



Steelworkers, retirees fight LTV bankruptcy ripoff

EDITORIAL

CRISIS IN STEEL! That's the headline on the business pages of newspapers across the country this week.

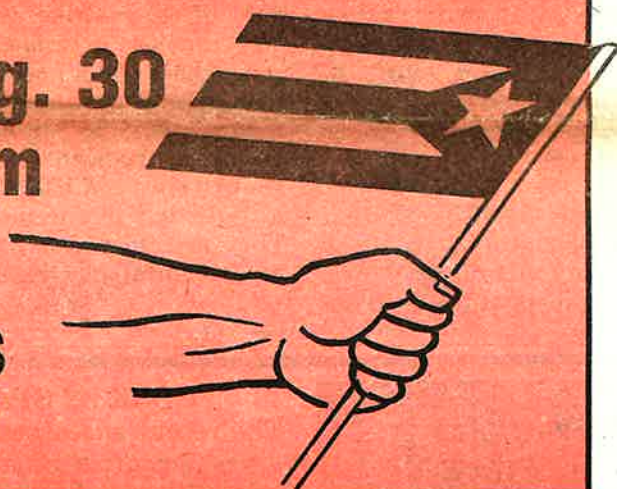
What crisis do they mean? Is it the hundreds of thousands of steel workers laid off since 1980 who are still without a job? Is it the 78,000 LTV retirees who have had their only medical benefits stolen from them by corporate crooks and Wall Street bankers?

With LTV workers on strike at one of the company's most important mills in Indiana Harbor, Ind., and talk of the strike spreading;

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**Demonstration Aug. 30
to demand freedom
for Puerto Rican
political prisoners**

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**Nicaragua President
asks UN Security
Council to find U.S.
guilty of war crimes**

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WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

**U.S. rich
get richer,
pay no taxes**

—p. 9

**Brooklyn man
victim of
racist attack**

—p. 11

By P. Kimball

EAST CHICAGO, Ind., July 28 — They were so angry they couldn't wait to strike.

"The retired members were doing informational picketing starting Tuesday, July 22," recalled United Steel Workers (USW) Local 1011 representative Tony Kusiak. "Then somebody brought signs saying, 'On strike.' Other people came to work and saw them and went right back home."

Local 1011 had already voted to ask USW President Lynn Williams for a strike authorization. On Friday it came, and the 4,600 members shut down LTV's Indiana Harbor works. This is one of LTV's most important steel mills and is where *much of the* flat rolled steel for the auto industry is produced.

Eight days before, the \$6 billion conglomerate had scrapped benefits paid to 78,000 retirees, claiming it could do so under the terms of its bankruptcy filing. Retired workers found themselves without life or health insurance. A spokeswoman for a local hospital said LTV retirees would have to put up \$1,200 in cash before a scheduled admission.

Workers on layoff had their Supplemental Unemployment Benefits cut off. Active workers weren't spared either: sick pay is not being paid, and, according to Kusiak, medical benefit claims had been held up since weeks before the bankruptcy. No one was even sure their paychecks wouldn't bounce.

In April, LTV steelworkers were pressured to ratify a concession contract, though 1011 voted against it. "We gave up \$3.60 an hour, and \$2.15 of that was for the pensioner," said Kusiak. "Now they've just torn up the contract."

Bankruptcy aimed against workers

The bankruptcy filing by LTV is no normal bankruptcy. While the corporate executives, banks and the court have insured that all operations connected to the Pentagon are fully funded, anything connected with the workers and their unions have gotten the axe. While the law says that such actions are illegal, the court has so far

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Pregnant teens barred from Medicaid

While Reaganites cut abortion services, birth control and sex education

By Kathy Durkin
NEW YORK, July 28 — Anna Robbins is 17 years old, alone and pregnant, living in Rochester, N.Y. Unemployed and faced with total poverty, she has been denied Medicaid, WIC nutrition programs and other critical services, because, she was told at government agencies, "Your parents are responsible for you because you are a minor." Robbins' parents abandoned her when they learned she was pregnant. This typifies the situation that many young, poor teenagers face all over the country. It is also a more common occurrence that federal and state governments, in the age of Reagan cutbacks, are trying to foist the responsibility of providing for poor people onto the backs of other working poor.

In another related incident, last week, a Suffolk County judge in New York found Sabrina Silva, age 17 and her husband, Wilfred Silva, age 16,

who are expecting their second child in the fall, ineligible for welfare.

Instead the judge filed a petition of nonsupport against their parents whom, the court declared, must support them and their children. Marriage is normally considered to separate children legally from their parents' authority and financial support.

In a further assault on poor teenagers and as a capitulation to anti-abortion forces, this month, the New York State Department of Social Services passed a resolution prohibiting pregnant teenagers from seeking Medicaid for prenatal care or abortions based on their own incomes. The resolution will tie their eligibility to their parents' incomes, which must be verified by the parents.

Teens will be shut out

This will impact upon thousands of teens in New York State who will not be able to obtain Medicaid-funded

abortions or prenatal or medical care.

In implementing this decision, explains Alfred F. Moran, director of Planned Parenthood of New York City, "the reality is that thousands of teens who choose to continue their pregnancy will be shut out of comprehensive, confidential prenatal and maternal care as a result of this policy change."

The agency also explains that teens who have benefited from the standing policy of applying independently for Medicaid have no money, no access to their parents' incomes or come from families with incomes only slightly above the state Medicaid eligibility limit — \$7,400 per year for a family of four.

Although the Department of Social Services claims that other non-Medicaid programs will take care of prenatal care, 18 counties in upstate New York have no subsidized prenatal care. The state Health Department es-

timates that of 86,000 poor pregnant women a year, 20,000 won't get prenatal care, and teens are least likely to obtain it. Medicaid is the only comprehensive medical care for pregnant teens in this state.

The requirement that parents submit verification of income for teens to obtain Medicaid will compound the problems for many young women. Removing guarantees of confidential access to safe abortions can lead to long delays in seeking the procedures till later on when abortions are riskier. It will force many teens to carry pregnancies to term.

The requirement also means a long delay in getting medical or prenatal care or getting none at all. Lack of care can mean more difficult pregnancies, more risks at birth and more infant health problems.

It is a commonly accepted practice among teen counselors and reproductive rights agencies that confidentiality for teenagers is a requirement. Many teen fear telling parents of their pregnancies. They wait for long periods before telling out of fear of being humiliated and degraded, even beaten. They fear being coerced either into abortions or into having a child they don't want to have. They fear being thrown out of their parents' home, ending up alone and broke.

Teenage pregnancy is rising nationally, as the federal government is cutting back abortion services, birth control and sex education programs, which do lower pregnancy rates.

And for those teenagers who choose to have children, cuts in prenatal care, WIC, welfare, food stamps, Medicaid as well as unemployment or very low paying jobs compound the problems severely. Instead of supporting them, the government is increasingly turning the problem around and holding the parents responsible for their support when many can barely make ends meet.

On The Picketline

Boycott TWA. Five hundred members and supporters of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) attended a rally in New York City on Thursday, July 24, to build a "Boycott of Conscience" against TWA. IFFA represents TWA flight attendants, who struck in March over the airline's wholesale takeback demands and are now faced with a TWA lockout. The rally featured many speakers from the labor movement, including Victor Gotbaum of AFSCME District Council 37, Julie Kushner, Vice President of UAW-District 65 and Harold Mendlowitz, President of ATU Local 1202. Manhattan Borough President David Dinkins also spoke, as did

actor Shelley Winters, who announced that she had just cast her ballot in favor of a strike by the Screen Actors Guild. The IFFA rally was held outside TWA corporate headquarters, and was every bit as spirited as the early strike rallies in March; the workers were particularly enthusiastic as they looked up at TWA chief Carl Icahn's upper-story offices and chanted, "Jump, jump, jump!"

• • •

Weyerhaeuser strike ends.

After six weeks of a hard-fought strike against a company out to destroy their union, 6,200 members of the Interna-

tional Woodworkers of America (IWA) have ended their strike against the Weyerhaeuser Co. in Washington and Oregon. While the settlement they approved is not a victory — it includes substantial pay cuts and benefit concessions — they did achieve one basic goal of their strike: they beat back Weyerhaeuser's vicious drive to destroy their union and eliminate their jobs. The Weyerhaeuser strike was fought with incredible courage and militance, and the strikers' tactics showed once again that there is plenty of fight left in the labor movement. They marched over 100 miles to the state capital in Olympia, Washing-

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In This Issue...

CUBA

Capitalist propagandists who rejoice at any opening to the so-called free market made by socialist countries must be crying over Cuba's decision to shut down its experimental private agricultural market and strive for greater socialist consciousness. (Page 6.)

DETROIT

Detroit's city workers voted down the latest contract offer after city officials reneged on vital points. Solidarity within the city workforce and with the community remains key to the success of the continued strike. (Pages 10, 12.)

STEEL

The coming showdown in the U.S. steel industry is the subject of articles from Indiana and Ohio, where active and retired steelworkers are defending their interests against the LTV corporate vultures. Meanwhile, a strike is looming at USX. An editorial examines what's at stake in this class battle. (Pages 1, 3, 8.)



WW PHOTO: DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

Ortega at Riverside Church.

ORTEGA AT UN

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega asked the UN Security Council to formally support the World Court ruling that the U.S. is guilty of war crimes against Nicaragua and must pay reparations for deaths and damages. (Page 7.)



Demonstration outside UN.

