

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD UNITE TO DEFEAT IMPERIALISM

THE CALL

POLITICAL NEWSPAPER OF THE OCTOBER LEAGUE

Volume 4, Number 7 - THE CALL, Post Office Box 5597, Chicago, Ill. 60680 - April, 1976 - Published by the October League (Marxist-Leninist) - 25¢

Choice of Oppressors

Nothing for Us in '76 Elections

The 1976 presidential race is now well underway and once again the top U.S. politicians are in a mad scramble to win the support of a majority of the American people at the polls.

The main difference in this campaign is that it is taking place in the midst of the deepest political and economic crisis the country has faced in decades—and none of the candidates or their parties are capable of doing anything about it.

Instead the ruling class is offering the working people its usual "choice" of selecting which set of monopoly capitalist figures will be in charge of another four years of exploitation and oppression.

Also standard procedure is that one of the candidates ever admits to being what they are—the representatives of big business. Jimmy Carter, a millionaire Black Belt plantation owner, is "just a struggling Georgia peanut farmer." Scoop Jackson, mouthpiece of the Pentagon, of the biggest labor aristocrats and of the First National City Bank, is the "great defender



THE TWO PARTIES ARE "TWO WINGS OF A SINGLE BIRD OF PREY" - FREDERICK ENGELS

of blue-collar workers and the liberal middle class." Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford outdo each other as the "great white hope of Middle America" while George Wallace, the closest thing in the U.S. to a mass fascist leader, is the champion of "the little people."

Everyone these days, it seems,

is a "populist" in personal charge of a rebellion against "bureaucrats" and "big government." No one in the race speaks out directly in defense of the rich, of privilege, of war-mongering and repression, and of the plunder of the people's wealth at home and abroad.

What is the purpose, then, of

the web of lies and demagogy that binds together a bourgeois election campaign?

One answer was given by John Michels, a Ford campaign staffer and a former Army officer in Vietnam. "I guess you might say that we're trying to win the hearts and minds of the people," he told the February 23 Newsweek, borrowing from the U.S. rationale for its aggression in Indochina. He carried the analogy a step further in describing disputes within the campaign. "We found out, as in Vietnam, the generals aren't always the ones who know the most about local pacification."

Ford's flunkey hit on an important truth. Despite the military metaphor, the bourgeoisie does not rule by guns alone. Exactly because it is a tiny minority class of exploiters, it prefers to hide the

armed force at the heart of its state power by covering it over with the sugar-coated bullets of reform, with the illusion of "democracy." And it works hard every few years to shore up these illusions with a "pacification campaign" in the form of an election.

"There's not a dime's worth of difference between the philosophies of the candidates," said Hugh Gregg, a millionaire campaign worker for Reagan. "But I'm not interested in philosophies. I'm interested in who's electable." Chris Brown, an aide to Jimmy Carter, said much the same thing: "You find that your ideas aren't very relevant. Idealism isn't the objective. Winning is."

Underlying this outlook is contempt for the masses of the people whose "hearts and minds" are supposedly to be won. Reagan,

Gregg gave reporters a glimpse of it in New Hampshire, as described in the February 23 Newsweek: "Gregg sees to it that there is hot mulled wine for the press and 'chicken feed'—a large bag of campaign buttons—for the voters. 'Time to feed the chickens,' he announces, stepping off the campaign bus and tossing buttons to the crowd."

This does not mean that there are not disputes among the candidates or that their battles are not real struggles for power. Competition for the spoils of high office is the rule among the capitalists. While the candidates may believe that "chickenfeed" will satisfy the needs of the masses of the people, the menu for the higher-ups among their supporters is con-

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26 DEAD IN SCOTIA MINE

Murdered for Profit

Letcher County, Ky.—A methane gas explosion ripped through a section of the Black Mountain mine twice in three days (March 9 and 11), killing 23 coal miners and three government inspectors.

Less than 24 hours before the first explosion, which killed 15 miners, the Scotia Coal Company mine was cited for three safety violations. By law, it should have been shut down or "red-tagged." Five minutes before the deadly methane gas ignited, section foreman Virgil Coots called up for air. Seconds before the blast, more urgent this time, Coots repeated: "There's no air in here."

Miners who have worked the Scotia mine said afterwards: "There was never enough air in there." "That mine was always unsafe." "We've known for the last ten years that someday that mine would blow up."

Since 1970, 1,250 citations for serious safety violations have been filed against Scotia Coal. The mine was shut down 57 times for non-compliance. Over \$164,300 in penalty fees have been recorded, although not even one-third has been paid.

The Scotia Black Mountain

No. 1 mine is the most gaseous mine in Kentucky. Constant strong ventilation is the only way to prevent flammable pockets from forming as the poisonous gas seeps through the coal seams. Adequate ventilation creates winds that sweep through the dark tunnels,

requiring men to wear insulated underclothes. At Black Mountain, however, small quantities of air are shunted from one section to another, so that the tunnels are hot and dusty and miners worked in

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FREEDOM FOR GARY TYLER !

New Orleans, La.—The key prosecution witness in the Louisiana frame-up trial of Gary Tyler came forward this month and exposed the state's effort to make her lie in court.

Tyler is a 17-year old Black youth who has been sentenced to death on trumped up charges of murdering a white student in the midst of an anti-busing struggle in 1974. He and dozens of other Black students were caught in a bus surrounded by a racist mob when a shot rang out, killing the white student.

The witness, 16-year old Natalie Blanks, had previously claimed that Tyler fired a shot and hid the pistol. All other witnesses, however, said Tyler fired no shots, including the bus driver. Tried by an all-white jury, Tyler was found guilty in less than three hours. This is typical of the "Klan" justice Black people have known only too well in this plantation town, Destrehan, and throughout the Black Belt South.

Blanks has now exposed the fact that the district attorney forced her to testify. In a sworn affidavit to the defense, Blanks said,

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ONE YEAR SINCE INDOCHINA VICTORIES

MAY DAY AND THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM

This year, mass mobilizations will take place all over the world commemorating May First, the revolutionary workers' holiday.

May Day originated here in the U.S. in 1886 when workers in Chicago called for a general strike as part of the struggle for the 8-hour day. During the course of this strike, the workers fought many bloody battles against the factory-owners and the government—including the famous battle at Chicago's Haymarket Square where many workers were killed and six leaders of the workers' movement brutally hanged.

Since that time, May Day has become a militant workers' holiday throughout the world. It is a time for working and oppressed people to express their determination in the struggle against the capitalist system. It is a day when the people of the world express their solidarity with each other and their opposition to imperialism. It is an occasion to advance the most burning demands of the oppressed people and link them to the struggle for socialist revolution.

In this tradition, this year's May Day events will be held under the following banners:

JOBS OR INCOME NOW! DOWN WITH IMPERIALISM! OPPOSE SUPERPOWER WAR PREPARATIONS! END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MINORITIES AND WOMEN! SUPPORT THE STRUGGLES OF THE THIRD WORLD PEOPLES!

In many cities throughout the country, the October League is initiating events that will mobilize thousands of working people in celebration of May Day. The events this year will reflect the particularity of the present stage in the revolutionary struggle—most importantly, the pressing need for a new communist party.

Forums will be held by the October League and other Marxist-Leninists who have united around a general plan for communist unity and party-building. The forums will be held to discuss this plan and the present conditions under which the party is being built. The forums will also mark the beginning publication of the weekly *Call*—the main political and organizational weapon in the struggle to unite the communist movement and develop communist leadership in the mass movement.

Mass demonstrations will also be held on May First to unite all who can be united to oppose the hegemony and war schemes of the two superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, and to put forward a fighting program for struggle against the attacks on the living standards and democratic rights of the workers and oppressed nationalities.

May Day 1976 is a hallmark in the struggle for socialism in the United States. Past years' celebrations have laid the groundwork for the formation of a revolutionary communist party and this year's May Day will take place on the brink of its formation. May Day events will represent the further consolidation of the break made by the genuine communist and anti-imperialist movement from the revisionism and betrayal of the CPUSA—the agents of imperialism who would seek to turn the workers' and oppressed nationalities' movements into a reserve of the social-imperialists and the reformism of the so-called "liberal" U.S. imperialists.

We call on all people who are part of the genuine movement to oppose imperialism and its policies of war and fascism to unite in the celebrations of May Day this year. We call on all Marxist-Leninists to unite in the efforts to publish a weekly Marxist-Leninist press and forge a new Marxist-Leninist communist party to lead the working class and its allies to revolution and socialism.

It is one year since the Cambodian and Vietnamese patriots swept U.S. imperialism and its puppet governments off the face of Indochina. It is almost a year since the heroic Laotian people drove the CIA-backed rightists out of their country.

These events culminated long years of struggle by the peoples of Indochina to defeat imperialist aggression. "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom," said Ho Chi Minh, and all the peoples of Indochina fought imperialism with that spirit.

The anniversary of the victories is a good time to sum-up the lessons of the Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Lao peoples' struggles. Their revolutionary example showed the whole world that by uniting, practicing self-reliance, and taking up armed struggle, the people of a small country can defeat a big imperialist superpower. Under the leadership of Marxist-Leninist parties, the people's cause in every country was able to march forward from victory to victory.

It is also time to take note of the great achievements made in the last year by the peoples of the three countries. While the ruling class news media in this country has been busy spreading lies about "starvation" and "mass rebellion," the people have been undeterred in the forward course to rebuild their countries and bring the masses of workers and peasants into leadership of society.

In Laos, the Lao People's Democratic Republic has been established, and a bomb-ravaged country is enjoying its first full spring of planting in a decade. In Vietnam, rapid progress has been made towards the reunification of the north and south—fulfilling the dream of the Vietnamese people since their country was divided in 1954. Reflecting the broad new democracy which the masses of people are enjoying in the process of reconstructing Cambodia, that country's name has been officially changed to Democratic Kampuchea. Self-sufficiency in a number of agricultural areas has been achieved and the bureaucracy and corruption of the old Lon Nol clique has been eliminated.

Although it has suffered a historic defeat in Indochina, imperialism has not given up. The U.S. has been actively promoting CIA plots in both Laos and Vietnam in the vain hope of disrupting the stability of the new governments.

Most recently, the U.S. conducted a savage bombing raid on Cambodia's Siemrap City. On February 23, a total of three U.S. aircraft were involved in high-altitude bombing raids which destroyed schools, hospitals and homes, killing 15 people and injuring 30. These vicious attacks were met by the resistance of the Cambodian people who quickly mobilized to defend the country against further aggression.

The bombing of Siemrap is only the most blatant act of imperialist aggression in Indochina. Meanwhile, the other superpower, the Soviet Union, has been stepping up its efforts to penetrate Indochina and destroy the fruits of the liberation struggles.

The Soviet Union, while it claimed to be a "friend" of liberation, exposed itself most clearly in the course of the struggle by its failure to support the National United Front of Cambodia and its propping up of Lon Nol until the day he fled the country. Now it is trying to penetrate Indochina economically and militarily in the hopes of entering through the back door while the U.S. is being driven from the front.

At this time, we must sum up the lessons of the Indochinese liberation struggles and learn from their rich history. Upholding the banner of internationalism, we must continue to oppose imperialist aggression and renew our solidarity with the efforts to build independent, democratic countries in Indochina free from foreign control.

Numerous meetings and actions will take place across the country this month to mark the anniversary of the victories. In New York City on April 17, a meeting has been called by the Group of Khmer (Cambodian) Residents in the U.S. to both celebrate Cambodia's triumph and denounce the U.S. bombings. The October League actively supports this forum and will be participating in similar activities in other cities.

**CELEBRATE THE VICTORIES OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES!
DOWN WITH IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION IN INDOCHINA!**

Comrades,

Please accept this contribution towards the establishment of the weekly *Call*. This is an event of historical significance for U.S. revolutionary forces and the whole working class. The quality of the paper improves steadily. I know *Call* readers all over Tallahassee look forward to the weekly issues.

TH
Tallahassee

Dear Comrades,

Unidos Bookstore, selling revolutionary literature in the middle of the Chicano community in Los Angeles, has often come under attack from the ruling class. We have been bombed, harassed, and now, the Sheriff has closed down the store, claiming that we didn't renew our license in time. The fact is we never received the license renewal forms that were supposedly sent.

Every attack that has come down on

Letters



the store has been met with more resistance and action. Unidos has been a center for farmworker support, anti-deportation activities and a campaign for the independence of Puerto Rico.

Please help us continue our work. Send letters and donations to:

Unidos Bookstore
918 S. McBride
Los Angeles, California

To *The Call*,

On Feb. 3, 1976, the Tampa Workers' Committee held a demonstration at the Food Stamp Office.

While we were outside the Food Stamp office we passed out literature

and talked to the people about the cut-backs. Two men came up and started taking pictures and asking all kinds of questions. When we asked them who they were they said they were reporters from the Washington Post. I knew that they had to be cops and told them so.

After the demonstration I went around the block to get my brother's car. After getting in the car I noticed these same men parked behind me so I got back out of the car and began walking back down the street. One of them got out and asked me for my driver's license, but I wouldn't show it to him.

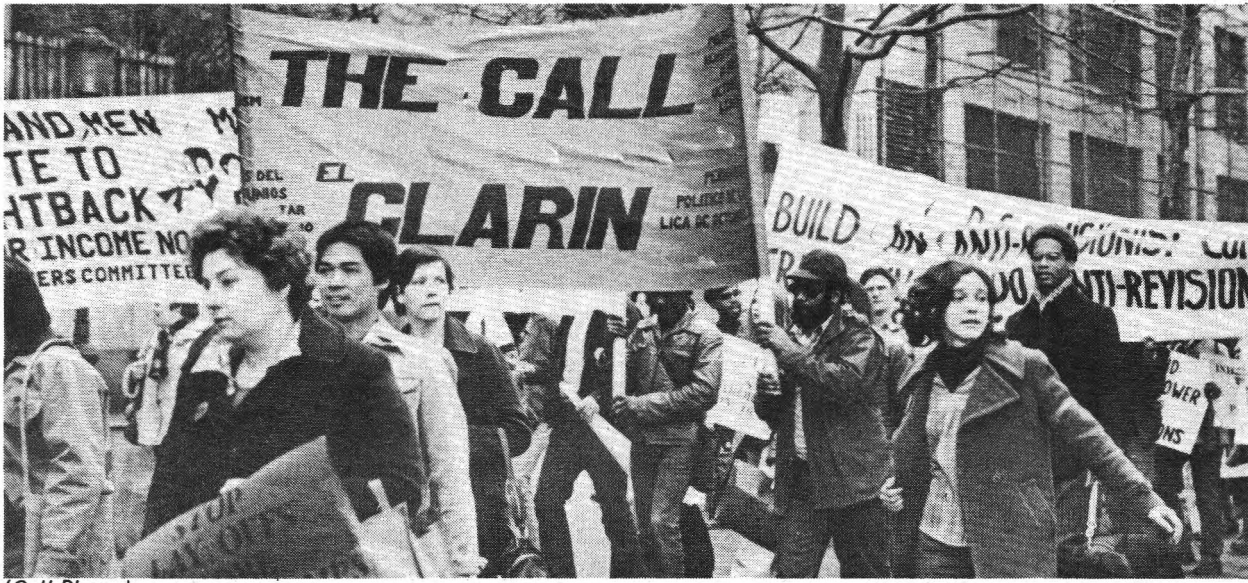
Then he started pushing me around and twisting my arm. Then my brother showed up and he jumped the cop. While

they were fighting I went and got the rest of the Workers' Committee.

Now this cop who attacked me never identified himself as being a cop. When my brother and I were arrested we weren't informed of our rights or even allowed one phone call. Instead they took us to the FBI section of the jail. We were questioned for hours by the local Red Squad and the FBI.

It is plain to see that the cops set us up for an arrest. All they wanted to do was to try and scare the people in the Tampa Workers' Committee and get some information out of me and my brother. This phony political arrest gave us more of the fighting strength that we need to get ready for revolution and stop this kind of oppression.

Eddie Ruth Marshall
Tampa, Florida



(Call Photo)

WEEKLY CALL TO HIT STREETS MAY FIRST

It is six months since the initiation of the campaign to publish a Marxist-Leninist paper on a weekly basis, and only one short month before the first issue of the weekly *Call* (May 1) hits the streets.

As we conclude the campaign to bring the weekly into existence, it is a good time to sum-up the achievements of this period. In doing so, we can see more clearly the tasks that lie ahead after May First.

The most significant aspect of the work to build the weekly is that the campaign around it has been taken up by large numbers of workers. The work to build a frequently-published Marxist-Leninist paper has been closely linked to the tasks of forming a new Marxist-Leninist party.

Our ability to publish the weekly does not depend on a few "geniuses" sitting in an office writing great amounts of copy. It depends instead on the support of the masses—support in the form of readership, correspondents, financial contributions and sales of the paper.

In the last six months thousands of workers and progressive people have been won politically to support the efforts to publish the weekly *Call*. In addition, the need for a newspaper combining both agitation and propaganda and serving as a "collective organizer" for a new party has won the support of comrades in several different Marxist-Leninist organizations.

BROADENING NETWORK

One indication of the broadening network around *The Call* is the volume of articles submitted for publication. In the month of March, *The Call* received some 120 articles written by people across the country, most of whom were actively involved in the struggles they were writing about. More than 30 of these articles were submitted by worker correspondents who in most cases were summing up their struggles in written form for the first time.

The sheer volume of material for publication has convinced us that the weekly will be filled with first-hand reports of the anti-imperialist battles being waged around the country. If anything, we have been convinced that we must not rest content even with a weekly, but must forge on to build a daily newspaper of the working class.

The nationwide, collective work of publishing the monthly *Call* has already brought vivid, on-the-spot reporting to the pages of the paper. From Hawkinsville, Georgia, where the Tood-Woods defense was centered, to the Scotia mines in Kentucky (see page 1), *Call* reporters have been on hand investigating the class struggle and playing a leading part in it themselves.

The change from the monthly to the weekly means a change from mainly analyzing what has happened in the past to giving guidance to the battles taking place at the moment.

Over the last six months alone, the on-the-spot reporting in the paper has increased, the workers' correspondence has developed, and *The Call* itself has assumed a more prominent role in the workers' movement. In this issue, for example, activists at Capitol Packaging in Chicago sum up the lessons of the strike there (p.9) and point out the role played by *The Call* in advancing the level of consciousness among the workers. The very writing of these kinds of articles serves as a way to deepen comrades' understanding of political questions and train propagandists and leaders from

among the workers.

In preparation for the weekly, more people have been drawn into the various organizational forms around *The Call* such as networks, discussion groups and *Call* committees.

Over these months, *Call* discussion groups have begun to take shape inside the biggest sources of capitalist wealth and power—the auto plants, the steel mills and the coal mines as well as the sweatshops, hospitals, schools and workers' communities of the country. Discussion groups have begun to solidify into networks of political struggle and organization among workers. These networks must be developed systematically to discuss, distribute and write for the paper. The weekly press will have its greatest impact in accelerating the construction of factory networks by providing a concrete and current focus around which to organize large numbers of workers. Through the press we will draw them into the process of party-building and ultimately the activities of the new party.

In addition to these factory-based networks, people in 30 cities have organized

Call committees made up of workers and revolutionary intellectuals who contribute to *The Call* regularly and help to build its influence locally. The development of these committees demonstrates what it means to have the support of the masses. Our mass support enables us to have 30 bureaus around the country, even though the circulation of our newspaper is still relatively small and our funds are extremely limited. Time Magazine, by contrast, with all its financial resources, recently hailed as a great achievement the opening of its seventh bureau.

Our fundraising efforts have also met with a good deal of success in the last six months. Of our original estimate for what we would need to sustain us through the first year, we have already raised over 50%. This money has come from people who politically support the idea of the weekly and are willing to put up \$5 or \$10 to help it along.

Throughout the October League, the last six months have seen greater emphasis than ever before on the establishment of discussion groups, on systematizing distribution, and in providing deeper analysis of all the work comrades are engaged in as well as of national and world affairs. These steps have contributed greatly to transforming the OL into a more solidly-working class based organization of professional revolutionaries.

These efforts will certainly be intensified with the weekly and will be that much more successful when all the Marxist-Leninists can unite in a single party with a single newspaper to serve as a basis for collective organization.

The struggle for Marxist-Leninist unity and the construction of a new party has been at the heart of the campaign to build the weekly paper. Throughout this campaign, *The Call* has been the vehicle for putting forward the OL's plan for party-building. As a weekly in the next period, *The Call* will be able to actively aid the unity of the whole party-building movement with weekly reports on the debate and discussion concerning the actual formation of the party.

Through the weekly newspaper tens of thousands of workers will be brought into the discussions around party-building and won to the principles of the new party.

In summarizing the work of the last six months, we can say that solid progress was made on all the fronts necessary before a weekly could be published. We are in a good position today to carry out the great deal of work that still remains to be done in all these areas.

