit city workers picket Russell-Ferry Garage after overcoming police restrictions.

WW PHOTO

Court ruled that before an injunction against striking public workers could be issued, all three of the following requirements had to be present.

First, the continuation of the strike must cause irreparable harm to the public. Second, the strike must be a breach of public peace and order. And third, the public employer must have bargained in good faith with the striking union.

It is no coincidence that this Michigan Supreme Court ruling limiting the basis for injunction was issued in 1968. Between 1965 and 1973, the average number of public sector strikes nationally soared to over 300 walkouts per year. With few exceptions, Michigan public workers led all other states, accounting for 20% of the national total in some years.

Eyeball to eyeball with the bosses, the union is standing firm against the city management demand that workers accept a paltry 2% increase in the first year of the contract, followed by

dubious raises tied to increased revenue. This revenue-based formula yielded less than 3% over three years in the previous contract while the municipal coffers overflowed with a record \$52 million surplus this year alone.

The union is determined in this contract to begin winning back the nine years of concessions given up by city workers and to stop the erosion of the bargaining units through contracting out of work and jobs. Aside from money, an important step toward halting contractual work is on the table.

The union is demanding that CNWs be included in the citywide contract. In the words of Christine MacDonald, interviewed on the picket line, "We are just like regular city employees, except the city is refusing to give us a contract and we have no benefits, no sick days, no holidays. I have scoliosis and I have been working three years under this individual service contract."

Continued on page 8

Detroit residents back city workers

By William Roundtree
and Jerry Goldberg

DETROIT, July 21 — When Nellie Cuellar, 86 years old, first heard about the Detroit city workers' strike, she immediately left her house, walked five blocks to the Health Department and joined the picketing.

Emma Curry went to the Neighborhood Services Department at 3rd and Alexandrine to pick up her food stamps. The pickets there told her she would have to go elsewhere to get them because of the strike. Did she get angry at the inconvenience? No. She returned the next day to join the line.

Gertrude Cook and Ethel Bailey, both seniors on fixed incomes and members of the All-Peoples Congress came out in 95 degree weather to march with AFSCME in a city-wide rally the second day of the strike. Their signs read "Fight Reagan — not the city workers," and "We support the city workers, they serve us."

Community response

Picketers have told Workers World of the encouraging responses they've received from the community. Neighbors have brought food and drinks to the lines. Small businesses have made donations. Cars continually honk their support when they drive by. Even the press up to now has been forced to acknowledge the positive community support for the AFSCME strikers.

And why not! As Rodney Prince, a bus mechanic from AFSCME Local 312, told Workers World on the picket

line, "We're city workers, but we're also citizens of Detroit." The workers are a part of the community. They all live in the city. Every day the city workers have contact with their fellow Detroiters. They provide substance abuse counseling, issue food stamps and commodity products, staff the zoo and parks and provide a myriad of other services from garbage collection to cleaning sewage from the water. And like their fellow Detroiters, every day they experience the devastating effects on the city brought on by big business.

For the past seven years, virtually every worker in Detroit has given up contract concessions and wage cuts, just as the city workers have done. The unemployed, seniors and welfare recipients have all had their benefits slashed since 1979.

Massive unemployment

Today, the unemployment rate in Detroit stands officially at 10.9%. 27,000 are homeless. A full 60% of the residents of Detroit are forced to depend on some kind of meager and always shrinking government aid for survival. Youth unemployment is too high to even measure.

While the election of a Black mayor and majority Black city council in Detroit was a victory resulting from the rebellions in the 1960s and early 1970s, the political superstructure has been unable to stem the attacks by big business on the city.

The city's primary answer to the economic attack has been to try to ap-

pease the corporations by offering tax breaks called abatements. In the past 12 years, city and local governments gave up \$56 million in tax abatements to the corporations. Another \$56 million in tax breaks has been allocated for the coming period.

But these tax breaks have not slowed big business's assault on Detroit. While they have helped corporations like Chrysler and General Motors amass record profits, the abatements in fact have led to a net loss of 37,000 jobs. Today, plant shutdowns continue to be an epidemic in the city. Chrysler shut seven plants in seven years. Wonder Bread, Stroh's and Vernors have all shut down in the last year.

At the same time, Reagan and Congress promise even more social service cutbacks in the next years to feed the ever growing military budget.

After seven years of sacrifices, seven years waiting for the "trickle down" to begin, seven years of Reaganite economics, people are fed up. The feeling in the community is that Detroit is overdue for some struggle. When Detroiters see their neighbors on the city workers' picketlines, the gut feeling is hardly one of hostility. For the community at large, the AFSCME strike represents at least the beginning of a fightback after years of givebacks. The message to Mayor Young and city council is, "Join the battle. Negotiate a decent contract. Fight Reagan and big business, not the city workers."

— South Africa struggle rocks London, Washington

Continued from page 1

also show that Reagan's recent denunciations of apartheid as "morally repugnant" are nothing but opportunistic posturing.

Brink of civil war

Inside South Africa, the rising tide of struggle and the bestial repression by the fascist apartheid regime have brought things to the brink of civil war.

The state of emergency imposed by the white minority regime on June 12 has meant the detention of some 5,000 people, including 270 trade union leaders. It has meant the brutal murder of well over 160 South Africans at the hands of the racist cops, or at least four per day. It has meant the military occupation of Black townships, schools and worksites and the tear-gassing of entire church congregations.

Despite this overwhelming repression, the level of struggle has not subsided. To the massive general strikes, the work slowdowns, in-plant actions, student boycotts, demonstrations and armed actions, the people have added a wave of tremendous rent strikes to their arsenal of protest.

World's largest rent strike!

Soweto township, home to more than a million, is in the largest Black residential area in South Africa. For more than six months, two-thirds of the population there have refused to pay for their horribly substandard housing and have refused to contribute to their own subjugation. The revenues collected from these exorbitant rents are used to pay the salaries of the Soweto Municipal Council, a body hand-picked by the regime to administer the township.

On July 16, the Botha regime re-

sponded to this protest by pouring hundreds of its security forces into the township. These heavily armed rent collectors, finding that even after killing two people they could not cow the militant strikers, instead ended up appealing to the masses to pay up. Very few obliged!

Botha unveils new terror weapon

In other news, the South African Defense Ministry, increasingly unable to maintain control of the people, has introduced the latest super-weapon in their vast array of military hardware. Last week, P.W. Botha unveiled the Cheetah, the first domestically produced jet-fighter, based on Israeli and French models. The display of the Cheetah, coupled with Botha's boast that "We are not a nation of jellyfish," was intended to bolster flagging morale within his own camp while simultaneously sending a message of continued terror throughout the region of southern Africa.

Perhaps these words were also intended as a signal to his allies in England and the U.S., whose pro-Pretoria policies have begun to isolate them within the international arena.

Commonwealth countries boycott

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's refusal to align herself with sweeping public sentiment in favor of strict economic sanctions has resulted in a schism both within the ruling Conservative Party and throughout the British Commonwealth. Twenty-seven nations are boycotting the Commonwealth Games, slated to begin Aug. 2, in protest over Thatcher's South Africa policy. Initiated by Nigeria and Kenya, the boycott now includes the Seychelles, Cyprus and most notably India, the most populous country in the world after

the People's Republic of China.

The possibility of a complete dissolution of the Commonwealth has ignited an internecine struggle within the highest councils of the British ruling class. Queen Elizabeth, as titular head of state of 17 Commonwealth countries, is reported to be fearful that the Thatcherites' stubborn support for apartheid will cost her realm too dearly.

A dispute of these proportions between Buckingham Palace and 10 Downing Street is almost unheard of in modern British history and reflects the depths of the crisis in foreign policy. The severity of Thatcher's failure to rally support is further highlighted by the refusal of all parties in southern Africa (except for Botha) to meet with her Foreign Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Reagan speech

Clutching the tattered remnants of an ailing South Africa policy, Ronald Reagan is faced with the same intractable problems confronting his counterpart in England. In a speech yesterday touted as the "definitive White House initiative," Reagan once again peddled the identical wares which have been the hallmarks of his constructive engagement policy all along.

As a sop to his critics, he repeated earlier State Department language suggesting the release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela, but then rendered this meaningless by condemning what he called "the calculated terror" of "the Soviet-armed guerrillas of the African National Congress." "The South African government is under no obligation to negotiate the future of the country," said Reagan, with any organization using "terrorist tactics and violence."

