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THE CALL



"People of the World Unite to Defeat U.S. Imperialism!"

Vol. 1 No. 10

October League (Marxist-Leninist) P.O. Box 54902, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, California 90054

July, 1973 25¢

MASSIVE ROUND-UP OF LATINOS IN L.A.



More than 2,000 people demonstrate at Los Angeles City Hall (Right) while hundreds more picket Federal Building against deportations.

12,000 ARRESTED IN DRAGNET RAIDS

Los Angeles, Calif.—The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has initiated a massive campaign of deportations here in an attempt to strike terror into the more than 1.5 million Chicano, Mexican and Latino residents which live in the area.

The INS, a branch of the Justice Department, began rounding up people in Los Angeles when they arrested more than 1,000 people last year in dragnet raids throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Since then more than 10,000 people, most of them of Mexican ancestry, have been arrested and have been forced to sign papers agreeing to "voluntary repatriation."

The dragnet raids have been resembling more a gestapo round-up than a deportations campaign with the INS setting up roadblocks in the Chicano community of East Los Angeles and checking drivers and passengers for proof of citizenship. In addition, INS agents have also been arresting people at bus stops, restaurants, at their jobs, and have even been breaking into private homes.

In one instance, the INS burst into a Catholic Church service and dragged out more than 200 people, some of them mothers holding babies in their arms. In another case, they tore down a window screen and climbed into a house, taking away an 11 year old boy who was there alone. Later, the parents returned to find the doors wide open and the house empty, only to be informed by neighbors that the boy had been deported to Tijuana, Baja California, some 130 miles away.

"GESTAPO TACTICS"

The deportees have been herded into the Long Beach Naval Station where they are kept handcuffed overnight before they are shipped across the border. Reporters have stated that Immigration officials have taken the handcuffs off of people whenever any news media personnel come to inspect the camps. Furthermore, they have stated that mothers are unable to attend to their children because their hands are manacled.

The Eastside Sun, a community newspaper in East L.A., was incensed by the raids and went so far as to say: "The raids, purportedly undertaken to apprehend 'illegal aliens,' have occurred on a door-to-door basis, and have led to the harassment of all persons with brown skin. In these raids, the elderly, infirm, and innocent children have been inhumanely arrested and imprisoned and the only index for harassment has been the color of a person's skin. Little attention has been paid to the hardships and heartaches caused by 'Gestapo' tactics of INS agents. In one case, INS officials took away a grandmother, leaving her grand-

BROTHERHOOD CAUCUS GAINS IN FREMONT UAW ELECTIONS

Special to *The Call*

Fremont, Calif.—On June 12-14, a record 3,200 members of UAW Local 1364 at the GMAD assembly plant here voted in an election that should break the stranglehold of the International UAW leadership, set a new militant direction in the local's struggles against GM, and significantly influence the struggles for rank-and-file control of other UAW locals around the country.

Earlie Mays, a young Black worker and the leading spokesman for the militant Brotherhood Caucus, was elected to the key position of Shop Chairman. He defeated John "Chief" Herrera, Woodcock's local hireling and long-time political muscleman in Local 1364. In addition, the entire Brotherhood slate, getting strong support from all sections of the workers, but particularly from assembly line workers of all nationalities, made big inroads into the other top offices of the local. While the outcome of a number of Executive Board positions must still be settled by run-offs, it is already clear that the Herrera machine has been effectively smashed.

NEW VOICE—NEW DAY

The election of Mays is of special significance. Though young, Mays has been an active fighter in the local for 11 years. Noted for his eloquence, his strong ties with

the workers, and his uncompromising stance against the company, Mays has proven himself in words and deeds to be a leader of the rank and file. Recognizing and fearing his leadership qualities, the International UAW snatched him up a few years ago, hoping to buy him off by training him as an International organizer. Mays accepted this training, but soon rejected the bankruptcy of the UAW bureaucracy: He renounced a profitable career at the top and rejoined his brothers and sisters on the line, determined to use his skills and training in the interests of the people. As he says, "this is where I've got to be, right here with the blood, sweat and tears."

Mays was the main force in initiating the Brotherhood Caucus, and as Organizing Secretary, was responsible for the Brotherhood's tactics of organizing mass meetings on the assembly lines, calling rallies of the workers, and constantly bringing forth new leadership from the shop floor. Mays got elected because the rank-and-file workers believe in the Brotherhood's slogan: "Put the Power with the People." That a Black worker could be elected to the leadership of a local where the majority of the members are white or Chicano shows the developing class unity in

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House Cuts off Money For Cambodia Bombing

Washington—Wracked with internal division over Watergate, the Nixon government faces the strongest challenge yet to its Indochina policies.

On Monday, June 25, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly, by voice vote to cut off all further appropriations for the bombing of Cambodia. The House shouted approval of the bombing cutoff after rejecting an effort to postpone the measure until Sept. 1.

House Democratic leader Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. said the total cutoff of bombing funds "is the only way for the House to get across emphatically to the Nixon Administration that we want this bombing stopped."

The cutoff came when a Senate-passed amendment forbidding the use of any funds that have been appropriated by Congress for the air war or the resumption of bombing in Laos won House approval as part of a \$3.3 billion compromise arms bill.

In the meantime, the Cambodian liberation forces won many new victories on the war front, wiping out more than 10,000 puppet Lon Nol troops during the month of May.

In an important raid on Pocheatong Airport, near Phnom Penh, artillery of the Cambodian People's National Liberation Armed Forces fiercely shelled U.S. supplied planes, destroying seven of them.

Correction

In the June issue of *The Call*, an error was made in the article on page 2, "Los Tres Rally." The article says that "Los Tres del Barrio are three men who are in jail for killing a drug pusher who was, in reality a federal agent." The agent however, was not killed, only wounded and Los Tres are not accused of killing anyone. Our apologies.—Ed.

Puerto Rican Day Parade

New York, N.Y.—Hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans celebrated the 15th annual Puerto Rican Day Parade here last June 3. This occasion, for years, has been an opportunity for Puerto Ricans to show their pride in their history, language and culture as well as their growing support for the movement to free Puerto Rico.

For the first time this year, progressive and revolutionary groups marched as an anti-imperialist contingent in the parade. They raised the slogan, "Parade one day, but poverty every day." The contingent was supported by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization and defense committees for Puerto Rican political prisoners, Eduardo "Pancho" Cruz, Carlos Feliciano, Humberto Pagan and Martin Gonzalez Sostre.

People in the contingent wore black arm bands to show that although it was good to celebrate, Puerto Rican people also have to march in protest of unemployment, welfare cuts, political repression and police brutality. They chanted, "Puerto Rico la nacion, luche por su liberacion" (Puerto Rico, the nation, must fight for liberation). The chant was often picked up by the crowd watching the parade. Others in the contingent carried flags of Don Pedro Albizu Campos, a nationalist who gave his life in support of Puerto Rico's independence.

The Puerto Rican Day Parade marked the growing consciousness and struggle of Puerto Rican people fighting for their democratic rights in this country as well as for independence of Puerto Rico from U.S. imperialism's colonial rule.

This year's parade was dedicated to the late Roberto Clemente, the famous Puerto Rican baseball player who was killed in a plane crash last year while on his way to aiding earthquake victims in Nicaragua. The parade included many high school bands, social clubs, local businessmen and politicians, as well as workers from local unions, District 65, Distributive Workers, and Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Workers.

There are nearly a million Puerto Ricans living in New York City. Their numbers here are growing because U.S. colonialism has forced them to flee from their island nation where there are fewer jobs to be found and living conditions are poorer. But once here, they continue to face poverty and discrimination. Consequently, the Puerto Rican people in the U.S. are fighting for their democratic rights here and also for the liberation of Puerto Rico, with which they keep close ties.

Antioch Student Strike Against Racism

Yellow Springs, Ohio—This spring, cutbacks and the struggle against them have hit the colleges and universities. Here at Antioch College, a student strike broke out April 20 as a direct result of Federal cutbacks, when the government cut off \$300,000 in aid to the college. Antioch decided to take this money out of the New Directions Program, a program designed to give educational opportunities to poor and minority students. Led by those most affected by the cutbacks, 400 students successfully held the campus shut for seven weeks, demanding that funds for their education be guaranteed as promised. Joined by campus workers and with the majority support of the student body, the strikers continued to expose the racist nature of the budget cuts.

All available means were used to barricade the ground entrances. Building doors were chained and remained locked for the duration of the strike. Control of the college was taken by the angry students.

A month into the strike, the administration poured on the harassment with confrontations, the firings of seven sympathetic teachers and the expelling of twenty student leaders. These were the first political firings ever at 'liberal' Antioch. The administration's last punch was thrown through a court injunction which came down May 31 along with the police and sheriffs. The police removed all blockades and opened school for classes. At this point, some students returned to classes. However, graduation exercises have been suspended indefinitely.

Anti-imperialist Conference in Chicago

Chicago, Ill.—On May 26 and 27, over 300 people attended an anti-imperialist conference sponsored by the Chicago United Front Against Imperialism. Panels and workshops were held on anti-imperialist struggles in Asia, Africa, Latin America and in the U.S.

Speakers and films emphasized the fighting spirit of third world people to win their national democratic rights as well as the need for the people of the U.S. to unite and oppose the U.S. imperialists' policies of war, interference and subversion.

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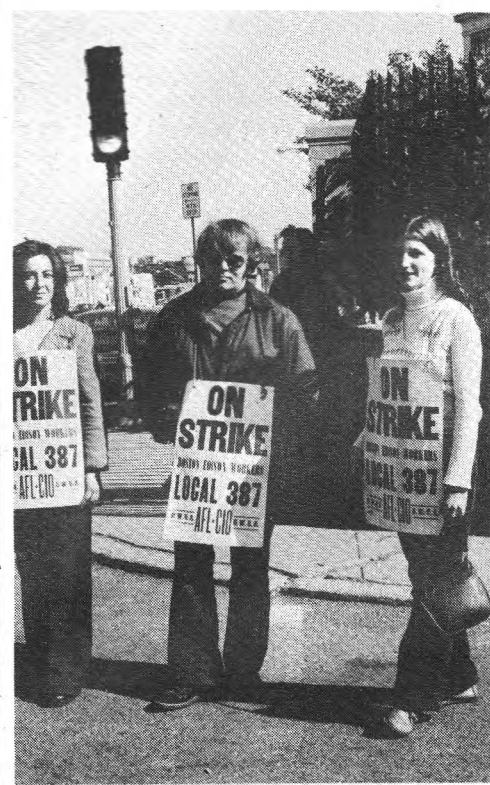
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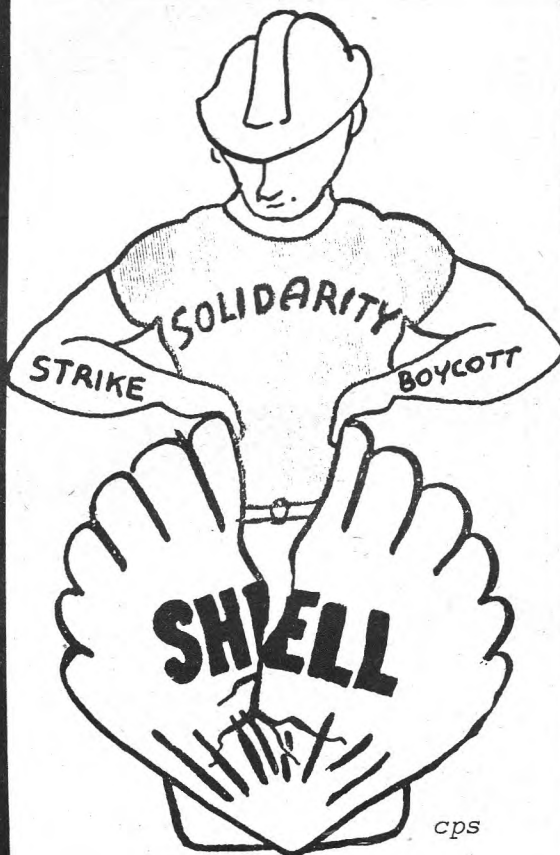
Victory in Edison Strike

Edison strikers (left) expose discrimination.

Five-month old Shell strike against poor safety conditions comes to an end. (See story below.)



call foto



Boston Edison Exposed – Discriminates Against Minority and Women Workers

"Some might call this 'tokenism,' but it's not intended as that," bragged Thomas Lane, company public relations man of Boston Edison Company, adding that Edison had "elected a new Black director and a Jewish vice president. A woman was recently appointed as assistant to the President. . . ."

The company boasts that its "Affirmative Action Program" has raised by 30 per cent the number of minority employees.

But the employees look at it differently! They know too well the history of discrimination and low wages for Black, Latino and female workers which is Edison's actual policy.

Union steward Dennis Walsh (who, incidentally, is white), grinned at the company's boasting: "It's jive, figures lie. What the company does is hire Blacks over the summer. They get them out of Boston High or on a work-study thing and give them shit-jobs—janitors, sweepers, cleaning the johns and stuff like that." Union president Valentine Murphy added that the company has been doing more hiring, but "also more firing!"

There are no records, but their strategy seems to be to hire two then fire one. And the non-English speaking workers are harassed, often to tears? Nearly all the non-white workers are represented by the union.

Responding to Edison's claim to having women at all pay schedules, Murphy pointed out that "only in the past year was there the first female meter reader, the first Black meter reader and the first female draftsman. Edison is worse than the telephone company (ITT) ever thought of being."

Hobin and Walsh told the story of Donna Pomeroy, a clerk at Edison. "She wanted to be a rodwoman (part of a surveying team). There was an opening and she had the seniority to get it. In the interview they really gave it to her and asked her questions they've never asked anyone else. She had to take a physical. They claimed she wasn't strong enough. They asked her to do 40 push-ups. She failed the first time but came back the following day and did them. She's still a clerk,—Edison claimed they hadn't found a replacement for her!"

"It's been three or four months, and her seniority in the meantime makes her eligible for a draftsman job, which is above the rodman. So the way the company has it, she'll now go into a drafting position without having gone out into the field. She'll probably be harassed for not being able to do the job."

It remains to be seen whether government agencies will uphold or strike down Edison's most recent scheme to lower the earnings of women, Black and Latino workers. If it does, it will do so only in response to the organized power of a militant rank-and-file.

SHELL WORKERS WIN BATTLE FOR SAFETY

After nearly five months on strike, Shell Oil workers returned to work this month in refineries across the country. "America's first environmental strike," as the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) had billed it, was a victory. The most important demands have been met—for safety and health committees, the right to call safety inspectors into the plants, the right to be informed about the chemicals used in the plants and their effects on the workers' health, and a six per cent pay increase for 1973 with a 27 per cent increase next year.

The main focus of the strike was the demand for safety and health measures, something the company didn't want to admit were needed. The giant Shell Oil Corporation tried everything they could to discredit the strikers, from fighting OCAW's right to strike over the demands that were "the concern of management only," to stepping up their public relations image as good guys. They even went so far as to accuse the strikers of betraying public interest in the face of an "international energy crisis."

But these tactics didn't work. National boycott activities and support committees were co-ordinated coast to coast to publicize the strike. Students, environmentalists, workers and local organizations participated in solidarity days on the picket lines at the refineries and gas stations in communities and also worked with strikers and their wives on bake sales, rummage sales, and car wash fund raisers. The Shell Workers Wives

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U.S. Steel Guilty—Abel Opposition Grows

In a decision handed down in Wash., D.C., May 9, National Labor Relations Board Judge Fannie Boyls found American Bridge Division of U.S. Steel Corp. guilty of violating the National Labor Relations Act.

Two management officials of the American Bridge Los Angeles plant, B. Pollard and G. Fawver, were found guilty of threatening a Local 2058 member with disciplinary action if he continued distributing a rank-and-file newspaper on plant property. The paper voiced the rank and file's dissatisfaction with the no-strike deal made by International Steelworkers President I. W. Abel and urged the nomination of a rank-and-file slate to oppose Abel in the February 1973 union election.

In a press statement, Carl Kessler, the threatened rank-and-filer, pointed out that, "The company admitted under oath that this interference was requested by Local 2058's President Stanford Douglas, an Abel supporter."

Kessler further stated, "We know that Abel and his henchmen first had to prevent any rank-and-file candidates from appearing on the union ballot in February

Boston—By a count of 850-0 office and clerical workers at the Boston Edison Co. voted on May 25 to return to work, thus ending their two-week-old walkout.

This was the first time in 22 years that members of Local 387 of the Utility Workers Union of America (AFL-CIO) had gone out on strike. Members of two sister locals at Edison—over 2,400 production, maintenance and professional workers—honored the picket lines for the duration of the strike. Their contracts expired May 15. The office and clerical workers had little choice but to walk off of their jobs Friday noon, May 11.

The terms of the company's proposal represented an outright attack on the workers, aimed at their wages and the unity of the three locals. The offer also contained a thinly veiled assault on the earnings of the Black, Latin and women workers.

"Edison didn't think it would have a strike on its hands," Jack Hobin, a picketing draftsman, explained. "It didn't look like the company took us seriously. They sent the production and maintenance people out the day the strike began for the whole day. We went out at noon. When they came back at the end of the day, they honored the picket line. They just came up to the gates, parked in the middle of the street—right in the middle of rush hour!—and called into the company to come out and get the trucks. I would love to have been up in the traffic helicopter. They just left one big yellow blob on Mass Avenue!"

WORKERS DEFEAT DIVISIVE CONTRACT

The unity of the Edison workers frustrated management's attempts to undermine their wages and the power of their union.

The company's original offer was a ridiculous 2 per cent wage increase for each of the two years of the contract. Next, the offer was 1 1/4 per cent, still well below Nixon's 5 1/2 per cent Phase 3 wage ceiling. With the strike the workers won 6 per cent increases for each of the two years.

These increases will apply to all of Edison's 4,200 employees, contrary to what management had planned. Traditionally, wage increases negotiated by one local were granted automatically to the other two. This time Edison offered each local a different wage hike. An engineer on the picket line commented that "the company was trying to break the tandem relationship between the union locals, by offering one union more than the other. Their plan backfired."

This attempt to sow divisions between the locals came hand in hand with Edison's effort to foster divisions within Local 387—between the white and Black and Spanish-speaking workers, and between the women and the men. What Edison proposed was not one pay schedule but two.