The April *Call* is the last of the monthly *Calls*. From this point forward the struggle will be to improve upon a weekly Marxist-Leninist paper that will already exist.

READ, WRITE AND SELL THE WEEKLY CALL



Sustain The Call

The Call needs sustainers! A number of people have already become *Call* sustainers by sending us monthly checks of \$5, \$10, or more. We hope that you too will contribute regularly to the weekly *Call*. Sustainers receive complimentary copies of all October League literature.

The Call Needs Writers

Expose the enemies of the working class! Help educate the people about the evils of capitalism and the need for revolution! *The Call* needs articles about every aspect of the peoples' struggles, whether it's a description of the battles in your factory, an exposure of racist police repression, or an analysis of the national and international situations.

...and Photographers

Become the eyes of *The Call* in your factory or neighborhood. Send us photographs of the people in struggle.

LAST CHANCE TO SUBSCRIBE FOR ONLY \$5

Beginning with the next issue, *The Call* will be published weekly and a one-year subscription will cost \$10. One important way to show your support for the weekly *Call* is to subscribe. Take advantage of this special half price offer, good until May 1 with this ad only.

Write to:
The Call
Box 5597
Chicago, Ill. 60680

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Soviet Congress Prepares for War

Military Gets Blank Check, Fascist Machinery Strengthened

The 25th Congress of the Soviet ruling party, which concluded last month in Moscow, was a congress of stepped-up preparations for war and of more intense exploitation of the Soviet working people.

The basic direction taken by the revisionist leadership was shown not only in the economic figures and in speeches, but also in the significant personnel changes at the top. The elevation of Grigori Ustinov, the war industry specialist, to the Politburo, was a clear sign of the priorities of current Soviet policy.

On the other side, the quiet dismissal from the Politburo of Dmitri Polyansky, the Minister of Agriculture, was an admission that the harvest disasters of the past five years could not believably be blamed wholly on the weather. By making Polyansky the scapegoat, the Politburo seems to hope to duck the popular resentment at the declining standard of living for the masses of the people in recent years.

The priority on armaments came out fairly plainly, despite the covering of "detente" rhetoric, in party General Secretary Brezhnev's report on behalf of the central committee. While admitting "inadequate concern for the light, food and service industries," and pointing to "the shortage of some goods and the limited volume of services," Brezhnev had little to offer to remedy such widespread ills other than a sermon, blaming the workers in the consumer goods industries for not producing enough.

As for the military, Brezhnev's tone was different. "We have done a great deal in this area," he said in what was probably the understatement of the week-long

Congress. He went on: "Nor should there be any doubt in anyone's mind that our Party will do everything to have the fine Armed Forces of the Soviet Union provided in the future as well with all the necessary means. . . ." This is to give a blank check, in effect, to the Russian military establishment which, with more than 4.2 million men now in uniform, is already by far the biggest standing army in the world.

Along the same lines, Brezhnev called for "deep-going qualitative changes in the economy's structure," for "tightening discipline" and for further "intensifying the economy"—measures that form part and parcel of a more thoroughgoing conversion of the economy to wartime requirements.

Also on the domestic economic front, Brezhnev lashed out at "losses of working time and idling, lack of rhythm in work, lax labor and technological discipline and the large fluidity of personnel at a number of enterprises." The latter refers to the phenomenon of unemployment that has again become widespread since the "economic reforms" introduced by Brezhnev in 1965, which signified the full and com-

plete restoration of capitalism in the USSR. Brezhnev ignored the demand for unemployment compensation that has been raised even within the party in recent years. He called for the trade unions to tighten discipline, and said their number one "duty is to show concern for boosting production."

As for women, they receive hardly more notice in Brezhnev's report than in President Ford's earlier State of the Union message. "The Party considers it to be its duty to display constant concern for our women, improving their condition as participants in the labor process, as mothers and educators of children and as housewives"—and that was all. Not a word about the scarcity of day care centers, the drive to expel women from social production to produce more babies for the army, the reappearance of pornography and prostitution and other capitalist evils under the revisionist regime.

Brezhnev's treatment of the national minorities in the USSR reeked with Russian chauvinism. Saying nothing about the widening gap in the economic condition of the Russian and non-Russian peoples, nor about the growing denial of political, language and cultural rights to the minorities, Brezhnev aimed his main blow at the "nationalism" of the oppressed peoples, and slandered their resistance movement. Western news sources reported in the weeks leading up to the Congress, that there were very extensive purges and shake-ups of party and provincial leadership, especially in the minority areas.

ALL-SIDED REPRESSION

Given the all-sided repression on which the rule of Brezhnev and his cohorts is founded—and which the party proposes to tighten up even further—it was not surprising to hear Brezhnev's praise for the state security police, the militia, the procurator's office, the courts and the judicial agencies. "The party and the state have a high appreciation of the difficult and honorary work done by the men and women in these institutions," said Brezhnev with evident warmth.

Shortly before the opening of the revisionist congress, a Soviet mathematician, Leonid Plyushch, told a Paris press conference of his experiences in a Soviet mental hospital where political prisoners are kept and treated with mind-destroying drugs. A few days later came a report that 80 political prisoners in another institution near Moscow had gone on a hunger strike to protest the treatment they were receiving. The mounting evidence of widespread fascist repression against workers, peasants, minority nationalities and dissident intellectuals in the USSR forced even the French revisionist party leadership to issue a formal protest against Moscow's "unjust and

unjustifiable acts of repression." (see *The Call*, March 1976)

In the face of all this, Brezhnev repeated the revisionist lies that "our state is a state of the whole people, expressing the interests and the will of the whole people." He also repeatedly described the revisionist rule as "humanistic."

The same technique of labeling things the opposite of what they really are was the keynote of the positions Brezhnev laid



SOVIET TROOPS on maneuvers, preparing for aggression.

out on world affairs. He began by asserting that "the gradual drawing together of socialist countries is now operating quite definitely as an objective law"—a double falsehood, considering that almost none of the countries Brezhnev named are any longer socialist, and that the contradictions between the Soviet-dominated East European states and their revisionist overlord have been sharpening.

The USSR has been tightening the economic screws also on the other states in the Warsaw Pact and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, the Soviet-dominated military and economic networks. Brezhnev also repeated the long-standing revisionist slander of the People's Republic of China, and vowed "irreconcilable struggle" against its Marxist-Leninist leadership.

Similar doubletalk marked Brezhnev's line on the formerly colonized countries of the third world. He claimed that the USSR "does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and peoples," and that it "does not look for advantages, does not hunt for concessions, does not seek political domination or exact military bases." He then went on to mention Angola in the same breath, the country which has been the scene of massive Soviet military intervention and interference, provoking the outrage of the African people.

What Brezhnev really has in mind when he speaks of the USSR's "peaceful" or "peace-loving" foreign policy becomes clear from Brezhnev's description of the policy of Indira Gandhi's India. "Soviet people appreciate and, more, are in solidarity with India's peace-loving foreign policy and the courageous efforts of her progressive forces to solve her difficult socio-economic problems," Brezhnev said. It is well-

known that India's foreign policy—actively instigated and backed by the USSR—has for nearly two decades been one of repeated aggression against her neighbors. To call this policy "peace-loving"—and to apply the same term to the present-day USSR—is ominous in the extreme.

The main thrust of Brezhnev's report on international affairs dealt with Europe. He hailed the Helsinki conference on European "security," which in effect gave the Western countries' legal approval to continued Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe and to the division of the German nation into two separate states.

In Europe, Brezhnev said, "the changes towards detente and more solid peace are probably especially tangible. . . . It is in Europe that socialism's positions and the impact of the agreed policy of the socialist states are the strongest." What these words re-

flect, in reality, is the large and growing military superiority of the Soviet social-imperialist superpower on the European continent, and the increasingly tempting opportunity for Soviet aggression developing in the area. If peace is really the main trend in Europe, as Brezhnev claimed, then why the huge buildup of Soviet forces there?

The pinnacle of Brezhnev's demagoguery was his claim that "there is no Soviet threat either in the West or in the East. It is all a monstrous lie from beginning to end. The Soviet Union has not the slightest intention of attacking anyone. . . ." Against the backdrop of intensified war preparations in the Soviet economy, of the military buildup in Europe and of the new offensive capabilities displayed in Angola, in the wake of Czechoslovakia and Bangladesh, these protests of innocence have a distinctly Hitlerian ring. The German fascists, too, always proclaimed their peace-loving intentions before every military aggression.

Brezhnev claimed, in summary, that "the international position of the Soviet Union has never been more stable." But the 25th revisionist party congress was anything but a congress of stability. It was a congress which determined to speed up plans for imperialist aggression despite severe economic difficulties at home, which determined to tighten the screws on the Soviet people as part and parcel of stepping up its contention for world hegemony with the U.S. imperialists. Far from being promoters of "stability," Brezhnev and his crew are the wildest gamblers, rushing headlong into ambitious schemes of foreign conquest with neither political support nor sufficient economic capabilities at home to fulfill their dreams.

Gus Hall Heaps Praise on Brezhnev

Behind the scenes of the recent Soviet Congress the social-imperialists were busy trying to strengthen control over foreign countries and parties. Their ability to whip others into line is as much a part of their war schemes as the production of new missiles or securing new naval bases.

To this end, the social-imperialists invited 103 foreign delegations to observe the proceedings of the Congress. They especially encouraged others to do the dirty work of attacking China, glorifying Brezhnev, and calling on all present to follow the Soviet baton.

For example, Alvaro Cunhal, the leader of the revisionist party in Portugal, was called up to the podium to offer his praises to the Soviet leadership. Cunhal said that Brezhnev's "selfless struggle for peace and security is like sunshine for the planet earth."

Not to be outdone by the image of "sunshine," Gus Hall, the secretary of the revisionist party here in the U.S., ran to the podium stating: "Like a piercing laser beam of light, the basic theme of Marxism-Leninism runs through the very sober, profound and deeply penetrating assessments of Comrade Brezhnev's report."

After all the flowery lies about Brezhnev and Company, Hall and other leading revisionist spokesmen got down to the business of attacking and slandering those who oppose revisionism and Soviet domination. Hall called on all present to intensify their struggle against the "Maoists" (meaning the anti-revisionists). He accused some of those present of being "neutral" in this struggle and called on them to condemn "Maoism."

With the French revisionist party trying to put some distance between itself and the Soviet leaders in order to increase their electoral base at home, various Eastern European leaders were trotted out, urging "unity and cohesion" behind Soviet domination.

Janos Kadar, the Hungarian leader, came forward to denounce "any attempt to disturb our unity," while Zhivkov of Bulgaria pointed out that deviation from the "common line" could not be tolerated.

But the attempts to tighten the network of support for Soviet aggression were not all successful. Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian Communist Party leader, stated that every party had the right to determine its own line, strategy and tactics. The parts of Ceausescu's speech that dealt with opposition to Soviet domination were deleted from the official text provided to newsmen by the Soviet authorities, but they were heard by the foreign delegates, a number of whom greeted them warmly.

International Women's Day Takes Aim at Imperialism, Revisionism

Nearly 600 people marched through the streets of New York City March 7 in an anti-imperialist celebration of International Women's Day.

The demonstration, which ended in a spirited rally at the United Nations, was part of a weekend of activities that included a Multinational Women's Conference on March 6. Working women and men, communists and people of many nationalities came from cities from Boston to Baltimore to take part in the events.

The march featured colorful banners declaring: "Down with imperialism, full equality for women!", "Support the struggles of the third world!", and "Oppose superpower war preparations!" These slogans summed up the political unity of the Anti-Imperialist International Women's Day Coalition which sponsored the events.

Other placards, signs and chants demanded jobs, daycare, the right to abortion and support for the Equal Rights Amendment.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Some of the organizations participating in the coalition were: Congress of African People (CAP), October League (OL), Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), Bridgeport Marxist-Leninist Workers Organization, Committee to Defend the Rights of Haitian Workers, Communist Youth Organization, Ethiopian Students Union in North America, several fightback committees and others.

Both the rally and conference were highlighted by speeches from Cheryl Todd, a convicted defendant along with Dessie X Woods, in a frameup murder trial in the rural Black Belt town of Hawkinsville, Georgia. Todd and Woods "crime" was to defend themselves against an attempted rape by a white racist insurance salesman. Their case is being appealed.

"This is wonderful!" Todd told the crowd at the UN, "to see so many strong people here fighting against injustice. Dessie and I are strong women, but we need the help of everyone here to win our freedom and freedom for everyone."

The International Women's Day events this year followed a year-long ideological and political struggle. The debate started with the building of the IWD activities last year, when two coalitions formed in New York City and held two separate demonstrations.

OPPORTUNIST COALITION

One coalition was initiated and led by the CPUSA revisionists, in a bloc with lesbian feminists and Democratic Party politicians. It rallied under the slogan of "Peace, Equality and Development" and refused to target imperialism as the enemy of the masses of women, thus enabling the CP to push the myth of imperialist "detente" and pacifism in its activities.

The other coalition, initiated by the OL, insisted that opposition to imperialism had to be the basis for uniting in an IWD celebration. It also stressed that united action with the revisionists would result in liquidating this basic principle and a revolutionary line on the woman question as well. Speakers at this demonstration attacked both imperialist superpowers for their crimes against the women and people of the world.

Certain organizations claiming to be anti-revisionist, such as the Guardian and Workers Viewpoint Organization, ended up supporting the opportunist-led coalition and opposed the anti-imperialist action, saying that "the masses" would be at the other march.

This year, however, the revisionists held no action and the centrist and sectarian "anti-revisionist" forces were unable to unite among themselves. But instead of joining with the anti-imperialist forces, they chose to do nothing in the way of action. This shows that the size of the CP-initiated action last year was not the decisive factor for these forces, but instead it was their refusal to break with an opportunist line. They would rather uphold a joint policy of "united inaction" with the CP this year,

along with a firm position of "no united action" with Marxism-Leninism.

This issue and many others were taken up at the March 6 Multinational Women's Conference. Sponsored by the Black Women's United Front (BWUF), the meeting planned to discuss the struggle against imperialism and the forms of organization required to mobilize the masses of women. Workshops were held on women in the fightback, the special oppression of minority women, and the role of Soviet social-imperialism.

The truly multinational gathering showed a great potential for a communist-led working women's movement. Of the 500 people



MORE THAN 600 people marched from the Lower East Side to the United Nations demanding full equality for women. (Call photo).

who attended, a large number were workers, despite the fact that not all the BWUF chapters were mobilized for the meeting.

Speakers addressed sharply the question of revisionism and Soviet social-imperialism in relation to the oppression of women, as well as U.S. imperialism. They exposed the myth of "detente" between the two superpowers, and delivered a blow against the bourgeois revisionist and feminist sabotage of the women's struggle.

"The struggle against these agents of imperialism," stated Eileen Klehr, the OL's Vice-Chairman, "has clarified our course. In fact, it has resulted in a worldwide split—with the revisionists and bourgeois femin-

ists forming one so-called women's movement and with the masses of women who have taken up the anti-imperialist struggle forming another."

The conference was disrupted and prevented from achieving its goals by the so-called "Revolutionary Wing," a sectarian alliance which includes the Revolutionary Workers' League, Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers' Organization and, until recently Workers' Viewpoint Organization. They entered the meeting with the purpose of wrecking, rather than supporting its aims. The "Wing" made this clear by refusing to support the march the following day.

During the workshops the "Wing"

showed themselves to be opponents of the women's struggle by attacking the main democratic demands of the working women, especially compensative seniority for women and minorities, busing to oppose segregation, and passage of the ERA. They plunged into a workshop that was criticizing the Soviet social-imperialists, for instance, and tried to stop it, changing the subject to a denunciation of the ERA and the OL's party-building efforts.

The "Wing" claims that special demands of women only serve to "divide the working class," a point they hold in common with both the revisionists and the most conservative labor aristocrats.

"Discrimination is what divides the working class," said one woman in a firm reply to these "left" opportunists. "The struggle against discrimination is what is needed to unite the workers. You're placing the blame for disunity on the women themselves and on the communists leading the fight against it."

The "Wing" states the basic truth that only socialism can do away with the basis of women's oppression, but then turns this into an empty phrase by refusing to link the struggle for socialism with the just, immediate demands of the masses of women living under capitalism. They do the same with the struggle to build the party, placing it in opposition to the mass struggle. While sloganeering about party-building, they have refused to unite in the concrete efforts to build a party and take the pessimistic view that a party can't be built at this time.

In part the "Wing" was able to pull off its disruption because few restrictions were placed on them by CAP, which is in the leadership of BWUF and had main control of the meeting. CAP failed to take a firm stand against their attacks, which in turn created confusion, drove many workers away and thus weakened the BWUF.

CAP further conciliated with these opportunists by failing to put forth a firm program of its own on the immediate demands for democratic rights that were the focus of the debate. This was reflected in the march and rally as well, where CAP used the slogan, "Build the Vanguard Party," in opposition to the coalition's broader, democratic slogans like, "Free Todd and Woods!" or "Build the Fightback!"

All in all, however, the work of the forces that built and led both IWD events added up to a significant success, an advance over the previous year. The fact that the anti-imperialist activities were attended by hundreds of people, while the revisionists were unable to lead any activity is especially important in understanding the advances over last year.

Next year's Women's Day will surely see even greater victories!

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED AS WORKERS' HOLIDAY IN CITIES ACROSS U.S.

In cities across the country several thousand people celebrated International Women's Day (IWD), pointing out the system of imperialism as the enemy of women. Women's Day activities united men and women in the fight for women's emancipation.

Many coalitions were built to organize demonstrations, rallies and forums. Inside these groups preparatory educationals and discussions helped develop political leadership among working class and minority women.

At these events, October League speakers pointed out how the oppression of women is bound up with capitalism and class society. While joining in the fight for every reform that can be won under capitalism, only a socialist society can provide the basis for women's emancipation. OL speakers noted that especially in the turbulent world situation, the masses of women must be mobilized in the fightback and the struggle against the dangers of war and fascism.

The Call received the following reports:

The Detroit rally took head-on the triple oppression of minority women. Keynote speaker Cheryl Todd moved the crowd by describing the ordeal which she and Dessie X Woods endured in the struggle to defend themselves against a racist murder frame-up.

A dinner of international solidarity was held in Atlanta at the Techwood Community Center. Over a hundred people heard a speech from Ronnie Hodges, a community leader who called for the freedom of Todd

and Woods. Malcolm Suber from the African Liberation Support Committee spoke on the role of women freedom fighters in Angola during the war against Portuguese colonialism and the need to unite against the two superpowers there today. Mrs. Schaeffer, President of the Techwood Tenants Association also spoke.

The San Francisco-Bay Area kicked off IWD with a car caravan through several working class communities in the East Bay, followed by a march through the Mission District in San Francisco. One hundred and fifty marchers passed out leaflets in English and Spanish along the route. At a Navy recruiting office they stopped to chant "Jobs Not War." At the rally in Dolores Park an officer of the Alameda County Transit Workers, which has begun hiring women for the first time, said, "If we don't support the women, the men too will soon be out of work." Speakers from the American Indian Movement and young Native American singers from the Heart of the Earth survival school called on demonstrators to join in the struggle to free Dennis Banks, linking this with the history of resistance of the Native American peoples, in which women have always played a leading role.

IWD activities initiated by the October League in Denver enjoyed broad support from the Colorado Workers Unity Organization, the Communist Youth Organization (CYO), Coalition of Labor Union Women (Denver chapter), the Common Market Staff Union, the Rank and File Caucus of URW Local 724, Fred Charleston (Re-

gional Director of the National Congress of Black Lawyers), M.E.C.H.A. of Community College (Aurora campus), the Coordinating Committee for a Free Chile, the Anti-Repression Coalition and R.I.P. Bookstore. After a march to the state capitol building and a rally there, a dinner and festival were held that 125 people attended.

In Seattle, workers gathered to commemorate Women's Day in a program marked with the spirit of fighting unity. A slide show was given on the struggle of women in the third world against the two superpowers and the advances made under socialism for women's equality in China and Albania. An Asian garment worker spoke out about the oppressive conditions and divisions between Asians and whites under this system. A man from the Seattle Fight Back Committee told the history of the Lawrence Textile Strike, and continuing militancy of women as leaders of people today.

In Chicago, a march of men and women one hundred strong rallied at the civic center where several speeches were given. Annie Jordan, a Black woman worker told the crowd: "The imperialists came down on poor, Black and minority workers. They lynched us and starved us workers to death on their plantations and used Black women as sex objects. The present bosses in the factories today are no different from the old plantation owners."

International Women's Day events took place in at least 20 other cities, showing the growth of support for this great international holiday of the working class.

ON THE LINE!

A SUMMARY OF WORKERS STRUGGLES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



Wildcat Shakes Schwinn

Chicago, Ill.—Nearly 900 employees of Schwinn Bicycle Co. walked off the job in a wildcat strike March 16.