Reagan then effusively praised the



South African trade unionists in funeral procession

"dramatic changes" and "reforms" which Botha has supposedly brought about in favor of Black people!

This speech should lay to rest once and for all any doubts about Reagan's true position. He is an ardent backer of the fascist regime and a bitter enemy of those trying to overthrow it. Today's revelation in the New York Times that the G-Group of the U.S. National Security Agency has been carrying out round-the-clock espionage against the ANC, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Botswana and Tanzania for years and sharing all such information with the South African Directorate of Military Intelligence, only further confirms the hand-in-glove relationship which ties Washington to Pretoria.

Ambassador fiasco

Reagan's address came on the heels of the administration's aborted attempt to appoint a conservative Black businessman, Robert J. Brown, to the post of U.S. Ambassador to South Africa. Brown's nomination was condemned by virtually every Black leader as a means to give a facelift to

Nationwide actions urge end

Seattle marchers celebrate Mandela birthday

Special to Workers World
SEATTLE, July 18 — Tonight people in Seattle celebrated Nelson Mandela's birthday with a march from the South African consulate to the African American Heritage Museum. The march was planned by a coalition of Black and gay activists to mark the event and to link apartheid in South Africa with racism at home.

At the South African consulate, Maryamu Eltayeb of the Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid described several recent events as candles in the birthday cake of Nelson Mandela: the lifting of the house ban on Winnie Mandela, the end of Krugerrand sales in the U.S. and the decision by Treetop to stop importing and selling apple juice from South Africa.

The recent reactionary Aryan Nation gathering in Hayden Lake, Idaho, was condemned.

When the march passed two Shell stations, demonstrators were told of Royal Dutch Shell's brutal exploitative role in South Africa. Marchers chanted, "Royal Dutch Shell, when will you decide to stop oiling the machinery of genocide?"

Omari Tahir, one of the African American Heritage Museum occupiers, stopped the march in a recently gentrified area. He pointed out a small Black-owned laundromat that cannot get a loan to continue, while new white-owned businesses are going up all around it.

The final point of interest before reaching the Museum was the I-90 project, which has displaced many residents of the Black community, and yet which will have no off-ramp to enter the community. This highway, built through the heart of the Black area, also has very little minority participation in construction.

The very spirited march ended at the African American Heritage Museum. The fight for the museum has been a central issue in the Black community since the mid-seventies.

A member of Teens Against Apartheid chaired the rally at the Museum. Speakers addressed racism and apartheid, the still-unsolved Green River murders of more than 36 women and the forced relocation of Native people at Big Mountain. The speaker from Big Mountain spoke of the similarity of the situation for Native people here and Black people in South Africa.

Wil Smith of the All-Peoples Congress linked the struggle against apartheid and racism and spoke on Reagan's consideration of Robert Brown for the post of U.S. ambassador to South Africa. He said that Brown has been a union-buster and has helped to divide the Black community against itself. "This nomination is an insult to the Black community and in South Africa he would be considered a collaborator and deserving of the necklace."

U.S. prisoners protest food from South Africa

By Betsey Piette

PHILADELPHIA, July 17 — Prisoners at Graterford State Prison in Pennsylvania have demonstrated solidarity with their struggling sisters and brothers in South Africa by exposing the purchase of food from South Africa by the Pennsylvania state prison system.

Prisoners sent the Philadelphia Tribune, a newspaper in the Black community, a label from a fruit cocktail can packed for World Food Products of New York showing "product of the Republic of South Africa" in bold-face print.

In a front page lead article in their July 11 issue, the Tribune reported on

the prisoners' letter, which charged that "perhaps thousands of boxes of South African goods are warehoused at Graterford Prison."

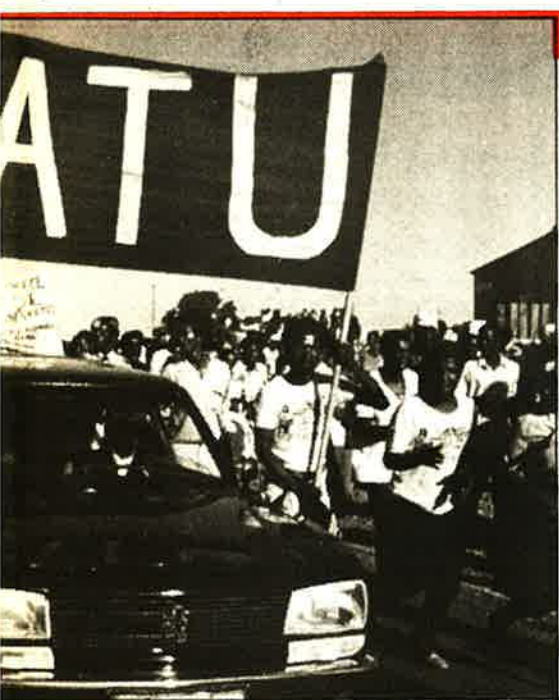
Anti-apartheid legislator State Rep. David P. Richardson, from the largely Black Germantown area of Philadelphia, pledged to introduce legislation to bar the state from further purchase of South African products. Richardson told the Tribune that Black people "have been leading the charge ... against apartheid ... and they (the state) have the audacity, the gall to contract a firm doing business with South Africa ... when the prison system is 78% Black. We don't want it, and we want it kicked out of the state."



Soweto Remembered, Conversations with Freedom Fighters, a new book commemorating the 1976 uprising. Let people from South Africa and Namibia tell you of their lives, struggles and dreams of freedom for the oppressed in their homeland.

\$3.25 and 75¢ postage

Order from: World View Forum
46 W. 21 St., N.Y., N.Y. 10010



Protest for slain activist in Port Elizabeth.

the same old Reagan policy, and was an embarrassment to even the closest friends of the administration in Congress.

With nothing new to show, the Reaganites in the Senate are not looking forward to the upcoming debate on Capitol Hill over the question of sanctions.

Reagan was right in one aspect of his assessment. South Africa is in a "state of transition." What has sparked such rancor at the summits of the British and U.S. ruling classes, however, is that this transition is not in favor of their exploiting class interests.

The specter haunting the imperialists is the impending seizure of power by an aroused and conscious mass led by a revolutionary proletariat in the most economically and geopolitically strategic nation in Africa. And this unstoppable force is fully expressed in the words of ANC leader Winnie Mandela: "Thatcher and Reagan are both dripping with the same blood that is on the hands of the Botha regime!"

What's at stake for U.S. interests in South Africa?

By Monica Moorehead

JULY 21 — White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan remarked in an interview on July 16 that if economic sanctions were imposed upon the racist, apartheid regime of South Africa, "are the women of America prepared to give up all their jewelry?" To characterize such an insidious statement as sexist and anti-woman is undeniable.

Of course, one has to ask what "American" women Regan was referring to — certainly not poor and oppressed women who could care less about wearing diamonds, having to worry from one day to the next whether there will be enough food on the table or a roof over their heads, thanks to the Reagan cutbacks.

The truth of the matter is that neither Regan nor Reagan himself could care less about women wearing diamonds. This statement was merely a smokescreen to cover their real concern over losing their "right" to exploit the extraordinary mineral wealth and cheap labor of South Africa.

This is a recurring nightmare for both big business and the banks, the citadels of finance capital, who have extracted super-profits and who stand to lose those profits in the very near future, because of the national liberation struggle daily engulfing South Africa and the entire southern Africa region. This is a struggle led by the Black workers, students and the mass of the population under the guidance of the African National Congress, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and others.

The Reaganites and Thatcherites, along with the rest of the world, understand that this is not a struggle merely to exchange one set of slavemasters for another but to kick out all the racist oppressors and exploiters internationally — racists who have kept the hated apartheid system of super-exploitation, extreme poverty and brutal terror thriving for decades.

The resistance of the U.S. and Great Britain, especially in implementing total economic sanctions — that is, the breaking of all ties with apartheid economically, politically and diplomatically — flows from their economic interests in the mineral wealth of South Africa. These precious minerals are the source of the bosses' profits along with the forced cheap labor of millions of Black South African workers who produce all the wealth in society.