WW PHOTO: LALLAN STEIN

USSR IN SPACE

The recent successes of the Soviet space program and new developments in particle accelerators have again shown the advantage of socialist planning at a time when U.S. space science and science in general is shackled to the Pentagon and the profit motive. (Page 6.)

RICH RIPOFF

Over the last 20 years, the top 0.5% of the rich have increased their net holdings from one-quarter to one-third of the national net assets. What's more, the corporations they own have managed not only to avoid paying taxes, but to get rebates. (Page 9.)

RACIST ATTACK

A Workers World interview lets a Brooklyn Black man tell of the attack on him by a racist mob in Canarsie and the hostile handling of his case by the local cops. (Page 11.)

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LTV Steel retirees rally in Youngstown

Special to Workers World
CLEVELAND, July 28 — The fight is on at LTV.

At a meeting held by the United Steel Workers union (USW) in Youngstown, Ohio, last Saturday, July 26, about 1,500 steelworkers showed up, nearly all retirees. The question on everyone's mind was what to do about the 78,000 retirees who were cut off from their pension benefits by the corporation after it went into bankruptcy proceedings.

Labor lawyer Staughton Lynd set a militant tone when he told those gathered that the union can't rely only on the courts. He said that it will take the united action of the workers them-

selves to win justice.

Other speakers included Joseph Clark, director of Subdistrict 6 of the USW, Ohio Representative James Traficant and William Leon, president of the Warren Local Retirees 1375.

A lively discussion followed the opening presentations. A steelworker retired from a U.S. Steel plant in Youngstown, Ted Dostal, took the floor.

Dostal said, "The steelworkers' union was formed in struggle and it remains in struggle. And it's not going to get anywhere unless it continues to struggle."

He talked about the bankruptcy action and said that the workers are the

major creditor since they are owed over \$2 billion in pensions and other benefits. "So we should have much more to say" about what happens in the bankruptcy than the banks who have now seized the company, Dostal concluded.

'Bankers behind it'

On Monday, July 28, a hearing was opened in Cleveland by two senators from Ohio and Pennsylvania on proposed legislation that would prohibit companies from filing for bankruptcy and then cutting off benefits owed to retirees.

Lynn Williams, president of the

United Steel Workers, spoke at the hearing and said of LTV's actions, "Who is responsible for this? I believe the bankers are behind this whole deal."

According to Williams, of the 78,000 workers cut off by LTV, more than 40% don't have any Medicare because they are early retirees.

Rich Trumka of the United Mine Workers union also spoke. He said that LTV had cut off health insurance to 1,500 mineworkers. Trumka said, "There are no more deserving creditors than the retirees. Workers have only themselves to protect this interest."

—Indiana Harbor plant struck

Continued from page 1
gone along with this theft.

The union has the right to fight with whatever means it has to protect the interest of the workers in this bankruptcy ploy. And it is the retirees who have taken the initiative.

A rally here last Monday was so big it was divided in two. Kusiak said, "During the meeting, you couldn't get a parking space within six blocks of the union hall."

Carrying signs like "LTV — home of the disposable worker," the picketing has been vigorous. Six were arrested Friday morning for "impeding traffic," and a construction company trying to pick up slag complained that the entrance was blocked with railroad ties. Two picketers narrowly escaped injury Saturday when a foreman crashed through the line in his car and struck them.

Local 1011 represents workers at the former Jones & Laughlin plant in East Chicago, Ind. The 4,000 workers at LTV's Chicago works, formerly Republic Steel, represented by Local 1033, are equally hard hit, but are still considering their options.

Meanwhile, USX has begun locking workers out of its South Works plant in Chicago and its Gary, Ind., plants before USWA's Aug. 1 strike deadline. The units of the two plants are being shut down according to a schedule prepared before the USWA strike vote, according to Larry McWay, Vice President of Local 1014 at Gary.

The union revealed last week that the USX security force at Gary received a shipment of tear gas grenades and launchers as well as small arms and ammunition on Friday, though a company representative said it was "unauthorized." The union is solid; voting at Local 65 (South Works), devastated by near-complete shutdown, was 593-0 for the strike.



Striking LTV Steel workers stop a locomotive from entering LTV works in East Chicago.

Supreme Court chief targeted by gay community

Aug. 11 protest in New York to denounce anti-sodomy ruling

By Sharon Shelton

NEW YORK, July 28 — There has been a militant mood in the lesbian and gay community ever since the announcement of the Supreme Court's bigoted June 30 ruling upholding Georgia's anti-sodomy laws, and the outpouring of rage continues with a major demonstration being planned in this city.

Target of the protest, which will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 11 out-

side the Hilton Hotel at 54th St. and Sixth Ave., will be an appearance by Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger at a convention of the American Bar Association.

Burger has drawn the fury of the gay movement, not only because of his vote in favor of the reactionary decision, but also because of a separate opinion he wrote which didn't even bother to cite a legal basis, but relied upon bigoted slurs against lesbian and gay people.

Broad range of support

Initiated by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights and endorsed by over 75 organizations including the All-Peoples Congress, the protest has drawn a broad range of support. Community groups, churches and labor organizations such as AFT Local 3882, the President of ATU Local 1202 and others have endorsed.

Organizers note that they are emphasizing reaching out to draw in not only lesbians and gays, but all those affected by the court ruling. They point out that part of the ruling specifically says that laws can be enacted against "any kind of private sexual conduct between consenting adults."

The decision could also pave the way for future decisions against abortion or even birth control, since the Court

ruled that "homosexual conduct" can be outlawed because there is "no connection between family, marriage or procreation on the one hand and homosexual activity on the other."

Ongoing storm of protest

Already there are signs that the demonstration will be as large or even larger than the 5,000-strong July 4 protest over the ruling. Endorsements are pouring in; planning meetings have been well attended. On the occasion of the July 4 demonstration, militant marchers crashed the "Liberty Weekend" bash in New York City, chanting "Courts say get back, we say fight back!"

And even before July 4, 3,000 gay men and lesbians assembled on June 30, the very day the Supreme Court decision was announced, and marched through the streets of Greenwich Village, blocking traffic.

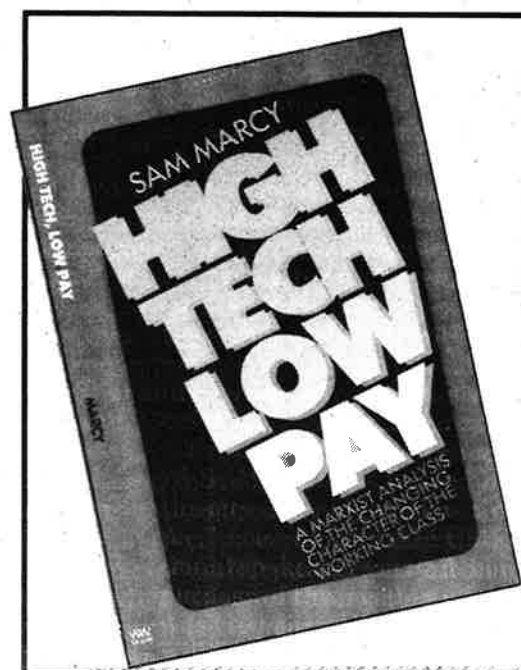
The reactionaries in the Reagan administration thought they could use this sexist ruling to intimidate and silence the lesbian and gay movement. Yet exactly the opposite has happened. Instead, the movement has grown stronger, angrier and more determined. It has drawn more allies who see their common interest with lesbian and gay people in standing up and fighting back against the Reaganite bigots.

In High Tech, Low Pay, Sam Marcy gives many contemporary examples of how the scientific-technological revolution in the U.S. is accelerating a shift to lower-paying jobs and to more women and Third World workers.

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Hartford protest for Puerto Rican prisoners gains new support

By Joyce Chediak

JULY 29 — The African National Congress (ANC), Native leader Wabun Inini (Vernon Bellecourt) and civil rights activist Dr. Ben Chavis are among the signers of a letter calling for participation in a demonstration in Hartford, Conn., on Aug. 30 to demand freedom for Puerto Rican political prisoners and to defend the right of Puerto Rico to independence.

Other signers of this letter urging all "to publicize this activity and join with us in this mobilization" include Leslie Cagan of Mobilization for Survival, Dominic Bozzotto, President Local 26, Hotel & Restaurant Employees, Monica Moorehead of the People's Anti-War Mobilization, Carl Bissinger of the War Resisters League, Esperanza Martel of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression, Rev. Daniel Berrigan, William Kunstler, Steve Ault of the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights and Bill Ryan of the Guardian newspaper.

Many groups in the East Coast region are mailing this letter to their membership to help build for the Aug. 30 demonstration. Esperanza Martel, head of the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression in New York told this reporter that buses and car caravans are coming from Boston, Springfield and Amherst, Mass., from Providence, RI, New Haven, Conn., Philadelphia, Jersey City, Washington, D.C., New York City, Baltimore and other cities.

The protest march will mark the one year anniversary of the arrest of Puerto Rican activists in a heavily-armed sweep of Puerto Rico by the FBI. Fifteen Puerto Rican independence advocates and one North American attorney currently face trial in Hartford, Conn., on charges connected to the robbery of a Wells Fargo depot there.

This virtual U.S. invasion of Puerto Rico was called "an act of colonial arrogance" and a "witchhunt" by Martel, the ANC, William Kunstler and other signers of the support letter. The people indicted, including the head of the Puerto Rican Human Rights Insti-



New York City protest last winter for Puerto Rican political prisoners.