The strike began over the issue of vacation pay for several hundred Schwinn workers recently called back to work. The company refused to pay what sometimes amounted to 3, 4 and 5 weeks pay to workers who had been laid off.

In response, 150 workers walked off the line and then, were told they were fired. Only 18 workers—many of them leaders in the plant—received formal dismissal notices. The firings then sparked a wildcat of most of the Schwinn workers, halting all production.

Schwinn workers, however, were in a weak bargaining position because they only have a company union—the “Shop Committee.” Some Shop Committee leaders even scabbed during the strike. Most denounced the strike as “illegal” and maneuvered employees back to work on March 22 with promises of sham federal government support.

Their sellout actions have underlined the need for a union at Schwinn—a workers union and not a company union.

Many workers continue to fight for the 18 fired workers, although this fight will probably be a long one, linked to the battle to bring a union into Schwinn.

Closed-Door No-Strike Deal

Following the lead of the steel industry's infamous no-strike agreement, National Airlines signed a no-strike accord with their largest union, the Air Lines Employees Association.

Announced in February after being negotiated in secret, this agreement covers 3,300 of the 7,000 workers at National. It comes on the heels of a four-month strike by flight attendants that forced National to take a \$3 million loss in January alone.

“It's a great step even if only one union goes along,” said L.B. Maytag, chairman and president of National Airlines. “It could put pressure on the other unions, and I hope it will.”

National Airlines is well known as one of the most vicious companies in the industry for its anti-worker policies. Business Week pointed out that, “In the past 14 years the airline has shut down a total of 397 days by strikes. This record is the worst in the industry and reflects their willingness to take strikes rather than give the unions everything they want.”

The no-strike agreement does not include any requirement that National withdraw from the airline industry's mutual-aid pact, an anti-strike agreement whereby one airline—hit by a strike—is reimbursed operating costs by the other member airlines. Earlier, the union leadership had assured its membership that they would fight against this strike-breaking weapon.

'Rehire Barbara Droze'

Washington, D.C.—“Rehire Barbara Droze” was the chant raised by 75 people at the Veterans Administration Hospital here on Feb. 28. The demonstration, initiated by the Unite to Fight Back organization (UFB) and the October League, called for rehiring Barbara Droze and an end to the triple oppression of minority women.

Droze was fired because she refused to accept the advances of her boss. Since her dismissal, she has not only fought for her job, but has been active in the leadership of UFB.

In her speech at the demonstration, she said, “Why am I being denied my rights? I am only trying to survive as a Black woman and as a worker!”

She went on to say, “It takes the unity of all working people to fight against the crisis and the system that causes it. I'm glad to see that my eyes have been opened, and that the UFB and other groups have helped me to take the blindfold off my eyes to see the injustices of capitalism.”

Western Electric Runs Away

Atlanta, Ga.—More than 1,000 workers were thrown into the streets in Buffalo, N.Y. last month when a Western Electric Cable plant shut its doors.

The company is sending out its production and its workers to three other plants, including Atlanta and Phoenix. These two cities are favorite spots for companies to “runaway,” as they're located in the Black Belt South and the U.S. Southwest where national oppression of Afro-American and Chicano people has driven down wages and kept out unions.

Workers in the Atlanta plant told *The Call*, “The International CWA union leaders railroaded through the transfer of workers into the Atlanta plant and acted like the company's right hand. But to make sure unity is strengthened in our ranks, we are not opposing the Buffalo workers coming in. To fight discrimination and bad working conditions, we need to unite with the Buffalo workers who are victims of the same profit-hungry company.”

IMMIGRATION HITS CONVERSE

Malden, Mass.—For the second time in two months, immigration officials have raided the Converse Rubber Company, arresting for deportation a Colombian worker Manuel Fernandez. This March 18 raid came as rank-and-file workers prepared for a heated contract battle.

Both the company and the United Rubber Workers Union (URW) officials backed the raid, hoping to undermine the rank-and-file movement by spreading fear and confusion among Converse workers, many of whom are foreign-born. A main target in these attacks is the Concerned Workers Caucus, a rank-and-file organization in the plant.

Since its formation three years ago, the caucus has gained influence among the workers and in the union. Recently, it has been a center for gathering rank-and-file contract demands and fighting for their adoption.

On the morning of March 18, during break period, word spread that Immigration officials were in the personnel office. Two workers went immediately to the office, demanding to talk with Fernandez, who was being detained there.

Shortly afterwards, a Puerto Rican woman member of the Concerned Workers Caucus denounced the immigration raid in a speech to other workers in the cafeteria.

“These raids against foreign-born workers,” she explained, “are aimed at dividing us, at blaming the foreign-born for the unemployment and poverty caused by

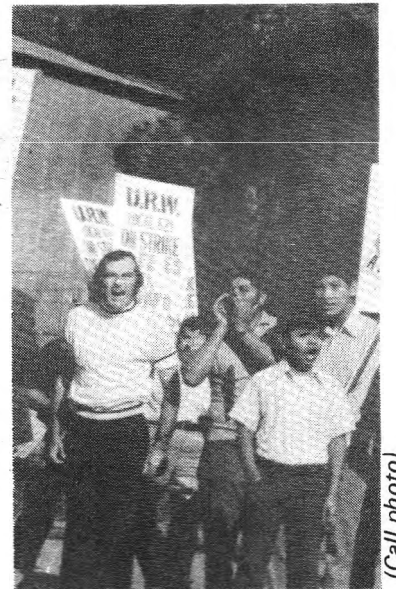
the imperialists.” Because so many workers at Converse are foreign-born and are fighters for their class, she stressed, Converse wants them out or cowed into submission before the contract battle opens.

Within hours of the raid, a number of picketers from Boston Workers United to Fight Back and the October League were marching in front of the plant, shouting: “Jobs—Not Deportations!”

Inside, almost every worker was drawn into discussion around the deportation raid. Many spoke about their own struggles as immigrant workers, how they had been forced to the U.S. because of imperialist exploitation of their homeland and how here in the U.S. they are forced to battle discrimination and oppression daily.

There are many foreign-born and minority workers employed in the U.S. rubber industry, concentrated in the lowest paying and most dangerous jobs. Many of these workers have played an important role in sparking the rank-and-file movement within the URW, which is organizing under the banners of “union democracy,” “increased safety on the job,” “an end to discrimination,” and also “an end to deportations.”

The Concerned Workers Caucus at Converse, part of URW Local 984, is one example of this rank-and-file movement; the Sloane strikers in California, another. But there are many examples, from American Biltrite in Chelsea, Mass. to Samsonite in Denver, Colo.



Foreign-born workers played major role in URW Sloane strike. (Call photo)

In many of these places, Immigration has been brought in to attack the workers' movement, and in each case the union officials—headed up by URW president Peter Bommarito—have actively supported the attacks.

At Converse, the bureaucrats' response to the March 18th raid was a letter posted on URW stationery which accused foreign-born workers of creating unemployment and robbing taxpayers' pockets. The bureaucrats have refused to recognize a resolution adopted in a union meeting a few months ago that opposed deportations and broke with the URW's official stand backing these anti-working class attacks.

Converse has notified workers that there will be more raids. URW officials are using this threat to scare workers away from the current contract struggle. But a number of caucus members have spoken to the need of closing ranks against Immigration, the company and the bureaucrats and of making opposition to deportation a main contract demand.

In 1975: One in Ten Workers Injured or Killed on the Job

Special report from Jim Grant, prison correspondent, one of the *Charlotte 3*:

Albemarle, N.C.—The present economic crisis has meant more deaths and injuries for U.S. industrial workers.

Federal government figures estimate that over 100,000 workers died last year from occupational diseases. Over 9 million workers were injured, a figure which equals nearly 10% of the total U.S. work force.

Nowhere is this situation more glaring than in the South, where as a result of national oppression, health and safety standards are shamefully low.

The record of North Carolina's state Occupational Safety and Health Administration in dealing with the state's textile and chemical industries is a blatant example of the government's complicity with North Carolina's industrial bosses.

Take the case of the J.P. Stevens Tuxedo, North Carolina plant. Stevens was criticized by an OSHA inspector for its lack of a minimal safety and health program. The safety officer who made the report was transferred by OSHA Director Ray Boylston, who refused to accept the report. “J.P. Stevens normally has a much better safety program than this,” he said.

In the Olin Corporation film plant, the union president, James



SAFETY CONDITIONS at Oneita Mills was one of the main issues in victorious union organizing drive. (Call photo)

Reese, of the United Paperworkers Local 1971, had to complain twice about the unsafe trucks, machines with no safety guards and exposure to poisonous fumes. This occurred after another federal agency had performed tests on workers and concluded that “bizarre neurologic findings” such as numbness, knee jerks, blurry vision and headaches were all connected to the level of poisonous fumes that the workers in the plant were exposed to. After the OSHA inspection, the union president was criticized for “not substantiating the authenticity of complaints alleged by his fellow employees.” At no time did OSHA send a hygienist to check the toxic levels of chemicals, nor were any citations or fines issued.

In 1973, referrals were made to OSHA concerning high levels of cotton dust in the Franklinton Cotton Mills and the Cone Mills in Hillsborough, North Carolina. No follow-up was made by OSHA in-

spectors. In fact, in over 60 cotton dust complaints throughout the state, no follow-up was recorded.

In 1975, inspections of the Royal Cotton Mills in Wake Forest showed cotton dust levels 5 times above the standard. The fine levied was only \$35, and the company was given a year to lower the dust levels.

The fact is that the state OSHA officials do not pressure or penalize companies who ignore federal health standards, thus giving the companies the green light to get away with all that they can. In addition to being the lowest paid workers in the country—no. 8 in industrialization but no. 50 in wages—North Carolina and other southern workers must carry the load of being exposed to the most hazardous of working conditions, supported by the do-nothing policies of OSHA.

Steel Union Debate

HOW TO SMASH ABEL MACHINE

How should steelworkers view the elections that will soon take place in their union, the United Steelworkers of America (USWA)?

Campaigns are underway across the U.S. and Canada to elect local leadership and delegates to the USWA International Convention, all leading up to a fight for the International leadership early next year.

Election time sets off a lot of discussion in the mills about the kind of program and organization steelworkers need in order to deal with discrimination, dangerous working conditions, layoffs and speed-up. Without fail, the candidates and would-be reformers come out of the closet to do everything they can to limit the discussion to one question—which candidate should we vote for. In this way they attempt to side track discussion away from issues of real concern.

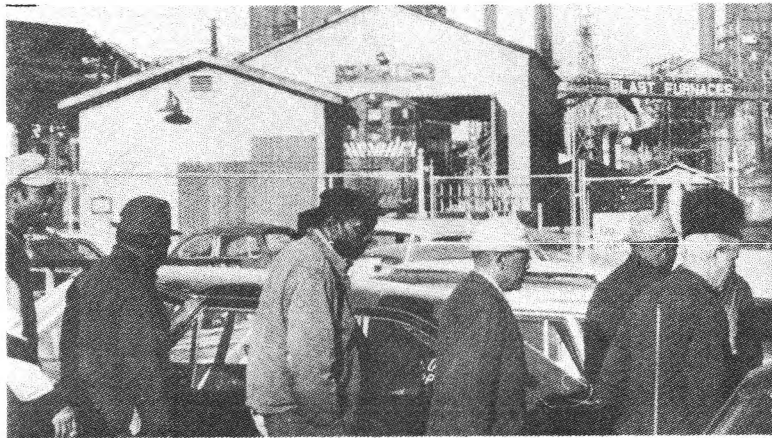
SELL-OUT LEADERSHIP

The present sell-out leadership of the USWA, headed by I.W. Abel, has turned the union and the mills into a testing ground for reactionary policies such as the racist Consent Decree and the no-strike agreement. In response to this kind of leadership and to the worsening conditions in the mill, large numbers of workers have participated in spontaneous protests in Birmingham, Baltimore, East Chicago, and other steel centers.

In the midst of rising protest against Abel and his cronies two years ago, Ed Sadlowski announced his candidacy for Director of District 31, the largest district in this largest of industrial unions. He ran as an "alternative" to Abel in the '74 election—just as he is doing today.

Included in his '74 election platform were many issues on the minds of steelworkers: the right to ratify contracts, curbs on job elimination and job combination, upgrading of wages, pensions and insurance and greater union democracy. Many workers braved goon squads and sub-zero weather to speak to the issues raised in his campaign. Sadlowski won the election over Abel's handpicked candidate, Sam Evett, in a landslide vote. But what has he done since?

Sadlowski has raised no opposition to the no-strike agreement. He supported the racist Consent Decree. With 40,000 workers out of 135,000 in the district laid off, his office has no accurate statistics, no break down by mill,



STEELWORKERS have been sold-out by the corrupt Abel machine.

department, nationality or sex regarding the layoffs. Most importantly, he has offered no program to get people back to work! Not one word has come from him calling for steelworkers to organize to fight against the layoffs.

An example of Sadlowski's stand toward discrimination and the inhuman conditions in the blast furnaces came out around the case of James Jackson, a Black steelworker from the blast furnace at Youngstown in East Chicago. Jackson was imprisoned for rebelling against the conditions, for shooting his foreman. Workers in the local wanted to support his case and at the same time expose the working conditions in the mill. When they tried to raise it on the union floor, the meeting was adjourned and workers were threatened. Sadlowski's boys kept silent. When asked to intervene and stop that kind of mistreatment of union members, Sadlowski turned a deaf ear.

SADLOWSKI STEPS FORWARD

With International elections approaching, however, Sadlowski is again putting himself forward as the main challenge to Abel's rule. He has begun organizing "Steelworker Fight-Back" groups around the country, with the aim of bolstering his own position. While these so-called "Fight-Back" groups have been focused largely on criticism of dues and union salary increases railroaded through at the last International Convention, Sadlowski views them as local centers for his election campaign. This is certainly not the kind of organization that will fight for steelworkers. As for Sadlowski, the last two years have shown that he is no real alternative to the class collaborationist policies of Abel.

The roots of class collaborationism rest in the imperialist system itself. Out of the vast amounts of

money the imperialists receive from the exploitation of workers around the world, particularly the third world nations and people, they are able to bribe a small section of the workers in this country. Abel's \$80,000 a year salary and all the privileges that the imperialists have awarded him make him a member in good standing of this corrupted section.

In addition to direct bribery, the imperialists corrupt a number of workers who aspire to obtain influential positions in the union

and government bureaucracies. These workers, too, share the same outlook as the imperialists and spread their ideas and influence.

The reformism that Sadlowski pushes is precisely one way by which the imperialists try to maintain control of the workers' organizations. His conscious attempt to focus the movement on electing class collaborationist individuals rather than building class struggle rank-and-file organizations is a real service to the steel bosses and the imperialists. This reformism disarms the workers and is nothing but a disguised attack presented as a "genuine alternative" to the already exposed reactionary policies of men like Abel.

Two years ago when Sadlowski ran for district leadership, communists along with large numbers of other workers were active in the campaign. A broad movement was developing that activated many forces among steelworkers whose aim was to break up and throw out the whole Abel machine. Many workers believed that simply by

electing Sadlowski, power would be returned to the workers. In the course of months of struggle and debate, those who worked to build a strong opposition to Abel were also laying the basis for a genuine rank-and-file movement within the USWA.

The participation of communists was of great importance. In addition to speaking to the issues raised directly by the campaign, communists worked to link the immediate struggles and issues to the need for a strong rank-and-file organization within the USWA, independent of reformist elections and candidates.

Two years of Sadlowski has demonstrated concretely that he is no alternative to Abel. With election time coming up once again it is clearer than ever that to overthrow the traitorous Abel machinery, an industry-wide rank-and-file movement needs to be built.

Elections and positions of union leadership are always component parts of the battle to oust the labor aristocrats and make the unions fighting tools of the workers themselves. But steelworkers must build the kind of organization which will lead this battle year round, not simply pay lip service to it at election time.

WOODCOCK WON'T FIGHT FOR UAW JOBS

Detroit, Mi.—Auto workers want jobs. They want some kind of security against layoffs, and assurance that if they're not working now, they will be soon. Sixty thousand workers continue on indefinite layoff.

At a recent special bargaining convention, March 18-20, United Auto Workers (UAW) president Leonard Woodcock laid out the suggested 1976 contract program before some 3000 workers. (The UAW contract expires Sept. 15.) But he refused to take a firm stand and accept concrete demands around the fight for job security. Standing before a banner that read: "Reasonable wage increases, Non-Inflationary Equity," Woodcock called for "flexibility." He stressed that he didn't want to get "locked" into any one demand.

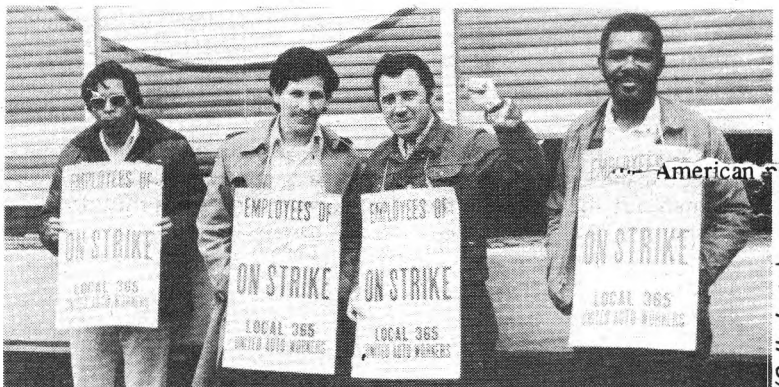
TEN APPROACHES

In the place of concrete proposals, Woodcock devised a "10 approaches" method of bargaining with the Big Three auto companies which, in practice, will allow Woodcock and the companies to side-step the one approach demanded by workers around the country—a shortened work week with no cut in pay.

Outside the convention, 1200 auto workers demonstrated in protest against the UAW's empty bargaining program. One of their demands was also a short work week with no cut in pay.

Woodcock opposes this demand. He agrees with the auto companies that less work without less pay means less profits, and less profits means less jobs.

In an interview with U.S. News and World Report, Woodcock reiterated this position: "Let's say we could jump all the way down to a 32-hour working week. Two things would happen: First, the capital equipment at auto plants would lie idle a great portion of the time, and that's a major element of cost for the companies.



UAW MEMBERS are ready to fight, but Woodcock wants "moderation."

Second," he went on, "young, vigorous workers could easily hold two jobs, defeating the intent of creating more jobs."

In his speech before the convention, Woodcock departed from his usual contract militancy, explaining that the UAW would have to modify and reduce its demands so as not to rock the "recovery" boat.

The past few months have seen an upturn in the economy, but, while this "recovery" has boosted corporate profits, there has not been an equivalent "boost" in jobs for workers. Ford and General Motors have both earned near record profits for the last six months. Production is approaching the 1973 levels, but with present speed-up and job combination, there are thousands less workers producing these cars and trucks.

Among UAW's "10 approaches," there is one approach that Woodcock clearly favors—the "time bank" plan. "There, a worker builds up a half hour of time off for every week in which he or she works all of the scheduled hours," Woodcock explained to U.S. News. After 16 weeks of perfect attendance, a worker would get one day off. This "time bank" plan would be of great service to the auto companies in helping them cut down on wide-spread absenteeism caused by the awesome work load. But it would do nothing to insure jobs for the workers.

"A People's Victory in November" was another sham solution to unemployment offered from the podium by the UAW bureaucrats. Faced with growing rank and file insurgency among the 1.2 million UAW membership, Woodcock hopes to divert some of the anger and opposition to his policies into the 1976 presidential campaign and into support for the Democratic Party. He would like to get himself and his "liberal" capitalist backers off the hook by blaming the Republicans for the crisis and unemployment.

What Woodcock fails to mention, however, is that the last time tens and thousands of auto workers were laid off, there was a Democratic administration, under Lyndon Johnson. It is not one bourgeois party or another that causes or can solve unemployment. Unemployment is a permanent aspect of the capitalist system.

PUT THE PRESSURE ON

While the demand for a shorter work week and no cut in pay will not solve unemployment either, it will help put a stop to forced overtime and in this way put pressure on the companies to hire back more workers. It's important, however, that this demand go hand-in-hand with the demands to end speed-ups, to fight discrimination with special seniority for minorities and women, and to win the right to strike over safety.

VICTORY AT ADVENT CORP.

By worker correspondents at Advent Corp., Cambridge, Mass.

We are writing this letter to *The Call* to share a small victory we had in a long struggle to unionize our company, Advent Corp. Advent has abused one of our most active union organizers, Al Davis, for three years.

For three years he had been harrassed and refused any job promotions. When he was forced to move heavy steel racks—even though his boss knew he had gotten a back injury at Advent the year before—he hurt his back. The company used this to keep him out of work with no money for months. They said he was born with a bad back, so he couldn't collect workmen's comp.

A number of times workers confronted the bosses to demand Al be rehired. This demand was linked with many others like ending speedup, layoffs, racial discrimination, discrimination against women, etc. Finally, a meeting was called in the cafeteria where 40 workers raised their demands to management.