Lion's share of mineral wealth

Ninety-three percent of the world's strategic minerals are concentrated in the Soviet Union and South Africa, 50% and 43% respectively. South Africa's mineral riches include chromium, manganese, platinum, cobalt and diamonds, and these are just the tip of the iceberg. For instance, platinum is a very strategic metal to the development of many vital industries in the U.S. Lack of this metal and others would "shut down or throttle the steel, automotive, chemical, plastics and petroleum industries. It would halt the production of optical fiber for the communications industry. It would severely hobble the production of food,

computer components and weapons." (N.Y. Times, July 15) Platinum, chromium and vanadium are all vital to the U.S. military industries — that is, to the Pentagon.

The platinum group metals like palladium, rhodium, osmium, etc., are irreplaceable catalysts in the manufacture of gasoline, fertilizers and plastics, and are used medically in bone implants and in the cancer-fighting drug, cisplatin.

Lacking these metals in any large proportions, U.S. imperialism depends on South Africa for the importation of 73% of the chromium, all of the manganese and 92% of the platinum group metals. Other imperialist countries like Japan, France and West Germany are highly dependent on the mineral wealth of South Africa but also import some of these metals from the Soviet Union but without profit.

Driven by the very nature of imperialism to expand their markets to make more profits or to die, the U.S. as well as other highly industrialized capitalist countries are constantly in dire need of these raw materials to build their industries to help churn out profits. However, the oppressed people of South Africa who for many years have been denied the right to control their land, resources and labor for the benefit of all South Africans are determined to seize power from their racist oppressors and their imperialist allies to insure that all this wealth will be diverted to creating a decent way of life for all South Africans and humanity in general.

to U.S. support for apartheid

Student struggle forces UC divestment vote

By Jane Cutter

SANTA CRUZ, July 18 — Under pressure of continuing anti-apartheid protests, the University of California (UC) Regents today voted for a phased divestment from corporations doing business with South Africa. The plan calls for a one-year grace period, followed by an annual one-third reduction. Despite qualifications in the plan, this is a victory because the Regents said they would never divest.

The UC system has at least \$3 billion invested in corporations doing business with South Africa. Since the fall of 1985, these investments have been the target of the new student movement inspired by revolutionary developments within South Africa.

At the Regents meeting which started yesterday 200 students from all UC campuses and San Francisco State University maintained a constant presence. The attendance is significant considering that it is the middle of summer vacation.

The divestment resolution was introduced to the Regents by Reaganite Governor George Deukmejian, who had previously voted against divestment. As student activists pointed out, Deukmejian's reversed position comes at a politically opportune time, as he runs for re-election against Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, a Black man.

The one-year grace period and three-year phase-in also came under attack by Nadia Floyd of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) representing UC workers. She pointed out that while the phase-in goes into effect, Black South Africans will continue to die as they fight for their liberation.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

University of California at Santa Cruz — a new mood on the campuses.

She called for immediate full divestment.

Most of the Regents are rich men with ties to companies that do business with South Africa. Their concern with profitability, not the liberation of

South Africans, can be seen in the language of the Deukmejian resolution. "The rising tide of unrest and violence . . . could affect the long-term profitability of corporations doing business with South Africa."

EDITORIAL

'Normandy invasion'

DID THE GOVERNMENT of Bolivia "invite" the U.S. Army to send combat troops down there on anti-drug raids? Not according to Jacobo Liebermann, the chief spokesman for Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro.

"We would have liked assistance of a different nature, entirely run by Bolivians," Liebermann told the press on July 19. "Instead," he said, "we got the invasion of Normandy."

This left U.S. officials sputtering in embarrassment. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams could only mumble about how "it won't help them much" to contradict Washington this way. It's all a re-run of last April, when the Reagan Administration said that Honduras was begging for help to "resist a Sandinista incursion." The foreign minister of Honduras immediately replied that he wasn't aware of any such attack by Nicaragua, that no one had invited the U.S. to help repel this mythical

threat and that he was going away to spend the weekend at the beach since nothing was happening.

Reality has a way of intruding, no matter what the game plan worked out by imperialism, and the reality in Bolivia is one of deep hatred of the Yankee colossus to their north and the huge imperialist banks which are bleeding their country dry with impossible demands.

"We have no money, zero," the economic attache in Bolivia's Washington embassy explained. The U.S. banks and corporations have taken everything. Now the Pentagon wants to utilize the drug issue to establish its right to deploy troops first in Bolivia and then all over Latin America.

But the military brass has underestimated the sort of popular anger this is sure to awaken throughout that continent, outrage that is reflected by the Bolivian government's charge that they never asked for this invasion.

Liberty Bell strike-breakers

"NEITHER SLAVERY nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to its jurisdiction."

This is supposed to be the law of the land, as stated by the 13th amendment to the Constitution.

So what right does a Philadelphia judge have to order striking sanitation workers to return to the job against their will or face fines, dismissal or prison? Their wage demands were just and right. And they had the power to enforce them, to win. Until the courts put a gun to their head, in the form of an anti-labor injunction.

The strikers showed in the manner that they resisted this self-destruct order for three days, that, with sufficient preparation they could have taken on this slave-labor decree.

Knowing that Philadelphia's Mayor Wilson Goode alone would not stand a chance against this militant strike and that therefore an injunction should be expected, the labor movement could have used the recent meeting of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive

Board to find ways to meet the challenge.

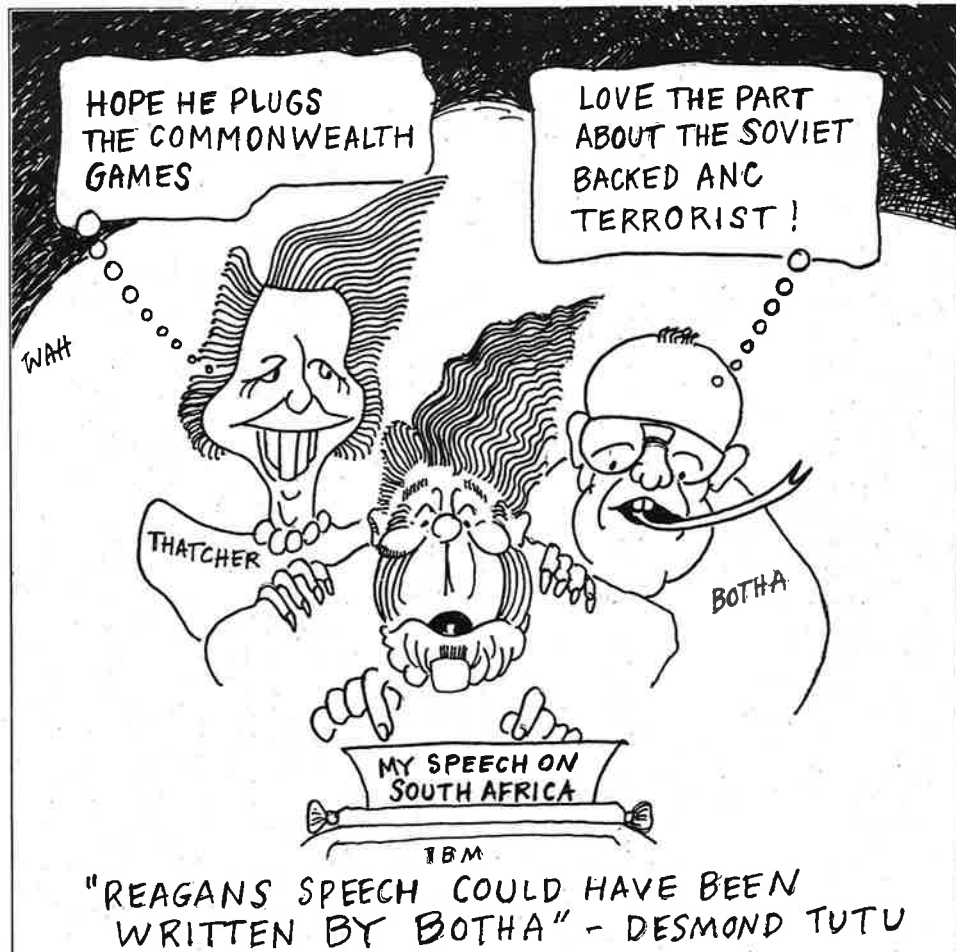
The role of the state, of the courts which are backed by the wealthy ruling class elements, has to be taken into account. Strike strategies have to be reinforced, with both an understanding of the way the courts are used against the workers and the employment of creative methods to resist this trend.