WW PHOTO: GREG DUNKEL

tute and the editor of the magazine Pensamiento Critico, were really arrested for openly advocating independence for their country.

Preventive detention

August 30 will also mark another anniversary — the incarceration of nine of the defendants for one year under the preventive detention law, a measure similar to the laws in South Africa where people can be held at the whim of the government without trial or bail. This is the first major U.S. application of preventive detention, and is seen as a test for its further use. Martel described the Aug. 30 protest as "the first effort with the cooperation of many organizations to address preventive detention. Preventive detention without trial is unconstitutional."

Hilton Fernandez is one of the nine defendants currently being held under

this law. He and the others are in solitary confinement, completely cut off from the rest of the prison population, in New York City's Metropolitan Correctional Center. His wife, Iris Rodriguez, spoke of the importance of the upcoming protest.

"One of the things the U.S. government wants to do in having the trial here is to separate them from their community and their country. If we have a lot of people showing solidarity, it will let them know that they are not alone."

Recently a federal court denied a motion to move the trial to Puerto Rico, ignoring testimony that anti-Puerto Rican racism in Hartford would make an impartial jury virtually impossible to find. Rodriguez explained, "A big mobilization can educate the community of Hartford where the jury will be selected. A significant mobilization would be covered by the press. People would see that the issue is independence for Puerto Rico. A lot of people in

Hartford don't know what is really going on."

Join the mobilizing effort!

This case is quickly becoming a precipitation point in the struggle for independence for Puerto Rico and in the fight against all forms of repression. "In New York, there is postering and flyer distribution every week," said Martel. "The response has been really positive. We hope to take 10 buses out of New York." Annette Biaz of the Boston Committee for Puerto Rican Civil Rights reports a "really good reaction" there, citing efforts to link in the Africa and Central American solidarity movements.

More work, however, needs to be done. To pitch in with the leafletting, postering and phone calls, and to purchase your bus tickets contact: Hartford (203) 523-7428; New York (212) 286-0924 or for tickets (212) 741-0633; New Haven (203) 562-2798; Amherst (413) 584-7050; Boston (617) 783-3573.

For more information on the August 30 Demonstration to Free the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners

The Hartford Comm. Against Repression
c/o Mariana Bracetti
P.O. Box 6159, Hartford, Conn. 06106
(203) 523-7428

New Haven Action Comm. Against Repression
P.O. Box 2072, New Haven, Conn. 06521
(203) 562-2798

Springfield, Mass. (413) 533-3041

AHORA, Amherst, Mass. (413) 584-7050

Boston Comm. for Puerto Rican Civil Rights
P.O. Box 1222, Jamaica Plains, Mass. 02130
(617) 783-3573, (617) 424-1178

Rhode Island (401) 274-7668

The Puerto Rican Comm. Against Repression
P.O. Box A-840, New York, N.Y. 10163
(212) 286-0924

Jersey City, N.J. (201) 433-2332

Philadelphia, Pa. (215) 634-4443, (215) 387-7522

Baltimore, Md. (301) 235-7040

Washington, D.C. (202) 332-5041

Rochester, N.Y. (716) 342-5707

—On the picketline

Continued from page 2

ton; they physically blocked railroad tracks to prevent lumber trains from delivering to company sawmills; they appealed to non-striking co-workers to honor their lines — and their sisters and brothers did. Throughout the strike, Weyerhaeuser openly threatened to close its mills and reopen them with scab workers a la Hormel, with the express purpose of busting the union. But the workers defended the union, kept their jobs and waged a struggle in this anti-labor era for which all labor can respect them.

• • •

Real unemployment. Even Janet Norwood, Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics admitted recently that the Bureau's unemployment count is faulty and "it is no longer the case that the unemployment rate is a hardship measure." Hardship, bitter, real hardship, is rising, whether or not the government cares to acknowledge that fact. In fact, according to the Council on International and Public Affairs, the jobless rate in June reached the highest level since the 1982-83 recession, a real level of 14.5% overall, and much higher for Black and Latin youth. According to

David Dembo, co-author of a recent Council study, "The official rate has allowed the current administration to understate the extent of suffering experienced by a large number of Americans." Since the official unemployment rate does not count those who have given up the job search or make allowance for people who are working only part-time, said Dembo, "the restrictive definitions used by the Bureau allow Reagan to trumpet the recent apparent growth in employment..." The only actual growth, the Council reports, is in low-paying jobs in the service sector, whose two lowest-paying job categories account for fully 41% of all jobs.

— Shelley Ettinger



African nations urge sanctions on South Africa

By Sahu Barron

JULY 27 — The clamor of condemnation over British imperialism's support of apartheid reached deafening proportions today as almost every nation in Africa called for sanctions against one of Pretoria's staunchest allies.

Recommending that African governments "exert pressure" on the Thatcher regime, foreign ministers representing 50 African countries met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and moved for economic sanctions, sports measures and the breaking of diplomatic relations with London.

Delegates convening this session of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) not only introduced measures against Britain, but also issued sharp criticisms against the collaborationist policies of the U.S., France, West Germany and Israel, citing their "economic and nuclear" relationships

with the apartheid state. While calling for an economic boycott of South Africa, the OAU pledged intensified material aid for Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress.

This OAU resolution comes on the heels of another boycott against Britain. To date, 30 of the 49 member states of the British Commonwealth have declined invitations to the Commonwealth Games in protest over Britain's South Africa policy. The boycotting countries represent 80% of the entire population of the Commonwealth.

10,000 detained

As Thatcher and Reagan praise the so-called steps the minority regime is taking toward democracy, the fascists in South Africa continue to unleash naked force to repress the struggle of the African majority. According to a

study released by the World Council of Churches, the number of people arrested and detained since the imposition of the State of Emergency last June is well over 10,000, which includes the detention of thousands of trade unionists. This same report added that at least ten people have been killed while in detention.

The diplomatic machinations of the U.S. and British ruling class cannot buy time for ailing apartheid to gain control over the masses. The revolution aflame within the borders of South Africa has also sparked a wave of struggle throughout Africa and the world. The South African people are exposing the real profiteering interests of the Washington/London/Pretoria axis and are daily showing workers and oppressed people worldwide that victory is ultimately in their hands.



Concert raises funds for ANC's Freedom College

By Neville Edwards

NEW YORK, July 25 — Over 200 were present at an evening of cultural presentation by the Sechaba singers and dancers of the African National Congress (ANC) and songs of revolutionary solidarity by the All-People's Singers. The event, which was held at PS 41 on West 11th Street and 6th Avenue, was organized to raise funds for the ANC's Solomon Motlangu Freedom College in Tanzania.

The cultural presentation was co-chaired by Carmen Roundtree, a national organizer of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network, and Rodine, an organizer from Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE).

Comrade Kurie, a representative of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO), gave an update on the liberation war being fought by the Namibian freedom fighters against the apartheid regime's occupation and plundering of Namibian resources.

Tseke Moranti of the ANC youth section delivered a stirring speech on



Sechaba singers and dancers and the All People's Singers.

WW PHOTO: NEVILLE EDWARDS

the vital importance of the Solomon Motlangu Freedom college in Tanzania. The college, which is run by the ANC, provides the ANC youth with the necessary skills that will enable them to administer a free South Africa when the fascist regime is finally crushed.

"The revolution does not end on the

day of cease fire, it will have just begun," stated Moranti. It is precisely these freedom fighters that are being educated at the freedom college who will have to take on the many tasks necessary in the taking and holding of power.

Comrade Ginnette of the ANC accepted a gift of the tape "Mandela"

from the All-People's Singers. The apartheid regime and the U.S. may complain because the ANC receives some of its weapons from the socialist countries, Ginette said, but the complaints are of no consequence to the freedom fighters. "It is the West that is propping up the apartheid regime," added Ginnette.

New troubles for Morocco's King Hassan

In wake of U.S.-sponsored meeting with Israeli prime minister

By Michael Bar-Am

JULY 28 — Last week, King Hassan II of Morocco and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres met in Morocco. The meeting was hailed in Washington. But among the mass of the Arab people, it was considered a betrayal by the Moroccan king. It was given no publicity in Morocco itself.

The meeting was orchestrated by the White House. The July 25 Jerusalem Post, an Israeli daily, reported that, "Peres arrived on the very day Hassan had been scheduled to leave for an official visit to Washington." It went on, "Morocco's closest friends, including the United States and Saudi Arabia, were kept fully informed in advance."

Israel is located at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. Morocco is located at its western end. The regimes of both countries play important roles in maintaining U.S. imperialism's continued domination of the Middle East and Mediterranean region.

Morocco receives much U.S. aid. Israel receives massive amounts of U.S. financial and military aid. In fact, Is-

rael economically could not survive for more than a few weeks without this aid.

Within a few days of the Peres-Hassan meeting, U.S. Vice President George Bush left Washington for a 12-day tour of the Middle East. According to Reagan administration officials, "Mr. Bush would try to move the initiative along by offering whatever U.S. assistance the Israelis and Moroccans deemed desirable." Now Bush has had to cancel a stop in Morocco, undoubtedly to spare the king further exposure as a puppet.

The meeting between Hassan and Peres was an attempt to improve relations within the imperialist camp. On the one hand there is Israel, a garrison state tied to the Pentagon. On the other are the reactionary regimes ruling a number of the Arab countries. All are dependent on the U.S. and on the imperialist system for their continued existence.

Among the reactionaries cheering on Hassan were President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and King Hussein.