Al and other workers went to Boston Workers United to Fight Back, which staged a picket line and rally at Advent. The support from inside and outside made Advent give in. Al is now back at work at a job he can do.

BLACK LUNG

Life and Death Question for Miners

Williamson, West Va.—Black lung kills. U.S. miners, whether they work above ground or below, in hard or soft coal, know this because every day they are exposed to the clouds of coal dust which over the years will give them black lung.

Despite the severity and frequency of black lung, miners have had to battle fiercely to win any kind of regulation or control over dust levels and safety conditions in the mines. The large and very powerful coal monopolies have a long history of opposing every effort of miners to safeguard lives, in order to prevent even the slightest reduction in coal profits. To this end, the coal monopolies have waged a war on many fronts to maintain the most barbaric, exploitative conditions in this country's mines.

In the late '60s, along with the rank-and-file upsurge within the United Mine Workers' Union (UMW), Black Lung Associations began to form across the coalfields. Through their efforts, based on strong rank-and-file participation, a wave of protests—marches, wildcats, petitions, picketing—forced the government to enact legislation in 1969 to control dust levels and pay benefits to disabled miners.

The Coal Mine Health and Safety Act fixed what the government considered acceptable dust levels and set up government agencies responsible for enforcing its provisions. Under the shadow of the

coal monopolies, however, these agencies did little more than sift through papers, tests, and reports that the companies themselves made available.

When officials from the Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration (MESA) ventured out to check Consolidation Coal in Ohio last summer, they discovered a pile of coal dust samples, predated and contaminated by very small levels of dust. "If I'm running the coal-cutting machine," one miner explained, "they'll put the measuring device on me day after day until the machine breaks down and the dust level subsides. That's the day they pick to send the results to the government."

While the 1969 act provided benefits for victims of black lung, both the government and the coal giants have used one ploy after another to deny these benefits. Between June 1971 and September 1975, special government radiologists turned down 95% of all miners' claims. "I've seen huge numbers of coal miners," a doctor from New Kensington Miners Clinic stressed, "hundreds, who cannot work anymore, but cannot qualify for black lung benefits, either."

Struggle over the enforcement of the 1969 act and its provisions has sharpened recently around a new bill before Congress, known as the Black Lung Bill. Passed March 2 by the House, it is now pending in the Senate.

Miners had urged that a new bill be introduced to nail down some clear provisions that would set stricter controls on the company and overturn continued government denials of benefits.

But the Black Lung Bill, as passed by the House, has been the target of sharp criticisms by large numbers of coal miners. Its passage sparked a one-week wildcat strike in southern West Virginia, of more than 5,000 miners.

No bill or reform measure will ever be able to force the coal companies to clean up the mines—as long as they own and run them for the greatest possible profits. This bill, as it stands, won't even secure a minimum of reforms and benefits for the vast majority of coal miners.

Presently, the bill provides for automatic benefits only for hard coal miners with 25 years on the job and soft coal miners with 30 years underground. In addition, it stops counting work years after 1971, when—according to the government—coal dust pollution came "under control."

These provisions will be used to disqualify all younger miners in the future as well as the thousands of veteran miners who fall short of 25-30 years. In reality, few miners escape the deadly effects of black lung, even with only a few years work. "I had been underground only a year and two months," explained one West Virginian miner who had begun work after the 1971 cut-off date. "I figured there was no way in the world I could have black lung." Yet x-rays showed serious lung complications. "Now if I can retain that much dust in this short time," he went on, "I feel sorry for guys who've been here for 15



UNCONTROLLED DUST causes slow death by black lung.

or 20 years."

Two other provisions which have also come under heavy fire deal with benefits for widows and the so-called "re-reading" of x-rays. Miners are demanding that widows not be denied benefits for lack of medical tests.

The "re-readers" are the government "specialists" hired to cut workers off benefits. Before "re-reading," miners' x-rays had to be examined by a radiologist certified through the National Institute of Occupation Health and Safety. But faced with an epidemic of black lung among miners, the government initiated a final review board set-up, which has been responsible for denying 95% of all claims. Miners are demanding an end to "re-reading."

While the bill does require coal companies for the first time to pay into an industry fund to cover benefits and introduces a provision allowing minimum automatic benefits, its passage would be a setback for the struggle of coal miners, unless changes are made in the 1971 cut-off date and the number of years service required to qualify.

Despite the growing protests against the bill, UMW president Arnold Miller continues to praise

the bill and has downplayed its serious weaknesses. In focusing narrowly on the veteran miners who could qualify under its provisions, Miller has said nothing about the many thousands more who will be excluded from any benefits now and in the future. Miller's main criticisms have been directed against the rank and file who are protesting the bill.

The Black Lung Associations, which had been strong backers of Miller in the fight to oust the right-wing Boyle forces, have parted ways with him. They have criticized his attitude of conciliation toward the courts, the government and the coal companies.

Even with the changes demanded by miners, this Black Lung bill is aimed only at establishing better controls over coal dust and providing meager repayment to miners for being victims of an unnecessary and horrible slow death. Such reforms, however, are all that can be won by workers as long as coal companies own the mines, as long as the system of private ownership gives them the enormous political power they now have. Seizing that power, overthrowing that system, alone will put an end to black lung.



Magdalena Garcia addresses Women's Day crowd in Chicago. (Call photo)

Protests Mount Against Magdalena Garcia Firing

Chicago, Ill.—"It's not the job that I care about so much. After all, the pay is pretty bad. But I am fighting to be rehired because it's important for my people." In these words, Magdalena Garcia has explained her struggle to the hundreds of people who come each weekend to picket at Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital.

Garcia, a Chicana, was fired from her job as a technician after working at the hospital for 17 years. The hospital administration claimed she was "too concerned" for the well-being of the patients, especially the Spanish-speaking patients from the surrounding Latino community. Magdalena often worked extra hours for no extra pay in order to be able to provide translation for patients who spoke no English. She also became aware of and condemned the practice of St. Luke's and other hospitals of using poor and especially minority people as guinea pigs for medical research.

A coalition of community groups including the Asociacion Pro Derechos Obreros, Casa Aztlan, and the Chicago Workers' Solidarity Committee has organized mass pickets to demand the rehiring of Magdalena, more jobs for Latinos, and an end to harassment and firings of Latinos and other workers.

8—APRIL 1976—THE CALL

MULTINATIONAL UNITY KEY TO CHICAGO UNION DRIVE

From an organizer in the Berteau-Lowell union drive:

Chicago, Ill.—A union drive has been in progress for almost a month now at Berteau-Lowell Plating Works, a small factory on Chicago's west side. If we succeed this time—and this is not the first union drive—it will be due in large part to the work of the organizing committee in forging unity among workers of many different nationalities, Puerto Rican, Polish, Mexican, white and Black. From the very beginning, the organizers took a firm stand on fighting discrimination against women and minorities.

During the early days of the drive, the bosses called a meeting appealing to us to keep our differences "within the family." One worker asked why some of the Puerto Rican workers in "our family" with 6 years seniority were earning less than some white workers with only 6 months on the job. Listening to the boss mutter a few words about a special job classification system—and no such system is known to the workers—even more workers could see why we need a union.

Not just at Berteau-Lowell but in any non-union plant, workers lack an organized base from which to oppose the companies' discriminatory policies, low pay, speed-

ups, layoffs and firings. Where there are no unions, the bosses impose arbitrary and harsh conditions which hurt all the workers but especially affect minority and women workers.

When the drive started at Berteau-Lowell, some workers were hesitant to join in because they didn't think the union would fight for their demands. "Why pay union dues," some asked, "if the union sits back and lets the company go on exploiting us?" To win support for the union drive, organizing committee members have had to deal with a lot of anti-union sentiments. We have had to explain that while unions can be powerful fighting organizations for workers, what they do depends on what kind of leadership stands at the head of the unions. Under revolutionary leadership, the unions can become a center for waging broad political battles in the interests of working people, not just for wage increases but also for democratic rights, against police brutality, or increasing war preparations.

Today, unions are run by bureaucrats whose interests lie with the present system of exploitation. These labor officials will fight to maintain their high salaries and their privileges, to keep the present system, but not to change it.

Even to carry out our union

drive, we've had to fight an uphill battle with the representatives of the United Auto Workers (UAW). They have been holding up the union drive and thereby giving the company time to pressure workers and fan anti-union feelings. After 70% of the workers had already signed cards requesting union representation, the UAW waited two weeks before notifying the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to set up elections. The company took advantage of this period to intimidate some workers into signing a phony contract proposal, offering a 30 cent wage increase and a health care program—two demands the company has ignored repeatedly in the past. In exchange for these "promises," workers signed a pledge giving up their right to unionize for two years.

Faced with such illegal maneuvers, threats and even physical attacks, workers have been pressing for immediate certification elections. Both the NLRB as well as the UAW have been stalling, postponing the date one time after another. What the workers at Berteau-Lowell are learning in the course of this union drive is that getting the union into the shop is just the first step. Once we have a union, we'll have a much longer struggle to turn it into a fighting organization for the working class.

COMMUNISTS SUM-UP CAPITOL STRIKE

For six months, from August '75 to January '76, workers at Capitol Packaging Company were on strike for a wage increase, improved benefits, and retroactive pay to cover the strike period. While their final contract offer fell short of the 25 cents increase demanded and included three instead of six months retroactive pay, the majority of workers viewed the strike as a victory. They had won only some of their demands, but, in the course of the strike, they had built rank and file organization, strong leadership, and unity among the workers of different nationalities.

Almost from the beginning, communists from the October League were active in this strike. We have summed up our work as communists in the Capitol strike for *The Call* because it is, on the whole, a good example of how communists must bring their ideas and aims to the masses of workers. In the course of the strike, we brought communist ideas and influence to large numbers of workers, many of whom are now engaged in the fight to win control of their union away from the bureaucrats who run it. Out of the Capitol struggle, strikers also emerged as members and leaders of the National Fight-Back Organization, thus bringing the lessons they had learned to the attention of thousands of workers across the country.

In the summary that follows we point out the main strengths and weaknesses in our work and the lessons we learned in the course of the struggle.

Capitol Packaging is a small plant in the Chicago suburbs. There are thousands like it in cities around the country. Militant and spontaneous struggles like the 6-month long Capitol strike have occurred in many such factories as well as in larger industrial plants. But the Capitol fight was more than just a strike. It became a training ground and a school of struggle for all the workers there and especially for a number of strike leaders.

Due to the active participation of communists from the October League, a number of leading workers were able to learn in the course of the strike that they must fight not only for economic demands in their particular factory but also to abolish the entire system of wage slavery. "We cannot make it alone as working people," one shop steward told over 400 strikers and supporters at a family night strike fund raiser. "We've got to combine and fight against this capitalist system."

An important turning point in winning some of these workers to the cause of revolution was the struggle to oppose the labor officials in the local union and to break with them consciously as traitors to the working class. We had to show why unions can and must be won to fight for the complete emancipation of the working class, and, to do this, we had to expose how the present reactionary leadership has used the unions to further its own self interests and, as a result, the interests of the ruling class.

Many people had never seen the unions take up a consistent fight for the interests of all working people. In our work, we stressed that in the hands of revolutionary-minded workers and under communist leadership, the unions will be in the forefront of all the workers' struggles—the fight for decent health care and housing, the fight against racism and the segregationist movement, and also the fight against U.S. aggression abroad and imperialist war preparations. In this way, many workers could see how the unions would unite their membership and draw them into revolutionary struggle against the capitalist system.

MEMORY OF SELL-OUT

When the workers at Capitol went out on strike, they were not learning for the first time that their union leadership was rotten. Still fresh in their minds was the sell-out contract forced on them two years earlier by the heads of OCAW Local 7507.

Those workers who still had faith in the union leadership had their eyes opened very shortly after the strike began. The vice president of the local, a Black worker and the only official out on the line, got run down and killed by a scab. The union bureaucrats refused to fight to vindicate his death and actively opposed efforts by the workers to mount broader and more militant demonstrations.

This incident turned the anger of the workers against the bureaucrats. As the strike went on, the union officials maneuvered more and more openly to end it. These hacks prevented marches and cut off meetings, while at the same time trying to slip a rotten contract past the rank and file. As support for the strike spread, the bureaucrats fought to isolate the workers from their supporters, especially from communists. "They succeeded in getting the courts to add a clause to an injunction that limited picketers and blocked non-strikers from the lines. This exposed not only the sell-out character of the union leaders but also the fact that the courts and legal sys-

tem are nothing more than an extension of the capitalists' power.

These experiences provided a good basis for Capitol workers to understand a Marxist-Leninist analysis of the labor aristocracy and its role in sabotaging the working class movement. In local fight-back meetings, on the lines and at home, we studied with strikers how the imperialist system gave rise to the labor aristocracy. With part of the huge superprofits gained through the exploitation of colonies and especially of third world nations and peoples, the imperialists buy off or bribe the very top strata of work-



STRIKE WAS A SCHOOL of class war for Capitol workers. (Call photo)

ers, a small handful of the most skilled workers and the heads of the unions who then serve as their agents within the working class. Because these bribes are linked to the plunder of the third world and to national oppression abroad and at home, these traitors in our midst give support to company policies of discrimination and promote chauvinism at every turn.

The labor bureaucrats are divorced from the masses of workers and receive large salaries and privileges. While they may from time to time fight for better wages or piecemeal reforms—usually only for the skilled workers—they do this to perpetuate the rotten capitalist system that enslaves the vast majority of workers. That is why, more than anything, they hate communists, who stand for abolishing capitalism.

By working day-to-day on the lines and by studying Marxism-Leninism with workers during the strike, we helped to strengthen the strike and its leadership. These leaders became more able to unite the strikers and carry forward the struggle.

Communists did not just work with the leadership. Broad agitation was carried out regularly among all the workers. Through the daily use of *The Call/EI Clarin*, a broader circle of workers thus became aware of and sympathetic to the aims of the communist movement.

The mobilization of support against the deportation of Angelo Claudio was a clear example of how communists contributed to the struggle, strengthening the unity of the working class. When Claudio was arrested and threatened with deportation, an immediate struggle developed to unite workers of all nationalities to block that deportation. Had this not been done, already existing divisions between Latinos and other nationalities would have deepened, weakening the strike. While this point was clear to some strike leaders, we helped explain how imperialist exploitation of third world nations forces workers to migrate to the U.S. in search of jobs. We were able to

show how the capitalists get their huge superprofits from this plunder and use them to buy off the labor bureaucrats. Because the bureaucrats profit from this plunder, they end up leading some of the most vicious attacks against foreign-born workers and are among the main promoters of the myth that the foreign-born cause unemployment. It became clear to most workers why we could never rely on the union officials alone to stop Claudio's deportation.

Examples such as Claudio's case bring out the importance of taking communist ideas boldly to the masses of workers. This is one crucial lesson we in the October League learned during the strike. At the beginning stages of the strike, there was a tendency to put forward only a militant trade unionist face, fighting hard for a victory in the strike, but failing to educate the workers about the character of the capitalist system and the need for socialism. But in the course of struggle, we found that only by bringing communist ideas to all workers,

communists.

While we sold *The Call* from the very beginning, at first we did not involve workers in studying, writing and distributing it. Some comrades felt the workers would only be interested in the articles on Capitol, but this view was defeated in practice. Using *The Call* with strikers became a powerful weapon to defeat the narrow trade unionism that existed in our own ranks.

As we corrected our mistakes and became more bold in our agitation, more workers grew to see their strike as a part of a much broader political struggle of the entire working class. "People started reading and learning more about struggles even in other countries they never knew about," wrote strike leaders in a sum-up for the February *Call*. "It made us stop and see that the working people are struggling all over."

Working in a bold but not a sectarian way, October League members achieved an important advance in spreading the influence of communism among workers. Strike leaders in their sum-up pointed out some of these gains. "We've learned a lot of (these lessons) by communists coming out to our strike and helping us. They helped us to see how this system is used against us. They helped us to learn how to organize and how to unite the people."

TASKS AHEAD

Many tasks still lie ahead at Capitol. The struggle to turn the union into a fighting organization must be spread through the local and the entire union. To accomplish this, the influence and leadership of communists must also be strengthened. Most importantly, we must consolidate further the more advanced workers around the science of revolution, Marxism-Leninism, and the need for a new revolutionary party.

In the present period of bringing a new Marxist-Leninist party into existence, we must strengthen the base for this party among the workers themselves. The advanced workers who came forward in the leadership of the Capitol strike are exactly the kind of cadres needed by the new party—workers won to the science of revolution on the basis of their own experiences, tied closely to hundreds of other workers in the plant, and respected for their dedication in the fight against all oppression.

Students Battle N.Y. State

Albany, N.Y.— Over 15,000 New York City students stormed the state capital here March 16, in a militant protest against sweeping cutbacks in education planned by the ruling class.

After a five-mile march through Albany streets led by Black and Latino students who would be the hardest hit by the proposed cuts, the students gathered at the rally point shouting, "They say cut back, we say fight back!"

The students were protesting plans announced by New York City University Chancellor Robert Kibbe to close down two colleges in the City University system and to convert two other, four-year academic colleges to two-year vocational schools.

The cuts in education are not limited to the city college system, but are also planned for the colleges of the State University of New York (SUNY), where

\$51 million is being slashed from its budget.

In response to this plan, several hundred students, faculty, and workers at the SUNY campus in Binghamton seized the administration building and occupied it for 58 hours. They demanded and won the university's agreement not to fire campus workers and replace them with lower-paid students, a key part of the state's program for "reducing costs."

Similar actions occurred on state college campuses at Fredonia, New Paltz, Buffalo, Old Westbury, and at Purchase.

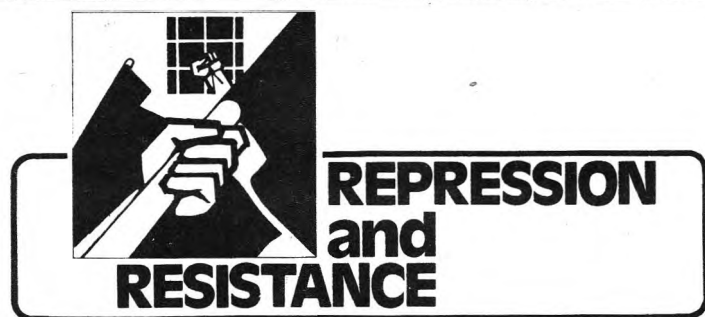
The budget cuts at both the city and state colleges are a direct attack on minorities and working-class youth, making it next to impossible to get into college. The end of open admissions and free tuition at city colleges will reverse the partial gains won during the civil rights struggles of the 1960's, when open ad-

missions were begun.

As one Black student put it, "Medgar Evers College was a 'bone' they threw to the 'niggers' to keep us quiet, but now they're not even willing to give us this 'bone.'"

Medgar Evers is virtually the only college available to the Black youth of Brooklyn's Bedford Stuyvesant ghetto, just as Hostos is the only community college open to the mainly Puerto Rican youth in the depressed South Bronx.

During the Albany protest, the Communist Youth Organization distributed leaflets exposing the intensification of national oppression that is a result of the cutbacks. The leaflet states: "It's no accident that the ruling class selected this specific group of schools, where students are mainly minorities and working-class youth. Racism and national oppression are built into the imperialist system."



**REPRESSION
and
RESISTANCE**

New Trial for 'Hurricane'

Clinton, N.J.—"If I am bitter, then I have a right to be bitter. What you are seeing is a person who has been raped of his freedom for nine and a half years for crimes I did not, would not, and could not commit."

These are the words of Rubin "Hurricane" Carter after learning that the New Jersey Supreme Court had granted him a new trial. He and a friend, John Artis, were unjustly convicted in 1967 of murder charges in a racist frameup. Carter, at that time a leading Black contender for the middleweight boxing title, was an outspoken opponent of racist police brutality against Black people. This victory in being granted a new trial was the result of mass protests against the flagrant railroading of Carter and Artis.

Protest Murder of Menominees

Madison, Wisc.—Mass outrage continues to boil over the brutal assassination of Menominee Indian activists John Waubanasum and Arlin Pamanet Feb. 3 by sheriff Kenneth Fish, a known drunk and Indian-hater.

Both Pamanet and Waubanasum were active members of the Menominee Warrior Society, the organization that led an occupation of a religious monastery in Gresham, Wisconsin last year (*The Call*, March, 1975). The organization demanded the building for the use of Indian people, and for this action police and state officials have been gunning for them ever since.

Although the state is trying to whitewash the assassination, evidence, including eyewitness testimony, has been made public by the Menominee Support Committee and others showing that the two men were unarmed at the time that Fish shot them, and that in fact the murder was planned in advance. Mass protests at the end of February forced state officials to close the capitol building in Madison.

Victory for Attica Brothers!