The Philadelphia sanitation workers, many of whom are Black, could have found many allies in that city's oppressed communities. Labor activists everywhere who have faced the same kind of strike-breaking tactics would have looked for ways to aid the Philadelphia struggle, if the AFSCME leaders had put word out that an injunction might be coming down.

The strength of collective labor is a mighty force, an accumulated power far greater than any court, if properly organized. The 20-day walk-out in Philadelphia showed this. But unionists must take the political realities of contemporary class society into account to be victorious. That is the overall lesson of the Philadelphia strike.

The city moved against these CNWs last Saturday. Eight CNWs received registered letters terminating their contracts Aug. 1 supposedly due to lack of funds. But by Saturday night, the union leadership had brought the CNW rank-and-file negotiators down to the main bargaining table to fight back against this attack.

City management efforts to order workers back to work through injunction are stalled at this time. Pressure to complete preparations for the elections is mounting. The mounds of garbage are growing at the six emergency collection sites. And downtown businesses are crying because bus riders can't get to their shops.



LETTERS

Roy Cohn's disbarment

ROY Cohn's disbarment is based on fraud and unethical and reprehensible conduct going back to the 1960s. His most flagrant corruption and misconduct dates back to the 1950s, where he was the evil genius behind the Rosenberg trial . . .

Cohn was special assistant prosecutor in the Rosenberg case, assisting U.S. Attorney Irving Saypol. However, as Cohn informed the House Criminal Justice subcommittee in its Dec. 16, 1982 hearing on the death penalty and the Rosenberg case, he was the major force in the prosecution. He said it was he who had prepared and questioned David Greenglass, the chief witness at the trial, and it was he who wrote the opening statement and the summation delivered by prosecutor Saypol.

The Court of Appeals pointed out in its decision that without the Greenglass testimony the convictions could not stand. It noted, however, that questionable as that testimony might appear, higher courts in the federal judicial system were not permitted to review such testimony, that credibility of witnesses was the province of the jury alone to determine. Later, when proof of Greenglass' perjuries became overwhelming, the original trial judge, Irving R. Kaufman, refused to grant a hearing on those perjuries . . .

The government's case was defective, in that despite its original claims of overwhelming, indisputable, documentary proof against the Rosenbergs, it became clear when all the testimony was concluded that there was absolutely no confirmation of Greenglass' testimony implicating the Rosenbergs. Roy Cohn stepped into the breach and invented a "corroborating" witness in the summation, the last word at the trial, too late to be exposed for its total falsity by the defense, and evidently "overlooked" by Judge Kaufman.

The invented "corroborator" was Harry Gold, who never knew the Rosenbergs and who never mentioned them at the trial, and who had told the FBI and the prosecution that he'd never heard of the Rosenbergs before his arrest . . .

National Committee to Reopen the Rosenberg Case
New York, N.Y.

Remember Workers World

WHILE looking at a progressive magazine today, I saw an ad on the bottom of a page toward the back of the magazine which read, "When drafting your will, please consider making a bequest. For information, write or call: Office of the Publisher," etc., etc.

I think Workers World should discuss running an ad like this. It could be an important source of funds, which I know you all need very much.

Karen Durbin
Baton Rouge, La.

Editor's note: Good idea! Readers who would like to consider making a bequest should contact Workers World, 46 W. 21 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Haiti news

PRESENTLY I am incarcerated at Florida State Prison. Originally I am from the Dominican Republic on the island of Hispanola, which is shared by Haiti.

The developments of the recent revolution in Haiti are extremely important to me as whatever progress made will eventually affect the entire island and my country. The big business news media will not give an accurate account of what is occurring and the only way to obtain a true account of developments is to read your newspaper.

Occasionally here at the prison someone will pass a paper to me, but it will have been many weeks old. I would like to have a subscription, but unfortunately I am insolvent, as most prisoners are in Florida. As you probably are aware, Florida pays nothing to us for our forced slave labor. Therefore, I respectfully request that you donate me a subscription to your paper so that I can keep up with the developments in my country as well as in the world.

Lecoin Franz
Starke, Fla.

Editor's note: Workers World has a policy of sending free subscriptions to prisoners. For those readers who can, please send an extra contribution to the newspaper so we can maintain this policy and help provide a revolutionary voice within the prison walls.

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

—Detroit

Continued from page 5

"I can't afford to have my back X-rayed because we don't have medical insurance. There is no job security, they can cancel my contract at any time, they keep saying that we're temporary but there are people who have worked in this program contractually for six, seven, even nine years.

"Every one on individual service contract should sign the green union cards. If the union continued to sign up people, there won't be any more contracting out."

LTV bankruptcy — ploy for unionbusting

By Gary Wilson

JULY 21 — It was payday in the steel mills. Thursday. Another hot and sweaty summer day. But this Thursday, July 17, was different.

The first sign was when the workers went to the bank to cash their paychecks. Mellon Bank, a big investor in the steel industry, refused to cash the checks issued by LTV Steel. Then the workers learned that the second largest steel company in the U.S. had filed for bankruptcy the day before in a New York City courtroom.

Eventually everyone got paid. But it changed everybody's way of looking at their jobs. Something new was happening. The daily routine had ended.

Talk of organizing demonstrations has emerged at LTV Steel mills in Ohio and Indiana. Workers are telling themselves, "We've got to do something."

The old timers, who soon heard the news, also learned that their pensions as well as medical and life insurance were to be the first casualties if LTV and the bankers calling the shots got their way.

Immediately the bankruptcy court in New York authorized the cutting off of medical and life insurance payments for 78,000 retirees.

Them's fighting words in the steel towns.

In Cleveland, Nicholas Boytim, 80 years old, began to write a letter to other retired steel workers. The organizing is beginning.

"It took us 75 to 100 years to get what we got," Boytim said. "Now they're taking it away, legally."

'We had to fight to get it'

"When you work in a steel mill or coal mine or a foundry, they are the filthiest, dirtiest, unsafest jobs in the world," he said. "And we earned every penny that we got. We had to fight to get it. Strike. Strike. Strike."

For the executives at the luxurious, air conditioned headquarters of LTV in Dallas and the bankers on Wall Street and in Pittsburgh, they got the profits from the steel mills the easy way — they just took them.

LTV is number 43 in the Fortune 500 list of largest U.S. industrial corporations. It started out as a small electronics company that grew into a major conglomerate that includes a major aerospace division that is one of the Pentagon's biggest contractors.

But steel is the biggest part of this corporate giant. According to the 10,000-page brief filed in the bankruptcy court, LTV has total assets of \$6.14 billion. That's broken down as \$4.89 billion in steel, \$801 million in aerospace and \$464 million in energy products.

In other words, steel is everything for this company; steel is what makes it big and powerful. And it is the steel workers who made it that way, not the corporate hotshots in Dallas.

LTV had nothing to do with steel until the 1960s. In 1968, it bought Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. It was a controversial deal and after a federal investigation and lawsuit stemming from it, founder James Ling was forced out by the bankers and Paul Thayer was made chairman and chief executive.

Thayer led the company through the 1970s and added Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company to LTV's steel holdings. He was also adding to the corporation's bank account with crooked deals with the Pentagon. Thayer's style of bribery and overcharging was so popular with the Pentagon that he was made the second in charge there by the Reagan administration, directly under Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger.

Through the first 4 years of the Rea-

gan administration, this LTV officer held his post. Then an investigation and prosecution forced him to resign in 1985 on the day of his sentencing. On May 8, 1985, he was ordered to serve 5 years in prison. He was convicted for only a small portion of all the charges he possibly faced. Thayer was convicted of making it possible for LTV to steal "\$5 million in profits" through Pentagon contracts.

Following Thayer's reign at LTV, Raymond Hay came in and bought out Republic Steel Corporation, making LTV Steel the second largest steel maker in the country.

Greater profits outside steel

But now LTV wants to pursue a new strategy. They want to use the wealth created by the steel workers, the wealth that is the backbone of the company, and put it into something that can get them a higher rate of profit. It's not that steel is unprofitable; it's just that greater profits can be made elsewhere.

First they shut down the Aliquippa, Pa., steel plant. This happened in May 1985. In 1981, there had been 10,000 steel workers at this plant. The company had invested \$600 million over 10 years to modernize the facilities, making it one of the most up-to-date plants in the country. But they shut it down.