The pay raises were to apply supposedly to all 14

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before he could consider ramming a no-strike/compulsory arbitration agreement down our throats; which he did in March.

"Judge Boyls' decision now establishes that Abel's efforts to suppress opposition were fully supported by U.S. Steel bosses who used their threats of disciplinary action to prevent the distribution of information critical of Abel and his gang."

Elsewhere around the country, rank-and-file steelworkers and local unions continue to say "No!" to Abel's sweetheart contract.

Those locals which have already voted down the sell-out include the 1,800 member Local 1219 of US Steel's Edgar Thompson Works; Local 1104, largest in Ohio; Local 2058, American Bridge in Los Angeles; Bethlehem Local 6787 in Burns Harbor, Indiana; Local 65 at US Steel's South Chicago Works; and Local 1557, US Steel at Clairton, Pa.

Up to this point, according to the newspaper, Labor Today, no locals have endorsed Abel's sell-out policies.



Rally at Capitol Homes to protest shooting of young, Black, retarded girl by racist police. (Bird photo)

RETARDED 14 YEAR OLD GIRL SHOT

Community Demands End to Racist Police 'Justice'

Atlanta, Georgia—On Monday, June 4, a 6'3", 210 lb. white cop gunned down a 5'4", 115 lb. 14 year old Black girl in the Capitol Homes Housing Project. She was taken to Grady Hospital in critical condition. Six days after the shooting and the cop who did the shooting, J. D. Roberts, was also armed with a nightstick.

The wounded girl was carrying a kitchen knife and was twenty feet away from the cop when she was shot. Moments before the shooting, the girl's mother had pleaded with the cops not to harm her emotionally disturbed daughter, only to be shoved aside and threatened with arrest.

As is usual in these type cases, the girl was charged with assault. (Her name cannot be legally released because she is a minor.) Charges brought by the family against the cop were dropped without even going to a grand jury.

The above events are so blatantly racist that they are a little hard to believe, but what is more significant is that this type of "incident" isn't even news anymore in Atlanta. It is commonplace. Police in Atlanta have been on a virtual rampage since the fascist John Inman was appointed chief over a year ago. The police attacks have focused almost entirely on Black people.

DEFENSE COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

Here are some recent examples: Unarmed Herbert Comer, Black, is murdered by a cop. The cops then plant a knife on his dead body to make it appear that he was armed. This was discovered by another police officer who had stated disagreements with Inman's policies. He has since been suspended from the police force.

On April 11, Charles Oliver was shot in the head and killed by a "stake-out" squad. This was only one of several killings by "stake-out squads," one of Inman's innovations. Other incidents, short of murder, are also becoming common place.

Only two weeks before the Capitol Homes shooting, two Black high school boys, age 16 and 17, were shot by a detective who claimed they jumped him while he was escorting them off school grounds. Witnesses said otherwise. Yet the two students, both seriously injured, were charged with assault, while nothing was done to the detective. Students at Fulton High School, nearly 800 strong, staged a two-day strike over the incident.

The response to the shootings of the 14 year old girl, however, has been much greater. The murderous, racist policies of the Atlanta Police Department have pushed the people about as far as they will go. At a hastily called rally on Saturday, June 9, several hundred people demanded that the police responsible for the

shooting be fired. A broad range of groups supported the rally, including the People's Committee to Insure Justice, Operation Breadbasket, several tenants organizations, the Black Workers Convention Committee, Oujimu, (a citywide high school group), and the October League, as well as other groups. SCLC gave its verbal support but did not attend.

The Call talked to a number of people at the rally, including several witnesses to the shooting. One resident of Capitol Homes told us that this was really nothing new. "The cops are constantly harassing and intimidating residents to the point where you can't even gather in the street to talk to your friends. One high school student spoke and asked "If we are protected by the police, who is going to protect us from the police?"

The mood at the rally was angry and determined. A defense committee for the girl was elected with Sherman Miller, a member of the October League and Mead strike leader, as its chairman. A march to the courthouse, Wednesday, for the hearing of charges against officer Roberts was planned. At the hearing, which was packed with community people, the case against the officer was thrown out.

LESSON ON "JUSTICE"

Throughout the hearing, Roberts could be seen laughing at witnesses testimony. During the judge's closing statement, many people walked out. One person told a *Call* reporter in the hall outside the courtroom that he thought the judge had taught a lot of people a good lesson about so-called "justice" in America.

The hearing was supposed to determine if there was enough question to warrant a grand jury investigation, and nothing more. Instead, the judge alone ruled on the merits of the case, threw out the people's evidence, and in a blatantly racist statement said, "the only point I can see on her side is he shot her, if you want to call that one point for her." One can assume that if she had died, that would have been two points in her favor.

Another rally was held two days after the hearing. The defense committee is now working on the girl's case. She still faces charges of assault. The committee also is planning a people's trial of officer Roberts. The girl's lawyers are planning further action. The defense committee is trying to broaden its base in Atlanta to mobilize the community against further "legal assaults," such as this. With every politician in Atlanta, Black and white, running on a law-and-order ticket, the people are going to have to organize solidly against the continued legal police murder.

Donations for the legal defense of the girl and for aiding the work of the Defense Committee, may be sent to Betty Bryant, 2186 Polar Rock Ave. S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30315.

Summerhill Not the Same Since Battle with Landlord

Atlanta—Summerhill is what the city fathers of Atlanta, always conscious of the city's image, like to call a "low income area." Everybody else calls it a slum. The sprawling southside neighborhood is populated by Black and white of all age groups. It is one of the most homogenous areas of Atlanta. What everybody has in common is poverty.

On Glenwood Ave., along the northern edge of Summerhill, four young Black men, including some members of the October League, recently moved next door to an 80-year-old, legally blind white woman. Their two houses are owned by the same landlord.

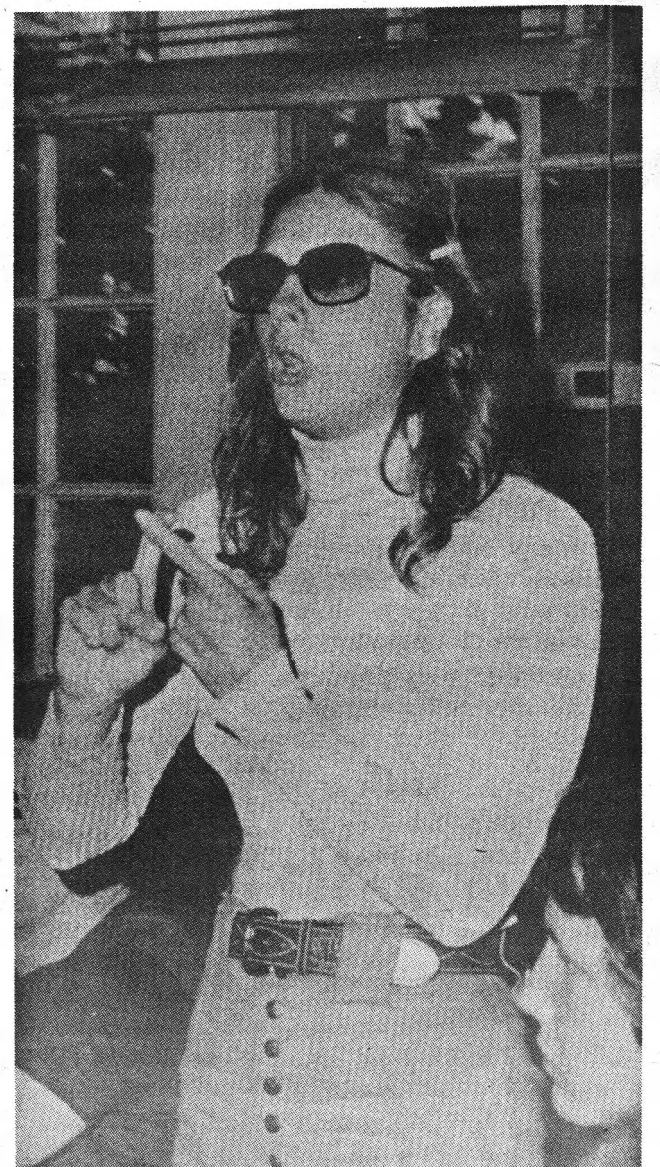
NEEDED FURNITURE MOVED

Several weeks ago, the landlord asked his young tenants if they would like to make \$4 each for an hour's work. Jobs at \$4 an hour are few and far between in Atlanta, so they accepted. He needed some furniture moved out of his other house, he said.

"After removing a few articles of furniture, we began to realize what the landlord was asking us to do," one of the brothers later told *The Call*. The old woman was being thrown out in the street because she had gotten behind in her rent. "We informed the landlord of our decision to move the woman back into her home, which we did. The landlord called the cops."

The community responded to the eviction by coming out into the street, and the cops called for reinforcements. They arrested three of the Black men plus one white man who had been helping move furniture back into the house. With the arrests, other neighbors, Black and white, began moving furniture back inside. The police couldn't arrest the whole block, so they took the four away, charging them with "interfering with an officer."

With the aide of the police, the landlord finally succeeded, a day later, in evicting the old woman. But that one particular block on Glenwood Avenue isn't quite the same. Some of the older white families hadn't had much contact with the young Blacks, who in age and culture seemed far away. Now, they can be heard speaking proudly of their new neighbors, and preparing for the day the landlord tries to evict them.



Girl's attorney, Mary Joyce Johnson, speaking at a community protest meeting following shooting.

STRIKE ENDS BUT:

Battle not Over at Rich's

Atlanta, Ga.—After a seven-week strike, the employees at Rich's Department Store have returned to work. A formal agreement was signed on May 22 by Harold Brockey, chairman of the board, and Joel Goldberg, president, and the representatives of the Rich's striking employees, Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy and Rev. Hosea Williams.

Even so, it does not appear that all was settled between the management and the workers. The main demands put forward by the strikers were: an end to discrimination in promotion and hiring; sick benefits; the observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as a holiday; and a \$1.00 per hour across-the-board raise.

Rich's finally agreed to place 45 Blacks in positions as foremen, managers, supervisors, or head of sales, and to provide protective clothing for workers where needed. However the agreement signed also contained such "concessions" as: "Any and all employees are guaranteed the right to select Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday as one of their personal holidays. Rich's will participate in a meeting of the business community to consider making King's birthday a citywide holiday;" "Promotions will generally be based on seniority, experience, formal training, and productivity;" and "Rich's is in the process of reviving its sick-leave policy."

Some 50 employees must take lesser paying jobs on the pretext that their former positions have been filled. Four workers, including Ernie Brown, one of the strike leaders, have not been allowed to return to work due to alleged charges of misconduct.

Curtis Thomas, one of the strikers, did not speak to demands that were won or lost in the strike, but felt that the strike itself was a step forward. He said, "I feel like the main thing we won was our dignity. We showed Rich's that we were together—that we would strike—and didn't make any promises that it wouldn't happen again."

"White Peoples" Organization Bombs GI Bookstore

Jacksonville, N. C.—Only minutes after a meeting of Black marines ended and dispersed, an explosion ripped through the United We Stand Bookshop. The bomb, a deadly dynamite and nitroglycerin device, had been set by Leroy Gibson, head of the racist Rights of White People (ROWP) organization. Gibson is well known for his fascist vigilante tactics. Only fortunate timing prevented the death of GI's and counselors who had been discussing steps to combat the barefaced racism practiced at Camp LeJeune.

The blast came in the wake of threats made by Gibson. Two weeks prior to May 2 when the bombing occurred, Gibson threatened to kill Fred Berardi, a white organizer who works in the store. The ROWP leader told Berardi that he would "have his store blown up." A witness has identified Gibson as being at the scene of the crime several minutes before the blast, carrying a paper bag. Another accomplice was seen holding a flashlight while still a third stayed in a getaway vehicle with the motor running. Gibson has been arrested on this charge.

MILITARY PUNISHMENT

Though this attack was the severest yet, Black marines at Camp LeJeune face all kinds of intimidation and discrimination daily. Black GI's receive more military punishment through courts-martial and Article 15's (non-judicial punishment) than white soldiers. Penalties for Black marines are stiffer than those imposed on whites. These forms of national oppression and others were the subject of conversation when an organizer from the National Black Draft Counselors in Chicago met with Black marines the night of the bombing. It was the growing unity and strength promoted by the bookshop that Gibson targeted on. United We Stand has served since October 1971 as a meeting place and distribution center for the marine-published underground newspaper *Rage* and other literature. Gibson and his ROWP were only continuing the fascist methods they had used only two years ago in Wilmington, N.C., when they engaged the Black community there in armed assaults. Right on the heels of this bombing,

Farah Strike One Year Old

El Paso, Texas—Chicano workers have always been in the forefront of the Chicano Movement from the building of the CIO in the Southwest in the thirties, to the Delano grape strike in 1965.

This is especially true of the 3,000 Farah workers, most of them Chicanas, who have been on strike at Farah Manufacturing plants in Texas and New Mexico for over a year in order to have the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) recognized as their union.

The strike began at the Farah plant in San Antonio, Texas, when 35 union organizers were fired May 3, 1972. When news of the firings got around, workers walked off their jobs at plants in Victoria and El Paso, Texas and at Las Cruces, New Mexico.

In the first week of the strike, security guards used police dogs to intimidate the workers manning the picket lines at the El Paso plant, and on May 25, 1972, police arrested 125 strikers on John Doe warrants for violating a state law prohibiting mass picketing.

Since that time, the owner and president of the company, Willie Farah, has refused to even sit down in a single negotiating session with the ACWA in spite of the fact that Farah stock has dropped from \$30 a share to \$10 a share since the strike began. In addition, the company has recorded an \$8.3 million loss in sales as a result of a national AFL-CIO boycott on the firm's pants.

The strike has drawn national attention and support because of the importance of the Southwest. Hitherto, the garment industry, as well as other manufacturers, have been able to reap tremendous profits from the unorganized labor markets which lie along the Mexican border.



Chicanos and Mexicanos have suffered under intense racism and national oppression in the Southwest, similar to that which the Blacks have encountered in the South. They have thus been easy prey to the "divide-and-rule" tactics. The result has been severe exploitation. Farah workers, for example, begin at \$1.70 an hour and only receive small annual wage increases. One Farah striker told the Los Angeles Times in an interview that she was receiving \$1.80 an hour after eight years of service to the company.

The results of course, have been that Farah has become one of the largest makers of men's and boys' pants in the United States and prior to the strike was netting over \$10 million in profits yearly.

Farah, however, is not the only garment plant in the Southwest reaping such enormous gains. There are, in addition, more than 20,000 clothing workers in El Paso alone which are employed by either Levi-Straus, Tex-Togs, or Hicks-Ponder. Out of all of these workers, only 2,200 are organized at the Levi-Straus plant.

The Farah strike thus "represents one of the first attempts to break the grip of non-union industry in the Southwest," and has also become a rallying cry for the Chicano Movement.

La Raza Magazine stated the significance of the strike most clearly when they wrote: "If the Chicanos involved in this union movement can get a victory against a giant company such as Farah, it might open and show the way to intensified efforts at unionization in other firms employing large numbers of Chicanos in El Paso and other places. A victory by our Raza will also show that Chicanos, when united, can get demands that they seek as people under an oppressive capitalist society as the United States is."

NATIONAL LAWYERS

GUILD HOLDS SOUTHERN

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

How to be a "people's lawyer" was the main focus of the Southern Regional Conference of the National Lawyers Guild held June 8-10th. Arthur Kinoy, Vice President of the National Lawyers Guild and a long time activist lawyer was one of the opening speakers. He told what he had learned from his experiences in the South in the early 1960s and spoke about the role of legal people in the mass movement.

"I saw the power of the people for the first time here in the South. I saw the power of the people for the first time in Danville, Va., in Georgia, in Jackson, Miss. . . . The one thing that I've learned so deeply through all the years in and out of the South is—the South is strong, the people of the South are strong! . . . There is a deep relationship between the crisis American rulers are in today and the heart of the experiences flowing out of the South. . . This is a moment like '63 and '64."

Present during the weekend were representatives of various mass movements throughout the South. Two representatives from Save our Cumberland Mountains (SOCM) spoke on the struggle against strip mining.

The film "Wildcat at Mead" was shown followed by a panel discussion on labor work. The panel consisted of representatives of the Mead struggle, Shell strike support group, and a representative of the Mississippi pulpwood workers. Both lawyers and non-lawyers were on the panel.

North Carolina Political Prisoners Committee gave a slide show which showed how the Black Liberation movement was under attack in North Carolina and several people had been jailed. Other topics of discussion during the conference were prisons, anti-discrimination suits in employment and law school organizing as well as others. Law students and lawyers are responding to and becoming part of the growing peoples movement, using their skills in a creative way to aide the movement.

Kinoy pointed out the future of the National Lawyers Guild in relation to the movement. "Today and the year ahead is like '63 and '64, new and different because history never repeats itself identically, but it's of that quality . . . so it's a very exciting time and the Guild will grow now and develop like it did in '63 and '64 and you people will do it."



TAKING UP THE CALL



VIETNAMESE DELEGATION WELCOMED IN CHINA

"The Chinese and Vietnamese peoples are kith and kin, sharing weal and woe. We are of the same family...Our two peoples have forged a profound and militant friendship." With these words, China's largest newspaper, the People's Daily, welcomed a delegation from the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to China on June 4. The delegation was led by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Vietnam Workers Party, and Pham Van Dong, Premier.

Wherever they went, the Chinese people lined the streets to show their friendship with Vietnam and their support for the victory of the Vietnamese people over U.S. imperialism. Mao Tsetung, Chairman of the Communist Party of China, in his enthusiastic welcome to Le Duan, pointed out that Vietnam "belongs to the Vietnamese people, not to the reactionaries in Vietnam, still less to imperialism."

At a banquet in honor of the Vietnamese delegation, Chou En-Lai praised the history of the Vietnamese people, showing at the same time that "the tasks they face are still arduous," because of the continued violations of the Paris Peace Treaty by the U.S.

Le Duan spoke next, and summed up the lessons the Vietnamese have learned from the Chinese revolution. He then detailed the political situation in Indochina today and concluded by expressing the desire that, "The great friendship and militant solidarity between our two parties, governments, and peoples be ever-green, ever-lasting."