Buffalo, N.Y.—The special prosecutor requested Feb. 26 that the State Supreme Court here drop all charges against former Attica prison inmates, except for Mario (Dalou) Gonzales, who is charged with murder. Later that day, in a culmination of the year long people's fight to free the Attica Brothers, the Court did drop the charges.

Recently, the special prosecutor had been forced to admit that inmates had been murdered by the state troopers during the Attica prison uprising of 1971. With the dismissal of the indictments, he claimed that the criminal justice system in the U.S. was able to "redress its own wrongs." But rather than "vindicating" the system, the dropping of the charges really demonstrates the power of the people in defeating the fascist attacks of the government.

Expose Collins Frame-Up

Cincinnati, Ohio—On the night of August 25, 1975 in the Black community of Avondale, Cleophus Collins killed a plainclothes cop after first being shot by the officer who refused to identify himself. For this justifiable act of self-defense, Collins was recently sentenced to death by the court.

An active campaign to free Cleophus Collins has been mounted by the Defense Committee of Workers United for Jobs and Justice and the October League. Through picket lines, demonstrations, and petitioning, the right of Black people to defend themselves against police repression is being brought before the people.

Collins himself, speaking from his jail cell, urged the people to, "Expose this frameup! Not just for me, but for my children and all the people."

Fight vs. S-1 Must Go On

The fascist S-1 bill, now before Congress, is running into growing opposition from people across the country.

S-1, a sweeping measure designed to "reform" the federal criminal code, is an open attack on the people's democratic rights. It contains provisions directly aimed at crushing the growing revolutionary movement, the liberation struggles of oppressed minorities, and the rank-and-file workers' movements.

S-1, for instance, would make it a crime punishable by 15 years in prison to advocate the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of a socialist society. Also, any demonstration that "caused unreasonable noise," to cite one of the provisions, would be banned. And wildcat strikes deemed "harmful" would be declared a federal crime.

As the chances for the bill's passage grow smaller, its sponsors are trying to sneak some of its sections through by attaching them to other bills. The struggle against S-1 must continue.

A wave of militant protest is shaking the Boston State College campus in the wake of a discovery that campus police, at the direction of administration officials, have been engaged in spying and harassment of students, faculty and members of the surrounding community.

Some of the tactics used by the police include break-ins to the offices of teachers and the school newspaper, listening to meetings of campus activists through air ducts, planting spies in student groups, bribing other students to photograph rallies and demonstrations and "tailing" certain students, including a member of the Communist Youth Organization (CYO) who is playing a leading role in the fightback on the campus. Besides harassing students and faculty, police also entered the nearby housing project and attacked children and conducted illegal shake-downs.

The spy ring was exposed by a number of former campus cops who were fired when they tried to form a union. Since then the Administration has engaged in a desperate cover-up including burning student I.D. files.

Following these exposures, about 250 angry students and faculty led by the CYO and other groups confronted the state college Board of Trustees with four demands and occupied their office for over five hours until they gave in on a temporary agreement. The four demands were:

- 1) No tuition hike for foreign-

BOSTON STUDENTS PROTEST SPYING

born students! Many of these students come from nations which suffer from superpower exploitation and aggression. Now they are being forced to pay a 100% increase on an already too high tuition. The majority of the students cannot afford this and will be forced out of school and deported.

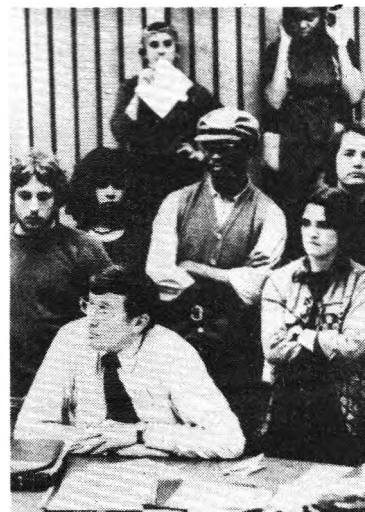
- 2) Stop reorganization! This is a statewide plan to cutback, raise tuition and reduce enrollment.

- 3) Stop political surveillance and all political firings! Demand an immediate investigation leading to the firing of all administrators who were involved!

- 4) Quality daycare for all who need it!

The issue of political spying was closely tied to the other demands to show how the state tried to harass anyone who stood up to fight back.

During the victorious meeting, after the students told the trustees that the doors were shut and that they would not be allowed to leave, one of the trustees jumped from his seat and shouted, "Do you mean to tell me I can't leave these chambers if I want to?" A student shouted back, "Yes" and said, "We are not here to appeal to your good nature. We gave up on that three years ago. What we are dealing with here is a situation of power and we intend to use our power to force you to act."



Angry students denounce spying.

L.S. Thomas photo

SAN JOSE POLICE MURDER

Special to The Call from two General Motors workers in Fremont, California.

Danny Trevino, a young Chicano, was gunned down in cold blood by two San Jose cops on January 22, 1976. He was the 16th victim of police murder in the city since 1969. 15 out of the 16 victims have been Blacks and Chicanos.

Demanding justice for Danny Trevino and an end to police repression in San Jose, 2000 people gathered to confront the San Jose City Council. Groups from the Black and Chicano communities, plus labor and student groups, also demanded an open grand jury hearing and full investigation into the case, and the firing of the two killer cops, Lt. Don Edwards and Craig Smith.

Since the rally, police threats and brutality have worsened. Latinos are stopped on the streets by cops and told, "We want to get rid of you Mexicans, so remember Danny Trevino." Meanwhile the officers responsible for the murder are on "administrative leave" at taxpayers' expense.

An activist in the movement said, "We've been complaining to the City Council for years, but they do nothing. They claim these things don't happen here."

Despite intimidation and stall-tactics, however, the movement to avenge Danny Trevino's murder and end racist police repression is gaining strength.

DESSIE WOODS JAILED IN MENTAL HOSPITAL

Milledgeville, Ga.—Bond for Dessie X Woods was denied recently on the ground that she is a "troublemaker."

Woods was convicted of manslaughter charges by a racist court after first being acquitted of murder for killing a white businessman who tried to rape her and co-defendant Cheryl Todd. Todd was convicted in the same trial of theft charges, and is currently out on bail.

Although Woods' attorney, Randy Bacote, put numerous character witnesses on the stand to testify in her behalf, the judge naturally agreed with the Warden at Milledgeville women's prison that bail should be denied.

The Warden claimed that Woods "stirred up trouble" with fellow inmates by "telling other prisoners that she's innocent."

Since the denial of bond, Dessie X Woods has been transferred to the Georgia State Mental Hospital where she is being kept drugged against her will. Supporters can write to her at the Powell Bldg., 3rd Floor, Georgia State Mental Hospital, Harwick, Ga. 31034.

Cheryl Todd, out on bond, is working with the Atlanta Coalition to Free Political Prisoners. The Coalition is working for Woods' release from the mental hospital, as well as preparing for the appeal of the Todd-Woods conviction. They can provide speakers on the case, and are trying to raise funds to cover the necessary legal costs involved. For more information, or to send donations, write to the Coalition at P.O. Box 11468, Atlanta, Ga. 30310.

Cover-Up in Death of Activist

Shirley Davis, an active member of the Workers' Solidarity Committee (WSC), was found dead in a Westside Chicago alley Dec. 25, 1975.

Although she was discovered by police on Christmas day, it took nearly two months for the family to find out what happened. During that period they filed missing persons reports, contacted hospitals, called the morgue—all in a futile effort to find her. There was nothing but silence from the city and police.

Finally on Feb. 10, the family and a large group from the WSC and the Communist Youth Organization (CYO) marched down to

missing persons to demand some action. Only then did they find out that the police had her body in the morgue all the time.

While keeping her family in the dark as to her whereabouts, the police did not hesitate to inform her employer, the Curtis Candy Company, that Shirley Davis was dead.

To the Curtis Company bosses, her death meant just one less worker. And to the Chicago police, who are the biggest murderers of Black people in this city, the death of one more Black woman had no meaning. But to the friends and family of Shirley Davis, to the WSC, the CYO and the October

League, her death is a great loss.

As a result of the publicity the case has received, the police have suddenly become very interested. They sent two investigators to the Davis' home at 1:30 in the morning to try to split the family from the WSC and the CYO by saying, "You don't want your daughter's name spread all over the country, do you?"

The Davis family saw through this scheme. Joining with the family, the WSC, the CYO, and the October League forced a re-opening of the case and will continue to expose the treatment that Black people receive at the hands of the police.

Rats . . . garbage . . . no water . . . no heat . . . and high rent! These are the complaints of millions of Americans, victims of the latest economic crisis on yet another front—housing. In cities across the country, people are getting organized to fight for a decent place to live at rents they can afford.

On Chicago's Northwest side a group of neighborhood residents have organized to protest conditions in what one of them described as "the biggest rat trap I've seen in 30 years." The story behind this "rat trap" is not unusual. The owner is a notorious Chicago slumlord, Leon Gutman, whose buildings' histories include numerous code violations, fires, and even death.

The concern of the latest protest was also the scene of a fire in 1966 in which a two-year-old child was burned to death. At the time of the fire, landlord Gutman had received 27 code violation notices from the City building department, thirteen of them dealing specifically with the lack of fire prevention measures. He had the notices and orders to correct the violations for four months when the fire broke out.

In spite of public uproar at the time of the fire, conditions in the building have only deteriorated further in the ten years which have passed since then. Now angry tenants and neighbors are determined to fight until the building is truly

From Seattle to New York Tenants Take on Slumlords

clean and safe.

They point out that already a small but significant victory has been won. One of the tenants, a pregnant woman with two children, was handed an eviction notice after attending the protest meetings. But she exposed this attempt at intimidation in front of a large area-wide meeting against slumlords. Faced with the people's outrage, Gutman suddenly and quietly withdrew the eviction.

In New York City 90% of the 60,000 residents of Co-op City, a "low-cost" state-owned housing project for "working people" have been on a rent strike since June, 1975. They are protesting a 60% increase in their rent since 1969 and the announcement that the state plans to double their rent again in the next five years.

The Seattle Fight Back Committee has taken up the fight for better housing in Holly Park and Rainier Vista, two of the city's housing projects where welfare and social security recipients of every nationality reside. The projects, built in the mid-40's for veterans of World War II, are dilapidated barracks-type dwellings where families of five or six often live within the confines of three or

four tiny rooms.

The tenants there have been in battle with the Seattle Housing Authority and HUD for many years. A tenant described some of their complaints—leaky roofs, cracked walls, heat for only one room—and the tenants themselves must pay for repairs. She said, "We feel that we shouldn't have to pay because it's the Housing Authority's fault when our homes are falling apart. I would move out if I could get a job, but since there's no jobs in Seattle the only thing left to do is to organize and fight back."

In Detroit, Cincinnati and Chicago, a number of struggles are being waged against the policy of the big banks known as "redlining." Minority communities are "redlined" so that no one can get a mortgage on their home. This is one of the causes of the rapid deterioration of housing standards in northern Black communities.

Like all the injustices of a system run for profits and not for the people, the scarcity of good housing hits hardest at poor and working people and especially at people from the oppressed minorities who are forced to live in the worst slums of all. Even the U.S.

Commission on Civil Rights reported that there now exists a "national housing emergency" arising out of two problems—unequal access to housing for minorities and women and a general shortage of low-cost housing.

A study by the Federal government released early this year revealed that, despite a so-called rent control and rent stabilization program in New York City, rents have risen more than three times as fast as tenant incomes over the last five years. The same study found that minority groups have overall been especially hurt by the rent increases, and cites as an example the fact that half of the city's Puerto Rican tenants pay more than 30% of their income for rent.

What is the answer to this problem of housing? We can see from the example of Chicago's Mr. Gutman that decent housing at low cost is not going to be provided by capitalist landlords. Mr. Gutman and his like can, and do, make more money letting their buildings rot than they do from fixing them up. Mr. Gutman, for example, has routinely bought old buildings, milked them for outrageous rents, let their condition deteriorate, and finally dumped them back



Tenants protest high rent.

with unpaid mortgages on former owners.

Isn't the answer, then to be found in public housing run by "non-profit" government agencies? The answer to this is clear from the examples of Co-op City and the thousands of miserable "projects" like Seattle's Rainier Vista, which house the nation's poor from coast to coast.

"Housing Agency Assailed as a Top Slumlord of U.S." ran a front page headline in the New York Times last December. The article showed what has happened since the government went into the business of guaranteeing low interest loans to low income buyers. Because capitalists used the multimillion dollar program to enrich themselves, the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) now owns more than 65,000 boarded-up and abandoned single-family homes in cities across the country. This is enough to provide homes for 260,000 people. In addition, the agency owns about 35,000 multi-family units worth more than \$2 billion.

The struggle against the miserable housing conditions in this country have provided a militant example to the other fronts of the fightback against the economic crisis. The fact that at least one third of all the people in the U.S. live in substandard housing is a bitter condemnation of the capitalist system. Under capitalism, despite all its advanced technology, the masses of working people are plagued by falling roofs, rats, lack of heat and electricity, bad plumbing, collapsing stairways and fire hazards.

But the people will not stand for these conditions much longer. From Co-op City in New York to Rainier Vista in Seattle, people are fighting back. Those involved in these struggles are learning, however, that the system which is concerned only with profits will never provide decent housing for the people. For that, the capitalist system based on profits and oppression of the masses must be abolished, and replaced with a socialist system devoted to serving the needs of the people.

Fight Back Organization Maps Jobs Drive

Since the founding of the National Fight Back Organization (NFBO) in December, attended by 1,300 activists, local fightback organizations across the country have grown in size and organizational strength.

Local committees are now discussing the proposal from the National Organizing Committee for a major national campaign demanding "Jobs or Income for All Now!"

While the politicians are promising recovery or speaking of it as if it were in full swing, some seven million workers remain "officially" unemployed. Ford's top advisers are now explaining that the U.S. today has attained a "new economic shape" in which the economy recovers, but unemployment remains at record levels. What this "new shape" boils down to is the fact that the capitalists have succeeded in "recovering" some of their profits at the expense of millions of workers who remain jobless, and in growing numbers, barely able to survive.

A number of congressional bills to provide jobs have been vetoed recently by President Ford. Meanwhile, Arthur Burns, one of Ford's closest advisers, is busy peddling a scheme to cut unemployment compensation down to 13 weeks and then force unemployed workers to take jobs at sub-minimum wage levels.

Local fight back organizations have not been taken in by Ford's election-year talk of rosy recovery. Across the country they have been stepping up actions to demand jobs, while opposing imperialist war preparations and attacks on the rights of minorities and women.

The Call has received reports from around the country:

BOSTON

Some 350 people attended the first New England regional fightback conference. Delegates heard speakers from the National Fight



NATIONAL FIGHT-BACK CONFERENCE gave workers a chance to share views on the fight for jobs and opposition to discrimination. (Call photo)

Back Organizing Committee, Haitian Patriotic Committee, Boston Workers United to Fight Back, SCEF (Southern Conference Educational Fund), and the October League.

Over 20 workshops gave participants a chance to deepen their understanding about the nature of the economic crisis as well as sharing experiences in taking up the fightback.

The conference focused on the sharpest struggle in Boston today, the struggle against the segregationist movement. Delegates pointed out that the cornerstone of the fightback movement must be the struggle against national oppression.

Ed Winbourne, a member of the October League, told of the rich history of working class struggle and the fight against slavery and segregation in New England. Commenting on the National Fight Back Organization, he said, "In Boston today we are not the only national organization being formed. There is another one being built—a reactionary, racist, backward organization, and that organization is ROAR."

Some three weeks later, the Boston Workers United to Fight Back demonstrated its opposition

to the ROAR organization and the segregationist movement it represents with a march and rally of over 200 people in Dorchester. Members of ROAR and the Ku Klux Klan teamed up to try to halt the action, but the demonstrators, both Black and white, refused to be intimidated. They marched on in support of busing and the unity of Black and white workers.

BALTIMORE

Severe cutbacks in medical assistance for Maryland families have brought an organized protest from a broad coalition of groups, including the Baltimore Fight Back Committee and Citizens for Civil Rights. The coalition has filled 15 buses to go to the Maryland state capital and demonstrate against the cutbacks.

CHICAGO

About 90 people attended a regional conference comprised of delegates from Illinois and Iowa. The conference resolved to continue regular and active organizing at the unemployment offices, and is taking up "Jobs or Income for All Now!" as its main campaign. In Illinois, over 150,000 people will lose their unemployment benefits when the federal government abolishes the 26-week ex-

tended benefits for those out of work for over one year. The Chicago Workers Solidarity Committee is fighting against this attack.

DENVER

The people in Denver are continuing their fight against the local power company, Public Service Company. This time it's not a rate increase, but the requirement that when utilities are shut off the customer must pay a deposit which could amount to \$150-\$200.

Almost 100 people showed up to testify at a public hearing, many of them Afro-Americans who demanded that the policy be revoked since it was such a special hardship in the minority communities.

A representative of the Colorado Workers Unity Organization testified that the executives of the PSC should bear the burden of this crisis since they caused it.

TAMPA

When President Ford made a short campaign stop, the Tampa Workers Committee was there to demonstrate. While Ford presented his solution to the crisis—cutbacks on social services and increases in defense spending—the Tampa Workers Committee presented their demands in slogans and chants. At times shouts of "Independence for Puerto Rico!" and "Jobs Not War!" drowned out President Ford's speech.

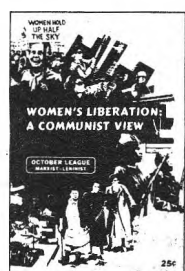
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MAY UNITY MEETING WILL LAY GROUNDWORK FOR PARTY CONGRESS

Several communist organizations, groups and individual Marxist-Leninists are organizing a representative unity meeting in May. Its purpose is to plan and coordinate the discussions and work leading up to the founding of the new Marxist-Leninist party.

Those attending the meeting will base themselves generally around the statement of principles appearing in the November, 1975 issue of *The Call*, entitled "Marxist-Leninists Unite To Build The New Party." The representatives will heighten their unity around questions of ideological and political line and move forward towards the goal of organizational unity within one party.

This meeting will be a qualitative step forward in communist unity efforts, which have often been limited to unity around principles without also being linked to organizational unity.

PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

The principles stated in the November *Call* have provided a basis for discussion and have summed up the level of unity that presently exists among a majority of Marxist-Leninist forces in the country. But these principles were not put forth to be and should not be taken as the program for the new party. The programmatic statement which will guide the new party forward in its work must come out of discussions and summations during the period leading up to the founding congress. The unity meeting in May will help organize the program discussion and the circulation of resolutions.

Along with other organizations, the October League will put forward its own proposals and views as to the content of the program. These will be based on a deeper elaboration of the November principles and on the resolutions of the OL's Third Congress, held in July, 1975.

In the months leading up to the founding congress, it will be necessary for all communists supporting the efforts to build the new party to study hard and hold discussions on the resolutions and bulletins produced on the basis of the May meeting. Struggle over line will play a decisive role in these efforts, which must also be aimed at the selection of delegates to the first party congress. These delegates must be prepared to make the most important decisions on program and leadership. Broad discussion and study is already taking place among communists around the questions raised by the November *Call*.

CONGRESS RULES

The May meeting and those that follow it will also establish rules for the congress. The participants will discuss representation and elections. They will oversee the organization of individual communists who are not presently affiliated with any pre-party organization into collectives for the purpose of taking part in the discussions.

The May meeting will also write a new draft of "Marxist-Leninists Unite To Build The New Party," incorporating the correct additions and criticisms of all participants. Good criticisms have already led to some corrections in the OL's approach to the organizational formation of the party. For example, in a recent meeting of the OL Central Committee (See the March issue of *The Call*), Section 5 of "Marxist-Leninists Unite ..." was modified to call for the congress and leadership elections in the immediate future. The previous view, calling for a "temporary leading body" and a year-long pre-congress period, was rejected.

The May meeting will operate on the basis of democratic centralism, at least to the highest degree attainable. In other words, once political unity is solidified and decisions are taken, the minority will be subordinate to the majority. To those who would accuse OL of practicing "organizational hegemonism" in this matter, we can only say: "Take part in the work and judge for yourselves."

At this time there are both right and "left" opportunists who are frantically attacking the efforts of the Marxist-Leninists to unite. These opportunists include the centrists around the Guardian newspaper as well as the sectarians of the so-called "Revolutionary Wing" and others.

The centrists and "Wing" both oppose the formation of the party because of their conciliatory views toward modern revisionism. The Guardian, for instance, has called the party-building effort "flawed because of our movement's principled stand against Soviet social-imperialism and modern revisionism. They have openly supported the Soviet invasion of Angola and have covered



WOMEN'S DAY activities showed growth of revolutionary forces, bankruptcy of revisionists. (Call photo)

up for the new Soviet bourgeoisie by claiming that capitalism has not yet been restored in the Soviet Union. Likewise, in its March 24 issue *The Guardian* claims that the Soviet social-imperialists are only a "secondary enemy" of the world's peoples and that the principle of "no united action with revisionism" and with the CPUSA is an "essentially empty slogan" stemming from a "silly cuckoo-bird's eye view of politics." These hysterical comments only show how far and how fast the Guardian is abandoning Marxism-Leninism, which has always stood for a decisive break with all forms of opportunism.