Then, as the contract came due in 1986, the company met with the union and said that everyone knows that the steel industry is depressed and you have to make concessions. The company said it was being "open and honest" (could it have really changed so much since the days of Ling and Thayer?) and opened its books to the union. The union signed a contract last spring that gave the company a whopping \$3.15-an-hour in wage-and-benefit cuts.

Sounds just like every other steel industry story for the last five years.

But while the company claimed it was showing its books to the union, it was going over a different set of books in secret meetings with a group of bankers in preparation for its filing for bankruptcy. The bankruptcy papers revealed that the company has been "negotiating" with a committee of 21 banks. An LTV spokesman quoted in the Wall Street Journal (July 18) said, "It's no secret that we've been talking to the banks for months on issues related to liquidity."

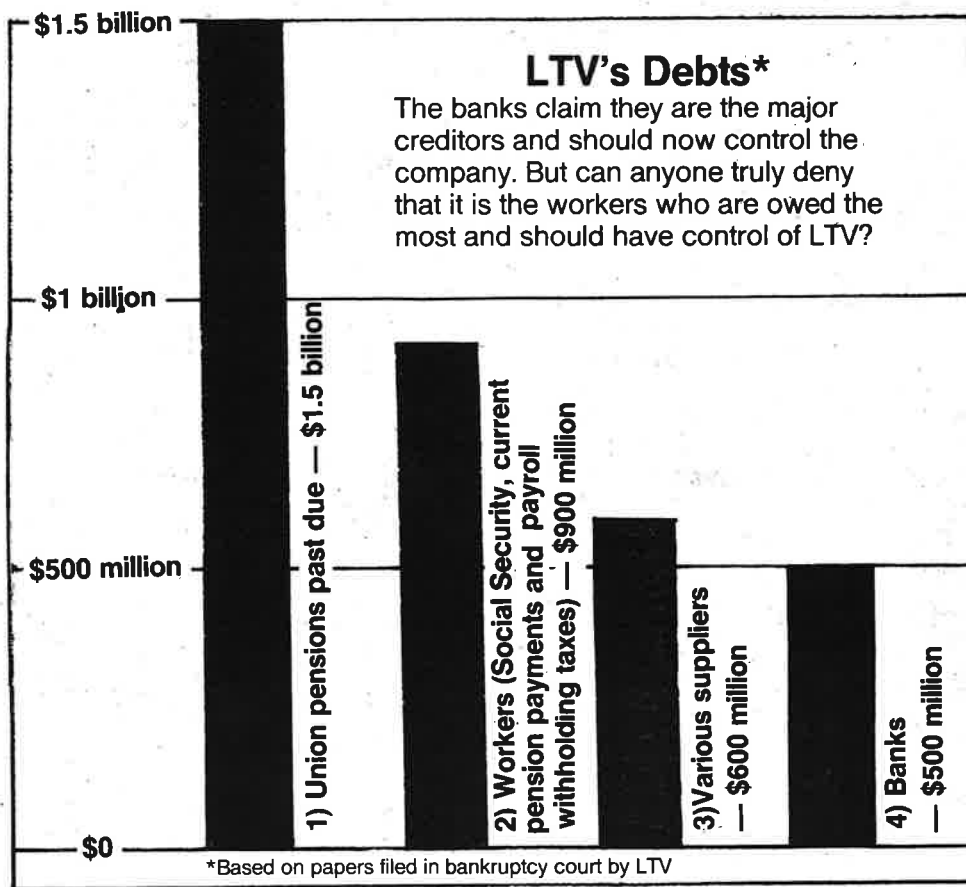
It may not have been a secret on Wall Street, but it was a secret kept from the workers.

Bankruptcy as a tactic to break the union

The bankruptcy ploy is the biggest so far. Big corporations have begun to use bankruptcy as a strategy against the workers and their unions. The first to do this was Manville Corporation which went into bankruptcy proceedings to avoid paying workers and their families just compensation for the horrible asbestos poisoning the company was responsible for.

The second anti-labor bankruptcy was last year by Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel. After a 98-day strike by the United Steel Workers union, the contract was rewritten to include the biggest concessions to date. The filing for bankruptcy was done at the behest of the banks on Wall Street.

Now, the banks have pushed the much larger LTV Corporation to do the same. Their stated goal, according to Robert H. Potts, chairman of the Columbus, Ohio, based Banc One Corp., one of the leading banks in LTV, is to gain a greater part of the bulging contracts being handed out by the Pentagon and "to wrest further wage and benefit concessions from its labor unions" (Wall Street Journal, July 22).



WW GRAPHIC: DOROTHY MARTIN

The main banks in the group of 21 are Wall Street's Manufacturers Hanover Trust and Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh followed by New York-based Bankers Trust and Marine Midland Bank. Others include Chase Manhattan, Continental Illinois, Morgan Guaranty, Banc One and Security Pacific.

The court and the Pentagon have been willing players in this scheme. In the bankruptcy court LTV has asked for special permission to pay debts owed to creditors connected to its Pentagon contracts. Legally under the bankruptcy law all debt payments are frozen, but this is no normal bankruptcy.

Pentagon to the rescue

The Pentagon has announced it will continue to pour money into the company during the bankruptcy proceedings, insuring a cash flow for this union-busting maneuver.

What all this means for the 6,700 workers in the aerospace division represented by the United Auto Workers union is not yet known. UAW officials in Texas and Arkansas where LTV's aerospace plants are located said in a statement that they would "use every legal, political and other means at our disposal to see to it that our members . . . do not become victims. . . ."

At the United Steel Workers union headquarters in Pittsburgh, President Lynn Williams' first response was to say that there was no way the union would renegotiate the concession contract it signed with the company last spring.

In the bankruptcy papers, LTV said its debts were \$4.59 billion, in other words considerably less than its assets which are over \$6 billion. The biggest single group of creditors, according to the bankruptcy papers, is the workers who are owed \$900 million in Social Security payments, current pension payments and payroll withholding taxes that the company has not yet paid.

Second is the group of 21 banks with \$500 million in liabilities and third are suppliers who between them are owed some \$600 million. Individual and institutional bondholders hold the remaining amount.

In addition, there is a whopping \$1.5 billion in what are called unfunded pensions. That means that the company was obligated to pay the \$1.5 billion to the workers' pensions according to the legally binding contract, but it did not do so. Instead the money was used elsewhere.

While this is not technically part of the company's debts according to the way the laws are written, it is certainly money owed to the workers.

This makes the workers the undisputed top creditors for LTV. No other creditor can claim to be owed even half of what the workers are owed.

In the bankruptcy code, the top creditor is usually appointed as the trustee to take over the running of the company. In fact, filing for bankruptcy primarily means that the company has forfeited ownership and control and the courts appoint a trustee to take over.

Union as trustee in bankruptcy

Under the new conditions imposed by the banks and the corporation, the union not only has the right but the duty to demand that it be appointed trustee in bankruptcy as the only way to protect the workers' massive investment in the company, the big debt owed to them.

This is not a new idea. It was first proposed at the time of the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel bankruptcy as a new union strategy to meet the new conditions. If the companies are going to change the rules in order to break their union contracts, the unions must find ways to fight under the new rules. Filing for trusteeship is just such a strategy.

To take on this challenge, however, it means that the unions will be facing the banks head on. Already Manufacturers Hanover, Mellon and even Chase Manhattan banks are telling the court that they should take charge of the company in order to "protect their interests."

The union has this right too and must act upon it. But it will take the active participation of the whole membership to make such a struggle more than mere symbolism. It will take both the Steel Workers and the Auto Workers unions as well as every other union possible.

For the steel workers who have faced the heat of the blast furnace, for the assembly workers who have faced the bark of the foreman, for all the workers who have come under the iron heel of the corporate headquarters in Dallas and the bankers on Wall Street, this is a struggle that can be met and tackled like so many other struggles before.

It's like the old-timer said, "We earned every penny that we got. We had to fight to get it." That fighting spirit at LTV Steel is yet to be heard from, but when it speaks all will listen.

Rank hypocrisy behind 'Captive Nations week'

By Andy Stapp

JULY 19 — Wolodymir Osidach had "a passion for killing people."