There is already talk of a Mubarak-Peres summit.

Not all the reaction to the meeting was expressed in cheers. Both in diplomatic response and in street demonstrations, the opposition of the Arab masses was shown.

Syria severed all ties with Morocco and banned travel to the Morocco kingdom by Syrian citizens. Syria's Golan Heights region has been illegally occupied by Israeli troops for over 19 years, with Israel virtually annexing the Syrian territory.

In an official statement, Algeria described the Hassan-Peres meeting as "an outrage to the whole of the Arab nation."

Yesterday, King Hassan was forced to resign as conference chairman of the Arab League due to immense pressure from the entire Arab world. This is a setback for U.S. policy since Washington's ability to intervene in this politically diverse organization becomes more limited when no U.S. stooge is in a central role.

On the streets, the most dramatic

confrontation was in Beirut. There the Moroccan embassy was stormed, and banners hung from its windows read, "Hassan! You will be the next Sadat," "Death to America" and "Israel must be destroyed." The last Egyptian President, Sadat, was assassinated.

And the Palestinian people themselves responded soon after Peres returned to Israel from the meeting. A military attack hit some of the Israeli occupiers of the city of Jericho, in the territory seized by the Israeli army during the 1967 war. The day after that a bomb was dismantled outside the U.S. Consulate in Arab Jerusalem.

The full repercussions of the imperialist-brokered negotiation have yet to be seen. But one thing is certain. Only the Palestinian masses and the Palestine Liberation Organization have the right to decide which course to follow and by what timetable, to achieve the liberation of all of Palestine.

And the fate of the Middle East can no longer be decided by agreements between reactionary royalty and imperialist stooges. It will be decided by the masses of people of the region.

Cuba takes steps against pro-capitalist markets

Recent moves strengthen socialist consciousness

By Deirdre Griswold

JULY 28 — You can't live in these United States in the era of Reaganism without being saturated with the concept that the only thing worth living for is money, money, money and that capitalism is the means to this end.

The bourgeois media also universally predicts that in the socialist countries private gain will eventually win out over collective consciousness, if only the people there are "free" to have their way.

It is therefore like a breath of fresh air to hear that in Cuba there is a vigorous campaign going on to strengthen the collective, socialist consciousness of the people against selfishness, corruption and the class divisions that inevitably creep back when material incentives become the norm in production.

Closing of free markets

The existence of this campaign was brought to light in the press here in May with the news that the free peasant markets were being closed down. Cuban Premier Fidel Castro explained in a radio broadcast that the six-year experiment "will pass without glory,

leaving behind a great lesson, much damages, and many millionaires. . . . The free market became an obstacle to the development of the cooperative movement and was useful only to a group of intermediaries to get rich individually."

In Cuba, all basic food items like milk, rice and beans are rationed to insure that everyone gets a fair share regardless of their income. The free market was originally proposed to spur the production of non-rationed foods difficult for the cooperatives to grow and transport, and to help eradicate what had become an extensive black market in these products. Before long, however, the problems it created far surpassed the benefits.

A new class of middlemen was getting immensely rich because items like fresh tomatoes and certain meats not always available in the official markets were being sold for astronomical amounts in the free markets. This not only reflected their scarcity but also the fact that for many better-off people in Cuba, the low, subsidized prices in housing, transportation and staple foods have resulted in a lot of cash left over with not too much to

spend it on. Also very important in this, of course, is U.S. imperialism's embargo on trade with Cuba, which keeps it cut off from many world markets.

Cuban publications tell of cases where workers who came to shop in the free markets were so incensed by the prices that loud arguments would erupt. Sometimes peasants or distributors who sold their produce could earn as much in a few days as the average worker got in a month.

Created rich vs. poor

Beginning as far back as 1982, the Cuban government started trying to find other ways to deal with the shortages. It set up what are called parallel markets, places where the state sells for higher prices than at the regular state stores the kinds of products that are available in the farmers' markets.

The Cubans aren't too happy with this arrangement, because it means that people with more money will be able to buy, while those who are poorer will have to do without. But at least the money will go to the state for needed social projects, rather than to individuals for their own private consumption of luxuries. It is seen as a temporary measure only until certain products are available in greater abundance. By last year, sales on the free peasant market were about 70 million pesos a year, while the parallel market was selling some 900 million pesos worth of agricultural and industrial products.

Finally, this May at a meeting of 3,500 representatives from the nation's agricultural cooperatives, it was unanimously decided to close down the free peasant markets. In his summation, Premier Castro said he felt that "the decision which has been made will give a big boost to the cooperative movement in political and economic terms and in terms of morale."

After describing how Cuba will introduce more nutritious, better quality products like brown rice and whole

wheat bread through the parallel markets, Castro indicated that the concerns raised by the experience with the free peasant markets go beyond the question of agriculture:

Broader struggle against capitalist elements

"Our struggle against these newly-emerged neocapitalist elements is not limited to this meeting or the elimination of the free peasant markets. We're going to fight against these trends and manifestations on every front."

He pointed out that the meeting was being attended by "all the presidents of our country's cooperatives, the secretaries of the Party and the Young Communist League sections in the cooperatives and People's Power and government representatives, along with representatives of the National Association of Small Farmers and of the Party branches in the municipalities and the provinces. As you have seen, practically every member of the Political Bureau and the Council of Ministers, barring those who are now abroad, are here, and this can give you an idea of the interest and attention this meeting aroused."

The Cuban leader struck some of these same themes a few weeks later in a speech to a meeting commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Ministry of the Interior. As summarized in the party newspaper Granma (weekly edition dated June 15), he "took note of the need to struggle against negative manifestations resulting from erroneous ideas which had prevailed at one time and measures of a bourgeois liberal nature taken by the Revolution itself, such as the free peasant market, which led to illicit money-making, others which led to the birth of a new type of intermediary and even street vendors, or the owners of trucks who have earned as much as they wanted by transporting merchandise. . . .

"Then Fidel mentioned other mea-

Continued on page 11



Housing on cooperative farm in Cuba.

Soviet science reaching the cosmos

U.S. space program chained to Pentagon war aims

By Robert Dobrow

JULY 28 — From the outermost edges of the Solar System to the innermost secrets of the atom, the Soviet Union is reaching new frontiers in the development of science.

The Reagan administration, more concerned with launching Star Wars and feeding the appetites of the Pentagon, has scrapped virtually all major scientific projects that do not have military applications, such as the space exploration program.

But for the remaining years of the 20th century, the Soviet Union has announced bold new plans that include: probes to Venus, the Martian moon Phobos and throughout the Solar System, launching the world's largest space-based radio telescope, the development of space factories, and establishing a permanent human presence on orbiting space stations.

At the beginning of the next century, the USSR may land people on the surface of Mars.

Last week, Vladimir A. Solovyov and Leonid D. Kizim returned to earth after spending 125 days aboard the new orbiting space station Mir. Mir means "peace" in Russian.

Already this year, the USSR has conducted more than 40 major launchings and achieved a space-age first by ferrying astronauts between stations in orbit.

Four months ago, the Soviet Union's

Vega 1 probe met Halley's comet 109 million miles from earth. U.S. scientist and author Carl Sagan was one of dozens of astronomers from around the world who watched Vega's brilliant transmissions of the comet's icy core on television screens at the Institute of Space Research in Moscow.

In an interview in Soviet Life (August 1986), Sagan expressed disappointment that the U.S. was not more actively involved in the international joint effort behind Vega, and remarked on the high degree of openness and cooperation in Moscow. "My colleagues from the U.S. and I," said Sagan, "could walk around the halls and scientific laboratories of the Institute and talk with the personnel. We obtained any scientific information firsthand. My Soviet colleagues have been tremendously open. I think we Americans have greater access to this Institute of Space Research in Moscow than Russians have to the laboratory in Pasadena, California."

From Mars to mesons

At the other edge of the cosmos, in the world of sub-atomic and sub-sub-atomic particles, the Soviet Union is also achieving firsts.

In the town of Serpukhov, the USSR is building the world's largest and most powerful atom smasher. An atom smasher is a giant tool that accelerates atomic particles to nearly the



Cosmonauts Vladimir Solovyov and Leonid Kizim back on the planet Earth after 4 months in outer space.

speed of light and then smashes them into targets so they form even smaller particles which can then be observed and studied.

Today the largest atom smasher is in Illinois. It is about four miles in circumference and generates energies of about one trillion volts. The USSR's device will be 13 miles in circumference and capable of reaching three trillion volts. Such a tool has been eagerly sought by physicists around the world because it would help unlock the secrets of the atom and solve problems that still baffle scientists. It could also open up whole new fields of research. "We don't know exactly what we

might find," said Dr. Viktor A. Yarba, head of the Soviet project. "We will search for new particles at this higher energy and hope to find some new phenomena as well" (New York Times, July 27).

Scientists in the U.S. had also proposed building a new and bigger atom smasher in this country. But the project so far does not have the encouragement of the White House. The administration has regarded it as not relevant because its research is "too theoretical." It considers such a device as having little "practical," that is military, value.

"Twenty years ago," continued Dr.

Ortega at UN warns of new Viet Nam

By Deirdre Griswold

UNITED NATIONS, July 29 — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega spoke before the UN Security Council today in a plea to the people of the world, and of the United States, to bring pressure to bear on the Reagan administration to stop its criminal and brutal war against the people of Nicaragua.