The "Wing" and groups like Workers Viewpoint have likewise colluded, in practice, with the revisionists. At the same time, they call the OL and other party-building forces "the main danger" in the movement. This anti-party opposition demonstrates how one opportunist tendency can cover for another. Neither the "left" sectarians nor the centrists can accept even the basic principles of unity in the November *Call*, and both tendencies have been consistent in their refusal to unite with anti-imperialist activities such as those on International Women's Day. Instead they have been playing the role of splitters and disrupters.

The "Wing" has an idealist view of party-building. It emphasizes only the ideological break with revisionism while opposing every attempt to carry through the break on organizational questions as well. The Puerto Rican Revolutionary Workers Organization (PRRWO), the leading force within the "Wing," for instance, has attacked the formation of a new party as "hegemonism" on the part of OL, suggesting that OL is simply trying to impose its leadership on the movement by waving a baton or by sheer force of numbers.

Anyone who has worked with the October League knows this is false. What the charge does reveal, however, is the petty-bourgeois idealism of PRRWO. These intellectuals are afraid of proletarian methods of organization and democratic centralism. If, as they claim, they are the "only correct trend," why are they afraid to test their line before these cadres? Why are they afraid to put forth in the disci-

plined context of the party-building process and, on the basis of the ideological and political unity set forth, accept the will of the majority of Marxist-Leninists? Instead of spreading slanders about "OL domination," let them come forward with their views in the form of pre-congress resolutions and bind themselves to the collective will of hundreds of communists organized in cities across the U.S.

But no, these sectarians prefer instead the road of least resistance. They prefer their own narrow circles, free from the supervision of both the majority of communist cadres and the masses of the people.

The sectarians refuse to do their communist work in the heat of the actual class struggle. They choose to place this "work" in opposition to progressive struggles for better living standards and for the defense of democratic rights, most notoriously in the battles against segregation and for women's rights. By saying, in effect, that the struggle for socialism is the only struggle the masses should engage in, they refuse to link Marxism-Leninism with the immediate struggles of the working class.

This is why they are bound to fail. This is why they are unable to unite even among themselves. This is why, when they do take up some immediate struggles, they end up tailing the most rightist, conservative policies of the labor aristocrats, such as opposing busing and the Equal Rights Amendment for women. And this is why the first differences that emerge in their ranks lead to immediate splits.

Marxist-Leninists hold to the following principle for the ideological and political struggle among communists: "Practice Marxism, not revisionism;" "Unite and don't split;" and "Be open and above-board, don't intrigue and conspire."

In contrast, the sectarians raise splittism to the level of a principle. In a speech in Boston quoted in the April 8 *Palante*; (or-

gan of PRRWO) for instance, a representative of the "Wing" goes so far as to condemn the OL for not having splits. It concluded: "Of course the OL has never had a split, as only firmness and ideological definiteness based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao-TseTung Thought provides the basis to draw lines of demarcation and purge our ranks." So this is what the "left" anti-party opposition has to offer: disunity, demoralization, pessimism, and the actual lack of any alternative plan to build the party.

No party can be built apart from the two-line struggle to establish a genuine proletarian line. But for the first time since the degeneration of the CPUSA into a revisionist and social-imperialist party, the basis to form a truly revolutionary party exists, in the sense that the basic lines of demarcation have been drawn and communists have been organized into well-developed pre-party formations across the country.

But the two-line struggle does not cease with the formation of the new party. The road will still be full of twists and turns, and in fact it will be within the new party that the two-line struggle can take place in a deeper, broader and more thorough-going manner, not only winning the leadership of the proletarian line, but also uniting and consolidating the vast majority of party members around it.

The struggle for communist unity will likewise continue outside the party. The task will still remain of uniting with those genuine communists who are still working alone or within other formations such as the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP).

But the May meeting and the congress it works toward will certainly represent a great step forward in accomplishing this task. We call on all Marxist-Leninists to transfer words into deeds and unite to build a new party. Supporting and taking part in this meeting is the task of all communists.

The October League has recently conducted a campaign to study the Marxist-Leninist teachings on the question of the state, especially V.I. Lenin's book, The State and Revolution.

Lenin wrote this classic work in 1917 amidst the storm of the Russian revolution. He saw that the essential ideological question for the communists and workers in seizing power and in smashing the rule of the imperialists was to fully understand the role of the state. In his book, Lenin summed up and reaffirmed what Marxists had learned about the state up to that time, taking the different writings of Marx and Engels about the state and applying their lessons to the situation in Russia.

The significance of the current study of The State and Revolution, especially in this period when a new communist party is being built, is in arming the workers themselves with the theoretical understanding necessary to become vanguard fighters for socialism and against revisionism. As one worker wrote to The Call, "From reading The State and Revolution we understand much better why a violent revolution—not of the Party Heirs type but of the people organized by their vanguard—is the only way to rid us of oppression, poverty and war."

The current study has been taken up not only by every unit of the October League but also in workers' study circles and in study days across the country where hundreds of workers participated in the discussion. A study guide has been published which is available through The Call for 50 cents.

In this issue, we are beginning a series of articles to popularize the lessons of this nation wide study. The article below is about the Paris Commune, which was one of the main subjects of Marx and Engels' writings on the state (they themselves participated in building support for the Commune) and therefore a main subject of Lenin's teachings.

On March 18, 1871 the working class of Paris rose up against the bourgeoisie and drove them from the city, putting power into the hands of the proletariat for the first time in history.

Ten days later on March 28, they established the Paris Commune, the world's first proletarian state. The Commune was a government of an entirely new type run by and for the people themselves rather than by an exploiting minority. During the 72 days of its life, the Commune took significant political, and economic steps which benefitted the people and above all, the working class.

The Commune was finally crushed only through massive repression and a counter-revolutionary attack of French and foreign reactionaries. But the experience and lessons of the Paris Commune have sparked

many great peoples' revolutions since then. As V.I. Lenin wrote:

"The thunder of the cannon in Paris awakened the most backward sections of the proletariat from their deep slumber and everywhere gave impetus to the growth of the revolutionary socialist propaganda."

It was from this living revolutionary experience that Marx and Engels, the fathers of scientific socialism, drew the important conclusions which are still relevant today. Marx and Engels maintained close ties with Commune leaders and gave them every type of aid.

Marx's study proved that he had been right 20 years earlier when he said that the socialist revolution must break up the bourgeois state machine at its very foundation and set up a new type of state. The Paris Commune deepened this general understand-

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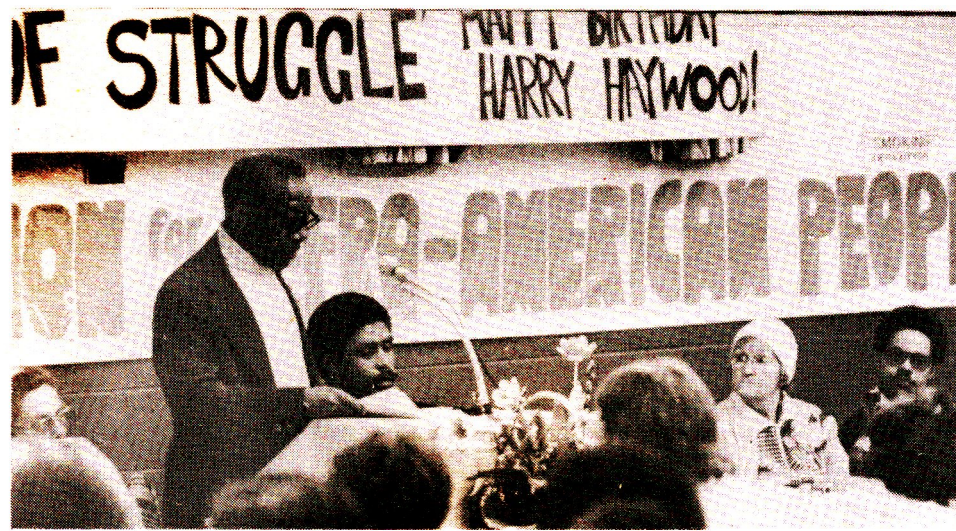
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HARRY HAYWOOD spoke movingly about his experiences in the class struggle. (Call photo)

Harry Haywood Honored

78 Years of Struggle Hailed

A testimonial dinner was attended by 250 people in Chicago March 13, honoring Harry Haywood's "78 years of struggle."

Haywood, a veteran communist leader is best known for his contributions to the understanding of the Afro-American people's struggle as a national question and his principled stand against the revisionist line as it developed inside the once-revolutionary Communist Party.

Haywood's life has been one of fighting for the rights of all workers and consistent dedication to the goal of socialism. In his youth he moved from membership in the African Blood Brotherhood, a revolutionary nationalist organization, to joining the Young Communist League and the Communist Party in 1923. He later spent four and a half years studying in the Soviet Union and participating in the work of the Communist Internationale.

Haywood was among the earliest communist fighters to fully understand the imperialist oppression of the Black Belt South, upholding and popularizing the "Ji" Afro-Americans to self-determination there.

Some of Harry Haywood's most

important works such as *Negro Liberation* (1948) and *For a Revolutionary Position on the Negro Question* (1957) have recently been reprinted by Liberator Press. Many of those in attendance at the dinner, had only recently become acquainted with these classic writings on the national question.

The dinner was representative of the recognition Haywood's work is once again beginning to receive. The 250 people in the audience included a number of veteran revolutionary fighters, activists in the Black liberation struggles of the 1960's, Marxist-Leninists from different organizations, and a large number of workers who came to hear about the history of the communist movement in the U.S. People came from at least ten cities and telegrams were read from several others.

Harry Wells, master of ceremonies, introduced a number of the guests including Black historians Ernie Mkalimoto, John Higginson and Lerone Bennet, Jr.

Amiri Baraka, chairman of the Congress of Afrikan People told of Haywood's contribution in giving the nationalist upsurge among Afro-Americans a scientific analysis

Studying the State and Revolution, Lenin's Basic V

THUNDER OF CANNON

ding by showing the concrete living form that this workers' state could take—the dictatorship of the proletariat.

What was new about the dictatorship of the proletariat as a form of state? First, it was a working body of the people themselves rather than an instrument of the exploiting minority. Unlike the capitalist state, it was not a bureaucratic, oppressive and corrupt weapon that hung like a monstrous weight over the masses of people.

Most important, the communards had dismantled the standing army, the police and the courts. They replaced these institutions with an army of the workers themselves. They democratically established organizations and leaders responsible to the people to carry out the work of running the Commune. Their state was, without a doubt, the most democratic state in history up to that point. That is, it was democratic for the masses of the people while harsh and dictatorial for the old exploiters.

The experience of the Commune enabled Marx and Engels to fully understand that in order to accomplish these new tasks, the proletariat had to actually smash the old dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. It was not possible simply to capture and use the old state machinery for revolutionary purposes. The Commune also showed that smashing the state could only be accomplished by force and that a peaceful transition to socialism was impossible.

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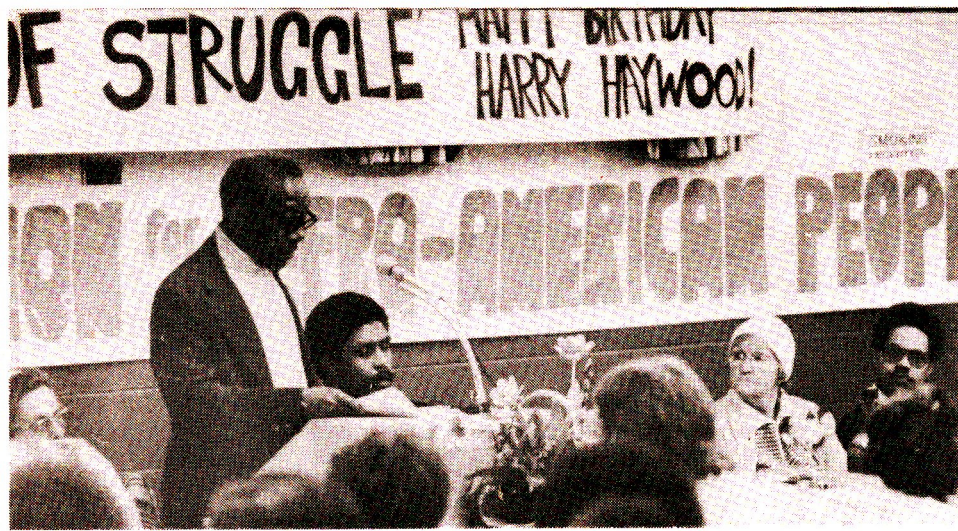
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Lenin later said that Marx's conclusion on the necessity of the dictatorship of the proletariat was "the chief and fundamental point in the Marxist theory of the state."

The dictatorship of the proletariat soon became the cornerstone of the programs of all genuine communist parties. It was this theory that guided the Russian revolution to victory. Under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin, it led the way in the successful building of socialism against the combined efforts of international imperialism and Russian reaction in their attempts to restore capitalism.

The theory of the dictatorship of the proletariat has been a beacon, lighting the way for all the great socialist revolutions. In China, for example, even after the proletarian dictatorship was established, the people developed a special form of struggle with which to defend the socialist state against the threat of capitalist restoration.

The Cultural Revolution and the Chinese people's mass campaign to study the dictatorship of the proletariat are part of the great legacy of the Paris Commune. Their success in strengthening the advance of socialism in China proves concretely that the dictatorship of the proletariat can be defended in the long and difficult class struggle which continues after the revolution itself.



HARRY HAYWOOD spoke movingly about his experiences in the class struggle. (Call photo)

Harry Haywood Honored 78 Years of Struggle Hailed

A testimonial dinner was attended by 250 people in Chicago March 13, honoring Harry Haywood's "78 years of struggle."

Haywood, a veteran communist leader is best known for his contributions to the understanding of the Afro-American people's struggle as a national question and his principled stand against the revisionist line as it developed inside the once-revolutionary Communist Party.

Haywood's life has been one of fighting for the rights of all workers and consistent dedication to the goal of socialism. In his youth he moved from membership in the African Blood Brotherhood, a revolutionary nationalist organization, to joining the Young Communist League and the Communist Party in 1923. He later spent four and a half years studying in the Soviet Union and participating in the work of the Communist Internationale.

Haywood was among the earliest communist fighters to fully understand the imperialist oppression of the Black Belt South, upholding and popularizing the struggle of Afro-Americans to self-determination there.

Some of Harry Haywood's most

important works such as *Negro Liberation* (1948) and *For a Revolutionary Position on the Negro Question* (1957) have recently been reprinted by Liberator Press. Many of those in attendance at the dinner, had only recently become acquainted with these classic writings on the national question.

The dinner was representative of the recognition Haywood's work is once again beginning to receive. The 250 people in the audience included a number of veteran revolutionary fighters, activists in the Black liberation struggles of the 1960's, Marxist-Leninists from different organizations, and a large number of workers who came to hear about the history of the communist movement in the U.S. People came from at least ten cities and telegrams were read from several others.

Harry Wells, master of ceremonies, introduced a number of the guests including Black historians Ernie Mkalimoto, John Higginson and Lerone Bennet, Jr.

Amiri Baraka, chairman of the Congress of Afrikan People told of Haywood's contribution in giving the nationalist upsurge among Afro-Americans a scientific analysis

and highlighting the revolutionary significance of their right to self-determination.

Nannie Washburn, a member of the October League in Atlanta, commented on her own 76 years of struggle, remembering the work she had done with Haywood for the freedom of Angelo Herndon in the 1930's.

Introducing Haywood, Sherman Miller from the October League told the audience, "Comrade Haywood has demonstrated dedication to the cause of the working and oppressed peoples. It is risky enough to be a discontented Black in this country, let alone a Black communist fighting to overthrow this rotten system. Without wavering, comrade Haywood has withstood the pressure of the Klan, police and the state."

Miller added, "When the present pack of revisionist renegades who now control the CPUSA began to betray proletarian revolution and Black liberation, comrade Haywood refused to capitulate."

Following this introduction, Haywood spoke to the crowd about some of his experiences in the revolutionary struggle. He was greeted by a resounding standing ovation.

Explaining the work the party did in the 30's, Haywood said, "We had a *real* Communist Party in those days. But since the 50's, this country has not seen a revolutionary Communist Party in action. When the CP gave up its revolutionary program and became reformist, it cut off a whole generation, the youth of the 60's and 70's. Cut them off from the experiences and traditions of earlier fighters.

"One thing that made the party so effective at that time was its understanding of the revolutionary potential of the Black people's movement.

"Our starting point was understanding that imperialism everywhere bases itself on exploiting the workers and oppressing whole nations of people. And this applies right here inside the U.S. where Blacks are an oppressed nation in the Deep South and an unassimilated national minority in the North; a virtually captive colonial people in the metropolitan heartland of an imperialist superpower.

"This means that the Black struggle for equality and democratic rights is revolutionary in itself.

"But Black demands for equality are empty phrases unless there is political power to enforce equality. That's why we called for self-determination."

Haywood spoke vividly about Chicago's southside communists who built the anti-fascist united front in the Black community through a "Hands off Ethiopia" movement when it was invaded by Mussolini. "For Black Americans, Ethiopia, an independent Negro state in Africa, had always been a symbol of freedom and independence in history and folklore. Masses of Black people strongly supported Ethiopia. Their readiness to defend Ethiopia from fascist invasion was linked to the struggle against the enemy at home. The defense of Ethiopia inevitably became a fight against the growth of fascism in Chicago, against every petty persecution, Jim Crow degradation, misery and discrimination."

The Communist Party rallied over 10,000 on Chicago's southside to oppose fascism abroad and at home. Through struggles like this, the CP became known as a vanguard for both the workers and the masses of Afro-Americans.

Speaking on behalf of veteran communists, Haywood said that it is "...exciting to see the rise of a new movement with new communist leadership, combining the lessons and the spirit of the 60's with a revolutionary line fundamentally the same as guided us in the 30's. This movement is uniting the best fighters of the old and young generations into an unbeatable force. And I'm glad to see my friends in the OL in the front ranks of this movement."

In a toast at the conclusion of the dinner, October League chairman Mike Klonsky pointed out the great unity expressed in the dinner—unity between old and young, between people of different nationalities, and between Marxist-Leninists presently in different organizations. He pointed out that this was the type of unity necessary to forge ahead with the task of building the new party.

Studying the State and Revolution, Lenin's Basic Work on the Proletarian Dictatorship

THUNDER OF CANNONS IN PARIS

ing by showing the concrete living form that this workers' state could take—the dictatorship of the proletariat.

What was new about the dictatorship of the proletariat as a form of state? First, it was a working body of the people themselves rather than an instrument of the exploiting minority. Unlike the capitalist state, it was not a bureaucratic, oppressive and corrupt weapon that hung like a monstrous weight over the masses of people.

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All reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries since 1871, on the other hand, have recoiled in fear and anger at the mention of the Paris Commune. Whether openly or in the dress of "revolutionaries," they have tried to smear and distort in every way the lessons of the Commune. Today it is the modern revisionists of the Communist Party, U.S.A., as well as the revisionists in the Soviet Union and in France itself, who have joined in the chorus with the capitalists to attack these revolutionary lessons.

The recent 22nd Congress of the French revisionist party, for instance, thoroughly and openly repudiated the dictatorship of the proletariat. These revisionist traitors have shamelessly tread upon the principles for which the heroic French men and women of Paris fought and died for 105 years earlier. (See article in the March issue of *The Call*).

In the Soviet Union, the dictatorship of the proletariat has been overthrown as it was in Paris. Under the leadership of Khrushchov and presently Brezhnev, power has been wrested from the hands of the workers and a new bourgeoisie has restored capitalism in that country. The new Soviet leadership, upon seizing power, made the repudiation of the dictatorship of the proletariat their first task. In its place they inserted the phony theory of "the state of the whole people" and claimed that classes and class struggle no longer existed. In this way they disarmed the Soviet people and now rule over them with a fascist dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

The U.S. revisionists long ago dropped

the dictatorship of the proletariat from their program. This step coincided with their all-round degeneration into a bourgeois, electoral party and an enemy of revolution. Like all revisionists, the CPUSA has revised Marx's teachings on the lessons of the Commune. They claim that all that is needed is a "majority" in the elections and that the U.S. ruling class will peacefully resign itself to defeat. They cover over the real nature of the state as an instrument for oppression of one class by another. Furthermore they staunchly defend the fascist dictatorship in the Soviet Union as being the "highest form of socialism."