That's the way one witness described him at his 1979 trial in Philadelphia. Osidach, who had entered the U.S. in 1949 as a "refugee from communism," was finally facing his victims, the few who had survived. From 1942 to 1944 this man was the top-ranking Nazi collaborator in the Ukrainian city of Rava Ruska. In fact, he had been Police Commandant for an entire district.

Anna Weinfeld, Philip Langer, and Kurt Lewin were all there in Philadelphia to testify, just as they had been there in Rava Ruska 35 years before. These elderly people witnessed everything. Ten thousand transported in

trucks to the Sidletskiy Forest and shot. Two thousand more executed at a local cemetery. Eighteen thousand killed inside the walls of the Rava Ruska prisoner-of-war camp. And always, they said, Police Commandant Osidach was present, with his whip and his pistol and his boots.

The court found Wolodymir Osidach guilty, declaring that he had obtained entry into the U.S. by fraud. But nothing else happened. Two years passed, and the Beast of Rava Ruska died peacefully in his own bed on May 26, 1981.

Osidach was not unique. There were many others, former police officials in Lvov and Odessa and Luboml and Zaporozhe, who fled with the retreating Wehrmacht toward the end of the

war as the Red Army advanced, discarded their SS uniforms, and soon found safe haven in Cleveland and Brooklyn and Chicago and Waterbury, Conn. They left behind a Soviet government demanding justice for unspeakable crimes, for the six million Ukrainians and Jewish people exterminated under the fascist occupation.

In the mid-1970s, the United States authorities finally conceded that "an error" had been made, that it had been "mistaken" to welcome so many thousands of these fascists to this country, that Washington was "deceived" by their claim that they were only "nationalists" who had fought for a "free Ukraine."

But even among the few belatedly brought into court — Michael Dercacz,

Albert Deutscher, Anatoly Hrusitzky, Sergei Kowalchuk, Bohdan Koziy, Alexander Lehmann, Michael Popczuk, George Theodorovich — only one, Treblinka Concentration Camp guard Fedor Fedorenko, was ever sent back to the Soviet Union for trial and punishment.

An infamous date

The others, who undoubtedly watched the televised Congressional speeches marking "Captive Nations Week" this July 14, know that these days they needn't worry much about anything like that happening to them. Seeing Representative Paul Henry (R-Mich.) hail all those "Ukrainian freedom fighters" who came here after the Second World War, must have been particularly gratifying to the old Blue Shirt veterans. Especially when the Congressman declared right from the speaker's podium that "June 30 is Ukrainian Independence Day."

During Hitler's attack on the USSR, the Nazi invaders crossed into the Ukraine on June 30, 1941. It's a date most people don't celebrate, outside the circles of a few aging butchers and inside the halls of the U.S. Congress.

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Refugees and Ethiopia. In April the Chairman of the UN High Commission on Refugees, Ambassador Chiba, visited Somalia and Ethiopia where vast numbers of people have been turned into refugees to escape the long-standing drought. In the June 1986 issue of the magazine Refugees, put out by the UNHCR, he described conditions at two refugee camps in Ethiopia — Itang, where refugees from Sudan had settled, and Berak, housing Ethiopians who had gone to Somalia and returned. "In Itang, in south-west Ethiopia, I saw a vast complex where work is being carried out in a very efficient way. There are problems, of course, but I felt they are being coped with. The UNHCR people and the locals as well as the refugees themselves are working together in a very positive way. The problems are not insurmountable. . . . The returnees are very numerous in Ethiopia and consequently have many problems. Because of bad weather we were not able to go to the southern part of Hararghe, in the Ogaden, but instead, I was privileged to see a project for the returnees in Berak, near Dire Dawa. The dedication of the UNHCR staff in Ethiopia is remarkable; the crops the returnees grow under the guidance of these workers are impressive. The water projects are also very positive achievements. But of course the environment is very hostile and weather conditions cause damage. . . . Because of the vast size of the country, the environment in Ethiopia is very complex, with different conditions in different areas. And of course, needs and problems are not the same for refugees and returnees. UNHCR, with its long experience, is providing the right kind of assistance. I was impressed by the understanding and the cooperation of the Ethiopians. All concerned are sincerely working for the welfare of the refugees and the returnees, despite the enormous problems the country is encountering."

A nuke-free Korea? Last month, marking the anniversary of the devastating U.S. war of intervention in the 1950s that left Korea divided, the government of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (north Korea) proposed that the Korean Peninsula be designated a nuclear-free peace zone to "ensure peace and security both in Korea and the rest of the world." In south Korea today, there are 40,000 U.S. troops and over 1,000 nuclear weapons, in addition to the large army of the U.S.-puppet regime. North Korea has no nuclear weapons. The proposal of the DPRK is supported by both the Soviet Union and China, as well as by progressive parties in the region. So far, there has been no response from either the U.S. or its south Korean puppets.

Ending homelessness. The U.S., with a highly developed industrial base and rich resources, has millions of homeless people and acts like nothing can be done about it. Not so in Afghanistan. In this poor country, which has to devote much of its energy to repelling the attacks of U.S.-financed mercenaries, they nevertheless know where to put their priorities. From the Afghan news agency Bakh-tar, May 3: "About 5,000 residential apartments have been built since the April revolution of 1978 and were distributed to the people. Over 34,000 homeless people received flats in the residential area of Microrayan in the same period. Over 300 apartments in the residential projects of Shahrara, Third Parwan, were also distributed in the same period. A number of schools, kindergartens and health centers were also established in the residential area of Microrayan in order to provide facilities for the residents of that area. About 1,200 flats will be built during the current Afghan year, begun 21 March 1986, and will be distributed to the homeless people."

Rojas murder. The Reagan administration is trying to take credit for forcing the Pinochet regime to arrest and investigate 25 Chilean military personnel. Already the regime has let 17 of the soldiers off. They were involved in burning to death a Chilean high school graduate from Washington, D.C. After completing school, Rodrigo Rojas de Negri had planned to travel through his native land for several months, camera in hand. The account of the ordeal of Rojas and his young Chilean friend, Carmen Quintana Arancibia, at the hands of the Chilean army has made the world shudder. The horrifying murder occurred at a time when rising Chilean resistance is challenging the regime of the U.S. fascist puppet Pinochet. Reagan has made it clear that he is looking for a suitable — that is suitable to the interests of U.S. big business — replacement should the resistance continue to grow. Pinochet is being pressed at home and abroad for an end to the brutal violence this incident exemplifies. What better time for the U.S. government, sponsor of all Pinochet's crimes, to join in and attempt to wash their hands of the blame?

Extradition treaty. The U.S. Senate has approved an extradition treaty with Britain that "is an attempt to criminalize the legitimate demands for Irish freedom," says Gerry Adams, president of the Sinn Fein Party, an Irish political organization in sympathy with the Irish Republican Army. The new treaty is retroactive and will permit the courts to extradite Irish political refugees like Joseph Doherty and Liam Quinn who were previously eligible for political asylum here. They will be returned to the infamous Diplock courts, to face trial without a jury, a prosecution based on the uncorroborated testimony of anonymous police informers and a British military judge who customarily passes out 20-and-30-year sentences in prisons which have repeatedly been condemned by the European Commission on Human Rights for torturing Irish prisoners. The U.S. Senate ratified the extradition law by a 87 to 10 vote. Senators who pretend to support the Irish struggle, such as Daniel Patrick Moynihan, fell right into line behind the Reagan-Thatcher colonialist pact. Adams was himself denied entry to the U.S. earlier this month even though he was elected to the British Parliament by West Belfast in a demonstration of support for Sinn Fein's campaign to end English colonial occupation of the six northern counties in Ireland.

Join us in the struggle

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

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DANIEL ORTEGA TO SPEAK TO UN

On Tuesday, July 29, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will speak to the UN Security Council on U.S. aggression against his country. Come out and oppose U.S. contra aid and welcome this revolutionary figure!

Demonstration of support for Nicaragua

Time: Tuesday, July 29, 8:30-10:00 a.m.

Place: First Ave. and 42nd St., NYC

Called by Casa Nicaragua

Poverty in Cleveland up 40% since 1980

By Alan Roth

CLEVELAND, July 9 — Once each month, the state and federal governments report that unemployment has either dropped or has slightly inched up. No alarm, so they say. Things won't get worse. Their paint brush is rosy. Yet, a recent economic study prepared here uncovers the grim truth behind these statistics.