Ortega also warned that further escalation of the war will lead to another Viet Nam-type conflict that will eventually bring casualties home to the people of the United States. Since Congress voted \$100 million, mostly in military aid, to fund the contras, more U.S. "advisers" have been sent to training camps in Honduras, reminiscent of the early tactics of the Viet Nam war.

The Nicaraguan government formally asked the Security Council to support the ruling of the World Court, which has found the U.S. guilty of aggression against Nicaragua and has ordered Washington to pay reparations for the deaths and damage it has caused. The Reagan administration has refused to recognize the court's decision, which came just one day after the House vote on contra aid.

Support for Nicaragua in U.S.

Ortega's visit to the U.S. was also a test of how a section of the support movement here, especially those connected to the churches, would react to moves taken by the Nicaraguan government against internal enemies who had been supporting the contras from the press and the pulpit. After the House vote, the Sandinista government responded by closing La Prensa, a reactionary daily paper, and by barring Bishop Vega from returning to Managua after a trip to the United States.

Both on Sunday and again last night, Ortega spoke to overflow crowds of supporters in two churches in New York City, and was received with great enthusiasm. At last night's meeting in Riverside Church, where a



Daniel Ortega

WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

good part of the one thousand or more people in attendance had visited Nicaragua and seen the revolutionary process themselves, Ortega was greeted with "No pasaran!" as he arrived, a chant meaning that the contra-fascists will not pass.

Ortega stated flatly that in Nicaragua, "there is no such thing as religious persecution," and gave many facts and figures on the activities of the various churches in Nicaragua to

prove this. But they were forced to act against Bishop Vega, he explained, "because he didn't want to heed the laws of our country. He actually lobbied for the \$100 million, and went to Washington several times in the weeks before the vote."

Vega lobbied for war

The Nicaraguan President recalled that Reagan had quoted from Vega at length in his final pitch to Congress

before the vote. "Bishop Vega is an outright campaigner on behalf of those who are killing our people," said Ortega, adding that the Nicaraguan government could have taken much harsher measures than just barring him from returning to the country.

Ortega received hearty applause when he observed, "We can't afford to forget what happened in Chile. The CIA worked through unions, newspapers and other organizations to create conditions that led to the murder of President Salvador Allende. All this was amply documented in your press and before Congress."

"Reagan's advisors are trying to create a military ring around Nicaragua, but they also need a Trojan horse inside, like in Chile. That Trojan horse can be called La Prensa and others like Bishop Vega, financed by the CIA."

He pointed out that in the seven years since the Nicaraguan Revolution, 138 religious figures have been killed in Central America, and 264 missionaries and lay workers have disappeared, but there has not been one such killing or disappearance in Nicaragua. At this point, people in the audience cried out "El Salvador and Guatemala!," two countries where U.S.-supported rightwing regimes have carried out many massacres.

The Nicaraguan President and other speakers called for more active solidarity in the U.S. to stop the death and destruction, and called the moral force of such a movement "more powerful than all the nuclear weapons and money the U.S. government can spend."

Yarba, "nobody thought we could build such a big machine. And in fact it's a very difficult technology. But today no one doubts that such a machine is possible." The first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed in 1993.

All of these remarkable achievements in Soviet science must be seen in the context of the country's development over the last seven decades. When the Russian Revolution shook the world in 1917, it was greeted with hatred and scorn throughout the capitalist world. The "enlightened" sections of the bourgeoisie predicted that the Soviet "experiment" would collapse and that socialism would "finally" be proven once and for all to be "utopian" and "unworkable."

But socialist construction transformed tsarist Russia of the wooden plow, the pogrom and the Cossack's whip into a modern, industrialized state. Despite imperialist wars, invasions and nuclear threats, the Soviet Union has enjoyed a steadily rising standard of living and economic growth and development. And despite the advances in science and technology, there is no unemployment.

Today the Soviet Union is on the cutting edge of the world's most advanced technologies. Meanwhile the capitalist camp can only offer the working class more poverty and racism, while it feverishly gears up for war.



Demonstrators welcome Ortega across street from United Nations.

WW PHOTO: LALLAN STEIN

Northwestern U. trains Salvadoran killers

By Jeff Sorel

CHICAGO, July 22 — Northwestern University's Traffic Institute seems an unlikely target of protest. Who could oppose research in traffic control, the purpose for which the Institute was founded fifty years ago?

However, lurking behind that harmless-sounding name is a program to train Salvadoran military officers in "police management techniques" with funding from the U.S. State Department. The program is sponsored by the federal Anti-Terrorist Assistance Program.

A four-week training program for the 16 Salvadoran security officials

was completed last week. The U.S. paid the Traffic Institute \$75,000 for the training, and plans to send at least 150 more Salvadorans through the program.

Leonel Gomez, a former Salvadoran land reform official now living in the U.S., and an authority on Salvadoran repression, identified three of the 16 as members of the murderous death squads, "responsible for thousands of deaths."

Two U.S. cities, Phoenix and San Jose, have barred their police officers from acting as instructors in the program while off duty, as the result of

protests from Central American solidarity activists.

At Northwestern, which is located just outside Chicago, many students and faculty are angrily denouncing their university's collaboration with mass murderers from El Salvador's National Guard. The Daily Northwestern ran a front page headline reading "NU Training Suspected Killers."

The presence of death squad officers strolling among the ivied quads should start many students thinking about the deadly linkage of higher education, militarism, and U.S.-supported dictatorships abroad.

EDITORIAL

Gorbachev's speech

SPEAKING IN THE Soviet city of Vladivostok near the Chinese border, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made a significant offer this week for improving relations between the USSR and the People's Republic of China.

"As far as possible, we have similar priorities in accelerating social and economic development," said Gorbachev. "Why not support each other, why not cooperate in implementing our plans wherever this will benefit both sides? . . ."

The Soviet leader referred to joint plans for constructing water-management projects on the Amur River border, helping build a railroad connecting the two countries and cooperating in space exploration, such as the training of Chinese astronauts. In addition, he said that "the USSR is prepared to discuss with the PRC concrete steps aimed at a balanced lowering of land forces."

U.S. imperialism, which likes to camouflage its reactionary foreign policy with phony, pacifist diplomacy, gave an unusually frank, knee-jerk reaction to Gorbachev's speech. Quoted in the Wall Street Journal (July 29), a "senior administration official" said, "From our viewpoint, any improvement in Chinese-Soviet relations in a significant way would not be desirable."

—Crisis in steel

Continued from page 1

with LTV itself in bankruptcy proceedings; with USX (formerly U.S. Steel) workers' contract expiring July 31 and the corporate executives almost literally gunning for a strike, isn't the crisis for steel workers the most important crisis facing the industry?

Of course it is. But that is not what the business press are writing about. They are bemoaning the falling rate of profits in the steel industry for the small group of owners and bankers who sit on top of the steel industry. They are bemoaning the resistance of the steel union to the McDonaldization of the workplace.

But it's the union's resistance that is the real news of the day. The union has been told over and over by the big business press that its days are numbered. It's been said so much that too many are beginning to believe that the union is weak. The union still has 700,000 members. Together with the retirees and laid-off steel workers this is a formidable force that has great capabilities.

Why not? Because the Sino-Soviet conflict has been imperialism's biggest ace in the hole in the international struggle. The division in the socialist camp has sown enormous confusion and demoralization and been a boon to imperialist fortunes at a time when they are under attack in every corner of the globe.

It was the merciless pressure from U.S. imperialism which instigated the Sino-Soviet conflict in the first place. And Washington has exploited it to the hilt to the detriment of the national liberation struggles and socialist movement. They were able to lure China, under the leadership of the regressive Deng regime, in a pro-imperialist direction which culminated in China's 1979 invasion of its socialist neighbor, Viet Nam.

In the last several years there have been small signs of improving Sino-Soviet relations as China has taken a more independent course in foreign policy away from Washington. When the two great socialist countries finally achieve a peaceful settlement of their differences, one that respects the needs of smaller socialist countries like Viet Nam, it would be a stunning blow to imperialism. Such a course can only be anxiously sought after by workers and oppressed people everywhere.

And with the active solidarity of the millions of other organized union members in the country the USW could meet this battle and win.

There are many strategies and tactics that will be debated as the steel workers deepen their fight for justice. But the most important point for the workers to remember is that they built the steel industry and therefore are entitled to its riches.

Wayne Mortal, a 52-year-old worker at the USX Irvin works near Pittsburgh, knows. He recently said, "USX took the money we gave them and ran and bought Marathon Oil Co." All the workers know in their bones that they built the company and it should be theirs.

But the bankers and businessmen have other ideas. They are laying the basis for breaking the union and squeezing even bigger profit margins out of the industry.

As class war breaks into the open in the steel valleys of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana, the watchword will be solidarity.



LETTERS

AK Alaska

HAD to laugh at the boo-boo someone made on state abbreviations. AK is for the great state of Alaska, not Arkansas.

Brown Bear Mallott
Palmer, Alaska

Cartoon idea

AS a regular subscriber for many years, let me suggest a political cartoon that would be very accurate for that fascist President Ronald Reagan.

Cartoon: one half of it a close-up of Reagan, on camera, wearing that shit-eatin' grin on his face, that doesn't fool anyone who knows him.

The other half of the cartoon shows Reagan's face up close, behind closed doors, releasing all that hateful poison from his face, when he thinks of all the people he hates, like the elderly, labor, ethnic minorities, sex minorities, etc.

Peter Campione
New York, N.Y.

Liberty weekend toothache

ALL things considered, my July 4th weekend wasn't all that bad.