BELGIAN COMMUNISTS EXPOSE SUPERPOWER "PEACE" TALKS

(Hsinhua)—"Despite their disarmament talks, the two superpowers — the U.S. imperialists and the Soviet social-imperialists — beat the records of armament." This is the title of an article in the latest issue of Clarte, organ of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium, which exposes the disarmament hoax, according to a report from Brussels.

The article points out that the great din made by Moscow about "disarmament" and "consolidation of peace" is a "stupendous fraud to benumb the consciousness of the people."

The article notes that all the talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union have in effect given a new impetus to arms production. The U.S. and Soviet military budgets have been swelling continuously.

The article said: "All the facts show that the object of the two superpowers is not disarmament but the preservation of their arms monopoly and technical superiority, so as to exert still greater pressure on the other countries."

KHADAFY NATIONALIZES U.S. OIL, ASSAILS IMPERIALISM

Libyan President Colonel Moammar Khadafy declared at a rally in Tripoli, marking the third anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from Wheelus Air Force Base, that Bunker-Hunt Oil Company's holdings in Libya had been nationalized.

Khadafy, speaking before a cheering crowd, said, "The United States which thinks that she is controlling the world through her monopolistic oil companies and naval fleets, needs a severe slap in the face in the Arab region."

Khadafy said, "America which is being punished, defeated and kicked everywhere, has not yet had its final lesson, because we are still witnessing its complete bias in favor of Israel."

"The time might come where there will be a real confrontation with the oil companies and the entire American imperialism."

The take-over gives Libya full control of the rich Sareer oilfield, since it has already annexed the holdings of British Petroleum which shared control of the area with Bunker-Hunt. Bunker Hunt is the son of Texas oil billionaire, H. T. Hunt.

In a press conference following the nationalization, Khadafy told the press that he was using the control of the oil as a political weapon against the reactionary policies of U.S. imperialism. He stressed the growing importance of oil in the Arab countries because of the gradual drying up of U.S. oil reserves.

UPSURGE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The upsurge of demonstrations and strikes against the racist policies of South Africa continued through May and June as white students in Cape Town held marches protesting new municipal laws which forbid political gatherings. In June, Black students at a high school in Umtata called a strike to protest discrimination in education, in which the principal's house was attacked and a police car overturned.

One hundred and thirty students were arrested and charged with serious crimes in a further attempt to quell the rising tide of rebellion among the Azanian people. In the past few months over 60,000 workers and 10,000 students have participated in strikes and rallies although both are illegal in South Africa.

CUBA CELEBRATES JULY 26th

This July 26, the Cuban people celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks led by Fidel Castro in 1953. July 26 is a joyous holiday in Cuba because it commemorates the most important of the early armed skirmishes with the reactionary Batista government which eventually led to the Cuban revolution.

In October of 1953, Castro was captured and tried in court for the Moncada incident. In his defense he made the famous statement:

"It is understandable that men of honor should be dead or prisoners in a republic whose president is a criminal. . . I know that imprisonment will be harder for me than it has been for anybody. . . but I do not fear it. . . Condemn me. It does not matter. History will absolve me."

O.A.U. SUMMIT MEETS

"Africans are determined to liberate the whole of Africa." This statement by Secretary-General Nzo Ekahh Nghahy provided the keynote for the tenth summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from May 17-29.

The main idea expressed throughout the twelve days of meetings was the need for unity among the African states in solving common problems. New pledges were made to do everything possible to advance the struggles for national liberation in southern Africa and Guinea(Bissau). At the same time, the OAU affirmed the need for militancy in safeguarding the rights of independent nations against the superpowers, particularly on the question of sea and fishing rights.

The assembly also expressed its solidarity with the Arab and Palestinian peoples in their struggle against Israeli Zionism, pointing out that imperialism and colonialism must be defeated, not only in Africa, but in the Mideast and all over the world.

Armando Guebuza, representing the Frelimo organization in Mozambique showed how revolutionary forces there have liberated over a million people in the northern part of the country, adding that the colonialists have become so isolated that "even the white population is supporting the freedom fighters."

Mateus J. Neto of FNLA in Angola, also stressed the increased isolation and military weakness of the Portuguese reactionaries. He stated that FNLA and MPLA, the two Angolan liberation organizations, were determined to merge into one, to better fight the common enemy. "Then we will have a fighting force of 20-30,000, and the foundations of Portuguese rule in Angola will be trembling," concluded Mr. Neto.

MARCOS—"A NEW HITLER"

The reactionary nature of Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship in the Philippines was further exposed in May as Philippine Consul General Ruperto Baliao asked for political asylum in Los Angeles, California, calling Marcos "a new Hitler."

Baliao told of orders he had received to aid in the round up and extradition of Filipinos in the U.S. who are critical of Marcos, even though many of them are U.S. citizens.

INDIA OCCUPIES SIKKIM

The government of India has occupied Sikkim, a small mountain nation on the Indian-Chinese border.

Since 1948, when the British imperialists were forced out, India has held a protectorate over Sikkim, beefing up the wealthy ruling class of Bhutias people, including the King. The vast majority of people in Sikkim are Nepalis, living in tremendous poverty.

Earlier this year, the King's tactic of putting a "democratic" facade on his despotic government backfired. When rigged elections were held, the people answered by surrounding the Palace for three days with huge demonstrations. After 500 were arrested, the people began seizing the police stations.

On April 8, the frightened King called in the Indian army to suppress the revolt and take over the government. Indira Gandhi's Indian government jumped at the chance to expand its power even further on the subcontinent.

In the 60's, India invaded Goa and Kashmir; and also backed various plans to invade Tibet with money and arms, and launched a number of border attacks against China.

In 1972, supported by the U.S. and the USSR, India attacked Pakistan and managed to set up the puppet of "Bangla Desh." The occupation of Sikkim, like these other expansionist moves, is a direct attempt to run the show on the subcontinent, crush the peoples' movements, and set up new bases for attacking China.

SIHANOUK IN AFRICA

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian head of state and Chairman of the National United Front visited ten foreign countries in May and June. His tour took him to Senegal, Guinea, Mali, the Congo, Zambia, Mauritania, Algeria, Morocco, Albania, and Yugoslavia.

In each country, Sihanouk was welcomed as the recognized representative of the Cambodian people, while Lon Nol's puppet government was consistently condemned for its collusion with U. S. imperialism.

In Zambia, President Kaunda expressed his support by saying, "We in Zambia understand the meaning of struggling for freedom. We fought for our freedom and independence. In Southern Africa as in Cambodia, the question is simply one of right versus wrong, freedom versus oppression."

In Albania, President Lleshi told Sihanouk, "The armed struggle being waged by the Cambodian people is of international importance. It is another example of the invincibility of a small people that fights for a just cause."



Khadafy (left) shown here with Egypt's President, Sadat, nationalized the holdings of Bunker-Hunt Oil.

SOVIET REVISIONISTS' SHAM SUPPORT IN INDOCHINA

Hsinhua — "Following the signing of the agreements on Viet Nam and Laos, the turn of developments in Indo-China to the restoration of peace and political settlement now brings up particularly sharply the question of Cambodia. The fire of the fratricidal war continues to blaze in that country," the Soviet paper "Pravda" said in an article recently. It bewailed that "today, the pernicious consequences of the war have become more obvious than ever," bringing about "political and economic chaos in the country," and so on and so forth.

As is known to all, the war between the patriotic Cambodian troops and people and the Lon Nol clique is a life-and-death battle between the force of national salvation and that of national betrayal, between the force of upholding sovereignty and that of selling out sovereignty. The Lon Nol clique is no "brother" of the Cambodian people; it is a bunch of traitors who have sold themselves to imperialism. The Cambodian people's war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation is a just war, and their struggle against the traitorous Lon Nol clique is a just struggle for safeguarding the independence and sovereignty of their motherland. It has nothing to do with "fratricide."

EXCELLENT SITUATION PREVAILS

At present, an excellent situation prevails in the struggle in Cambodia. After waging a valiant struggle in the past three years and more, the patriotic Cambodian troops and people have effectively controlled 90 per cent of Cambodian territory and 85 per cent of the population whereas the Lon Nol clique, holed up in isolated Phnom Penh, is panic stricken and at the end of its tether. The people throughout the world rejoice at the Cambodian people's victory. However, the Soviet revisionist leading clique which has all along teamed up with the Lon Nol clique is jittery like ants on a hot pan. By raising a hue and cry about the "pernicious consequences" of the war and its "political and economic chaos in the country," it is shouting itself hoarse in support of the tottering Lon Nol clique.

In a recent speech at a mass rally in Conakry, capital of Guinea, Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk solemnly pointed out that the Cambodian people would never "accept a deceptive peace" and that "they will fight to the end, that is to say, until the enemy besieged in Phnom Penh surrender unconditionally and the system U. S. neo-colonialism established in Phnom Penh in 1970 was swept away forever." But, the Soviet revisionist clique utterly disregarded the Cambodian people's interests, clamouring loudly for the need to bring developments in Cambodia "to the restoration of peace and political settlement."

MUST ASK WHY?

One cannot but ask why, at a time when complete victory is in sight in the Cambodian people's struggle against U.S. aggression and for national salvation, the Soviet revisionists should have gone so far as to turn facts upside down and confuse right and wrong? What are their motives? To put it bluntly, the Soviet revisionists' deliberate distortion of the nature of the Cambodian war and their slanders against the Cambodian people's struggle as a "fratricidal war" are obviously aimed at sabotaging the Cambodian people's struggle against U. S. aggression and for national salvation in a vain attempt to make the Cambodian people lay down their weapons so as to prop up the tottering rule of the Lon Nol clique. The "political settlement" of the Cambodian issue peddled by the Soviet revisionists is an effort of co-ordination with the peace talk fraud hatched by U. S. imperialism and the Lon Nol clique, an effort to split the patriotic Cambodian forces.

The hostility of the Soviet revisionist clique towards the Cambodian people and its support for the Lon Nol clique does not begin today. It has up to date refused to recognize the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia which is leading the Cambodian people ir

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 16)



Victorious Pathet Lao troops are welcomed home by villagers.

People of Laos Fight on

After months of negotiations in Vientiane, Laos, between the revolutionary Pathet Lao, a united front of patriotic Laotians and the U.S.-controlled Royal Laotian Government, a shaky ceasefire has come to Laos. The cease-fire agreement outlines a coalition government with positions shared equally by the liberation forces and the Royal Government. It calls for the removal of foreign troops and an end to the use of Thailand as a base of aggression against Laos. The agreement allows refugees, driven from their homes by U.S. bombings and CIA-paid troops, to return to their villages in the liberated zones.

This agreement represents a tremendous victory for the three million Laotian people. History shows, however, that peace-loving people must maintain their vigilance and demand that the U.S. adhere to these agreements.

The history of the present struggle in Laos really began with the 1962 Geneva Accords, which were supposed to assure the sovereignty and neutrality of Laos. This treaty was sabotaged by the U.S. government, through the CIA. In the early sixties, a free Laos was too much of a danger to American plans for the war in Vietnam. So, the U.S. forced the Pathet Lao to withdraw from the coalition government that was set up at Geneva, and began a campaign to destroy completely, the revolutionary forces.

The CIA was put in charge of this "secret war" with the Pathet Lao and the Laotian people. Their first tactic was to build a huge mercenary army, composed of Meo tribesmen from the Laotian Highlands, and puppet troops from Thailand. The CIA's chartered airline, Air America, flew this army on missions all over Laos. (Air America, officially based on Taiwan, is also involved in the transport of opium from Laos and Vietnam).

Another tactic was to infiltrate the Laotian government with agents of the CIA's front, the Agency for International Development, (AID). These agents saw to the construction of a secret CIA base in Long Cheng, which was used as a supply center for the mercenary army, as well as a transit point for the opium trade.

CARPET BOMBINGS

In 1968, when Lyndon Johnson was forced to cut back on the bombing of Vietnam, the CIA advised turning the air power on Laos. For almost five years the Pathet Lao-held liberated zones were subjected to carpet bombings

which destroyed virtually every town, village, and city in those regions. In the last eight years, 900,000 people, one-third of the population of Laos, have been made refugees by the savage bombing and CIA evacuations.

In spite of this brutal, genocidal attack, the people in the liberated zones, under the Pathet Lao leadership have continued and strengthened their resistance. Many of the national minorities in Laos joined forces with the Pathet Lao, based on a policy of stressing national unity while recognizing the importance of each minority. With their farms and villages destroyed, the people rebuilt their society in highland caves. They have created underground schools, hospitals, factories, power plants, repair shops, munitions plants, printing shops, sewing factories, and iron works.

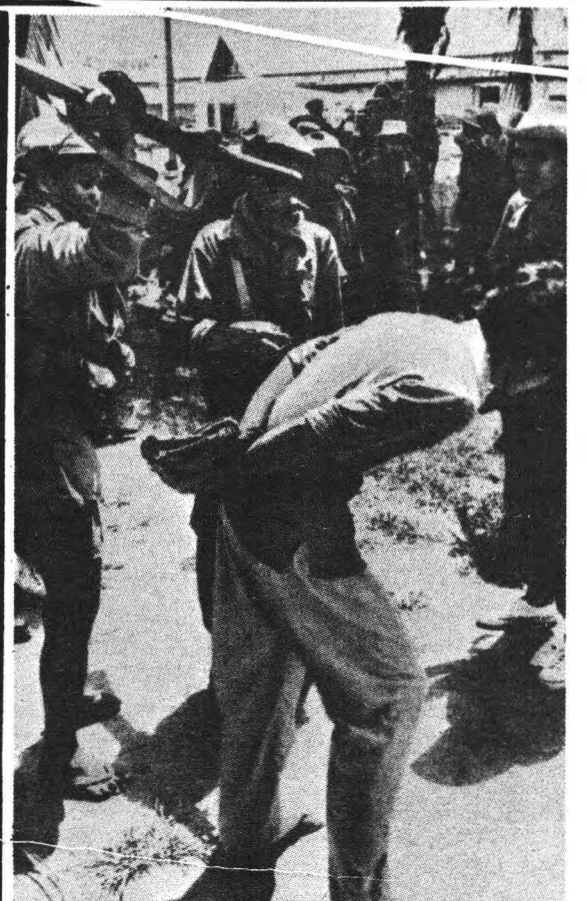
Year by year, the peoples' armed forces have grown stronger. In November 1971 they launched an offensive which crumpled American operations in the liberated zones. In April 1972, they overran the CIA base at Long Cheng, and today four-fifths of the country is liberated.

Not All the Prisoners Are Home

Pres. Thieu holds 200,000 civilians in prison
Buddhists, Catholics, Neutralists, Political Opponents



Free All the Prisoners
Stop Aid to Thieu



Cambodian patriotic student beaten by Lon Nol puppet troops.

U.S. Economy Faces Stormy Weather

The hard times of 1970-71-72 are barely behind us, but already another period of layoffs, short time and bankruptcies is coming up. This is the consensus of a growing number of financiers as well as economists. Though most of these sources state that the coming slowdown will be a "mild" one, a growing minority believes a "big bust" is possible.

Henry Ford II, the auto magnate who drew \$875,000 for his "work" as chairman of the company last year, plus about \$3 million in dividends as owner, predicted in mid-May that auto production would have to slow down later this year or early the next. "Obviously automotive sales in the U.S. cannot continue indefinitely at today's record levels," he told the annual Ford stockholders' meeting May 10.

Other auto industry chiefs have not yet commented publicly, but a general slackening is widely predicted by a number of other sources. On May 10, the Commerce Department published a survey showing that people expected to buy fewer cars and major appliances in the coming year. The main reason given was that fewer households expected their incomes to keep up with the runaway in prices.

The bulk of the "boom" in steel, auto and some other

industries in late 1972 and the first three months of '73, the Commerce Department reported, happened because people were buying cars, refrigerators and other big-ticket items. The sales volume was much greater than usual at this time of year, another survey showed, because people correctly expected that prices were heading skyward, and seized on what they saw as a 'last chance' to stock up. Several analysts described it as "scare buying."

BUY NOW, PAY LATER

The buying panic, Commerce Department figures also showed, was paid for largely out of savings and by going into debt, rather than out of current income. When people draw out of their savings accounts to make purchases it means they have less money to spend in the future. Likewise, when people buy on the instalment plan, a larger part of their future paycheck goes to pay off the debt, leaving a smaller part to spend. Both trends, economists consider, signify that a slowdown in sales lies ahead.

The amount of instalment debt taken on during January to March set an all-time record. An economist with the Mellon National Bank said some of the figures on instalment buying of big-ticket items were "absolutely

frightening" in view of the downturn that tends to follow, and in view of the growing bankruptcy risks.

Industrial corporations reported "delightful" increases in their profits during the first three months of the year. Auto increases, in particular, were described by the *Wall Street Journal* as "little short of glorious," and a steel industry analyst said "It's been years since the industry has seen such wealth." Spurred by such profit gains, companies in many important industries are ordering record amounts of machine tools and other equipment, mainly to expand their production capacity.

Executives of the machine-tool industry, however, stated at the end of April that a number of their customers are ordering machinery and equipment for speculative reasons, and may well cancel before delivery. Others may be buying machinery as a hedge against inflation. This is a form of speculation which always appears when prices increase rapidly. Some industrial raw materials, especially copper, have also been strongly in demand recently for speculative reasons, not necessarily to meet productive requirements, it was reported.

Meanwhile, Labor Department figures released in late April showed that the buying power of the average production worker's weekly take-home pay fell again in March, for the fourth time in five months, and stood lower than a year earlier. These figures do not account for state and local taxes, which reduce real take-home pay even further.

FROM BOOM TO BUST

Wage increases during the first three months of 1973 also were lower than during 1972, and were below the 5 1/2 per cent wage ceiling imposed by the administration. Government economic spokesmen were said to be pleased by this news, and an industry economist was encouraged by the fact that, despite the runaway inflation, major union officials have so far taken no action.

The continuing decline in workers' buying power combined with the ongoing rapid expansion of industrial capacity, however, is making pessimists out of most economists. Though they would phrase it differently, many sense more or less by intuition the truth of Karl Marx's statement that "The ultimate reason for all real crises always remains the poverty and restricted consumption of the masses, as opposed to the drive of capitalist production to develop the productive forces as though only the absolute consuming power of society constituted their limit."