In a report entitled "Poverty Indicators," issued by the Council for Economic Opportunity, it states that in the Cleveland area, poverty has increased 40% since 1980. This is not just for the city of Cleveland, but includes the suburban areas, covering 1.5 million people.

More than 17% of this population, or 250,000 people, are at or below the poverty level. For a single person, it's

\$5,360, \$7,240 for two, and \$11,000 for a family of four.

Last month, there was some “good news and bad news” for Ohioans. The good news made the front pages and the national news. Ohio was one of the leading states in an increase in new jobs. The bad news was whispered on the inside pages. The manufacturing sector — steel, auto, machine tools — remained in a serious decline. The new jobs were primarily in the service sector, that is, non-union and low-paying.

It is this kind of growth that characterizes the move to high tech. This is a hallmark of Democratic Governor Richard Celeste's administration's job program. Not very rosy for a steelworker out of work with mortgage payments and children who want to go to college.

The CEO report also pointed out that the most likely to be poor is a household headed by a woman “regardless of race or educational background,” as well as Black women and men.

Each day, 40 new people fall through the cracks into poverty. In the city of Cleveland, the statistics are more frightening: 35% or 192,000 people live in poverty!

Hunger growing

These numbers come to life at the city's hunger centers. One central warehouse distributes one million pounds of surplus food each month. A full 85,720 people in the Cleveland area receive hunger assistance at 109 emergency food centers. In Cuyahoga County, 203,120 receive food stamps.

The director of the hunger programs for the Greater Cleveland Interchurch Council, Karen Kordish says, "We are feeding 40,000-50,000 people each month at our hunger centers and that has increased four times since 1980."

Earlier today, some 200 people, mainly from such centers, marched to the offices of Cleveland's Congressional delegation. They delivered thousands of letters each bearing a penny with the slogan "Hunger makes no sense."

This protest is an indicator of things to come. Ohio's economy can no longer provide for the majority of its people. The result of high tech is clearly more poverty. More protests and more calls for "people solutions" will certainly be heard.

On The Picketline

Rail workers. Ever since the legalization of industrial unions after many militant confrontations in the 1930s, the big corporations have sought to isolate labor disputes to a smaller and smaller unit, one contract, one company, one division, etc., so that the larger industrial might of the corporations, backed by banks and industry associations, could push down the unions. Unions are allowed under the law to boycott scab products, but not the companies that use scab products. They call the latter secondary boycott. We call it solidarity.

A crack in this legal barrier was opened up in the 1970s when the Center for United Labor Action boycotted Rochester stores over scab Farrah pants on their shelves. After a lengthy court battle the Center won the right to secondary boycott so long as they are not part of or connected to the union conducting the strike. Similar victories were won by farm-worker support groups which want to boycott stores, not just the scab products in the stores. It is the only way to broaden the labor struggle out of the narrow confines of one contract, one company.

When Guilford Transportation Industries, owned by the Mellon banking family, broke with the national rail bargaining talks in order to pursue a union-busting campaign, beginning with the 500-member Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees (BMWE), whom they wanted to lay off permanently with no severance pay, they didn't count on the strike spreading. After two months of a bitter strike the BMWE members began picketing other railroads and asserting their right to secondary boycott, to militant solidarity with other railroad unions on an important job security issue that affects all railroad workers. The other railroad companies, including Conrail, Norfolk Southern and Burlington Northern, went to court to stop the picketing and the Reagan administration called for a 60-day cooling off period. The unions won their right to picket on appeal, and the 60 days are over.

The issues are unresolved, and a general rail strike may yet occur. "We'll honor their picket lines," said Robert Hart, general counsel for the UTU, which represents 120,000 of the 360,000 unionized rail workers. At issue are both the working conditions and job security of railroad workers and the right to solidarity. The companies are appealing the union victory to the Supreme Court. But as in many cases, the real battle will be on the picket lines.

Overtime pay rights. A test case brought by publishers to challenge the right to overtime pay in journalistic jobs has been brought in Concord, New Hampshire. While the case masquerades as a "small town publisher just trying to be reasonable," in fact George Wilson, publisher of the 17,000 circulation Concord Monitor, is also on the board of directors of the Washington Post Co. and is a vice-president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association. In a period where there is rapid monopolization of publishing, from small-town papers to major city dailies, this challenge to working conditions is a calculated attack on the right to overtime pay. Publishers are arguing that they are entitled to an exemption from overtime pay for reporters, photographers, editors, etc., because their work is "professional." In fact this case is part of a general attack on working conditions in publishing, from the busting of production unions at the Chicago Tribune or the union-busting Joint Operating Agreement which would eliminate over a thousand union jobs in Detroit's newspapers. This attack also includes the refusal to recognize unions after they win elections, such as at the Glens Falls, N.Y. paper, owned by a media company based in Los Angeles, where two years after the union election the company refuses to reach agreement on a contract. One of the weaknesses of the publishing unions is that their contracts reflect a period when publishers were competitive, each one separately. There is no provision in the contracts to deal with these monopolies on a nation-wide basis, and this is what has emboldened the publishers to seek to eliminate overtime pay in this legal challenge.

Aluminum workers on strike.

About 5,000 members of the Aluminum, Brick and Glass Workers voted to continue their strike at ALCOA (Aluminum Co. of America) plants in Warrick, Ind., and Massena, N.Y., based on local issues. A three-year agreement which froze wages and cut benefits by 95 cents an hour was reached after a long strike. The companies had sought \$2.90-an-hour in cuts. Strikes are also planned at two Reynolds plants after they rejected the agreement: Longview, Wash., and Louisville, Ky. Anger runs high against the concessionary agreement, especially as the company seeks to further erode working conditions, particularly concerning how the company wants to structure layoffs.

—Louis Napier



“Secondary boycott” or solidarity? Labor support for Farah workers, like this 1973 picket in Rochester, N.Y., helped union drive.

WW PHOTO: FABIAN

—Peltier

Continued from page 12

determination. He also gave an update on the struggle at Big Mountain.

He said, "It is ironic that they would rededicate that big copper statue in New York while at the same time the deadline for the removal of Native American people at Big Mountain came up."

Stephanie Peltier was welcomed with a standing ovation. Speaking of the FBI frame-up of Leonard Peltier and the persistent denial of a new trial by the U.S. courts, she explained, "The racist regime that has imprisoned Nelson Mandela is the same regime that has imprisoned Leonard Peltier, that is murdering our people and destroying our land." Part of the campaign to be launched soon includes posters and other graphics with Nelson Mandela and Leonard Peltier together.

In her talk, Peltier made it clear that a greater level of support and activism around Leonard Peltier's case is needed to pressure the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals to grant him a new trial, which has already stalled eight months in issuing its decision. Public pressure is needed because the 8th Circuit Court is the last step before the Supreme Court, which has already refused to hear the case.

Leonard Peltier is charged with the deaths of two FBI agents who were part of a mass armed U.S. government raid on Pine Ridge reservation in 1975. The Native activist was sentenced to two consecutive life terms by U.S. District Judge Paul Benson, a reactionary Nixon appointee.

Peltier's previous appeal was denied on June 6, 1985 by the same Judge Benson, despite an exhaustive show of evidence by his attorneys that proved the FBI fabricated ballistics tests to set Peltier up. An October 1975 telex by the FBI admits they had no ballistics evidence against Peltier, and the main FBI witness, agent Evan Hodge, admitted in court that he lied in Peltier's original trial when he claimed Peltier

was connected with the gun allegedly used to kill the FBI agents. No FBI agent was ever charged with the death of Joe Stuntz, a Native man who was killed in the 1975 Pine Ridge shootout.

Despite the overwhelming evidence exposing the government plot, Peltier has been denied justice and subjected to the most inhumane conditions in five prisons, including two years in "box car cells," 24-hour lockdowns for months and a failed assassination plot by Lumpoc prison officials. He is now in Leavenworth federal prison.

As Stephanie Peltier pointed out, it is only mass pressure that will force his freedom. While many prominent people, including 51 congressmen, Bishop Tutu and the Archbishop of Canterbury, have issued amicus curiae (friend of the court) briefs on his behalf, she said it is not enough.

“What it will take is you, every person who cares about the truth. We’re asking you to join us in letting people know why he’s in prison. He is in prison because he represents the truth of Native people and our inherent right to the land. He believes in his peoples’ rights to self-determination. This is what Leonard is struggling for and why the U.S. government is targeting him.”