My July 5th was something else again.

The nightmare began when a Saturday afternoon toothache gets bad enough to send me to a semi-private New York hospital emergency room that has a dental resident on duty. I find one by 5 p.m. and find three dental patients waiting ahead of me. I'm lucky to have just a dental problem. There are 20 people with medical problems waiting for one doctor. For me it's only going to be a 3-4 hour wait.

I'm there for 20 minutes and out pops a computer invoice that says I owe \$60 for a 1984 emergency room visit, but, of course, no record of payment. I'm told that my current Medicaid card isn't valid for that visit since Medicaid is renewed monthly. They'll treat my current problem provided I pay for the 1984 visit now. The toothache is bad enough that I hand over the money.

Three-and-a-half hours later I get to see the dental resident. He is very courteous. "We don't do extractions on weekends," he says, "we just give out codeine. If you want the tooth extracted, you can go to the local city hospital." I decide to take the pain killer. If I know anything about New York City hospitals, they'll do the extraction and not give the codeine. Then I'll spend the next day suffering

through the aftermath of an extraction.

The hospital doesn't dispense medication, they'll give me a prescription for it. "That's not so bad," I say to myself, "this is the city that never sleeps. There should be plenty of drugstores open, even at 10 p.m., on a Saturday night on a July 4th weekend."

I find out there are three. One takes Medicaid but "we're out of codeine." One has codeine but doesn't take Medicaid. And at last, around midnight, I get to the one that takes Medicaid and isn't out of codeine.

"Your doctor signed the prescription on the wrong line, we can't fill the prescription," says pharmacist number three. "We are a small operation. We can't fill it because he wrote the brand name and for brand name prescriptions the Medicaid reimbursement rate is too low for us to fill it profitably."

It is at this point that the pain begins to subside. The absurdity of the whole thing begins to strike me as funny. They say toothaches are affected by mood. My mood is changing so fast that I leave the pharmacy trying not to laugh.

Now, two weeks later, \$60 poorer and minus one accursed tooth, I can sit back and think about the many features of life under capitalism: the anarchy of production, the duplication of services at the expense of others, Reagan-era Medicaid cuts, inadequate health care that isn't free even to someone who has "coverage."

At current Medicaid reimbursement rates I figure I'll lose one tooth a year, and in accordance with their policy I'll get a set of false teeth. They pay for dentures provided you've lost most of your teeth. They don't like to pay to save teeth. But I still have most of my teeth. And who's to say that there won't be a real revolution here between now and then. I heard George Washington had wooden teeth. That's fine with me. I'll take them wooden. After this July 4th weekend that's the only way I'd want to resemble the "father of our country."

Ira Cane
New York, N.Y.

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Tax 'reform' masks corporate gluttony

By Andy Stapp

JULY 27 — The room on the first floor of the Capitol where they meet has no windows. That's the way the Senators like it when they're drawing up a tax bill. Nobody, with the exception of the mob of lobbyists jamming the corridor outside, knows exactly what's going on inside.

And the only reason that they know what's in the bill is because they wrote most of it.

The name of the game is tax relief for the rich. Now, if they were actually capable of normal, human feelings, it might cause some embarrassment to these politicians that a study by the U.S. Congress itself has just determined that the wealthy have never had it so good. According to this report issued yesterday by the Congressional Joint Economic Committee, a mere half of one percent of the population owns 35% of the country's wealth! Back in 1963, the concentration of wealth owned by the elite 0.5% bracket was 25%. Today, 420,000 wealthy fami-

lies hold average net assets of \$8.9 million each.

They should be able to make do without another tax break. But this time around Reagan wants to cut their top payment rate from 50% down to 27%. That will be less than half of what it was in 1981!

He wants to lower the corporate rate too, from 46% to 33%. Actually, the President has said he would like to abolish corporate taxes altogether, and in that spirit the IRS has found ways to make sure the big operators were excused from forking over like everyone else is supposed to.

On July 18, the United Press International reported that "More than half of the nation's 250 leading corporations, worth more than \$70 billion in profits and led by AT&T, paid no taxes or got refunds at least once between 1981 and 1985."

Big firms got \$ billion rebates

One hundred and thirty of these firms were able to either pay abso-

lutely nothing in federal income taxes or actually receive outright tax rebates in at least one of the past five years. The 46% statutory corporate rate was just a joke to them. If it had been enforced, these firms would have owed \$33.5 billion. Instead they received \$6.1 billion in rebates. The government paid them taxes!

Think how happy this made the top stockholders and executives of AT&T. Although the company profited \$25 billion between 1982 and 1985, it paid exactly zero in taxes, while managing to collect \$636 million in "refunds."

Boeing, General Dynamics, Lockheed Corp., paid nothing over four of the past five years. Perhaps they got some kind of "patriotic arms profiteer exemption" for ripping off taxpayers with multi-billion-dollar cost overruns and bid-rigging.

Taking note of this scandal, the U.S. Treasury Department has vowed to "close loopholes" for firms like Gen-

eral Mills, Pennzoil, Phillips Petroleum, Tenneco and Texaco which have enjoyed years of high profits without taxation. They must pay the entire amount of the new, lower 33% maximum rate, Treasury Secretary Baker has warned.

This is where Congress comes in. The White House doesn't want to be stuck with all the dirty work. That would violate the cherished "separation of powers" doctrine, which in practice means that each branch of government must do its bit to help the rich.

And so last June 6, Representatives and Senators introduced into the "reformed" tax bill billions of dollars worth of special "transitional rules," extraordinary provisions which exempt specific individuals and enterprises from paying their full rate.

Among the business firms so favored were General Mills, Pennzoil, Phillips Petroleum, Tenneco and Texaco.

New facts on assets show rich got richer

By Bruce Bradshaw

JULY 26 — Ronald Reagan is not the first racist to promote the concept of so-called "reverse discrimination." But he has been one of the most loud-mouthed preachers of that ridiculous doctrine, which purports to show that white people are being deprived because of their race by Black people who are supposedly getting more than their fair share.

Of course, the reality is that a small number of rich people, like Reagan, have hogged it all. And most of them are white men, overwhelmingly business types and bankers.

According to the findings of a study jointly commissioned for the Federal Reserve and several other governmental agencies, the wealthiest ten percent of the households in the U.S. own 70% of the country's wealth, while the bottom 90% own only 30%. A huge block of all the corporate stocks, the bonds, the certificates of deposit, the trust funds, money market accounts, and business assets are concentrated into the hands of one percent of the population.

Top 1% own 133 times as much as those in bottom 90%

Families in this one percent own, on the average, 133 times as much as the average family in the bottom 90%!

Most people of all races are well outside the circle of this economic oligarchy.

And the Black population is the most shut out of all. According to a Census Bureau report published on July 18, whites not only receive almost twice the income above what Black people get, but the average white person's assets — that is, the value of what they own — is ten times greater! The Census study states that in 1984 the median net worth of white households was \$39,135, Latin households was \$4,913 and Black households was \$3,397.

Racism behind disparity

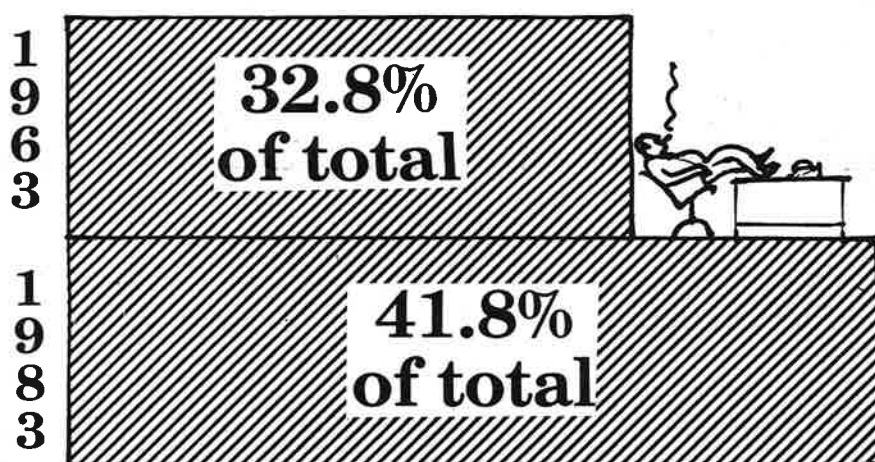
The cause of this disparity is racism. Racism in education, in medical care, in housing, in employment. This confronts Black people every day, includ-

ing those who are not poor. If they can afford a decent house, will a Black family be allowed to buy? Back when he was governor of California, Ronald Reagan made a speech before the California Real Estate Association, charging that Black people alleging discrimination, "staged attempts to rent homes, when in truth there was no real intention of renting, only causing trouble." This is the same guy who says that two percent of the Federal budget for welfare programs is too much, and most of Congress agrees.

The majority of the 35 million very poor people in the U.S. are white. Over one-third of all Black people also fall into this category.

It's an unjust system, that very few have any real stake in defending.

Growth of net wealth of richest 1% of families



WW GRAPHIC: DOROTHY MARTIN

Is there life after World War 4?

By Andy Stapp

JULY 27 — The Pentagon has spent \$20 billion over the past half-decade on a command, control, communications and intelligence network built to survive a protracted nuclear war.

It's all part of the doctrine announced by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who said back in 1981 that the U.S. government was planning "to prevail" in any nuclear conflict. That particular statement ignited such a firestorm of criticism, especially in Europe where new U.S. missiles were about to be deployed, that Reagan felt compelled to change the official rhetoric and state instead that "a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought."