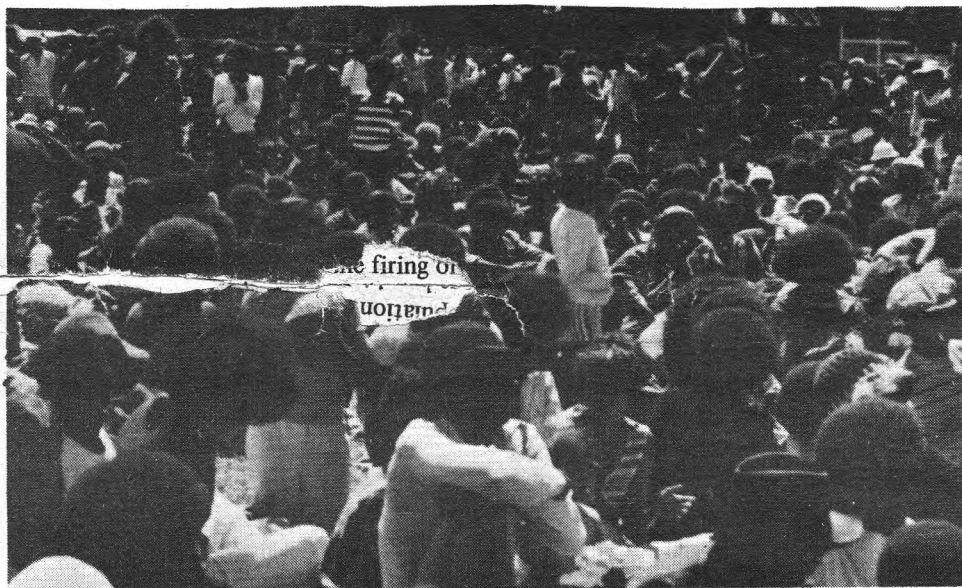
If opinion polls are to be believed, the masses of people reached the conclusion that a crisis lay ahead at least a month before significant numbers of economists did. 'Consumer opinion' turned sharply pessimistic in February and March, and confidence in business conditions and the employment situation "plunged," a Michigan University survey showed. This break in public opinion happened during the peak of the so-called "boom," while most economists were celebrating the "recovery" and predicting sunny skies.

It was mid-April before sentiment among economists began to shift. Newly-released government figures were then cited as evidence that the economy might be "dangerously overheating." An economist who declined to be named said, "We could be going from a boom year in 1973 to a bust next year."

A meeting of U. S. and West European financiers and executives in Amsterdam, also in mid-April, was said to be dominated by gloom about the future of the U.S. economy. Despite reassurances by a politically influential U. S. banker that the "world isn't coming to an end," the international gathering "couldn't quite shake off the suspicion that the U. S. is heading toward some sort of recession next year that may be preceded by fresh turmoil in currency markets," the *Wall Street Journal* reported.

More pessimism was revealed in an early May poll of corporate buying agents, who work in a sensitive joint of the economic structure and are often a barometer. Their consensus was that the economy "may be close to going out of control." They warned the system was near to "running wild," and expressed strong doubt about the near future. Fewer than half believed that business will continue to expand after July, and fewer

In President's Nixon's most recent speech on the state of the economy, he tries to present a rosy picture of the period ahead. His forecast is for more jobs and more profits. The analysis presented above presents a far different picture- one which we feel is more accurate.



A large crowd at African Liberation Day in East Oakland, California, listens as Odis Hyde recalls the role of Afro-American people in U.S. history, and his own experiences as a Black worker during the Depression.

African Liberation Day 100,000 March

Although they first were brought to this country in chains, as slaves over 350 years ago, the Afro-American people have not forgotten their origins in Africa and the oppression of the African peoples by colonialism and imperialism. Today, as it was in the days of the slave trade, the Black peoples of Africa are subject to the most vicious racial and national oppression of any people in the world. The notorious apartheid policies of the white settler state of South Africa, and the "reservations" or concentration camps which imprison thousands of tribesmen in Southern Africa today are renowned for their brutality and inhumanity.

On May 26 over 100,000 Afro-American people marched and rallied to show their solidarity with the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) a broad coalition of Black organizations. The demonstrations this year were in 30 cities, the largest being in Oakland, California. Rallies and marches were also held in Washington, D. C., Raleigh, N. C., Portland, Ore., Detroit, Indianapolis, Newark, New Orleans, Rochester, Los Angeles and many others.

In addition to the large turn-out at the rallies, nearly \$50,000 was raised to support the liberation fighters in Africa. A benefit concert for African Liberation Day was held in L. A., featuring Stevie Wonder, Oscar Brown and Jean Pace, Pharoah Sanders, and other Afro-American artists.

This year's demonstrations marked the recent death

of Amilcar Cabral, leader of the national liberation movement of Guinea-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands, who was assassinated in January of 1973 by Portuguese agents.

The theme of the rallies this year was, "African people are at war with imperialism," and many of the rallies demonstrated at the embassies of colonial governments or the offices of imperialist corporations with major holdings in the African economy.

High points of the rallies in Oakland, New York, Houston, and Chicago were speeches by African representatives of major liberation groups and statesmen of some of the independent African states. These included a spokesman from ZANU-ZAPU Joint Military Command of Rhodesia (Zimbabwe is its correct African name). Amed Sekou Toure, nephew of Guinean President Sekou Toure, spoke to the Chicago crowd.

A South African freedom fighter spoke to the Houston, Texas, rally where Gulf Oil's headquarters was the target. ALSC has called for a boycott of Gulf products because of Gulf's economic investments in colonized African countries.

A representative of the PAIGC, Amilcar Cabral's organization, spoke at the New York Rally. The audience was strongly moved by his prediction:

"The dastardly, cowardly assassination of our beloved Secretary-General, Amilcar Cabral, indicated that the

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SI SE PUEDE

UFWU Strike Gaining Strength in Coachella

Coachella, Calif.—The United Farm Workers Union struggle against a Teamster-grower alliance is at a critical stage in the Coachella Valley where the brief 3-4 week grape harvest is now under way. The Farm Workers have been on strike since April 16 when all but two of 31 Coachella farm growers invited the Teamsters union in and signed sweetheart contracts to replace the hard-fighting UFWU.

"Si se puede" (Yes, it can be done) is the chant of the thousands of farm workers who daily march up and down the roads paralleling the grape fields. "Chavez si, Teamsters no," rings particularly loud in response to the highly paid (\$67.50 a day) Teamster thugs who stand in the grape fields shouting obscenities, making gestures, and trying to frighten the workers in the fields away from the picket line.

The UFWU struggle against the statewide Teamster-grower alliance to crush the Farm Workers may be a long one and a victory at Coachella would give a great boost to the fight as it moves north to the fields of Salinas, Bakersfield Delano and other areas.

A strike is also under way at Bakersfield where the Teamsters have signed 14 former UFWU contracts. More than 200 people gathered there recently to demand the release of 9 farm workers who were arrested for picketing. In Salinas several farm crews have walked off of Teamster-contract lettuce ranches. The outcome of the struggle at Coachella will also greatly affect the signing of the UFWU Delano contracts which expire in late July.

TEAMSTER ATTACK

Teamsters and growers are trying desperately with vicious tactics to crush the UFWU, a small union which has fought hard for ten years on little resources to organize farm workers throughout the country. Having failed to defeat the UFWU on its own, the powerful agribusinesses have turned to Frank Fitzsimmons, Teamster head who is widely disliked by many rank-and-file Teamsters and who is a full supporter of Nixon's wage-freeze policies. This alliance was sealed when Fitzsimmons addressed the California farm growers convention early this year.

The United Farm Workers has called on the Teamsters and growers to hold free and open elections by secret ballot to show which union the majority of farm workers really want. "If there is any doubt who should represent the farm workers," stated a UFWU spokesman, "let's have an election. This is a basic right of all working people. Why aren't the Teamsters willing to hold elections... because they know they will lose."

The Teamsters and growers have opposed such elections on the grounds of a fraudulent petition campaign in which they claim they got 4,200 farm workers' signatures asking the growers not to renew UFWU contracts. Newsweek Magazine reported many of the signatures were of "remarkable similarity," and George Meany has called for a congressional investigation of "documented incidents of bribery, threats and violence."

It is understandable why growers welcome the Teamsters instead of the UFWU. The contract is just one ex-



call fotos

Members of the United Farmworkers Union and their supporters picket fields in Coachella Valley where growers have signed contracts with the Teamsters.

ample of the difference between the Teamsters and the UFWU. The Teamster contract that replaced the UFWU contract has stripped out some of the most important safeguards for farm workers. The UFWU contract calls for a \$2.40 hourly rate—10¢ more than the Teamster contract. The UFWU contract also carries provisions for break periods, seniority rights, job security, health coverage and general protection from the deadly poisonous pesticides sprayed on crops.

In addition, the Teamster contract puts the farmworker back in the hands of the labor contractor and abolishes the union hiring hall where work is assigned by seniority. Under the contract labor system, work is assigned to whoever the contractor likes.

Another example of the difference is the contrast between Teamster organizers and UFWU organizers, many of whom work for little or nothing. Ralph Cotner, Teamster Chief Organizer in Coachella states he is "not particularly dedicated to the Coachella farm workers struggle." It's just another assignment at \$300 a week.

UFWU HAS WIDESPREAD SUPPORT

Support for the UFWU has come from all quarters. Fitzsimmons' lies have not worked on many rank-and-file teamsters and several locals have past resolutions protesting his anti-union policies of raiding UFWU contracts.

AFL-CIO head George Meany pledged \$1.6 million to a strike fund to defend the UFWU's right to represent the farm workers. Many California union locals including the UAW, Seafarers, Longshoremen, Steelworkers, and others have organized food caravans and sent delegations to Coachella to support the striking farm workers.

On June 1st a caravan of workers and students from Los Angeles organized by the Los Angeles Labor Unity Organization (LALUO) went to the Coachella Valley and

joined the picket line, bringing food and support. At a midday rally a spokesman for the LALUO said that they had come to support the farm workers and to demonstrate the "importance of unity between all nationalities of working people."

Also in Los Angeles, the Coalition for Farm Workers, a group composed of ~~ran the~~ ~~Sole~~ Teamsters, La Raza Unida Party, and other groups met on June 15 to map c plans for support the struggle.

Church groups of all denominations, including the California Catholic Bishops, most Protestant clergy organizations, the Southern California Board of Rabbis and others have thrown their support behind the UFWU and its demand for elections by secret ballot.

Even Safeway Stores, which has supported the farm grower-Teamster alliance by selling their lettuce, has been forced by mounting support for the UFWU to run an ad in about 50 newspapers supporting elections by secret ballot. Safeway, however, continues to sell Teamster lettuce and is still the target of a general boycott.

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 17)

L.A. CARAVAN TO COACHELLA

Los Angeles, Calif.—A second car caravan in support of the Coachella grape strike has been called by the Los Angeles Labor Unity Organization (LALUO) for June 29 and 30. "It is essential at this time for working people of all nationalities to support the farm workers against the violent and racist attempt of the Teamsters and growers to crush the UFWU," said a representative of LALUO.

The first LALUO car caravan on June 1 carried some 35 students, working people, and Chicano activists to the Coachella Valley where they joined more than 600 farm workers on the picket lines in chanting and marching through the grape fields.

The second LALUO caravan comes at a time when the Teamster leadership has escalated its violent attacks on the strikers. On Saturday June 23 about 60 Teamster goons, wielding clubs and pipes, attacked UFWU picketers leaving several seriously injured. In another incident, following threats by Teamsters, a striking couple had their house trailer fire bombed and barely avoided injury. Other Teamster attacks include the ice-pick stabbing of a Chicano foreman who was mistaken for a striking worker and a rock-throwing assault on Cesar Chavez' car caravan. UFWU representatives have called these attacks a "reign of terror" and called for increased support for the Farm Workers' cause. **DEFEND THE UFWU!!!!**

NEW GRAPE BOYCOTT CALLED

Chicago, Ill.—The United Farmworkers Union started off the second national grape boycott with a very spirited rally in Chicago on Sunday, June 3. About 500 people crowded into the Amalgamated Meatcutters and Butcher Workmen's union hall, some from as far away as South Bend, Indiana and St. Louis, Mo. They listened to speeches by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta, leaders of the UFWU; Charlie Hayes, the vice-president of the AMC and BWA; Monsignor George Higgins, from the National Catholic Conference of Bishops; Rev. William Barrows from Operation PUSH and Dan Healey, a regional director of the AFL-CIO.

The speakers supported the organizing drive of the UFWU and condemned the Teamsters attempts to wreck the UFWU, but stressed that they do not oppose the Teamsters as a union, only their scabbing and thug tactics in the fields. Monsignor Higgins told the people about an attack by Teamster-hired thugs on a priest who works with the UFWU.

The speakers from the AMC and from PUSH emphasized the unity of all workers and especially of minority people with the farm workers' struggle against discrimination and super-exploitation.

Chavez and Huerta brought the news of many successes in the lettuce boycott, which has forced chain-stores in several cities to stop buying scab lettuce. They also told of the continuing drive to organize the farm laborers, which now faces opposition from the Teamsters and the courts, as well as the growers. The people enthusiastically inaugurated the new grape boycott with the slogan, "Si se puede"—"Yes, it can be done!"

WATERGATE AND THE FASCIST THREAT

Scandals like the Watergate affair have become a familiar part of capitalism's corrupt and bloody history. This particular scandal, however, is in many ways different from those of the Teapot Dome era.

The Senate investigations into Watergate have uncovered a web of illegal and semi-legal efforts on the part of the Nixon government to consolidate its power, using terror, sabotage and harassment against the people's movement as well as against its own capitalist opposition elements.

Senator Sam Ervin, head of the Senate Select Committee investigating the Watergate affair, has openly admitted that leading forces in the government had "a gestapo mentality." Black columnist, Carl Rowan, former director of the U.S. Information Agency and long-time apologist for U.S. imperialism, came out in a UPI-released statement, accusing the Nixon government of creating "an American gestapo" to "check the desires of the turbulent people—those who have little or nothing."

The limited, controlled exposures which have taken place have made it clear, even to these capitalist spokesmen, that increasingly fascist methods are replacing the "democratic" rule of the millionaire class in this country. The real danger, however, is still being hidden beneath the surface. Riddled by economic, military and political crisis and running scared, certain sections of the monopolists are fighting for a policy of unrestrained, open terror against the progressive and working-class movements, on the rise after a long period of relative slumber.

The defeat of the U.S. imperialists in Indochina, coupled with the growing movement of the people here at home against the war, discrimination and worsening living conditions has left Nixon and his gang of thugs frightened. Archibald Cox, newly appointed cover-up man for Nixon, in charge of conducting the

Watergate represents an attack on the democratic rights of all American people. This has enabled large numbers of people to witness, first-hand, the reckless maneuverings of the monopolists as they drop their law and order masks....

Watergate grand jury investigations, put it this way:

"There is much more to this question than whether one or two people go to jail. Confidence in our institutions is at stake." (U.S. News and World Report 6/8/73). To further build that "confidence," Cox has demanded that the Senate Investigating Committee cease its hearings. The demand to stop the investigation has also come from Vice President Agnew.

To defend himself from his accusers, Nixon has frequently raised the cry of "national security" as his justification for the rash of illegal activities. There have been numerous break-ins, assaults, and mass arrests, against all sectors of the people.

Using the "security" rationale, Nixon has admitted the existence of secret, semi-legal organizations, such as the "Plumbers" made up of hired killers, thugs, CIA agents and escapees from Cuba. Reports in the New York Times have exposed the 1970 secret intelligence units set up to infiltrate, harass and provoke various anti-war and left-wing organizations. Other targets included student groups, the media, civil rights organizations and the Democratic party headquarters.



Melvin Laird, chief Vietnam expert, now Nixon's top domestic advisor.



Gen. Haig, new chief of staff.



Colby, directed Phoenix Program.



Elliot Richardson, Pentagon man, now heads Justice dept.



It now appears that such groups were at least partly responsible for some of the "Weatherman" bombings as well as the arrests of dozens of progressive and anti-war activists. Martin Sostre, the Harrisburg defendants and members of the Brown Berets, a militant Chicano youth organization have been some of the victims.

It appears that these most reactionary, fascist sections of monopoly capital are now trying to use the controversy and instability associated with Watergate to consolidate their power, dropping the illusion of democracy altogether. Moves on the part of Nixon to replace his scandalized White House staff with right-wing militarists are part of the consolidation effort.

Melvin Laird, former Secretary of Defense and one of the chief architects of the government's genocidal policies in Vietnam, has been made Nixon's chief advisor in place of the sacrificial lamb, John Ehrlichman. Laird's position, officially called Counselor to the President for Domestic Affairs, will be much more powerful than that held by Ehrlichman and will involve Laird in economic planning. It should be remembered that Laird is known for his favoring of tighter controls on workers' wages. Still another example of Nixon's promotion of militarists to key positions is General Alexander Haig, now Chief of the White House staff. This is the highest administrative post in the White House. An appointment of this nature a year ago of a militarist hawk to such a high civilian post would have brought shrieks from Congress. This can now be easily done as a "move against corruption." Other facilitated moves to bring right-wing reactionaries and militarists into the upper echelons of the administration include

the appointments of fascist administrator and well known white supremacist, Clarence M. Kelly, as head of the FBI, another former Defense Secretary, Elliot Richardson, as head of the Justice Department; and new CIA head, William Colby, who directed the U.S. fascist Phoenix Program to assassinate tens of thousands of independence-minded Vietnamese.

Liberal spokesmen such as Senator George McGovern, are joining in chorus with Nixon and Agnew, opposing the president's impeachment. The liberals are also frightened but for different reasons. Their wing of the Democratic Party is currently in complete disarray, following their disastrous November election showings. (June saw an Alabama visit by Senator Edward Kennedy as a special guest speaker, at a testimonial dinner held in honor of the fascist, Wallace.) The liberal Democrats are in no position to benefit from a drastic shake-up at the top levels of government right now.

Certain forces are, however, in a position to gain from Watergate. Right-wing forces such as George Wallace and Barry Goldwater remain in the background for now, posing as "strict constitutionalists," striking a critical pose at the improprieties of the Nixon regime. They are occupied consolidating their forces anticipating that Nixon will have to turn to them in the last analysis.

While Watergate definitely poses new threats of a fascist menace which people must prepare for, it nonetheless contains a favorable side.