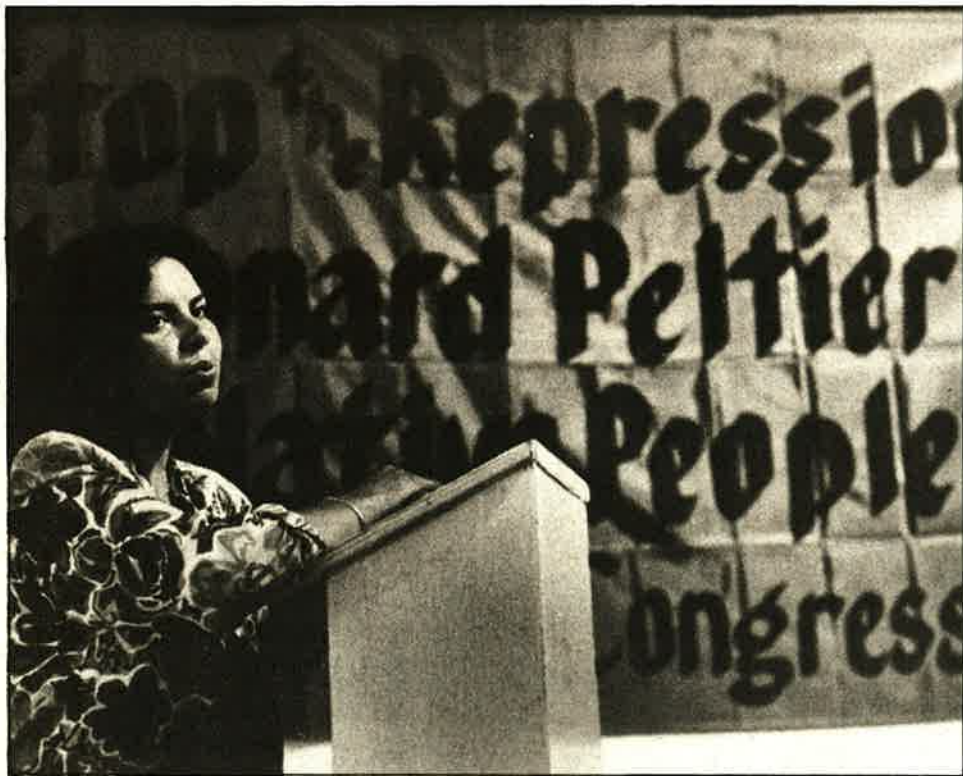
The people who came tonight were moved to an enthusiastic discussion by her address. One leading organizer in the Big Mountain Support Group pledged that he would raise \$20,000, and everyone signed up to be involved in the struggle to free Leonard Peltier.

Further details on the developing national campaign will be announced, and Workers World will carry that information.

In the meantime, letters should be written to the three-judge panel, urging them to order a new fair trial for Leonard Peltier: Donald Ross, John Gibson, Gerald Heaney, Judges, 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, 1114 Market St., St. Louis, MO 63101.

Greatly needed funds should be sent to: Stephanie Peltier, 3029 15th Ave. South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55407.

Call for mass campaign to free Leonard Peltier



Stephanie Peltier addresses San Francisco meeting.

WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

By Gloria La Riva
SAN FRANCISCO, July 14—Stressing the emergency situation of Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier's fight for freedom, Stephanie Autumn Peltier spoke tonight and urged the 90 people who packed the Eye Gallery here to join a national campaign to demand his release.

Leonard Peltier has been in prison over 10 years, the victim of an unrelenting war by the U.S. government for his leading role in heroic struggles of the 1970s by the American Indian Movement (AIM), including the historic liberation of Wounded Knee. The repression of AIM leaders and Native people by the U.S. government is strikingly similar to the brutal repression suffered by the Black Panther Party.

Stephanie Peltier, Leonard Peltier's wife and also a leader in the American Indian Movement, had just arrived tonight after driving from Big Mountain, Arizona. Many people from various Native nations and supporters have been with the Dineh (Navajo) elders for weeks, to prevent the eviction by the U.S. national guard of thousands of Dineh people from their land.



The All-Peoples Congress, in coordination with the Big Mountain Support Group, International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and Gay American Indians, quickly organized a reception for Stephanie Peltier in a few days' time. An APC spokesperson gave an opening welcome and introduced Dennis Jennings from IITC, who also just came from Big Mountain. He noted the multinational composition of the audience, of Native, Black, Latino and white people, and said that such unity is absolutely necessary to help Native people win their fight for self-

Continued on page 11

Support for Big Mountain forced feds to back off

By John Catalinotto

JULY 21 — Following a national campaign of resistance by the Dineh (Navajo) and Hopi peoples and their supporters, the U.S. government refrained from using troops on July 7 to force Native people from their homes in Big Mountain, Ariz.

Workers World spoke today with Larry Anderson, a Dineh activist, elder and frequent public spokesman for those involved in the struggle to save their land. Anderson noted, "There was no serious incident of livestock reduction or of forced removal on July 7.

"The major event of that week was the July 3-6 Sundance, a spiritual gathering in which 3,000 people took part. This showed support and unity with the people of Big Mountain. It was conducted by the traditional people.

"There was also a demonstration of 300 people on July 8 held near the trading post. They then marched to the relocation fence and tore more fencing down. There were no federal or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) authorities in the area," Anderson added.

The elders had anticipated that the government would refrain from ac-

tion, said Anderson, "because of the national attention attracted by the elders' tour last Spring and because of the continuous letters of support we received from all over the world." Among them, Anderson mentioned, were many from Workers World readers.

Struggle goes on

The absence of a confrontation in no way means that the Peabody Coal Company has given up its plans to take over the Native lands. As the July 11 Wall Street Journal put it, "The Hopis and Navajos are sitting on the best low-sulfur coal in the Southwest."

"The government plans a waiting game," Anderson pointed out, "and they are still harassing the people here with F-14 and F-16 jets flying over, surveillance by helicopters, and continued harassment from BIA law enforcement officers."

Until the resistance grew this year, the U.S. government had threatened to forcibly remove the 10,000 Native people who remain in the Big Mountain area on the July 7 target date. This date was set as the final one for full removal following the 1974 passage of Public Law 93-531, also known

as the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act.

The energy monopolies behind Public Law 93-531 falsely presented the situation in the early 1970s as a conflict between the Hopi and Dineh peoples over use of the land. In reality, traditional Hopi people are allied with the Dineh against the law. And as the Journal article put it, "Resource rights lie at the heart of the battle."

In other words, it's the same old story with Native people in the U.S. Once their land is found to have value, the monopolies use everything from laws to tricks to bullets to push them off. In this case, the Peabody Coal Company, which was already exploiting the Black Mesa coal mine, schemed to clear all of the Dineh people from the land known as the Joint Use Area.

Native people resist

Over the past years, with small forces and fewer funds, Indian peoples nevertheless began to resist. Native elders on Big Mountain refused to leave. Grandmothers tore down fences as soon as the federal agents put them up.

Organizations like the Big Mountain Legal Defense-Offense Commit-

tee mobilized lobbying efforts, and the Big Mountain Support Group organized to get national publicity. A national tour organized jointly by the Support Group, the American Indian Movement (AIM) and the All-Peoples Congress/Peoples Anti-War Mobilization brought Native speakers to dozens of major U.S. cities in March and April.

At these meetings and at well-covered news conferences, AIM leader Vernon Bellecourt, Larry Anderson and Dineh tribal elders and grandmothers Jane Biakeddy and Zonnie Katney brought the story of Big Mountain and the people's resistance to millions around the country.

And on July 6 in Washington, D.C., some 2,000 people demonstrated to demand that no troops be used to force people off the land and that Public Law 93-531 be rescinded.

When asked today about continued activities, Anderson mentioned that the dozens of groups that came to the Sundance to show support were asked to continue to hold demonstrations at federal buildings in their areas. And on Aug. 9, a "Hands Across the Fence" demonstration in the Joint Use Area in Big Mountain is scheduled.

Reagan makes it clear

The cover is blown. The fog has lifted. Reagan stands with Pretoria's racists. Against the African people. A usual reactionary policy, unusual in its frankness. If all ruling class policies were stated so openly, we'd have less need of the clarifying analyses found in Workers World

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