But the preparations for fighting and surviving with these weapons continued unabated. Ten billion dollars has been lavished on one satellite system alone, the Milstar, which, according to a Pentagon spokesman quoted in today's Washington Post, is designed to support the military in "a multiple exchange campaign."

More millions have gone into a "Nuclear Detection System," constructed for "long-term operation in an enhanced nuclear environment," according to Air Force testimony before Congress.

"Even after a nuclear laydown, we

have high confidence that our strategic C-cubed-I systems will survive and endure," one Pentagon official recently told the Senate Armed Forces Committee. He went on to testify about "the ultimate global connectivity" of the new systems "designed to operate for months after a nuclear war begins."

For a long nuke war

Government spokesmen say that a nuclear war "cannot be won," but then add that they are prepared to fight one that lasts for months! It's all double-talk. "This administration, like others, has realized that when you use nuclear weaponry you're seeking to avoid a disaster," asserts Franklin C. Miller, the Pentagon's Chief of Nuclear Policy. Use them to avoid disaster? What does this mean?

One thing it means is that the U.S. government cannot really abandon its old policy of making nuclear threats to further its aims. Back in 1962 Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, "We will use nuclear weapons to prevail, if this becomes necessary." Under President Ford, Defense Secretary Schlesinger declared that "limited" nuclear war remained an "option." President Carter signed a number of military directives along

the same lines.

Reagan's policy isn't basically different. He has simply spent a lot more money to produce "survivable systems." And beyond the politics of nuclear intimidation, this money explains a lot.

Star Wars contracts are worth perhaps a trillion dollars to defense contractors. The B-1 Bomber and the Stealth, the MX missile, Trident submarine and the M-1 tank are all the financial life of the death industry.

If the price is right

According to a company brochure, Goodyear makes combat vehicles to "meet the most stringent technical requirements for survival during a nuclear event." Armament firms will build anything no matter how absurd, if the price is right.

Everyone knows that there would be no surviving a nuclear war. But what firm is going to turn down fat contracts for a truck which is supposed to "survive nuclear blast overpressure," or "Command Shelters" bored into mountain sides, or aircraft with "the ability of operating beyond the initial stages of nuclear conflict"?

Businessmen never pass up a profit, no matter how useless or lethal the junk they're selling.

That would be irrational.



Workers World AFSCME members said, 'Vote no!'

THE FOLLOWING LEAFLET was issued by Workers World Party activists who have been on strike in Detroit. It was distributed to workers as they went to vote July 28 on accepting a tentative agreement offered by the city. The agreement was rejected by 3-1.

City changes tentative agreement.

All AFSCME members should be aware that the tentative agreement we are voting on today contains, among other items, a provision that if city revenues go down in the third year, our wages will go down. Besides this possible wage cut, the agreement also requires our members to pay for increases in hospitalization. Neither of these provisions were part of the agreement announced Friday night. An important blow against contracting out by including the contractual Community Nutrition Workers in the master agreement — was promised by the city on Friday night but taken back from the union on Saturday afternoon.

This contract demands more sacrifices. It's outrageous for the city to demand that workers shoulder the burden of any drop in revenues. Has the city demanded that the banks take cuts in their interest and reduce the city debt? Has the city demanded that GM, Ford and Chrysler with all their record profits give up their tax abatement if the city revenues drop? The city administration will not demand sacrifices from the banks and corporations. They are the real rulers of the

city. This is what we are really up against.

But we are powerful too. We are the ones who make the city run. For the past 13 days we have shut the city down. The 5,000 members of other unions who stood shoulder to shoulder with us in solidarity and the widespread community support have put us in a strong position. This solidarity was unprecedented, and we could have organized even more support.

Some real victories have already been won. Because of the tremendous

support we received from other unions and from the community, the courts were unable to hand down injunctions. Despite the city and its corporate backers' determination to limit a wage increase to 2%, we challenged this and defeated it. We successfully defended our seniority rights as well.

But this settlement does not reflect the tremendous strength of our strike. More could have been done to make this strike stronger. By withholding information on how the city backtracked and changed the tentative

agreement and by leaking information to the media instead of talking to the members, Council 25 did a disservice to our union. Our strike tested and brought forward new leaders too. Together we will learn these lessons and move the union forward in our future struggles.

Vote no!

Keep our picket lines up until our membership has spoken!

Appeal to other workers for support!

AFSCME section
Workers World Party



Rally by Detroit AFSCME workers.

WW PHOTO

—Detroit strike continues

Continued from page 12.

As one worker put it, "Jimmy Hoffa would turn over in his grave if he thought Teamsters were breaking a strike."

Teamsters refuse to break strike

As of this morning, despite repeated attempts by the media to break the solidarity, the Teamsters continue to refuse to cross the lines. Their own contract with the city expires tomorrow, July 31.

This morning, Albert Moore from Teamsters Local 214 told Workers World, "We all should stay out. That way we'll have the city shut down tight and keep management worried. We need to stop the fighting among the union leadership."

Mike Thomas, also from Teamsters Local 214, indicated that the city wants to get the Teamsters to do AFSCME workers' jobs, because they have a multi-job classification. Both the drivers and mechanics did state that even if Teamsters crossed the lines, the garbage trucks could not function for more than a day without the AFSCME mechanics working.

As of today, bus drivers, members of the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union, also continued to honor AFSCME workers' lines.

An AFSCME bus mechanic told Workers World that not one Department of Transportation bus is running in Detroit.

WWP section issues flyer

The AFSCME section of Workers World Party distributed a flyer at the ratification vote. As an example of the enthusiasm with which this flyer was accepted, workers came out from the meeting to get extra copies to distribute to their co-workers.

The flyer was headlined, "City Changes Tentative Agreement," and called for a "no" vote on the contract. It read in part:

"It's outrageous for the city to demand that the workers shoulder the burden for any drop in revenues. Has the city demanded that the banks take cuts in their interest and reduce the city debt? Has the city demanded that GM, Ford and Chrysler, with all their record profits, give up their tax abatements as city revenues drop?"

"The city administration will not demand sacrifices from the banks and corporations. They are the real rulers of the city. This is what we are really up against."

"But we are powerful too. The 5,000 members of other unions, who stood shoulder to shoulder with us in solidarity and the widespread community support have put us in a strong position."

"Because of the tremendous support we received from other unions and the community, the courts were unable to hand down injunctions. Despite the city and its corporate backers' determination to limit a wage increase to 2%, we challenged this and defeated it. We successfully defended our seniority rights as well."

"But this settlement does not reflect the tremendous strength of our strike." (For complete text of flyer, see article above.)

Immediately after the "no" vote, AFSCME Council 25 President Jim Glass issued a statement which read, "We remain on strike until we get a contract." He blamed the "rocky negotiations with Detroit officials on inexperienced city negotiators unable to deliver on their word in several instances."

Following the vote, on Tuesday, AFSCME leaders fanned out around the city, "getting back with their people," according to AFSCME International spokesperson Phil Sparks. "The purpose of the meeting was to say, 'We want to hear what you want and we're willing to back you up as much as it

takes,' " Sparks indicated.

City management was clearly thrown off guard by the AFSCME rank-and-file militancy, the unwavering union solidarity and the indications of continuing community support.

Mayor Young publicly stated that the city had no more money and won't back away from its demand that wage increases be tied to its ability to pay. But as of Tuesday morning, the city was not prepared to return to court for an injunction and did not show up for a bargaining session arranged by a state mediator.

Mayor Young also stated that he was not going to order in strikebreakers, and that the city would return to negotiations. Clearly, city management was genuinely shaken by the strikers' determination.

While events continue to be extremely dynamic, the 15-day

AFSCME strike is already the longest city workers' strike in Detroit history. It demonstrates the growing militancy of service workers which is being shown nationwide.

These workers, the majority of whom are Black, Latin and women, reflect the changing character of the U.S. working class, out of which new leaders will emerge to end the period of retreat and begin an era of working-class struggle.

It remains to be seen whether AFSCME city workers can broaden their support within the labor movement and community to forge the kind of fight that can beat back the big businessmen and bankers who rule Detroit and who are the real enemy in this strike.

But one thing is for sure. The AFSCME rank and file has shown that they are ready, willing and determined to fight.

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.

If you would like to know more about **WWP**, or if you would like to join us in these struggles, contact the branch nearest you:

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Police cover up outbreak of racist attacks in Brooklyn

By Neville Edwards

BROOKLYN, N.Y., July 28 — Willie Turks and Phillip Patten unfortunately have a few things in common. They both stopped at a bagel shop in Brooklyn to get a bagel after work. They both were attacked by a group of white thugs. They are both victims of racist violence.

The only difference is Turks died of severe beatings and Patten is still living despite numerous injuries caused by devastating blows to the head and other parts of his body.

On Wednesday, July 23, Patten, a Black driver for the Command Bus Company, stopped at a bagel shop at 81st Street and Flatlands Avenue in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn, a predominantly white area. After buying his bagel, "which is a thing I do every night after work," stated Patten, he walked to his car when suddenly he was attacked by at least 20 white youths.

The gang of thugs, whose ages ranged from 20 upwards, started beating Mr. Patten with baseball bats and garbage can covers. He was knocked to the ground and severely beaten. He got up and tried to run but was knocked to the ground again. While he was lying on the floor some of the youths got in his car and tried to run him over. "I had just enough time to barely roll out of the way," stated Mr. Patten.