What has changed today to disprove the teachings of Marx, Engels and Lenin on the state in this country or in any capitalist country? Absolutely nothing. In fact, the lessons of the Paris Commune are more relevant today than ever before. Capitalism has not grown more "democratic" but has grown into imperialism, a system of terror which attacks workers and oppressed people everywhere. Today the danger of imperialist war is once again on the horizon the imperialists have stepped up their drive towards fascism. Wherever the "peaceful road" has been followed, as it was in Chile under the direction of the Chilean and Soviet revisionists, it has meant anything but "peaceful change" and socialism.

To the modern revisionists and their defenders who are terrified by the idea of workers holding power, we repeat Engels' own words: "Dictatorship of the proletariat. Well and good, gentlemen, do you want to know what this dictatorship looks like Look at the Paris Commune. That was the dictatorship of the proletariat."

TAKING UP THE CALL



"COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE, NATIONS WANT LIBERATION, PEOPLE WANT REVOLUTION."

Cruise Missile Developed for Rivalry with USSR

"I don't use the word 'detente' anymore," President Ford said on nationwide television. "I think what we ought to say is that the U.S. will...continue a policy of peace through strength."

Ford's word-games were designed to take the wind out of Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign which has based itself largely on opposition to the "detente" policy of the Ford-Kissinger administration. But the president's word choice also reflects the fact that superpower contention and the danger of war are becoming more concrete realities in the minds of the masses of people. The cover of "detente" can no longer be so easily pasted on a world in which both superpowers are preparing frantically for war.

In recent months, leading arms experts, including Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, have pointed out that the Soviet Union has either surpassed the U.S. or will soon surpass it in most military fields. This has brought new pressure on the U.S. imperialists to increase arms expenditure.

As if to dramatize the "strength" part of Ford's new slogan of "peace through strength," Rumsfeld testified before congress that the U.S. must proceed more rapidly with the development of the cruise missile. The Soviet Union has sought to place the development of this weapon

under restriction through the SALT talks. The U.S. successfully tested the cruise missile on March 5. It is launched by a B-52 bomber and can chase targets over long distances, homing-in on them accurately.

With the navy and air force each developing its own cruise missiles, the contracts to the big defense companies so far have totalled \$5 billion with only test models yet produced.

New Monetary Crisis Sinks Europe Recovery

West Europe's inability to recover from its economic crisis is intensifying as the "joint European currency float" disintegrates causing turmoil in the money markets.

The Italian lira has sunk steadily in value for three years despite new taxes, interest hikes and other inflationary measures by the Italian government. A British speculator on the Rome exchange told one of Italy's biggest bankers, "I wouldn't hold onto liras if my life depended on it." But the British pound is in no better shape having slumped below \$2.00 in value for the first time in history.

France was forced to withdraw from the "joint float" owing to its own economic difficulties. With Italy, Britain and Denmark all weakening the "joint float" system, most experts predict it will collapse before long. The "joint float" was designed by the European governments to protect themselves against the falling dollar when the economic crisis in the U.S. first broke out sharply.

With so many European currencies in trouble, most economic experts agree that "recovery" is out of the question in 1976. A Frankfurt newspaper said that the real question was not recovery but how deeply the monetary crisis will affect the political stability of Europe.

10,000 Workers at French Fightback Meet

Nearly 10,000 workers met in Paris February 14 at a national workers assembly

organized by French Marxist-Leninists, according to Humanité Rouge newspaper.

The meeting was marked by strong solidarity in the struggle against the capitalist crisis, as well as opposition to the revisionist French Communist Party which claims



The Internationale is sung from podium of French workers' conference.

to speak for the working class.

In France, as in all capitalist countries, unemployment is running very high with over two million out of work. Inflation has been in the double-digits for several years while small shopkeepers and peasants are being forced out of business.

In the keynote address to the conference, Jacques Jurquet drew a picture of the current crisis and pointed out the danger of a new world war as a result of the rivalry between the U.S. and the USSR.

Jurquet emphasized that the working class struggle had to be a revolutionary struggle and could not be confined to the realm of reforms and electoral politics. He exposed the French revisionists for their open abandonment of the struggle for the dictatorship of the proletariat and pointed out that without the working class seizing state power and establishing its dictatorship, it was doomed to perpetual slavery.

In his concluding remarks, Jurquet called on the workers assembled to "explain the proletarian dictatorship, defend it and tell the truth about it..." and to advance "on the basis of the immortal theory of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought."

Cries of "Long Live the Dictatorship of the Proletariat" went up from the crowd at the conclusion of the speech, and all 10,000 workers joined in a thunderous rendition of the "Internationale."

(Humanité Rouge photo)

Anti-Fascist General Strike in Spain

The Basque provinces of northern Spain erupted again on March 8 with a general strike of 500,000 workers protesting the police terror which left four people dead and scores injured in the steel-producing town of Vitoria.

Leaflets circulated widely throughout Spain assailed the monarchy of Juan Carlos as equal in its fascist terror to the regime of General Franco.

Meanwhile Juan Carlos has been forced to purge some high-ranking military officials because of their support for democratization of Spain. It was the first time since the Spanish Civil War that military personnel have been brought to trial for political reasons, revealing the growing disunity even within the Spanish ruling class.

New Albanian Constitution Drafted

The draft for a new constitution of the People's Republic of Albania has recently been published and is now undergoing study and discussion by the masses of people there.

The new constitution reflects the development and consolidation of socialist society in Albania and the dictatorship of the proletariat. In clear comprehensible language it distinguishes true socialism from the falsifications of modern revisionism. It emphasizes that the working people are in power; that women are equal; and that the emergence of a new bourgeois class must be guarded against.

The draft constitution also contains provisions guaranteeing employment, education, medical care, equal pay for equal work and exemption from taxes for all citizens.

The new constitution affirms Albania's support for the working class and oppressed peoples in every country.

Expose Fascist Repression in India

"People are being arrested from streets, railway stations, coffee houses and bus depots, if they are found to even be whispering a slight criticism of the government," Hari Sharma told a Chicago audience about the present situation in India.

Sharma, a representative of Indian People's Association in North America, spoke to a meeting jointly sponsored by the Chicago Indians for Political Freedom and the October League.

Sharma went on to point out that while the Gandhi regime claimed it was cracking down on the political "right-wing" and was opposing "CIA provocations" its real attacks have been against the left, against workers and revolutionaries.

Exposing the contention between the U.S. and the USSR in the subcontinent, Sharma detailed the type of support given to the fascist Gandhi regime and the revisionist Communist Party of India by the Soviet Union. He pointed out that in attacking Pakistan and annexing Sikkim, India was doing the bidding of Soviet social-imperialism. Sharma also observed that one aspect of superpower contention was that pro-U.S. forces were trying to capture the leadership of the popular upsurge against the Gandhi regime.

Sharma characterized the situation among the genuine Marxist-Leninists as relatively favorable despite the repression. He noted that Indian Marxist-Leninists had been prepared for the fascist attacks with a strong secret organization and that a good basis existed to build a united front. He added that with the revisionists openly siding with fascism, it was easier to unmask them as betrayers of the working class struggle.

O.L. Delegation to China

A Central Committee Delegation of the October League left the United States March 15 for a visit to the People's Republic of China. The delegation is led by OL Chairman Michael Klonsky and will return in April.

...in brief...

MOSCOW HYPOCRISY: Pravda stated March 9 that it is "against interference in the internal affairs of Portugal," yet the Soviet revisionists continue to supply funds to the Portuguese revisionist party and to back schemes to topple the government.

LAOS-CHINA SOLIDARITY: Kaysone Phomivan, Premier of Laos and General Secretary of the People's Revolutionary Party visited Peking in March. He told a banquet there, "Our delegation is very happy to bring the tidings of complete victory in the Lao revolution to the fraternal Chinese people who have contributed considerably to this victory...The victory of the Lao revolution is a victory for Marxism-Leninism."

CULTURE SERVES THE WORKING PEOPLE: Five new Chinese cultural journals will be published in April. The new journals include People's Theater, People's Cinema, People's Music, Dance, and Fine Arts. The editors point out that the new publications are aimed at serving the workers, peasants and soldiers and the cause of socialism.

SHARPEVILLE REMEMBERED: The OAU marked the sixteenth anniversary of the massacre at Sharpeville, South Africa March 21 with a vigorous denunciation of apartheid. In the UN, a speaker from the Pan Africanist Congress vowed that the Azanian people will continue the armed struggle for liberation.

EAST TIMOR UPRISING: A major rebellion occurred against the Indonesian invaders inside Dili, the capital of East Timor, on March 13. Fighting with home-made knives and rifles, the people inflicted heavy losses on the occupying army.

LABOR OFFENSIVE: In preparation for the spring labor offensive, 50,000 Japanese youth marched through the streets of Tokyo March 19, waving red flags and demanding jobs and union rights.

FROM THE WORLD PRESS

PEOPLE'S DAILY

In preparation for International Women's Day on March 8, the People's Daily and the Hsinhua News Agency carried articles summing up the advances made by women in socialist society. The following are excerpts from those reports.

Some 10,000 working women in China have been promoted to leading posts in party committees at provincial, county and commune levels since the beginning of last year.

This shows that new China is paying great attention to the training of women cadres and that working women are playing an increasingly important role in China's socialist revolution and construction.

At the bottom rung of the social ladder before liberation, China's working women were dominated by four kinds of authority—political, clan, religious and the husband authority. Today women and men are on an equal footing in political, economic, cultural, social and family affairs. Working women are showing great talent and wisdom in various spheres. People say: "Women are propping up half of the sky!"

In Taching, China's leading oilfield, women workers account for 25% of the total. Among them, over 1,900 are working in various leading bodies. There are 127 women's drilling teams or groups.

Members of a fisherwomen team, with an average age of 18, fished on the frozen Talai Lake in northeast China and hauled in a big catch of 546 tons in one winter.

During the great proletarian cultural revolution and the movement to criticize Lin Biao and Confucius, the broad masses of women, together with men, criticized reactionary Confucius fallacies such as "men are superior to women." This further fired their enthusiasm for building socialism.

During the mass movement to learn from Tachai, women peasants in Hopei province studied agro-techniques hard and formed themselves into 42,400 women's scientific experimental groups and 120,000 women's cotton-growing teams.

At present, the Chinese women have plunged into an anti-revisionist debate to beat back the right deviationist trend of denying the victories of the cultural revolution. They are determined to make contributions to preventing and opposing revisionism and consolidating the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Speaking on the question of Angola at the recent Soviet Congress (see page 4), the revisionist leader Brezhnev proclaimed loudly: "The Soviet Union does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and peoples."

But Angola, perhaps better than any other place in the world, exemplifies the barbarity of Soviet aggression and interference. Even the briefest examination of the facts of the Angola situation expose the lie in Brezhnev's remark.

Out of a population of six million in Angola, 150,000 have been killed by the troops sent to fight in Angola at Soviet instigation. Another million Angolans have become refugees because their homes and cities were burned and looted by Soviet-supplied and Soviet-advised troops. These statistics have been confirmed by both Reuters and Agence France news agencies.

Under the direct command of Soviet military personnel, Cuban troops have committed a series of attacks and massacres of the civilian population. At Ampriz on December 6, the whole city was bombed and shelled to ruin, killing large numbers of civilians. On January 5, Soviet planes bombed

SOVIET GUNS KILL 150,000 ANGOLANS

Negage and other surrounding areas, killing several thousand Angolans.

In an especially brutal attack, Soviet and Cuban forces massacred 250 unarmed villagers including women and children at Busako on January 27. Soviet warships repeatedly shelled Angolan coastal cities in January.

In the early part of this year, Soviet advisers orchestrated the attacks on Huambo, the capital city of the Angolan liberation organizations which the social-imperialists had vowed to eradicate. Some 6,000 troops, 20 armed helicopters, 70 armored vehicles and tanks, two MIG-21 fighters, and numerous ground-to-ground missiles were used against the people of Huambo in order to capture that city.

This massive aggression has not been

confined to Angola. Soviet advisers and their mercenary troops crossed into Zaire in mid-January, launching a bombardment which destroyed the town of Dilolo.

After investigating the situation in Dilolo, a correspondent for the New China News Agency reported:

"Before wanton Soviet bombardment, Dilolo was a thriving city peacefully carrying out transit and border trade. It is now almost deserted. All its shops are shut and most of its residents have fled to the countryside."

After the initial bombings of Dilolo and other border cities, the Soviet Union ceased direct attacks against Zaire. But the social-imperialists continued to pressure Zaire by maintaining huge fortified stations along the Zaire border manned by Soviet-armed Cubans. This pressure has been put on Zaire because it is one of the African countries which consistently supported the policy of national unity in Angola and opposition to big power interference on the continent, specifically condemning the Soviet Union for its role.

Showing themselves as heirs to the old colonialists of Africa, the Soviet social-imperialists made use of some 6,000 troops of Tshombe's old army. Tshombe was a political figure in the Congo (now Zaire) who tried to split up the country and aid the U.S., Portugal and the white supremacist regime in southern Africa. When he was defeated, his troops fled into Angola where they became mercenaries for the Portuguese against all three Angolan liberation forces. Now the social-imperialists have pressed these 6,000 troops into service in the attack on Zaire. They were in the front lines of the raids on Dilolo.

Brezhnev's lie that the Soviet Union does

not interfere in the internal affairs of foreign countries is overwhelmingly exposed by the facts of the situation in Angola, Zaire, and other countries on every continent. The claims of social-imperialism that it has been "aiding the Angolan liberation struggle" and "practicing proletarian internationalism," are also nothing but hypocritical statements designed to cover-up the truth. What kind of "aid to a liberation struggle" is responsible for the death of 150,000 liberation fighters? What kind of "proletarian internationalism" turns one-sixth of a country's population into refugees, bombards a peaceful, non-aligned country, and gangs up with the likes of the Tshombe reactionaries?

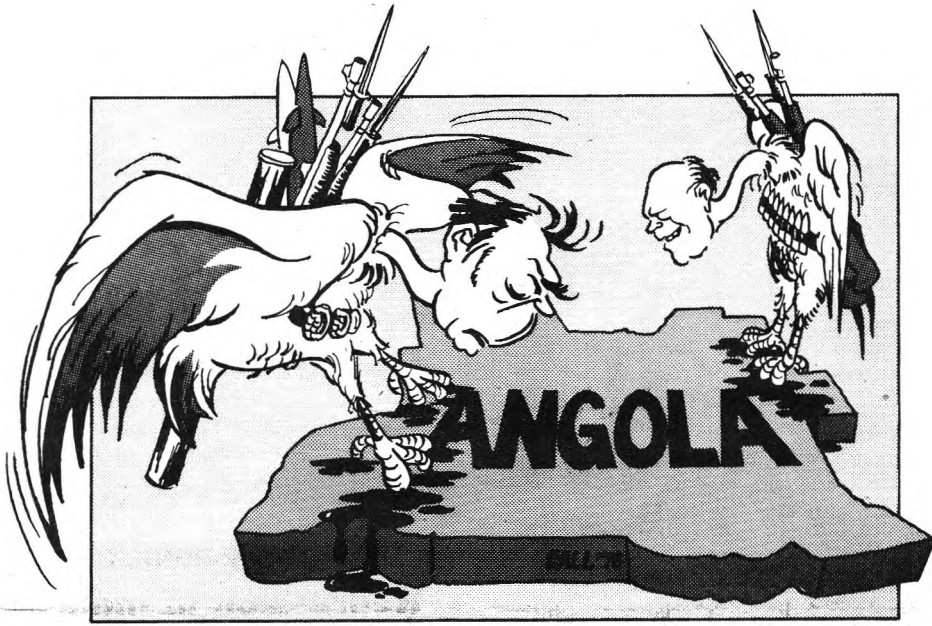
For whatever Marxist phrases Brezhnev and company may borrow, the essence of their actions is imperialist aggression.

The situation in Angola remains a complex one. Both the United States and the Soviet Union have intervened and attempted to use the liberation movements for their own ends. They have turned Angolans against Angolans, and fueled the civil war with weapons of death and destruction.

But amid all the complexities of this superpower rivalry, one fact stands out simply and clearly. Neither superpower is "aiding" the Angolan people and both are concerned only with strengthening their position in relation to the other. Soviet social-imperialism, despite its claims, is not out to "liberate" the Angolan people. It is out to dominate and subjugate them, just as the Portuguese and U.S. imperialists did before them.

Like all imperialists, the Soviet leaders care little about the loss of human lives or the scorched earth left behind. They drive ever-forward, dreaming of dominating Angola, Africa, and the rest of the world.

But they will never attain their dream. Even today in Angola, guerrilla fighters are dedicating themselves to continuing the struggle against these neo-colonialists. The murderous deeds of both superpowers in Angola have provided the basis for the Angolan people to unite once again in common struggle to determine their own destiny free from foreign control.



"The struggle of the Zimbabwean people is our own!"

This chant rose up from a militant crowd of 100,000 people in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, as they demonstrated their solidarity with the struggle against the fascist Smith regime in Rhodesia—known by its African name, Zimbabwe.

"Freedom in Zimbabwe must now be achieved through force of arms," said Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda in an address to the people of that country. "We are fully prepared to make our rightful contribution to the freedom of Zimbabwe."

These statements of support reflect the growing tide of resistance to white supremacist rule in southern Africa. Today, the Vorster regime in South Africa and the Smith regime in Rhodesia continue to impose terrorist, fascist dictatorships over the huge Black majorities in those countries. But the liberation forces are advancing, and the already-independent countries have pledged themselves to renewed and intensified aid.

On March 3, Mozambique closed its borders with Rhodesia, nationalized Rhodesian property, and mobilized the whole country in national defense. This action followed attacks by Smith's army on villages inside Mozambique, allegedly in "hot pursuit" of Zimbabwe liberation forces. Meanwhile, guerrilla fighters have opened new fronts of the armed struggle along the entire length of the Mozambique-Rhodesia border.

"To support the struggle of the Zimbabwean people," declared Mozambique's President Samora Machel, "is to strengthen our independence and consolidate our revolution."

The Smith regime has never been more isolated. Even its western friends have refused to come to its aid. Britain, for example, is supporting a compromise settlement on Black majority rule. But Smith remains a die-hard, vowing that "there will be no majority rule for at least 20 years" and dedicating himself to "wiping out every last guerrilla." On March 19, Smith broke off

Zimbabwe Fights for Liberation

talks with the representatives of the African National Council (ANC), the only organization supporting majority rule given "legal" status by the racist regime.

The failure of these negotiations showed more clearly than ever that armed struggle is the only way to defeat the Rhodesian fascists. There were reports in late March that Black African leaders were meeting with representatives of the different liberation forces inside Zimbabwe to bring about greater unity in the armed struggle.

The liberation of the entire continent including Zimbabwe, Azania (South Africa) and Namibia (Southwest Africa), is the long-cherished goal of all African people. This is why the people of Mozambique, Zambia, Tanzania and other countries have spared no sacrifice to defeat the enslavement of white supremacy.

But the African struggle has other enemies besides the Smith and Vorster cliques. Angola, which is also in the southern tip of Africa, has shown that even after defeating the Portuguese, newly-won liberation could be sabotaged by the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and the USSR.

The Soviet Union, fresh from winning a foothold in Angola away from the U.S., is hungrily eyeing the rest of southern Africa. In the past, it has interfered in the internal affairs of the Zimbabwe liberation movement, trying to influence it in a direction favorable to social-imperialism. Today, it is keeping huge stockpiles of weapons along with the Cuban troops under its command in Angola prepared for aggression elsewhere.

Meanwhile, the U.S. is also getting ready for possible action in southern Africa. Unable to stop the Soviet aggression in Angola, there is considerable pressure on the Ford administration to "stand up" to the Soviet

Union in Zimbabwe. Ford has stated that the U.S. will respond with "contingency plans" in the event of "international adventurism" by the Soviet Union or Cuba in southern Africa.

The experience of Angola has shown that wherever the two superpowers are contending, the people must unite against them in order to keep from being drawn into their neocolonialist web.

The just struggle of the people in Zimbabwe, Azania, and Namibia is advancing at an unprecedented speed. The reactionaries who now control these nations can't last long. Their economies are faltering, their allies are deserting them and the

whole world condemns their fascist terror. Everywhere they turn, the masses are rebelling and taking up arms against them.

The superpowers may dream of reconquering the people of Zimbabwe as the Smith regime collapses. But the Zimbabweans have survived the murderous political police of the Smith regime. They have survived the inhumanity of the chrome mines. They have endured forced relocation, massacre and genocide. They have grown strong through these hardships and if the superpowers should try to pick up where Smith left off, they will certainly suffer the same kind of defeat in the long run.

WOMEN OF ANGOLA

by Ellen Bravo

Women of Angola
Proud warriors against the Portuguese
Battlers for the independence of
your nation
your people
yourselves
Dedicated soldiers in the struggle
for self-determination.
Blood shed for the people dyes bolder
The Red Flag of Liberation.

Women of Angola
Betrayed now by the Soviet Union
To war against each other.
(You who would call them friends, remember:
It was their machine guns first drowned out
The call for African unity.
Soviet missiles blasted the door for
The U.S. and South Africa.