END GOVERNMENT SPYING

Watergate represents an attack on the democratic rights of all American people. This has enabled large numbers of people to witness, first-hand, the reckless maneuverings of the monopolists as they drop their law and order masks and nakedly expose their vicious anti-people character.

It is now more possible than ever to unite the broad masses of people in a militant struggle with working class leadership against these vicious attacks. An end must be demanded of the increasing government attempts to infiltrate, harass and spy on the various peoples organizations and leaders.

—All political prisoners, victims of government frame-ups and provocations must be freed.

—The various illegal and quasi-legal organizations, "hit squads," spy networks and Cuban refugee organizations must be disbanded.

—This struggle against the fascist measures of the Nixon government is linked directly with the struggle against anti-strike efforts. The fascist trend of certain labor leaders demonstrates this fact.

Watergate represents a general weakening of a crises-ridden ruling class of monopolists, bathing in their own corruption and unable to keep up their "democratic" mask. This situation must be met with increased unity of the people to push the struggle forward.

Union Women Meet Despite Leadership

San Francisco—The first conference of California AFL-CIO women, attended by over 300 women in May, centered on special problems and needs of working women and on ways women can get a larger voice in their unions.

The women's conference was a victory in itself, since a large section of the AFL-CIO leadership opposed holding it. Most of the publicity and planning was done by rank-and-file women unionists. Union W.A.G.E., a trade union women's group, was also a major organizer of the meeting.

Protective labor laws were a major topic of the conference. While the struggle for equal rights and enforcement of protective labor laws must be waged in the courts, lawyer Ann Ginger told the meeting, these rights will ultimately be won by women and men workers uniting against the giant corporations like General Motors.

Maxine Wolpinsky Jenkins, one of a handful of AFL-CIO women organizers, spoke critically of the union leadership for not developing more women as leading union officers. She spoke of the urgent need for organizing the unorganized workers—a large percentage of whom are women. (Only 3 per cent of women industrial workers and 3 per cent of female service workers are in unions.) The conference clearly pointed out that the AFL-CIO's chauvinistic leaders have let their obligations slide.

The trade union women resolved to pressure their unions to speed up their campaigns to organize non-union women and to demand that the current strikes and union drives receive union support. The conference resolved to establish a Women's Division within the AFL-CIO that would take up the special needs and problems of women, run leadership programs and organize an annual women's trade union conference.

Resolutions in support of the Farah strike and the United Farm Workers Union were passed. During a lunch break, the delegates marched to a nearby Safeway store and picketed in support of the United Farm Workers boycott of non-union lettuce and table grapes.

Role of Women's Movement Debated at Guardian Forum

Is women's liberation a progressive movement? Will passage of the Equal Rights for Women Amendment (ERA) do more harm than good for the working people? What is the best way for women to fight for their rights today? These were some of the questions debated at the latest forum organized by The Guardian, an independent revolutionary weekly newspaper in New York City. The program, "Women and the Class Struggle," was attended by an enthusiastic crowd of 600.

Speakers at the forum were: Carmen Cruz of the Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization (PRRWO), Vivian Rivera of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Fran Beale of the Third World Women's Alliance (TWWA), Mary Lou Greenberg of the Revolutionary Union (RU), and Karen Davidson of The Guardian newspaper.

All the speakers agreed that the role of women has been neglected by large sections of the left movement in the U.S., and that too little investigation and organizing has been done. Furthermore, all the speakers agreed that only Marxism provides a scientific explanation of the oppression of women and that socialism is the only way for women to gain freedom.

What should happen between now and the achievement of socialism, was the area of differences. For example, the speakers differed whether to support the Equal Rights for Women Amendment (ERA), and whether it is necessary to build a mass movement of women.

Defining the present situation in the women's movement, Guardian writer, Karen Davidson noted:

"The women's movement today faces a clear-cut crisis . . . that was bound to develop from the spontaneous character of the struggle's development, from its national and class character and from the inevitable vacillations and disunifying forces in its alternately reformist and ultra-leftist leadership."

But despite its middle-class roots, Davidson said, the women's movement to date "can be summed up as the struggle for equality and the means to make (equality) possible." In the recent period, women have been fighting for four main demands; she said:

- 1) Equal pay for equal work;
- 2) free, 24-hour, community-controlled day care;
- 3) control of reproductive functions and an end to forced sterilizations of minority women;
- 4) and equality in the broad area of social life and in the home.



Karen Davidson (left) and Carmen Cruz (right)

Carmen Cruz, speaking for the PRRWO, stressed that "the oppression of women is a class question. Women are 39 per cent of the labor force. . . Third World women, especially Black women, suffer national oppression in addition to class oppression." She de-emphasized the need for a mass movement of women, although she warned against negating or neglecting the woman question.

THE PUERTO RICAN WOMAN

Statistics show that Puerto Rican women (here in the United States) are different from the total population of women because a lesser percentage of them work," reported Vivian Rivera of the PSP.

"Puerto Rican women are taught to be servants or slaves and neither she nor her husband see her as a vital or integral part of the revolutionary struggle." The Puerto Rican Socialist Party, said Rivera, hopes to defeat these backward, anti-woman attitudes by making a concerted effort to organize Puerto Rican women both on the job and in the communities.

The Black woman has been super-exploited "since her arrival on these alien shores," asserted Fran Beale, of the Third World Women's Alliance. She vividly described the position of the Black woman, "as a worker. . . the object of continual exploitation, occupying the lowest place on the wage scale and restricted to the most demeaning and uncreative jobs. As a woman, she has seen her physical image defamed and subjected to all the ideals of white

womanhood as a model to which she should aspire."

The Black woman, she said, must strive for equality with Black men, and not walk behind them, as some other-wise progressive men would have it. Black women will take an active part in changing society, she stressed. "The slave of a slave is a creature of the past."

RU DOWN ON WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Characterizing the women's movement as generally decadent or reformist, Mary Lou Greenberg identified two trends within it. One, she said, has carried "petty bourgeois tendencies of individualism, self-indulgence and the search for so-called personal freedom and self-expression to their decadent conclusion: radical lesbianism and sexual freedom. The other tried to reject this route "and generally saw itself as part of the overall anti-imperialist movement," but, "many of these women are being drawn into petty bourgeois reformism, Trotskyism and revisionism." Thus, neither wing of the present women's rights movement is viewed as progressive by the RU, but rather is seen as fundamentally antagonistic to the working-class movement.

The National Organization of Women (NOW) and the National Women's Political Caucus (with 30,000 members each) are "all solidly backed by the monopoly bourgeoisie," according to Greenberg. She ruled out any alliance between working women and such organizations as NOW, even though it is presently fighting for many democratic women's rights such as child care and equal pay. These rights are vital to the interests of working, as well as middle class women.

While taking a dim view of the existing women's movement, Greenberg failed to mention any of the educational value of this movement, or to advance any new alternatives as to how women should fight for their rights.

Karen Davidson pointed out that the Guardian "wholeheartedly supports, learns from and works to strengthen" the women's movement for full equality. "Since the women's liberation movement got started," she pointed out, "male chauvinism" has become a household word. "Many people—both male and female—were first awakened to the problems women face as a direct result of the agitation of the women's movement in recent years.

"NOT REACTIONARY"

"It is dogmatic," she continued, "to characterize feminism as primarily reactionary. This sets the class struggle and the democratic movement of women against each other, narrows the scope of the united front, and isolates the workers' movement from other progressive movements of the people."

There are hundreds of organizations throughout the United States which are fighting in some way for women's equality. Some are trying to win it in the courts, while others march for it, and still others try to build awareness and educate on the issues. Almost every women's group in the movement, regardless of its method of struggle, is in agreement that women need child care, decent health care, equal pay for equal work. Davidson pointed out that a united front of these organizations can be built, and that within it, the way for women to fight must be learned through experience, not by standing outside the struggle, or opposing it.

The Equal Rights Amendment, for which millions of working women and men have struggled is "nothing but an attack on the working class," said Greenberg, of the RU. She claimed that the passage of the ERA would "repeal all protective laws for women." "We think the ERA is in the interests of the bourgeoisie."

Greenberg predicted that the ERA will enable women to take jobs away from men. "Let's suppose a few token women will be hired. What will this mean, given the pre-



Mary Lou Greenberg of the RU, attacked the ERA and the women's movement in general.

sent economic crisis? It will probably mean that men will lose jobs or that introducing women into jobs formerly held by men will be an excuse to lower job standards generally."

In other words, if women win the equal opportunity in employment, Greenberg claims this will be bad for the men workers. This thinking is similar to those opponents of civil rights for Black people who argued that hiring and training Black people in better jobs and professions would hurt the whites.

Greenberg stated that communists should not support the ERA for the same reason that they should not support Nixon's forced work plan for welfare recipients; or the "right to work" laws; or "jobs for the unemployed" when that means unemployed will be used as strikebreakers against the working class.



Fran Beale (left) and Vivian Rivera (right)

The question of the ERA is, of course, just one aspect of the overall question of women's equality. Because it is closer to passage than ever, many groups are now taking a position on it. Opponents of the ERA beside the Revolutionary Union, include George Meany and the Executive Board of the AFL-CIO, and the Communist Party, U.S.A. It is also opposed by right-wing groups like the John Birch Society, the Ku Klux Klan, the American Independent Party and the Southern Baptist Convention. Other supporters of the constitutional amendment granting full equality to women include the United Auto Workers, the United Electrical Workers, the National Organization of Women, the October League and the recently-formed Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

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BLACK UNIONISTS VOICE ERA SUPPORT

More than 1,000 Black trade unionists met in Chicago, May 25-26 and formed the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists. This is the first national organization of Black trade unionists in the country.

Featured speakers at the conference were Rev. Jesse Jackson, national president of Operation PUSH, and United Mine Workers President, Arnold Miller.

The Conference adopted a resolution supporting equal rights for women and support for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Other resolutions passed included one calling for a boycott of Shell Oil Co., until a strike by members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union is settled; support for new federal minimum wage standards; and a demand that the Watergate investigation "vigorously and impartially" be pursued "wherever the investigation may lead."

UE ARTICLE SUPPORTS ERA

The April issue of UE News, the national newspaper of the United Electrical Workers Union, carried an article supporting the Equal Rights Amendment for Women, which has already been ratified by more than 25 states out of a necessary 38 for passage.

The UE article explained that in its view, opponents of the amendment within the labor movement are wrong in using the question of protective legislation to justify their opposition. The article states, ". . . they have apparently overlooked the fact that since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and more recently with the ruling made on the basis of the Act by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, many of these laws have been nullified." The article goes on to say that "further elimination of such 'one sex' laws is expected in the future regardless of whether the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified or not."

The UE took a stand at its 1970 convention calling for an end to discrimination against women and full extension of protective legislation to cover all workers—male and female.

THE DECLINE OF THE U.S. SINCE WORLD WAR II (PART I)

"America is today the leader of a worldwide anti-revolutionary movement in defense of vested interests. She now stands for what Rome stood for. Rome consistently supported the rich against the poor in all foreign communities that fell under her sway; and since the poor, so far, have always and everywhere been far more numerous than the rich, Rome's policy made for inequality, for injustice, and for the least happiness of the greatest number."

—British historian,
Arnold Toynbee,
1961

"Revolution is the main trend in the world today."

—Mao Tsetung,
1970

Just before the United States entered World War II, American publisher Henry Luce announced the arrival of "the American Century." It was time, Luce said in a *Life* editorial, "to accept wholeheartedly our duty and our opportunity as the most powerful and vital nation in the world and in consequence to exert upon the world the full impact of our influence, for such purposes as we see fit and by such means as we see fit."

Four years later, it looked as if the American Century had arrived. The axis powers, Germany, Japan and Italy, lay in ruins. America's capitalist allies, Britain and France, the victors, were exhausted; and the war had irretrievably shattered their worldwide empires. The world's only socialist state, the Soviet Union, had broken the back of Hitler's Nazis, but only at the cost of millions of casualties and the destruction of much of its industrial and agricultural heartland.

Only the United States, of all the major powers, emerged from the war strengthened. Unlike the other powers, the U.S. had not been invaded, bombed and pillaged. In the course of four years of war, the U.S. has created the mightiest military force ever known; its battleships, bombers and foot soldiers were scattered on every continent at war's end. The ace up the U.S. rulers' sleeve was their monopoly on a formidable new super-weapon, the A-bomb.

GREAT DEPRESSION ENDS

On the home front, the demands of war had ended the decade-long Great Depression, started the factories humming again and brought, for the first time people could remember, substantially increased employment.

The U.S. imperialists seemed to be sitting on top of the world.

But today, scarcely a quarter-century later, the U.S. ruling class is singing a different tune—a far cry from Henry Luce's rose-tinted vision of 1941. In a December 1972 editorial, *Fortune* magazine, founded by the

same Henry Luce, wrote of the necessity for the U.S. "strategic role." With the lessons of Vietnam fresh in mind, Luce argued against attempts "to influence political development beyond our control" in the Third World.

"... Living in an environment in which the possibility of unlimited expansion is a new experience for the U.S. The better we adapt to the new limitations, the more effectively we can exercise our leadership in the world."

What ever happened to the American Century?

The decline of the U.S. Empire since World War II has surprised us, for history is dotted with the remains of empires that followed a similar course. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the British colonial empire on which "the sun never set." But in the wars of national liberation, the progress of socialist revolution, sharp conflict with other imperialist powers, and the explosion of nuclear weapons have reduced the British Empire to a shadow of its former self and the fall of the French Empire followed a similar course.

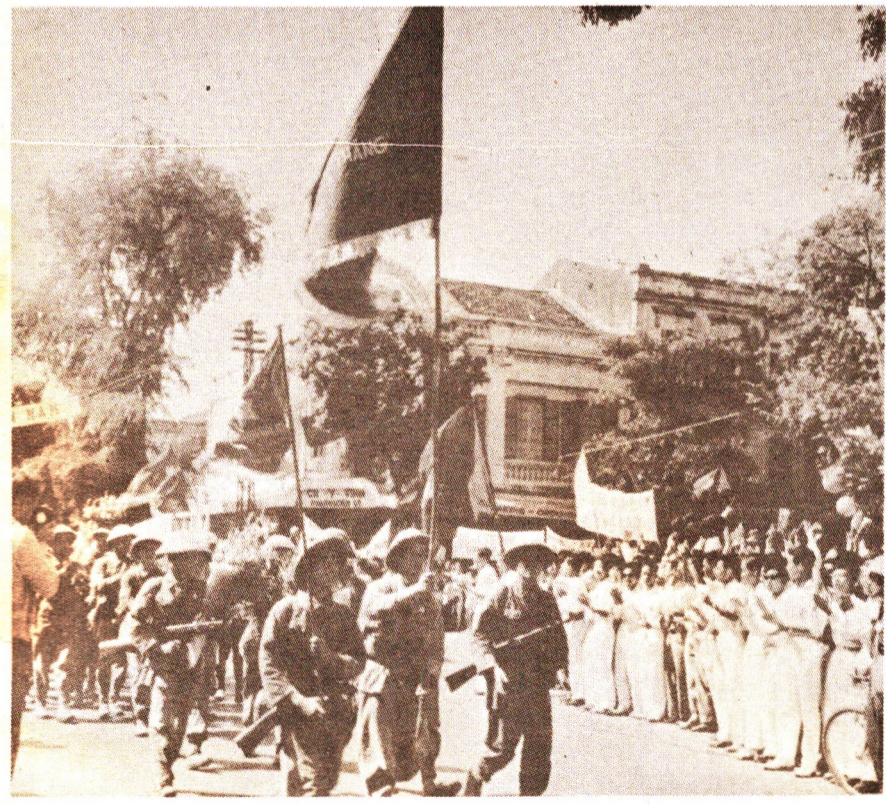
In the second quarter of the 20th century, Germany and Japan built a "1,000-Year Reich" and Japanese militarism dominated East Asia and the Western Pacific. But the Axis power's aggressiveness sparked the resistance of an overpowering coalition of imperialist powers, the socialist camp and oppressed nations. The "1,000-Year Reich" lasted 12 years.

Thus history shows us that all empires have followed a cycle of rising, peaking and then declining. But this does not mean that history is a static circle endlessly repeating itself. It is more like a spiral, usually progressing from one historical era to the next with its own special characteristics. What is different about the world since World War II is that *the whole imperialist system* is in decline. Individual imperialist powers, has entered its period of final collapse. In the era of the final collapse of imperialism, "the historical process of capitalism and imperialism are going down to socialism and people's democracy are marching to victory," Mao Tsetung has pointed out.

HISTORIC DECLINE OF IMPERIALISM

The decline of the world imperialist system can be seen in the world situation today with that at the beginning of the 20th century. On the eve of World War I, the imperialist powers—France, Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, the United States, Belgium and Holland—controlled virtually the whole world. Roughly another third of the world's people live under socialism, free from the control of imperialism. Roughly another third are locked in armed struggle with imperialism for control of their destiny. The remaining third, suffering setbacks and defeats along the way, the overall trend is clear: imperialism's share of the world is shrinking.

Within the declining imperialist system as a whole, the various imperialist powers are constantly in competition. Some are rising, others are falling. This state of affairs weakens the law of uneven development." It is the constantly changing relationships between the imperialist powers which lead to war, as the rising powers try to take colonies, trade,



Setbacks for imperialism since W.W.2, included defeat in Vietnam (upper left) independence for Algeria (right) and (bottom) success of Cuban revolution.

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"... Living in an environment in which the possibilities are no longer unlimited is a new experience for the U.S. The better we understand and adapt to the new limitations, the more effectively we can keep asserting our leadership in the world."

What ever happened to the American Century?

The decline of the U.S. Empire since World War II should not surprise us, for history is dotted with the remains of empires which followed a similar course. In the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain built a vast colonial empire on which "the sun never set." But in the 20th century, wars of national liberation, the progress of socialist revolution and sharp conflict with other imperialist powers, exploding in two world wars, have reduced the British Empire to a shadow of its former self. The rise and fall of the French Empire followed a similar course.

In the second quarter of the 20th century, German fascism set out to build a "1,000-Year Reich" and Japanese militarism overran much of East Asia and the Western Pacific. But the Axis powers' unbridled aggressiveness sparked the resistance of an overpowering coalition of other imperialist powers, the socialist camp and oppressed nations. In the end, the "1,000-Year- Reich" lasted 12 years.