While he was being pummeled, a crowd of white people gathered and cheered the youths on. Patten managed to get up once again and ran to a telephone where he dialed "911," a police emergency number. All Mr. Patten could say was, "I am dying at 81st and Flatlands," before he was attacked again.

"The last thing I did before I passed out was memorize the license plate of the car some of them got into when they drove away," he said. When the police arrived at the scene they found Mr. Patten half conscious and muttering the license number. He then fell unconscious.

Patten was taken to Brookdale Hos-

pital where he was treated for severe injuries. Over 35 stitches were required to close a wound in his head. His arms, legs, back and hips were severely injured.

The police have been handling the case the same way they usually treat Black victims of racist attacks. They did not call Patten's wife, though he gave them the number.

And since the brutal attack, the police have not gotten in touch with him, even though they told him they would be back to investigate the case further. "We have since learned that the police that started the case are not the ones that are assigned to it now," stated Mrs. Yevonne Patten. When Mrs. Patten went to pick up the couple's car there were no records to be found of the car or the case.

The police have told them not to take matters into their own hands. This is an attempt on the part of the police and the city to cover up the matter. "I was later told that many people have been attacked in the area," said Mr. Patten. None of these assaults were publicized.

While Patten was at the hospital the police brought in three people for him to identify. "I could positively identify one of them. For the rest, I was too groggy," he said. It appeared the cops were hoping that Patten could not identify them. Otherwise they would have waited until he had recovered from the beatings.

"This is an area that I am quite familiar with," said Mr. Patten. "I have been driving a bus in the neighborhood for quite some time." He has driven the elderly, the disabled, the kids, just about the entire community of Canarsie have benefited from his service as a bus driver and now Mr. Patten, his wife and two small children must suffer because of white racist trash.

Just as much as the oppressed community and the progressive movement had rallied around the Eleanor Bumpurs or Michael Stewart case, so too solidarity is called for with Patten and his family.



WW PHOTOS: NEVILLE EDWARDS

Twenty bigots attacked the car. Inset: Phillip Patten — beaten with baseball bats.

Klan violence spreading in Chicago area

By Jeff Sorel

CHICAGO, July 22 — An upsurge in racist violence here recently shows that increasing public activities by the Ku Klux Klan are not simply exercises in free speech, but preludes to racist terror.

Shortly after two highly-publicized "white power" rallies in Chicago June 28 and 29, three racist attacks took place.

A Black family's house in a previously all-white neighborhood on the southwest side was firebombed and partially burned after a week of threats and vandalism.

A group of Black youths from the Paul J. Hall Boys Club, marching in a 4th of July parade in south suburban Dolton, was attacked by an organized rock-throwing mob chanting "Keep Dolton white!"

In north suburban Zion, a 16-year-old Black youth named Fahim Ahmed was shot and killed by a 33-year-old white man, Joey Isbell, while attending a carnival in a park. The apparently unprovoked shooting came, according to witnesses, after Isbell began shouting "Klan, Klan, Klan." Shortly before, Isbell had been asking carnival booth workers if they knew of any Blacks causing trouble.

Zion, a city of 18,000, about 20% Black, has been a focus of Klan organizing for several years. According to

Marian McElroy, a leader of Citizens Against the Klan (CATK), a group formed in December after two white-robed youth were seen distributing a Klan newspaper at the local high school, the shooting was "not an isolated incident. Racial incidents involving the Klan have been going on for some time." Recent incidents include an assault led by Klan members against Blacks swimming at nearby Illinois State Beach Park.

CATK has been actively organizing against the Klan. It has issued a set of demands to the Zion city government. These include a public denouncement of the Klan by city and county officials, establishment of a new and representative human relations commission, and creation of a civilian police review board.

CATK is also demanding an end to construction of what will be the largest recreational marina on the Great Lakes at Winthrop Harbor, an all-white community north of Zion. CATK feels the Klan will try to prevent Blacks from getting construction jobs at the marina or using the facility. A picket line on July 18 greeted Gov. James Thompson at the groundbreaking ceremonies.

The growth in organized racist violence must be met with a broad, militant, and united response by the vast majority of people who oppose racism and support equality and justice.

—Cuba

Continued from page 6

asures which had led to people getting rich, such as painters and other visual artists earning hundreds of thousands of pesos a year as a result of mistaken measures and the concepts of people who were supposedly great Marxists or well versed in Marxism but who have a capitalist or petite bourgeois soul. . . .

"There are people who have blind faith in those mechanisms," continued Granma summarizing Castro's speech, "and who believe that's how socialism is built and that we should forget political work. . . . Socialism must be built with political work and organization, with planning and efficiency, because capitalism is the only thing built with the mechanisms they are talking about."

Changes in Party

The unfolding of this campaign against material incentives in Cuba is accompanied by a new emphasis in the Cuban Communist Party on the importance of developing Black peo-

ple, women and youth in leadership roles at all levels of the Party and society. This "renewal" of the Party was adopted enthusiastically at the Party Congress in February, and has no doubt made it easier for the leadership to launch an offensive against material inequality and privileges.

Moreover, there are now tens of thousands of people in the younger generation who have seen firsthand the grim struggle of the oppressed countries against imperialism, especially in Africa. They are the women and men who have fulfilled their internationalist duty by volunteering to take their skills and energies to help out in Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua and other countries hard-pressed by the imperialists. They have shown their willingness to defer personal comfort in the interest of international working class solidarity and the struggle for socialism.

Here in the U.S., capitalism's erosion of human solidarity can be seen in a system that allows millions to be homeless and starving in the midst of over-abundance. In Cuba, they are saying that they didn't fight a revolution just so this kind of old crap could come creeping back.



WW PHOTO: B. SMITH

March on Georgia capitol. Celebrating 19 years of struggle for the rights of the poor, 125 people marched to the Georgia State Capitol here in Atlanta on July 18. Led by President Ethel M. Mathews, the members of the Atlanta Welfare Rights Organization withstood 100 degree-plus temperatures as they marched through the streets at noon to make their demands heard. Chanting children and adults demanded that local and state officials stand up to and resist cuts in human service budgets and join the call for an end to funding of anti-human Star Wars and contra wars. Carrie Morris, President of the All-Peoples Congress in Atlanta, called on the younger marchers to follow the example of their elders and become leaders of the struggle for a better world. — B. Smith

Solidarity unbroken as Detroit workers reject takeaway contract

By Cheryl LaBash
Executive Board
AFSCME Local 457

DETROIT, July 30 — Last Monday, by a margin of over 3-1, thousands of AFSCME city workers here voted to reject a tentative contract agreement between the city of Detroit and AFSCME Council 25.

Today, the 7,000 AFSCME members remain on the picket lines, strong and resolute in their determination to win a decent contract. They continue to enjoy the support of 5,000 city workers in other unions, including ATU bus drivers and Teamsters sanitation truck drivers, who are refusing to cross the picket lines.

The contract vote took place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, July 29, at the Martin Luther King Junior High School. Workers began showing up at 8:30 a.m. From the beginning, the atmosphere was electric, and the overwhelming sentiment to vote no on the tentative settlement and to continue the strike was evident.

Workers were chanting, "No, no, no!" Thumbs down signals were everywhere. Any leaflets with information on the settlement and the strike were eagerly grabbed. After a negotiator explained the third-year contract terms, most of the workers got up and walked out of the informational meeting, determined to vote no and get back to the lines.

The final tally was 2,600 votes against the proposed contract and 831 for it.

The tentative contract had been reached Friday evening under tremendous pressure from city management, the court, the ruling class and the media. But over the course of the weekend, the city reneged on parts of the settlement.

Perhaps when they showed the agreement to the bankers and businessmen who rule Detroit, these power brokers told the city to go for more, thinking they had the workers on the run. But they thoroughly underestimated the militancy of the rank-and-file.

The contract presented to the workers included a wage package of 5% and \$500 the first year, 2.5% and an equity formula tying further wages to city revenues the second year, and the "equity formula" the third year.

The primary sticking point was that



Detroit AFSCME workers facing the cops.

unlike the agreement Friday night, the contract presented on Monday provided that if city revenues go down, the workers could actually take a 2% wage cut the third year of the contract.

Equity provision doomed settlement

It was this provision that thoroughly doomed the settlement. After all, city workers' experience with this equity formula had netted them only a 3% raise over the last three years, despite the current recovery and record city surpluses.

The Monday pact also reneged on an agreement by the city to include the contractual Community Nutrition Workers (CNW) in the master contract. These workers had signed up to

join AFSCME Local 457 last year. The CNWs issued their own flyer titled, "Vote no for the Community Nutrition Workers — for all of us."

They pointed out that not only were the CNWs excluded from this contract, but that seven of them had been fired during the strike. The leaflet stated that if the CNWs were to be included in this contract, it would open the door for all other individually contracted workers to come in and bargain for union wages and conditions. This would defeat the city's reason for contracting out.

Immediately before the contract vote, AFSCME members' spirits were tremendously lifted when they learned that the Teamsters sanitation

truck drivers were continuing to support the strike. This was despite a directive from Teamsters Local 214 leadership to return to work and despite media headlines proclaiming the solidarity as broken.

When the Teamsters came to the DPW yards on Monday, they refused to cross AFSCME mechanics' picket lines. At the Russell Ferry yard, the drivers actually went in, held a meeting, voted, and then walked right back out.

The sanitation drivers then went to their union hall, demanded a meeting with the Teamsters' leadership, and voted to continue to honor the AFSCME lines.

Continued on page 10

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