Thus history shows us that all empires have followed a similar course of rising, peaking and then declining. But this does not mean that history is a static circle endlessly repeating itself. It is more like a spiral, continually progressing from one historical era to the next higher one, each with its own special characteristics. What is different about the period since World War II is that *the whole imperialist system itself*, not just the individual imperialist powers, has entered its period of rapid decline. This is the era of the final collapse of imperialism, "the historic epoch in which world capitalism and imperialism are going down to their doom and world socialism and people's democracy are marching to victory," as Chairman Mao Tsetung has pointed out.

HISTORIC DECLINE OF IMPERIALISM

The decline of the world imperialist system can be seen by comparing the world situation today with that at the beginning of the 20th century. On the eve of World War I, the imperialist powers—England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Russia, the United States, Japan, Belgium and Holland—controlled virtually the whole world. Today, nearly a third of the world's people live under socialism, free of imperialist control. Roughly another third are locked in armed struggle or otherwise contending with imperialism for control of their destiny. Despite temporary setbacks and defeats along the way, the overall trend of this century is clear: imperialism's share of the world is shrinking.

Within the declining imperialist system as a whole, the relationships between the various imperialist powers are constantly changing. Some are rising, others are falling. This state of affairs was called by Lenin "the law of uneven development." It is the constantly changing power relationships between the imperialist powers which lead to endless conflict and war, as the rising powers try to take colonies, trade, resources and terri-

tory from the falling powers which refuse to give these conflicts become even sharper as the size of have to divide among themselves, continues to sh-

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Other imperialist powers amassed huge debts in- on the other hand, held aloof from the fighting un- over, lending huge amounts to the European bellig- made huge profits supplying the Europeans with v- supplies and capital. As a result, the U.S. first ma- a debtor to a creditor nation during World War I.

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EDITORIAL: Nixon - Brezhnev Talk Peace, Expand Arms

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These questions include (1) the situation in Indochina; (2) the isolation of the People's Republic of China as an influential force in world affairs; (3) Europe as an area of contention; (4) the need for oil from the Middle East and (5) phase 2 of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). Another topic was the increasing economic and political crisis facing both giant powers.

This trip is characteristic of the past decade and a half of Soviet-U.S. collusion aimed at "containing" China, disarming the national liberation movements, and using nuclear monopoly to blackmail and bully the world's people. It also indicates a period of stalemate in the battle between these two giants to redivide the world among themselves.

WE AREN'T FOOLED

We stand completely in favor of countries settling their differences through negotiation instead of war; of carrying out trade and cultural exchanges as a way of bettering world understanding and peace, and we stand totally in favor of nuclear disarmament. But we are not fooled for a minute by the dove-like chirpings of Brezhnev and Nixon when they have a half-million troops between

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If the problems of U.S. imperialism are becoming especially acute nowadays, this is only to be expected, because U.S. imperialism is a *declining power in a collapsing system*.

U.S. imperialism seldom became involved in the scramble for supremacy among the European powers until the end of the 19th century. Until that time, the U.S. capitalists and their government were primarily preoccupied with settling, developing and exploiting the vast frontier and wilderness areas in the U.S. itself. But with the closing of the American frontier, and the dwindling possibilities for unlimited profits at home, U.S. imperialism began to turn outward.

It was not until after World War II, however, that the U.S. gained undisputed hegemony among the imperialist powers.

Its first step was aggression and expansion in Latin America. Starting and winning the Spanish-American War in 1898, the first war to redivide colonies in world history, U.S. imperialism became overnight the overlord of the Western Hemisphere. In the next 30 years, the U.S. was involved in 33 military invasions and interventions in Latin America.

The Spanish-American War also established the U.S. as a Pacific power, with both the Philippines and Guam falling into U.S. hands. This marked the beginning of a long period of both struggle and collusion between U.S. and Japanese imperialism for control of the Pacific. These antagonisms erupted in the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the Pacific War of 1941-45.

Thus the U.S. was a latecomer among the imperialist powers. Isolated from rival European and Asian powers by vast oceans on both sides, the U.S. was the only major power upon whose home territory no fighting took place and no bombs fell in either world war.

Other imperialist powers amassed huge debts in World War I. The U.S., on the other hand, held aloof from the fighting until the war was halfway over, lending huge amounts to the European belligerents. U.S. capitalists made huge profits supplying the Europeans with war material, munitions, supplies and capital. As a result, the U.S. first made the transition from a debtor to a creditor nation during World War I.

It was not until after World War II, however, that the U.S. gained undisputed hegemony among the imperialist powers. The vacuum created in the Pacific by the defeat of Japan was quickly filled by U.S. air and naval power; U.S. bases were established in Japan, Okinawa, the Philippines, south Korea, Guam, Australia and on dozens of South Pacific islands. Postwar guerrilla wars of national liberation in the Philippines and Malaya were crushed by U.S. and British imperialism. Through military al-

liances such as SEATO, the U.S. imperialists pledged to defend the reactionary and comprador dictatorships of Southeast Asia. These client dictators, in exchange for U.S. aid in keeping down their own peoples, opened their countries to investment, exploitation and extraction of raw materials by the U.S. imperialists.

U.S. imperialism likewise lost no time moving into the vacuum created in Europe by the collapse of both the fascist and the democratic imperialist states. To check the growth of large communist movements in France and Italy, and to "contain" the Soviet Union, the U.S. financed the reconstruction of the European capitalist countries through the Marshall Plan (Another purpose of the Marshall Plan was to provide U.S. corporations with a huge windfall, since the billions of dollars in credits given to Western Europe could be spent only in the U.S.) The NATO alliance bound Western Europe even closer to the ruling circles of U.S. imperialism. In Greece and Turkey, the Truman Administration aided local reactionaries in crushing native guerrilla movements.

SUPPORTS ZIONISM

In the strategic Middle East, U.S. imperialism supported the creation of the Zionist state of Israel, which became an important new imperialist base. The U.S. also concluded alliances with reactionary Arab governments and sheikdoms in the area. When an anti-imperialist government came to power in Iran in the early 1950's, the CIA overthrew it. Later, the Eisenhower Administration landed troops and sent gunboats to suppress uprisings in Jordan and Lebanon.

Sometimes, the U.S. imperialists tried to mask their aims by operating through supposedly multinational or international organizations. The postwar period saw the creation of the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the World Bank, and a host of others—all designed to extend U.S. imperialism's control, especially in the Third World. Other "humanitarian" masks donned by U.S. imperialism included "foreign aid," the Peace Corps, the Alliance for Progress, and other sham programs aimed at defusing the growing anti-imperialist movement thruout the world.

This global postwar offensive by U.S. imperialism was based on a tremendous wartime and postwar revival by the U.S. economy, spurred largely by continued high military expenditures and periodic wars. By the late 1940's, the U.S. industrial production, exports and gold reserves accounted for one-half, one-third and three-fourths of the capitalist world's totals respectively. U.S. investments in other countries accelerated; billions of dollars in super-profits were soon flowing from the rest of the "free world" to Wall Street. At the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944 the American dollar, as the most stable capitalist currency, was made the standard for the whole capitalist world, further facilitating U.S. economic expansion.

Although the weaknesses of its foundations would soon become clear the revival of the U.S. economy which began in 1940 led in the next quarter-century to a standard of living for most Americans unprecedented in American, or even world history. For most Americans, the Great Depression had been overcome—or so it seemed. Although the full employment of the war years did not continue after 1945, the unemployment rate did not return to anywhere near the drastic Depression levels.

The American Century appeared to be off to a running start. Or was it? *Next month: Appearances can be deceiving.*

EDITORIAL:

**Nixon - Brezhnev
Talk Peace,
Expand Arms**

With the clinking of champagne glasses and long-winded speeches about "world peace," the leaders of the world's two superpowers met in Washington last month to discuss "questions of common interest."

These questions include (1) the situation in Indochina; (2) the isolation of the People's Republic of China as an influential force in world affairs; (3) Europe as an area of contention; (4) the need for oil from the Middle East and (5) phase 2 of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). Another topic was the increasing economic and political crisis facing both giant powers.

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We stand completely in favor of countries settling their differences through negotiation instead of war; of carrying out trade and cultural exchanges as a way of bettering world understanding and peace, and we stand totally in favor of nuclear disarmament. But we are not fooled for a minute by the dove-like chirpings of Brezhnev and Nixon when they have a half-million troops between

them stationed in various parts of Europe. Their version of disarmament means disarmament for the smaller countries while they, the superpowers, maintain total hegemony of nuclear weapons, naval power and troops occupying the smaller countries and oceans of the world.

As regards to Indochina, both powers have attempted in their own ways to oppose efforts by the Indochinese people to determine their own affairs. Both have given their support to the Lon Nol clique in Phnom Penh, and the Soviet Union has now gone so far as to call the struggle in Cambodia a "fratricidal conflict." The U.S.S.R., in essence, has covered up the obvious facts that the Lon Nol government is nothing but a puppet of the U.S. while the National United Front government under the leadership of Norodom Sihanouk is the only government representative of the Cambodian people, and now has liberated 90 per cent of Cambodian territory.

ISOLATE CHINA

But perhaps the most disgusting aspect of Brezhnev's visit to Washington has been his attempts to get Nixon to go along with his efforts to isolate and possibly attack China, the main force today in the socialist world. The Chinese foreign policy of the past two years has effectively driven a wedge into the schemes of the Soviet Union, Japan and the U.S. to surround China and destroy it. However, these efforts on the part of the imperialists will never stop and Brezhnev is trying now to regroup an anti-China united front.

In Europe, both Brezhnev and Nixon have opposed the efforts of the smaller capitalist countries to exercise any independence economically or politically at a time when these efforts have become a growing trend among European countries. Both countries are locked in their own internal crisis and are trying to shift the burden of these crises to the smaller capitalist countries. This has caused an outcry from countries like Germany, France and Britain.

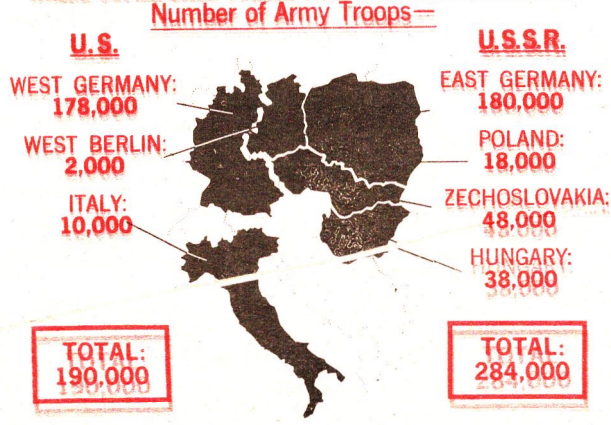
The Soviet Union has opened up the once-proud homeland of socialism to the foreign imperialists to once again bleed the country of its resources. The cause of the Soviet economic failures cannot be covered over by increased foreign investment of blaming it on "the wea-

ther" as Brezhnev has tried to do.

Finally, in the Mideast where oil means profits and power, the duality of cooperation and contention between the superpowers has become more evident than ever before. In areas like the Persian Gulf, the contention for control of some 80 per cent of the known oil reserves outside the Soviet Union have increased international tensions and have brought the world to the brink of war. The Soviet fleet has now directed its main efforts in the Mediterranean to an effort to move into the vacuum of a rapidly changing situation there. Secondly, we have seen joint efforts by both powers to destroy the Palestinian liberation movement, the spearhead of the Arab peoples' struggle for independence and self-determination. The Soviet Union has, as a favor to Nixon, dropped all restrictions on Zionists from the Soviet Union immigrating to the Israeli settler-state, thereby strengthening Zionism and causing the continued internment of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians outside their homeland.

"Internal crisis," "big power domination," "contention and collusion over the world's resources and peoples"—these are expressions which define the policies of imperialist countries. For those still in doubt about the social-imperialist (socialist in words—imperialist in deed) character of the Soviet Union, we say take note of what is happening here.

WHERE SUPERPOWER FORCES FACE EACH OTHER IN EUROPE



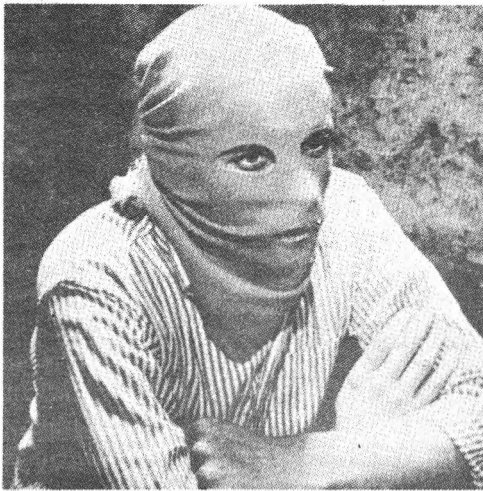
Review "STATE OF SIEGE"

"You speak of freedom and democracy but your methods are torture and political assassination."

This is what one of his captors tells Santore, a U.S. government official who is kidnapped by a group of urban guerrillas in the movie "State of Siege." And this is the message that the film makes very clear about the nature of U.S. involvement in underdeveloped countries: in the name of freedom, the U.S. imperialists use every means available, no matter how brutal, to defend their economic interests.

The movie is based on the real life case of Daniel Mitrione, a CIA agent posing as an Agency for International Development (AID) technician in Uruguay who was kidnapped and executed by the Tupamaro guerrilla organization in 1970. After having "served" the U.S. government in Santo Domingo and Brazil (where he assisted the dictatorships in repressing the people's movements) he came to Uruguay to work with the police in trying to wipe out the Tupamaros. Mitrione's contribution was in implementing methods of torture in questioning "subversives," but he also directed other activities, such as setting up "death squadrons" composed of fascists and common criminals to eliminate people opposed to the dictatorship. The movie dramatizes scenes which are actual occurrences in dictatorships such as Brazil and Uruguay: movement centers are bombed, student leaders and activists are tortured and assassinated and workers are shot down in front of their union hall.

But the movie does more than just document the violent tactics and complicity of the "freedom-loving" U.S. government with the dictatorship under martial law. It exposes how this complicity is a basic part of U.S. foreign policy, which is dictated by the giant monopolies like GM, Gulf Oil and ITT. In one scene, at the height of the crisis created by "Santore's" kidnapping, the Uruguayan ministers and government officials arrive at the Presidential Palace. The narrator identifies them one by one: "Señor X, banker and industrialist, owner of six corporations, three of them U.S. controlled. . . Señor Z, former minister, banker, controls millions of acres of land, Rockefeller interests. . ." Finally the Minister of Internal Affairs: "Owns no banks or industries but protects the interests of those who do." Pulling all the strings of course, is the main representative of the U.S. monopolies: the American ambassador. The film also exposes how agencies like AID, the Alliance for Progress, the Peace Corps, etc. all serve the purpose of promoting imperialist penetration into every sector of the Uruguayan economy.



Hugo, Tupamaro guerrilla



Santore, U. S. "government official"

HUGO TO PHILIP MICHAEL SANTORE

"You are no ordinary official, Mr. Santore. You're neither a minor employee, nor a simple specialist. . . You're a man who directs. You directed the Belo Horizonte police in Brazil, the Santo Domingo police and our own. You do that directly and also by sending men to Washington, where, among other things, they learn to betray their country. You say you're defending freedom and democracy. Your methods are war, fascism, and torture. You agree, don't you, Mr. Santore?"

The film points out clearly who are the real criminals and perpetrators of violence. Before Mitrione added torture and assassination to the police methods in Uruguay, the Tupamaros had used violence only as a last resort. The beast-like nature of U.S. imperialism is revealed in a way that is both educational and dramatically powerful—this is the movie's strength and in this, it serves a valuable purpose. How well it does is proven by the fact that it was banned from opening at the JFK Center in Washington!

But unfortunately, because it deals with only one aspect of the struggle, it makes the revolutionary forces seem weak and vulnerable. The contradictions inherent in a strategy based on terrorism are shown when the dictatorship refuses to grant the Tupamaro's demands and they are forced to execute "Santore." No doubt Mitrione deserved to die, but the movie leaves us with the impression that little was gained by this action: many Tupamaros are jailed, and "Santore's" replacement arrives on the next plane from the U.S.

The film hints slightly at the broad forces that are op-

posed to U.S. intervention in Uruguay—in the university, among workers and intellectuals, even in the Parliament. But by focusing on the Tupamaros and their strategy of urban guerrilla warfare, the film ignores the only path of struggle which can lead to the liberation of the masses of Uruguayan people from the imperialists and their local puppets—uniting and organizing all the forces opposed to imperialism under the leadership of the working class and its revolutionary Party.

Some reviewers have criticized the movie for simplifying everything "the good guys are always good, the bad guys always evil." What this kind of criticism demands—preoccupation with "human nature"—is exactly the kind of art that the ruling classes have been pushing for centuries: "deal with the individual, ignore social conditions and the class struggle, and take the heat off us!" "State of Siege" isn't meant to be the story of Daniel Mitrione's psyche. It's an indictment of U.S. imperialism, and we should welcome movies like this which combine high artistic quality with progressive political content.

U.S.-China Gym Meet - Friendship First

Last month large audiences in New York, Philadelphia, Tucson, Los Angeles, and Seattle witnessed exciting and heartwarming performances by the gymnastics teams of the U.S. and the People's Republic of China as they competed under the theme, "Friendship first, Competition second."

In some cities like New York, the events were scored competitively. The American Women's Team led by Olympian Cathy Rigby Mason proved too much for the Chinese, but they came back to capture the all-round men's competition.

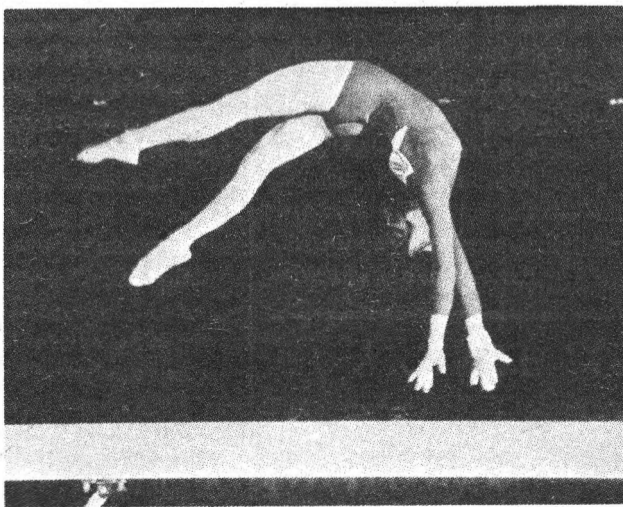
In Los Angeles, the meet was not scored. A joint exhibition on the pommel horse brought cheers from the standing crowd. The Chinese and American men, who had practiced only a short time together were pleased with their combined effort, and warmly embraced one another when they finished. While the demand for quality ran high among the gymnasts and the audience, there was no doubt that friendship and cultural exchange came first.

After all floor events were over, a fireworks display of flips, twists, leaps, and teamwork was given by the Chinese. This was followed by an animated Tibetan folk song and dance in praise of their great leader, Mao Tse-tung. In return, a sample of American culture was given by a choir of young people who rose from the stands to play guitar and sing contemporary songs.

The Chinese team appeared to have undying energy as they marched out to the center once again to win the respect of all present by singing in English, "America the Beautiful" and then delighting the crowd by asking them to join in "Home on the Range."

Everybody had a great time! They took back to their families and friends the friendship of the Chinese and American people, strengthened during the evening.

That was a far cry from the visit of the Soviet Union's



basketball team which brawled and argued its way through an 8-game series with the U.S. team. The difference lies in the different social systems, one socialism, which has taught the Chinese athletes love for the U.S. people and hatred for its government and capitalist system; the other capitalism, which has taught the U.S. and Soviet athletes individualism and national chauvinism.

Letters

WINTER SOLDIER

Brothers and Sisters,

To write a very short letter and tell you everything that is happening in our organization is almost impossible however, we do need your help, now, concerning some Vets from Gainesville, Fla.

The veterans are charged with conspiracy to disrupt the Republican convention last year. The costs have

been great, both financially and in time and energy spent by our members to publicize this trial. It's a very effective way to sidetrack the Vets. We feel there is little difference between these times in the states and the thirties in Germany. We hope this quote of Dr. Martin Niemoller will show our feelings and hopefully they will also be your feelings. "When Hitler jailed the Communists, I did not protest because I wasn't a communist. When he jailed the Jews, I didn't protest because I wasn't a Jew. When he jailed the Catholics, I kept silent as I wasn't a Catholic. When he jailed the trade unionists, I remained quiet as I wasn't in a union. When he finally jailed me, then there was no one left to protest."

We need your help now. Our trial date is July 17, '73 in Gainesville, Florida.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Winter Soldier Organization
Box 4114
Mt. Penn, Pa, 19606

CALL LEAVES POSITIVE FEELINGS

Comrades,

My little contact with The Call at this time has left me with very positive feelings. It is good to see articles that are clear and concise, that do not "talk down" to workers. The humbleness is also very important. Also, the graphics and style are a step away from a drab style that some people feel is necessary. All this plus good politics. Wow!

Here is \$2 for a six month sub. Keep up the good work. Yours in struggle,
Lee Gierke
Milwaukee, Wisc.

THE CALL welcomes letters and criticisms from our readers. We ask that they be kept to two pages, double spaced and typewritten if possible. They should be mailed to THE CALL, P. O. Box 2278, Bell Gardens, California, 90201.

H. Rap Brown Gets 15-Year Sentence

New York, N.Y.—H. Rap Brown, the Black civil rights militant and former chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), was sentenced to a lengthy prison term last May 9 in New York City. His defense attorneys are appealing his conviction.

Brown was given a 5-to-15 year prison sentence by Judge Arnold Fraiman. Two other co-defendants, Arthur Young and Levi Valentine, were sentenced to 5-to-20 year sentences and the sentencing of a third co-defendant, Samuel Petty, was temporarily postponed. All four Black men were the victims of a racist trial that was prejudiced by a government that had hounded them for years for their political actions in behalf of Black people.

Prior to the sentencing, Brown's brother Ed told the courtroom where supporters had gathered: "Rap Brown found the courage and fortitude not only to speak the words but to live the life of fighting against oppression. I am convinced that regardless of what happens in this courtroom, he remains resolved to continue to fight against oppression until oppression is no more." Ed Brown told Judge Fraiman that he had seen "law" in the court but was "still waiting to see justice."

The four men were convicted of robbing a New York City tavern in March 1971 but were found not guilty of a more serious charge of attempted murder of policemen. Supporters of the four men declared that the robbery charge was a police frame-up and that their arrests were connected to the fight the four men were waging against narcotics in the Black community of Harlem. The tavern, they charged, was a notorious center for narcotics traffic which received protection from the police. A co-owner of the bar, in fact, is a retired policeman. The attempted murder charge could not stand up in court and the jury of nine whites and three Blacks could not reach a guilty verdict.

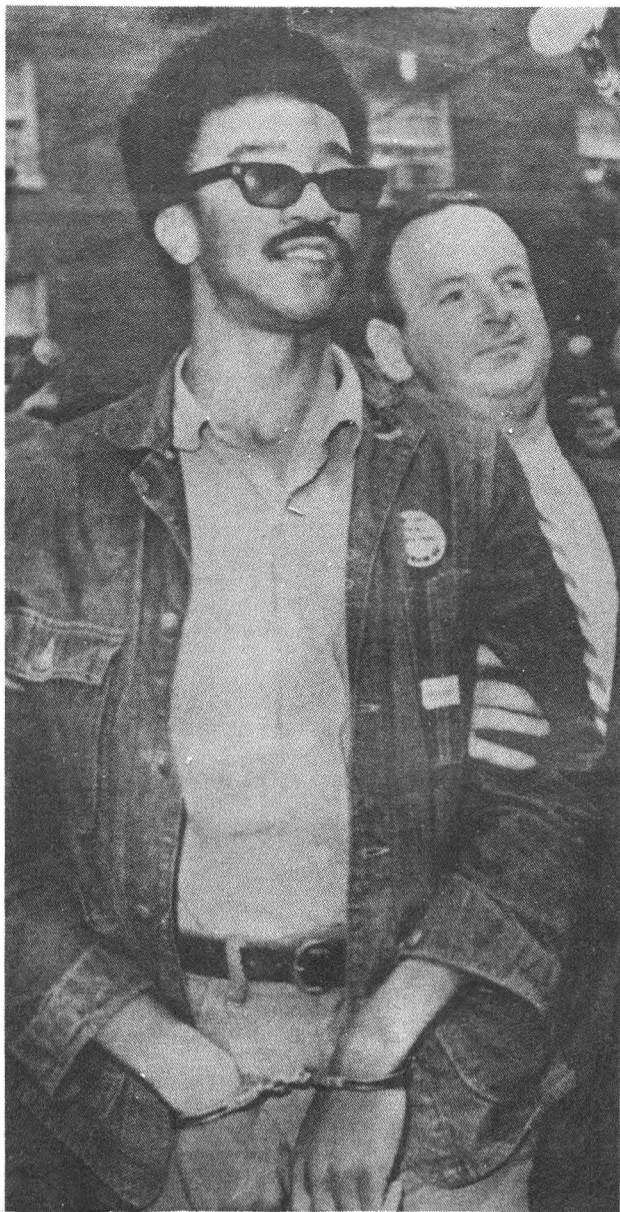
SIMILAR TO LOS TRES

Supporters point out that their case was similar in many ways to those of Los Tres del Barrio in East Los Angeles, Calif., and to Hayward Brown in Detroit. In all three cases, charges of attempted murder and murder of policemen were used to frame up activists who were fighting the heavy growth of narcotics pushing in Black and Chicano communities. All three cases have also exposed the involvement of police in the narcotics trade either by taking bribes to protect dope pushers or by selling drugs themselves. Shortly after Brown was arrested, his supporters formed the H. Rap Brown Anti-Drug Movement to combat the drug traffic which, they noted, became especially widespread following the Black rebellions that took place in several major cities.

Defense attorneys for the four men now plan to appeal the convictions on a number of grounds. First, they note that the trial was prejudiced from the beginning when former Deputy Police Commissioner Robert Daly wrote an article in the large-circulation New York Magazine that was entitled, "The Man Who Shot Rap Brown." The article, written about the policeman who shot and seriously wounded Brown at the time of his arrest, distorted the events of the arrest and alleged that Brown had a gun he did not have. Despite protests by the attorneys that the magazine article made a fair trial impossible, Judge Fraiman allowed the trial to proceed.

The state's prosecutor presented a number of witnesses at the trial who had vested interests in testifying against the four men. In addition to the part owner of the bar called the Red Carpet Lounge, who was a former policeman, the prosecutions's star witness was a bartender who later took a job in the District Attorney's office. A third prosecution witness admitted while he was testifying that he had a felony charge against him and that he "hoped to get a break from the authorities." On the other hand, Judge Fraiman would not allow defense attorneys to call an important defense witness.

During jury selection, the prosecution tried its best to prevent Black people from becoming members of the jury. Only three Black people were able to sit on the jury because the prosecutor arbitrarily discharged most of the Black people who were called to jury duty. This was done to lessen the likelihood that the jurors might be sympathetic to the four defendants, especially to Brown who was well known as a fighter against discrimination.



H. Rap Brown being taken away by Federal agents in Cambridge, Maryland, 1967.

As it turned out, one juror was an out-and-out racist and was prejudiced against the four men from the very beginning. After the trial was over, this juror gave interviews to newspaper reporters in which he admitted that he had lied during jury selection by telling "each side what it wanted to hear" so he would be sure to get on the jury. This man said he was convinced at the start of the trial that the defendants were guilty and he said he would have voted to find them guilty after only "five minutes" of deliberations. During the jury deliberations, he corralled another juror in a bathroom for an hour and a half until that juror agreed to vote for conviction. He

"I Lied!" Says Witness in Sostre Case

Arto Williams, the chief prosecution witness against Black revolutionary Martin Sostre in 1968, has admitted in court that he lied in his testimony.

He told a federal court judge May 30th that he was approached by Police Sgt. Alvin Gristmacher of the Buffalo, New York, Narcotics Squad while he was in prison on a burglary charge, and offered his freedom if he would lie to convict Sostre on a narcotics frame-up. After he agreed, he was released from jail, given parole for his offense and later taken to Sostre's bookstore where he pretended to buy drugs from Sostre, employing the ruse of asking Sostre to hold \$15 for him.

Sostre has now served five years of a 30-to-41-year term for supposedly selling heroin to Williams. During his prison term, Sostre has carried on a heroic struggle against the racist and dehumanizing prison system, for which he has received severe and brutal physical attacks from prison officials.

Williams made it clear that the motive of the police in the Sostre frame-up was to stop Sostre's political activity in the Afro-American liberation struggle. He quoted Gristmacher, in his federal court appearance as saying, "We are very interested in Martin Sostre because we believe he was the cause of the riot in 1967."

Sostre had long been associated with progressive causes and operated the Afro-Asian Book Store in Buffalo, which carried books and news of the movement.

As to his previous role in the frame-up, Arto Williams said that he isn't worried about being charged with perjury. In a press statement in the Buffalo News, Williams said, "I'm glad I've finally made it right."

also argued against the jury foreman, a Black woman, by saying that because she was Black she couldn't be objective and that she was "too weak" to find the defendants guilty.

When the defense attorneys presented this information about the juror to the court, asking the court to dismiss the jury verdict, Judge Fraiman denied the motion by saying the newspaper interviews with the juror were only unsubstantiated hearsay.

Brown, who is now a Sunni Moslem, said after he was sentenced, "Truth crushed into the earth will rise again." This was not the first trial that H. Rap Brown has faced. In 1967, as a leader of SNCC, Brown gave a speech before a Black audience in Cambridge, Maryland. That same night, the Black people of Cambridge rose up and rebelled against the system of brutality, poverty and discrimination which faced them. Cambridge authorities blamed Brown's speech for the rebellion and charged him with "inciting to riot" and "inciting to arson." Later, a Maryland state attorney revealed in a newspaper interview that the arson charge was deliberately fabricated by the Cambridge state attorney for the purpose of obtaining a federal warrant against Brown. This admission was made during a casual luncheon conversation, the Maryland state attorney told the newspaper interviewer several years later.

BROWN'S "CRIME"?

After Cambridge, Brown was arrested again by the FBI in New Orleans, La., on charges of transporting a rifle across state lines while charged with a felony. Carrying the rifle would not have been a crime if Brown had not been facing a felony charge. The felony charge was the arson charge in Cambridge which had been totally fabricated by the state's own admission.

In March 1970, when Brown was about to go on trial in Maryland, a bomb exploded in a car and killed two of Brown's close friends and fellow workers in SNCC, Ralph Featherstone and William "Che" Payne. Many supporters felt the bomb was meant for Brown. After the explosion, Brown disappeared until he was arrested in New York City and brought to trial here.

What was H. Rap Brown's "crime" during all those years? He was a SNCC leader when SNCC became the leading force in the civil rights struggle and the movement against the Vietnam war. SNCC chairman Stokely Carmichael said then, "Hell no, we won't go." During the struggle against white supremacy in the South which denied Black people the right to vote and other rights, Brown popularized the slogan for "Black power" and was one of the first civil rights leaders to support the Black uprisings in northern cities as a just rebellion of Black people against their oppression.



Martin Sostre, who has spent 5 years in New York prisons on a frame-up charge, waves to supporters.

Assistant District Attorney Peter J. Notaro, who prosecuted the case, testified in court, "I've made a decision that he (Williams) committed perjury from the time he began testifying in the courtroom."

Meanwhile, the prison terror against Sostre continues. On May 19th, before being transferred to the custody of Federal Marshals for transfer to Monroe County Jail to await his habeas corpus hearing on May 30th, Sostre was ordered to submit to a rectal search. When Sostre refused to submit to this humiliating order, he was jumped on by seven of Warden LaVallee's goons who beat him brutally, injuring one of his kidneys.

One of the guards then told him, "You got off easy this time," meaning that his face was spared so that he would look all right for his court appearance. Sostre's lawyer asked Judge Curtin for restraining order against Warden LaVallee to keep him from further brutalizing Sostre. Sostre has been beaten many times, exposed to six degree freezing temperatures without any clothes on and denied any visits, even from his lawyer because of his unwillingness to submit to humiliating rectal searches. The latest attempts to intimidate Sostre has included the threatened forced use of drugs to accomplish, by chemical means, what it cannot achieve by brute force--the breaking of Sostre's spirit.

Savage Arms Workers Strike Against "Cost Reduction"

Boston—Workers at Emhart Corp.'s Savage Arms plant in Westfield, Mass. seem to have lost a long fight against a company crackdown.

Last November, the 750 machinists, gunsmiths, and other production workers walked off the job in a wildcat when time-and-motion men appeared once again in the plant. The company, using the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act, fired 30 union men, including all the shop stewards and sued the union for \$1 million. The contract expired and the walkout became a strike lasting more than six months.

The workers are mostly older caucasians, average age, 52, and skilled. A great many have been at the plant for decades (the average seniority is 22 years). They've made Savage Arms the top producer of hunting rifles and shotguns in the country, and a steady profit-maker for the bosses.

Until recently, these skilled workers were able to negotiate their work rules with the management without paying much attention to the contract. But in the middle '60s Savage Arms was bought out by Emhart, a conglomerate run by the directors of the Hartford, Conn., financial community. They own over 20 plants, some overseas. They spent their profits from Savage to acquire other parts of their little empire, letting Savage's machinery run down.

Last year they decided on a "cost reduction program." This meant first putting in a new head for Savage, an ex-Marine colonel, who applied the contract to the letter. In the contract, the company had all the power to decide work rules, so the time-and-motion men began coming in.

EDISON STRIKE...

pay grades covering members of Local 387. (The local consists of bookkeeping and accounting personnel, as well as meter readers, draftsmen and surveyors.) However, Edison wanted the wage increases for the lower pay grades 1-6 carried "off-schedule" or, in other words unofficially. This would leave the 1972 rates in the books as per official schedule.

Edison wanted to keep new hires and all present employees within grades 1-6 at last years wages, while moving up those in pay grades 7 and up to the new schedule.

What Edison was hoping to do was (1) force workers at the higher-pay grades to forsake the interests of those at the lower-pay grades, and (2) compel all present employees to forsake the interests of the new workers—thus sowing divisions within the local's ranks.

DISCRIMINATION THINLY DISGUISED

75 percent of the 600 workers in grades 1-6 are Black, Latin and women. So this tactic of using pay grades was a thin disguise of discrimination. Edison must hire 30! minorities in the next 2 years to meet "equal opportunity standards", so many of the new workers will be Black or Latino as well.

The new contract would have frozen Blacks, Latins and women into a pay structure that would bar them from ever getting equal pay as other people on the job!

The walkout succeeded in striking down the two pay schedules for workers presently employed at Edison. But the agreement reached May 25 will still allow the company to discriminate against the workers hired since. Under the new contract a presently employed messenger, for example, making \$100 in 1972 will get \$106. A new messenger will be paid \$100 and get his \$6 raise only next year. This amounts to un-

When they came again in November, a week after Nixon's re-election, everybody decided they'd had enough. But it was the older workers who led the wildcat—their jobs were being designed right out from under them. When the company retaliated with the firings, the workers stuck together. The fight was on.

ANGRY, MILITANT, AND UNIFIED

They were angry, militant and unified. The company threatened to close the plant. All the workers were aware of a second Savage Arms plant in Puerto Rico. In response, the union began preparations for a national boycott, like the one called by the farm workers and the Farah strikers in the Southwest. The company kept threatening to close. Two thirds into the strike the company began to remove some equipment. At the end of May the strikers finally gave in, but not before the company agreed to rehire the fired union officials. The boycott was never called.

Why did the strike fail? Most important, it was a strike against only one plant of a company that had 20 more in different branches of industry. Also, Savage Arms was, in the whole of the Emhart holdings, of secondary importance. The company could, therefore, hold out.

What is more, the companies control the pension plans. They are riddled with so many loopholes that only one out of ten workers ever gets any money. The younger workers at Savage would have kept fighting, but too many of the workers were close to retiring. There was a real chance they'd lose their pensions. That's how companies use their pension plans, to intimidate the workers and undermine their struggle.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

equal pay for equal work.

In a phone interview, Hobin acknowledged that the local, on this issue, gave in to Edison's demand. "But it still doesn't mean a damn thing. We think it will be reversed."

According to Valentine Murphy, president of the local, the union intends "to harass the hell out of the company." The local plans to put the question of unequal pay before the federal government's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. "And two years from now, if it hasn't been struck down, we'll make it the number one strike item."

The company's moves against the workers sparked a new upsurge of rank-and-file militancy and unity. The men on the picket line, for example, expressed strong support for the women. Several felt that Edison, in its attempts to depress wages, "wanted to bring the women to their knees." "Anybody I've talked to," said Hobin, "says that women, if they're doing the same job as men, should get the same pay. And I'm not into women's lib stuff."

The women, many probably participating in the first strike of their lives, displayed considerable determination on the picket line. One woman, five months into her probationary period, ignored the union's policy of absolving new workers from picket duty: she took a subway and several buses to show up at the picket line in Woburn an hour out of Boston. And on the first day's picketing, another woman stopped a truck dead in its tracks, shouting, "If you think you're going to get through, it's going to be over me!"

WILDCAT AT MEAD

An exciting documentary film of the 7-week wildcat strike at Mead Packaging, Corporation in Atlanta, Georgia. The film consists of actual footage taken during the course of the strike and shows the intensity of the struggle and the workers' resistance to police repression and brutality.

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REVISIONIST'S SHAM SUPPORT...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

their struggle and which has been recognized by nearly 40 countries and organizations in the world. On the contrary, it has been maintaining for a long time its diplomatic relations with the Lon Nol clique and continues to provide the latter with economic aid. Last year it even voted for the participation of the Lon Nol clique in a conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. What is more, it went so far as to undertake recently to insure ships transporting weapons to the Lon Nol clique. Vanguard, organ of the Communist Party of Australia (Marxism-Leninist), said in a recent report: "The Russians have been shown to have a direct stake in the success of the Mekong River convoys bringing petroleum, imported foodstuffs and military supplies upstream three times a month from south Viet Nam to the beleaguered Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh." These ships and cargoes were insured by an insurance company of the Lon Nol

clique, which in turn was under the insurance of "seven foreign firms including the state-owned Soviet insurance organization, Gossprakov." The report pointed out that this Soviet assistance in maintaining the Lon Nol clique, which is beset with difficulties, is "one of the most bizarre ironies of the Indo-China war".

The above-mentioned acts of the Soviet revisionists cannot save the tottering Lon Nol clique. On the contrary, they are an excellent self-exposure of the hypocrisy of the Soviet revisionists who claim to be a "faithful friend" of the Cambodian people.

BREZHNEV...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

The question of world peace is a question that can only be taken up by the peoples of the world, small countries as well as big. There can certainly be no realistic talk of world peace without going to the root of the problem, the causes of war. As long as imperialism and social-imperialism are free to run wild in their drive for new markets and super-profits, how can there be peace? Brezhnev telling us that he and Nixon can bring peace to the world is nothing but demagoguery. The same thing holds true for their "joint solutions" to the present economic crisis the capitalist world finds itself in.

SHELL VICTORY...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Committee played a militant role on the picket lines and in organizing community support. (see article, Call No. 8).

Not only did this unity keep the strikers' spirits strong, it also weakened the morale of the people against it. By the time the strike was settled, the office workers who had been forced to do work in the refineries were signing petitions demanding that the company settle with the union. When the men finally went back to work, the machinery was falling apart from lack of use, and management was passing out hot lunches, coffee and cigarettes to the men in their rush to step up production.

As the men return to the refineries, there is dissatisfaction with one part of the settlement which includes the firings of two men each at the Martinez, Denver, New Orleans, and Anacondis plants (no jobs were lost at Long Beach or Houston.) They will now go before NLRB arbitration, and there is a good chance that the rulings may be favorable, since the Board recently ruled that a Shell electrician who was fired last fall for hitting a foreman be reinstated. These firings were clearly a form of company harassment, since none of them involved violence on the part of the workers.

The Shell strike has been important not only to the men and women involved, but to everyone who feels the oppression and exploitation. Through publicizing the strike, many workers and their families have come in contact with and actively supported the struggles at Farah, the United Farmworkers, the strike at Oneita Mills and others. In a year when contracts are coming up all over the country, this victory can serve as an example to us all that we will gain only through active, united struggle.

COACHELLA...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

WHO REPRESENTS THE FARMWORKERS

There is no real serious question as to who actually represents the real interest of the farm workers. Cesar Chavez and the UFWU have waged a struggle for almost ten years to organize the farm workers while the Teamsters time and again in Salinas, in Delano and now in Coachella, have been invited in by growers to break the UFWU efforts by signing sweetheart contracts.

From the Delano strike to the grape boycott to the lettuce boycott, Chavez and the UFWU have proven their determination to fight hard for the economic interests, the civil rights, and the dignity of the farm workers most of whom are Chicanos, Mexicans, and other minorities such as Filipinos. Many farm workers, on the other hand, have experienced the discrimination in the Teamster-organized canneries where Chicano workers have protested bitterly the racist treatment at the hands of their own union leaders.

It is no coincidence that the present Teamster leadership is causing great divisions in the labor movement as a whole at the same time that it is attacking the farm workers. Teamster head Fitzsimmons, who is fast becoming Nixon's chief spokesman in the labor movement, has supported the government's policies on the Vietnam war and on the wage freeze. Fitzsimmons was the only labor leader to uncritically support Nixon's latest "price-freeze."

The defeat of the Fitzsimmons-growers racist attempt to smash the UFWU would be one step forward toward greater unity between all working people and unions at a time when unity against the government's economic policies is becoming more necessary.

BOYCOTT GRAPES!!!!

BOYCOTT SAFEWAY!!!!

DEFEND THE UFWU!!!!

AFRICA...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

Portuguese and their imperialist supporters are running scared. . . I can tell you today that we do intend to declare Guinea-Bissau a free state within this year! "

SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Besides demanding freedom and independence for the colonized African countries, the demonstrators expressed support for the anti-imperialist struggles in North Africa and the Middle East, especially for the Palestinian peoples fight for their homeland. This year there was a high level of awareness that the African struggle is part of a world-wide struggle of oppressed people against imperialism.

This was the second year that African Liberation Day has been marked in the U. S., and it was extremely successful, despite dire predictions of failure by various capitalist publications that Black Americans "no longer care about their ancestors in Africa." The persistent fight of the African people for independence has won the respect of the people of the world.

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Members of L.A. Labor Unity Organization Caravan, join farmworkers on the picket line in Coachella. (Call Photo)

call photo

FORUM ON WOMEN...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

Davidson, of the Guardian, noted. "Women are fighting for equal job opportunities, breaking down the bourgeoisie's barriers between men's work and women's work and for equal access to higher pay, better treatment and responsibilities. This is why we support the ERA, even with its possible negative aspects. We believe it can serve as a step forward in bringing more women into the working class and enhance the class struggle."

Rather than attacking the women's struggle for full equality in all areas of society, revolutionaries should lead the fight for equality, and at the same time, organize the working men and women to fight and hold on to all protective labor laws which the capitalists may try to take away from them. Several successful struggles have been won so far, where bosses have attempted to lower men's wages to the level of women's or to force women to give up any protection the workers had already won. Such an example is the struggle of the workers at Fibreboard in Antioch, California, where the men and women got together and forced the company to back down rather than lower the men's wages after passage of the California Equal Rights Law in 1971.

In the United States, where women make up only 5 per cent of the professional doctors, engineers and lawyers, it

is clear that many women can benefit from the equal rights laws. Single, working mothers now constitute the largest single "poverty group" in the country—women need access to jobs as a means of support, not for "pin money." The right to seek employment, equal pay and equal opportunity can hardly be labelled "scabbing" by the vast majority of women in America today!

DEBATE DREW TWO LINES

Basically the Guardian Forum brought out two attitudes towards the women's movement; one, that it is a progressive movement which should be supported when it fights for demands in the interests of most women (i.e. child care, equal pay) and the other, that it is a hopelessly confused, middle-class movement which should be opposed. Secondly, the question of the Equal Rights Law, brought out two attitudes towards the rights of women in the work force—either to oppose the right of women to seek opportunities equal to men, or to support the democratic rights of women.

The texts of all four speeches are published in the Guardian.

ECONOMIC SITUATION...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

than a fourth expected the "boom" to continue into September.

On May 10, the *Wall Street Journal* called the current economic situation "uncertain, if not chaotic," and a few days later one of that newspaper's chief columnists wrote that "many, possibly most" economic analysts in the New York financial district "see a recession just down the road." One prominent forecaster at Manufacturers Hanover Trust was quoted by name as expecting a "boom-bust" situation.

Despite record profit gains, and despite much "bullishness on America" for advertising purposes, the New York Stock Exchange has been zig-zagging downward since January first. Since about 70 per cent of the buying and selling is now done by big banks and closely allied insurance companies, pension funds and other institutions, the market's downward course reveals, better than any public statements, the real expectations in the minds of the most powerful financiers. The smaller investors, meanwhile, tired of being fleeced, have been leaving the market—broke—in great droves. The number of stockholders declined in early 1973 for the first time in decades, and a poll showed in May that three-

fourths of the smaller investors believed that the market was "manipulated" by the big financial institutions.

Other domestic financial developments also point to crisis in the near future. The Federal Reserve System, a chain of government banks which, among other functions, lends money to the commercial banks, raised its interest charge on May 11 to 6 per cent. This is the same level as in 1969-70, when a so-called "credit crunch" developed. The commercial banks raised the interest charge on loans to blue-chip industrial corporations, meanwhile, to 7 per cent, and were said to be planning further hikes. Credit to smaller corporations is being rationed, with many being cut off altogether. Interest rates at this very high level usually indicate that a number of larger companies will not be able to afford to borrow, and will face serious financial difficulties, possibly bankruptcy, as happened to the Penn Central and to Lockheed, and nearly Chrysler as well, in the 1970 crisis.

Fresh storm signals are also flying on the international scene.

(To Be Continued in the August Issue.)

WORKERS' BOOKS

Complacency is the enemy of study. We cannot really learn anything until we rid ourselves of complacency. Our attitude towards ourselves should be "to be insatiable in learning" and towards others "to be tireless in teaching."

Mao Tsetung, "The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War"

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BROTHERHOOD CAUCUS...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the rank-and-file movement against the big capitalist monopolies like GM.

In only 8 months the Brotherhood Caucus grew from 10 workers to over 2,000. It built a powerful coalition of forces with young minority workers, especially Black workers at the core, but consisting also of older workers and organizations, such as the Blue Slate Caucus, women workers and many people from skilled trades. The election slate represented this coalition in all its aspects (a young woman was elected to the Executive Board for the first time in the local's history) and ran on a united platform of rank-and-file control and elimination of corruption. (The Herrera administration to this day had never explained how the local treasury has been depleted to the tune of almost \$100,000 at the same time that it was taking in \$50,000 per month.)

The Caucus built up an impressive list of achievements prior to the elections. Beginning in January, the Brotherhood mobilized quorums for union meetings for the first time since the 1970 strike. At these meetings the Caucus consistently exposed the Herrera administration by passing concrete resolutions, for example, calling for a complete audit of the financial records. In February the Brotherhood also began to publish its own newspaper. The paper brought the issues of corruption and dictatorship to the entire membership, and explained in depth and detail how the Herrera administration, under the name of "Unity Team," was tied to the International. The paper attacked the company's policies of speed-up, job overloads and arbitrary discipline and linked up the struggles at GM Fremont with the rank-and-file movement elsewhere around the country (Farah, Farm Workers, etc.). The paper polled the membership on important issues, gave them an open platform to state their grievances, and put forth a program of struggle based on the opinions of the workers.

RANK AND FILE FIGHTS GM'S FIRINGS

The company responded to this movement of the workers by launching a campaign of harassment of Brotherhood members, which was stepped off by the firing of some of its active members. In order to prevent the Brotherhood from falling apart, the Brotherhood united with the outraged rank and file and built mass support around these firings, further exposing the weak-kneed leadership of the local. At one union meeting, a motion was made calling on the local to openly condemn these political firings in a leaflet and to pledge full support for the discharged workers. President David Chambers refused to entertain the motion. On May 10 several hundred workers came to a rally and press conference at which the Brotherhood announced the filing of complaints against GM with the NLRB around the firings. A few days before the election, Pat Klonsky was reinstated with \$2,500 back pay. The workers realized that this woman would not have been rehired without the mass pressure generated by the Brotherhood. At 3:00 A.M. on the morning of June 9, after 9-1/2 hours on night shift, over 600 exuberant workers turned out in the union parking lot to celebrate the victory. Here the Brotherhood pledged itself to get every other fired worker rehired.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Throughout the struggle for control of the local, the leadership of the Brotherhood has made it clear that the caucus is more than an election slate. The caucus plans to expand, not disband the organization that it has built up among the rank-and-file workers. Much work still needs to be done to consolidate the election victory.

The main weakness of the Brotherhood in the elections was its failure to capture many of the shop district committeeman positions, particularly on day shift where most of the seniority workers and many white workers are concentrated. These losses indicate that while there was a lot of unity among all sections of the workers to get rid of corruption in the top leadership, workers were very concerned about having experienced committeemen to represent them in the day-to-day struggles around their grievances with the company. On the other hand, many of the Brotherhood's young militant candidates did win alternate committeeman jobs indicating that the workers want to see them get the training they need to become the new shop leaders.

But the problem of union representation and rank-and-file control is a larger question than winning official positions. For one thing, the Brotherhood demands reversal of the grievance procedure. Workers must be considered innocent until proven guilty, not vice versa.

The Brotherhood is also determined to further develop the unity among white, Black, Chicano and other national minority workers. The day before the election results were announced, Earlie Mays said: "Whatever happens, we've won already. All day long, Black, white and Chicano workers all over the plant have been telling me how they put their money on me and the Brotherhood. Nobody can take this away from us. This is definitely the start of a new day. But we've got a long way to go."

To carry out its pledge of unity, the Brotherhood will have to fight hard for the special demands of Black and Chicano workers and prove to the white workers that it is in their own interest to give militant and self-sacrificing support to the just demands of minority workers. The Brotherhood has already taken up this struggle in its newspaper, its program and its practice. Its election victory proves that this is the only road to working class unity.



Anti-deportation rally was attended mainly by Chicanos, but stressed the unity of all oppressed people.

DEPORTATIONS CONTINUE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

child with a babysitter who did not know the whereabouts of the child's mother.

"INS agents are also unlawfully entering private homes, churches, restaurants and factories, creating a climate of fear, apprehension and confusion."

In San Diego, the county sheriff even went to the extreme of issuing a mandate for all taxi drivers to turn in anyone suspected of having crossed the border illegally. The order, however, caused such an outcry among the Chicano community, that the case was taken to court and the mandate was declared illegal.

The deportations have increased to astronomical proportions over the past two years and have begun to resemble the campaign of 1954 when more than 1.5 million people were deported, many of them U.S. citizens of Mexican ancestry. In 1971, for example, the INS booted out more than 250,000 people and last year deported another 450,000, most of them Latinos or Mexicanos.

The round-ups have not been without resistance. Two weeks ago, for instance, immigration officials tried to break into a meeting of Local 300 of the Laborers Union in order to search for "illegals." Union officials, however, met the immigration authorities at the door and refused them entry unless they had a search warrant. The authorities left, and returned two hours later with a search permit, but by then union officials had adjourned the meeting and no one was arrested.

On June 16, more than 2,000 people, most of them Chicanos, demonstrated in front of Los Angeles City Hall in order to protest the deportations and also to protest against the Rodino Bill which is currently under consideration in Congress.

The Rodino Bill, if enacted, will impose fines on employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens and supposedly will prevent employers from viciously exploiting immigrants as well as preventing illegal aliens from displacing "American workers." However, the real effects will result in the firing of thousands of immigrant Latino workers, who are here legally, and U.S. citizens of Latino descent.

The Brotherhood is a part of the militant rank-and-file movement that is developing all across the country, particularly among auto workers. Like caucuses that have sprung up in many other UAW locals, the Brotherhood is the product of long years of struggle against corruption, class collaboration and racism on the part of the International UAW leadership and its local "yes" men.

While the Brotherhood victory raises the possibility of linking up with rank-and-file struggles in other UAW locals, starting with the Western Region, the effort to clean up Local 1364 itself is far from over. The firmness of the Caucus is sure to be tested immediately by the combined pressure and obstructionism of the UAW leadership on the one hand, and General Motors on the other. The upcoming contract negotiations will be a crucial test of the Brotherhood's strength. The caucus will have to rely more heavily than ever on the masses of its rank-and-file membership to defend and extend the gains that have already been made.

But with one foot in the door and the membership aroused like never before, the Brotherhood will not be easily intimidated. The victory here in Fremont should be an inspiration to rank-and-file workers everywhere who are fighting the labor bureaucrats for control of their unions.

Employers will be reluctant to hire anyone of Latino descent for fear of hiring "illegals" and of subsequently being fined. Other employers, however, will use the law as an excuse to hold down wages and will use the threat of calling in the Immigration Service if workers want higher pay or better conditions.

A similar law, the Dixon-Arnet Bill, was passed by the California State Legislature last year and resulted in employers requiring a \$500 bond from every worker of Mexican descent. The Rodino Bill will not only have a similar effect on Mexicanos and Chicanos in the Southwest, but will have the same effect on Latinos, principally Puerto Ricans, in the Midwest and East Coast.

Reverend Al Dortch, Director of Operation Breadbasket, stated the situation quite succinctly when he told the June 16 rally, "This country has stolen your land, used your labor, and when they don't want you anymore, they kick you out." The extent to which the Mexican immigrants are tolerated depends entirely on the demands of the U.S. economy; acting as a reserve army of labor, the immigrants are allowed in during periods of economic boom and are indiscriminately deported in times of economic crisis when they are no longer needed.

The demonstration and rally was organized primarily by Comité de Accion Social Autonomo (CASA Hermandad) and Los Tres del Barrio Defense Committee but received support of several chapters of La Raza Unida Party and MECHA, a Chicano student organization, as well as the Los Angeles Labor Unity Organization.

The rally was addressed by representatives from labor unions, the Black and Indian movements, the anti-war movement, as well as the Chicano movement. Speakers included Bert Corona, executive director of CASA; Soledad Alatorre, CASA president; Al Dortch; Ted Marsh, chairman of LALUO; and representatives from AIM, the United Rubber Workers, and the United Farm Workers Union.

More demonstrations and mass actions are being planned for the near future to fight these deportations.