Soviet missiles aimed at Angolans.
Against the Portuguese they sent darts.)
Death to the imperialists of all nations!
Battlers for the domination of
your rich resources
your seaports
yourselves.
Blood shed for imperialist profit
Stains the people's flag.

Women of Angola
On March 8, we your sisters around the world
Renew our vows:
Together with our brother-comrades
We will help you destroy the killer beast
be it clothed as tiger
wolf
or detente-covered dove
Above its bloated corpse
We will fly the Red Flag victorious.

Palestinian Uprising Sweeps West Bank



PALESTINIANS REBEL against Zionist occupation of West Bank.

The West Bank of the Jordan River has erupted in the widest outburst of mass struggle since the Israeli armies occupied the area in the 1967 war.

Beginning in February, Palestinians began staging protests against the Zionist plans to open new military settlements on the West Bank as well as new legal decisions limiting the religious rights of Moslems. Initially the demonstrations were student-led, but they soon spread to people of all walks of life.

According to the Palestinian news agency Wafa, protests were met with open terror of Israeli army and police. On March 12, Israeli patrols opened fire on Palestinian protestors in Nablus, killing five.

In the town of Ramallah as well as in a number of refugee camps, Israeli authorities imposed a near-total curfew, allowing Palestinians out of their homes for only a few minutes a day.

But the repression unleashed by the Israelis was met with greater Palestinian resistance. In Abu

Dis, not far from Jerusalem, the whole town turned out to protest the death of a young Palestinian boy, shot by Zionist police. The demonstration took place even after Israeli authorities had warned the family not to allow more than 50 people in the funeral procession. Police were unsuccessful in an effort to close off the village and prevent the news from spreading. Simultaneous protests of the boy's death took place in Hebron, East Jerusalem and Nablus.

Throughout the month of March, Palestinian workers engaged in a number of strikes to protest the continued occupation of the West Bank. Nazareth and Jericho were the scenes of general strikes by the whole working population, while the women of Jericho organized sit-ins at several key points in the city.

In addition to the mass demonstrations, Palestinian commandos have continued their attacks inside the Zionist state. As the armed struggle has been stepped up, the Palestine Liberation Organiza-

tion has renewed its efforts to bring about unity with some of the forces which have left the umbrella organization. Al Thawra, the official PLO weekly pointed out the need for a new program of struggle to be adopted by the PLO—a program which could unite the ranks of the whole Palestinian movement.

The upsurge on the West Bank has dramatized the fact that the Palestinian people will never give up the struggle until their homeland is liberated. The schemes of the two superpowers—such as Kissinger's "step-by-step" disengagement or Gromyko's "Comprehensive Solution"—can never bring "peace" to the Mideast. Both these plans sidestep the national rights of the Palestinians and serve only to strengthen the hand of one or the other superpower.

The chants of "Revolution until Victory" which rose up from the demonstrations on the West Bank indicate the course the Palestinian people have chosen.

EGYPT STANDS UP TO NEW RUSSIAN TSARS

The breaking of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Treaty March 15 by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat marks an important turning point in world events.

Sadat's speech to the Egyptian people indicated that the country which has experienced the most Soviet "aid" and "friendship" has seen clearly through these disguises for imperialist exploitation.

"They wanted to exert pressure to bring me to my knees," Sadat told the Egyptian People's Assembly in reference to the Soviet leaders. He went on to cite examples of the USSR's refusal to provide parts for military equipment and Moscow's insistence on repayment of debt at a time when Egypt's economy was experiencing difficulties. He further detailed some 30 messages to the Soviet side requesting them to deal with violations of the Friendship Treaty. Brezhnev arrogantly refused to discuss these issues.

The main violation of the Friendship Treaty concerned Article 8 under which the Soviet Union promised to supply Egypt with arms to fight Israeli Zionism. Egyptian political leaders pointed out that since the 1971 agreement was signed, the USSR provided "just enough arms to keep us dependent" but not enough to match the U.S. arming of Israel.

When Egypt wished to go on the offensive in 1971, the Soviet Union vetoed the use of its arms. In the middle of the October, 1973 war, the Soviet Union cut off the arms flow and refused to supply spare parts at just the moment when Egypt needed them most. Most recently, the Soviet Union not only stopped providing Egypt with MIG-fighter parts, but also ordered India to turn down Egyptian purchase offers.

The refusal to provide Egypt with arms was a setback to the struggle of all the Arab countries as well as the Palestinian revolution. It only served to weaken Arab preparedness against U.S.-Zionist aggression.

NO WAR, NO PEACE

All this is in line with the Soviet policy of maintaining a situation of "no war, no peace," in the Mideast—a situation they can best exploit in their rivalry with U.S. imperialism. The logic of the social-imperialists is that by keeping the Arab peoples dependent on the arms flow, they can dictate the course of their struggles. For this reason, the social-imperialists have no interest in bringing about a genuine peace in the Mideast, since that would limit their role as arms merchant and power broker.

But the Egyptian people have stood up to Soviet intimidation. An editorial in the Egyptian weekly, Akhbar El-Yom stated, "Egypt has never been a Soviet colony, nor will it become an American one."

This spirit of independence characterizes Egypt today. On learning the news of the abrogation of the Friendship Treaty, the people of Cairo celebrated in the streets. One news account quoted a student as saying, "Now the shackles are off our legs. Now we can go forward."

LAST INTIMIDATION

As recently as February 26 at the Soviet Congress, Brezhnev asserted that the Friendship Treaty provided "a long term basis for relations conforming with the interests not only of our two countries, but also the entire Arab world." This was one last attempt to intimidate Egypt from taking a stand against Soviet violations of the treaty.

When Egypt took its stand three weeks later, the Soviet response was frantic. The social-imperialists didn't dare respond to any of the specific charges which Sadat made, but merely began shrieking hysterically through Tass and Pravda that everything was "Egypt's fault" and that "Egypt would have to face the consequences of its actions."

This new round of intimidation can hardly be any more successful than all the intimidations of the last five years. The Egyptian people have charted an independent course, and in daring to stand up to the Soviet Union, they have strengthened their fighting spirit.

The history of the last five years of Soviet-Egyptian "friendship" provides a graphic demonstration that behind the sweet word of "friendship" lies the same oppression and exploitation that the people of the third world have known for centuries at the hands of other imperialist powers.

LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ADVANCE AGAINST IMPERIALISM

The Latin American countries and peoples are sharpening their struggle against hegemonism in the face of the international capitalist economic crisis.

The reasons for this increased struggle are clear. "Statistics compiled by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America," reported the March 19 Peking Review, "reveal that trade deficits of the 19 Latin American countries which do not export petroleum totalled 10.3 billion U.S. dollars last year as against one billion in 1973."

"U.S. private investments in Latin America," it continued, "increased by 2.5 billion dollars in 1974 over the previous year's figure to reach a total of 21 billion. Washington thus grabbed 3.2 billion dollars in profit from Latin America."

The Latin American countries are resisting this plunder with economic organizations, especially those designed to protect their natural resources. Among the most significant is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), made up of Venezuela, Ecuador and other countries in the Middle East to protect oil markets and supplies.

The Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) is another, formed mainly of Central American and Caribbean countries. Others include the Central American Common Market and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), whose aim is to strengthen trade among the Latin American countries and to form a united front in stabilizing the export prices of raw materials and basic

products.

Mexico, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil have also strongly protested the presence of the fishing fleets of the two superpowers within the 200-mile limits of their territorial waters.

The militancy of the Latin American people is likewise evident in the wave of strikes and demonstrations sweeping the continent and in the rapid growth of Marxist-Leninist organizations opposing the sell-out revisionist "Communist" parties. Following are just a few examples:

-Bolivia: In February, some 32,000 miners went out on a 24-hour wildcat strike in solidarity with students from the University of San Andres. The Bolivian miners have shown great determination in the popular struggle against the Banzer dictatorship's repression.

-Colombia: Workers from the tobacco, auto, textile and many other industries have struck in the last six months against speedup, layoffs and firings. In a Renault auto plant, bosses called in the army to break the workers' strike and force them back to work. Even when the police were assigned to each work area, the workers resisted heroically.

-Panama: Several thousand people demonstrated in January to commemorate the 1964 massacre of students by imperialist troops which left 22 students dead and nearly 500 wounded. The people are affirming their decision to take back the Panama Canal and expel U.S. military bases from Panamanian territory. One of their slogans says: "Fight

for the unity of the anti-imperialist forces; Panama and Latin America against the colonial enclave!"

U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger also faced mass demonstrations last month in Colombia, Venezuela and Peru during his trip through Latin America. Kissinger had proposed a meeting at the end of his trip in Costa Rica, to be made up of the heads of state of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Instead only the foreign ministers of each country attended. This was a departure from practices common only a few years ago and shows the declining influence of the U.S.

Soviet social-imperialism, on the other hand, is beginning to bare its claws in Latin America.

One tool the Soviets used to advance their infiltration into the Latin American peoples' struggle was the June 1975 conference in Havana of the 21 revisionist parties in the region. Called together by the Cubans, the meeting rallied behind the USSR's "detente" war schemes and attacked the stand of China and other third world countries against the two superpowers.

The USSR is also trying to establish and develop alliances with reactionary sectors of the ruling class as in these countries, while showing disdain for the masses as the main revolutionary forces. For example, they have set up the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CAME) in order to use neocolonialist "loans" and "technical aid" to make the recipient countries dependent on the USSR rather than the U.S.

In Brazil, for instance, the So-

viet government some \$500 million in loan credits in a typically imperialist fashion: the money can only be used to buy machinery and goods produced in the USSR. Like the U.S., it has also used the armed forces in some Latin American countries as a dumping ground for outdated weapons it no longer has use for itself.

The Latin American people are becoming more aware of these attempts at penetration in the region and elsewhere in the world. Forces of public opinion in many Latin American countries, for instance, have firmly denounced the Soviet aggression in Angola and insisted that the Angolan people themselves must decide their own future.

Angola "is suffering from the open intervention of powers like the U.S. and the USSR, as well as other countries like South Africa and Cuba," said the Venezuelan weekly Bohemia, because they are "attracted by its rich natural resources."

The USSR has clearly focused its expansionist hopes on Latin America. As Soviet social-imperialism sees U.S. imperialism being pushed back by the rising tide of the national liberation struggle, it hopes to make use of this as a favorable condition to push itself in and take over from the U.S.

The Latin American countries and peoples, however, have different plans. Although the road ahead will be full of twists and turns, the anti-hegemonist and anti-imperialist rising tide will certainly erect a brick wall against the ambitions of both superpowers.

U.S. Must Leave Taiwan, Normalize Relations with China

Former President Richard Nixon's recent trip to the People's Republic of China has stirred up a tempest in the U.S. ruling class over the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Nixon's trip followed President Ford's visit there a few months ago and took place on the fourth anniversary of the signing of the Shanghai Communique.

Through these visits China has underscored the importance of the document, in which the U.S. government agreed "that there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China." The U.S. also supported a "peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves" and pledged ultimately to withdraw "all U.S. forces and military installations from Taiwan."

The problem, of course, is that the U.S. has been dragging its heels on this crucial issue. While liaison offices have been opened in Washington and Peking, combined with exchange visits and an increase in trade, the U.S. has refused to take a number of the most important steps necessary for normalization.

In fact the U.S. relations with Taiwan shows that the ruling class has little respect for China's territorial integrity or for the principle of non-interference in China's internal affairs. Since 1972, the U.S. has maintained its diplomatic relations with the reactionary Kuomintang regime on Taiwan and has even permitted it to open up five new consulates in the U.S. More than 2000 U.S. military "advisors" remain on the island and U.S. credits for arms sales doubled last year to the amount of \$80 million.

Overall U.S. investments there increased to \$500 million, trade now totals \$3.7 bil-

lion and new resources are being plundered. Taiwan is a rich source of oil, natural gas, gold, sulphur, coal, rice and sugar.

In addition, Kuomintang rule has made the province a source of cheap labor. Martial law, a ban on strikes, controlled labor unions, tax advantages and an average monthly wage of \$25—all these have made Taiwan a harbor for runaway shops, especially in electronics and textiles.

The Chinese people in Taiwan have op-

posed these conditions in many ways. On Dec. 25, 1975, for instance, mass demonstrations took place in Taipei and other cities to protest the blatant rigging of elections. In Yeelan, one army division was sent to smash a protest of some 20,000. About 250 people were arrested and taken as political prisoners.

Taiwan also constitutes a base for U.S. forces contending with those of the Soviet social-imperialists deployed along China's

northern border. As the two superpowers step up their war preparations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and elsewhere in the world, they are likewise competing for hegemony in Asia too.

The Shanghai Communique opposes these maneuvers. "The normalization of relations between the two countries," it says, "is not only in the interest of the Chinese and American peoples but also contributes to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the world."

But Ford and Kissinger are not acting in accordance with the interests of the American people. Instead the interests of superpower contention and collusion, of the Chiang Kai-shek clique, and of its "China Lobby" backers here are being upheld, a practice which has warmed the hearts of the Soviet social-imperialists.

This bankrupt policy has no future. The Chinese people have long expressed friendship for the American people. The two are not enemies. The American people have no interest in defending the big financiers, corporations and their government, which has worked both to divide and plunder China while increasing misery and exploitation here at home.

The growing danger of war between the superpowers, which the "detente" smoke-screen is incapable of concealing, makes the struggle to implement the Shanghai communique all the more urgent. This is being taken up in the mass campaigns of the U.S.-China Friendship Association. Its demands call for the U.S. to get out of Taiwan, abrogation of the Mutual Defense Treaty with Taiwan and the establishment of full and normal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China.

Nixon's trip served to blow the cover of those who would have the American people "forget" about these aims. Just after his return, for instance, the Ford administration announced plans to cut U.S. military forces on Taiwan by one-half over the next year. The Taiwan regime, according to the March 12 New York Times, claimed to be surprised and "not aware of any plan." Ford nonetheless said it would be carried out "consistent with the principles established in the Shanghai Communique."

Still the U.S. has no right to interfere in Taiwan in any way at all, and the American working people will certainly see that this struggle is carried through. We, too, are determined to see the Chinese people liberate Taiwan!



CHINESE AND AMERICAN athletes build people-to-people friendship. (Hsinhua photo)

FOR DENOUNCING SOVIET DANGER

ANTI-IMPERIALISTS EXPELLED FROM PRSC

On January 17 the National Board of the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee (PRSC), voted to uphold the expulsion of four members of the Boston chapter, including members of the October League. These four had been fighting to carry out the main founding principles of the PRSC—to build a strong anti-imperialist organization in support of Puerto Rican independence, based among the broad masses of the American people.

The Boston activists were expelled because they firmly opposed the growing influence of revisionism and the Communist Party (CPUSA) inside the PRSC, and its attempts to turn the PRSC into an apologist for the aggressive policies of the Soviet Union. Towards this end, the revisionists had lobbied for support of the USSR's sham "detente," and tried to cover over the increasing danger of superpower war.

The expulsion maneuver was initiated by the CPUSA and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) who have been anxious to purge the Marxist-Leninists from the PRSC. Both the CPUSA and the PSP fear the influence of genuine anti-imperialists among the rank and file of the PRSC and among the masses. Phoney anti-revisionists and centrists like Irwin Silber of the Guardian lined up with the CPUSA and backed the expulsions.

In past months the PRSC leadership has attempted to discredit the Marxist-Leninists, distorting their views and blocking their democratic participation in the organization. Meetings have been called without notifying members, and binding decisions taken without consulting the rank and file in the PRSC.

Following the January 17 expulsion vote, the National Board moved to stifle political discussion of the issues surrounding the expulsions, but protests broke out in a number of PRSC chapters, including New York and New Jersey. The October League, active within the PRSC since its founding, denounced the expulsion and the attacks against Marxist-Leninists. As a result of these conditions, a number of other members of the PRSC has also withdrawn protesting the lack of internal democracy and the PRSC's support for Soviet social-imperialism.

The struggle within the PRSC reflects the sharp two-line struggle worldwide between the genuine and sham anti-imperialist forces. It is a struggle between those who oppose both imperialist superpowers—the U.S. and the USSR—and those who would cover for and openly support the Soviet Union's moves towards world war and world domination.

Political struggle grew especially sharp around the Soviet-backed Havana Conference of September 1975, which was supposedly called in solidarity with the Puerto Rican independence movement. The four recently expelled members of PRSC were all active in pointing out that genuine solidarity with the Puerto Rican people means opposition to both the U.S., which presently dominates Puerto Rico, and the USSR which hopes to gain dominance there and elsewhere in Latin America.

The revisionists and the centrists not only drove the genuine anti-imperialists out of the PRSC but were also guilty of allowing the whole organization to degenerate. On October 27, 1974, 20,000 people rallied in support of Puerto Rican independence in Madison Square Garden, indicating the genuine interest and mass support for this struggle. Today, the PRSC is little more than a paper organization, isolated from the masses of working and oppressed people in the U.S. Instead of bringing the question of support for the Puerto Rican people's struggles before the U.S. workers and oppressed nationalities, the PRSC leadership has confined itself to appeals aimed mainly at the petty-bourgeois movement. Its newsletter, published sporadically, only comes out in English.

Over the past year, the PRSC has failed to take up the main campaigns adopted at its founding congress, such as mobilizing support for the workers' movement in Puerto Rico and the fight to end forced sterilization and police repression both on the island as well as in the United States. Through most of 1975, the PRSC focused all its activity around the Havana Conference.

The October League helped found and build the PRSC, recognizing the urgent task of educating the American people about U.S. colonialism in Puerto Rico and winning

them to fight for Puerto Rican independence and for democratic rights in the U.S. In our own struggle to defeat the U.S. ruling class and overthrow the imperialist system headed up by both superpowers, the Puerto Rican people's struggle is a powerful ally.

The degeneration of the PRSC makes it all the more clear that we need to build a genuinely anti-imperialist movement in solidarity with Puerto Rico, rooted among the working people in this country. Based on the realities of the world situation, the growing war danger and superpower rivalry, the political stand of this movement must not only be opposed to U.S. imperialism in Puerto Rico but also opposed to all attempts by the Soviet Union to turn the independence movement into a prop for its own aggressive plans for world domination.

U.S. Annexes Marianas

For the first time in fifty years, the bloody hand of U.S. imperialism has reached over to a distant land and directly annexed it to the United States.

As a result, the Mariana Islands, located in the eastern Pacific, will have "commonwealth" status inside the United States. As the example of the Puerto Rican "commonwealth" has shown, however, such status is nothing more than a code word for colony.

Some 15,000 people live in the Marianas, an island chain which at its closest point is over 3,000 miles from the United States. Germany controlled the islands before World War I; Japan controlled them until the end of World War II, and the U.S. has dominated them since 1947 under authority from the UN. In fact, whatever imperialist power has sought to control the Pacific has also found it necessary to control the Marianas and neighboring island chains.

In February, the U.S. Congress rushed through a bill approving the annexation, although it will still have to be put to a UN Security Council vote before it is finalized.

Supporters of the bill justified the annexation on the grounds that the U.S. must tighten its Pacific military network. They stated that the Marianas are especially important now that Indochina has been lost as a base area, Okinawa has been returned to Japan, and the Soviet Union is stepping up its penetration of Asia and the Pacific. They termed the Marianas as a "fallback base" close to the "Asian perimeter."

It is not clear how soon the U.S. government plans to develop the Marianas as a military base. But the hurry to annex it stemmed from the fact that the Micronesian Congress and a number of political leaders in Micronesian islands have begun to step up demands for total independence from U.S. control.

There was some minimal opposition to the annexation bill in the Senate. The liberals voiced fear that annexation of the Marianas would "make the U.S. look like an expansionist power."

Much as the liberals try to cover up the expansionist character of the imperialist system, there is no denying that islands all over the Pacific are colonized outposts of U.S. military interests. Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, the Marshalls, the Carolines, Wake Island, Midway, the Phoenix Islands—all of these areas have been the scenes of imperialist expansion and occupation.

SCOTIA MINE DISASTER...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

"T" shirts.

Ventilation devices which control air flow had been relocated March 8 in order to force air into one section of the mine where Mine Enforcement and Safety Agency (MESA) officials were scheduled to do an inspection. According to miners, coal companies make a regular practice of cleaning up small sections of the mines for government inspectors.

But changes in the pattern of ventilation in the mine can create explosive gas build-ups like the one that turned Black Mountain mine into a murky, gaseous grave.

Every year the number of dead miners in the United States goes up. Last year 20% more miners died than the year before. Kentucky mines had the highest fatal rate.

Every time there's a major mine disaster, people are stunned by the oppressiveness and the dangers of mine work. The news media is always quick to denounce the conditions in the nation's mines and call for investigations. For a brief period cries for reforms echo throughout government. Special commissions, investigation teams and congressional committees are delegated with the responsibility to find a scapegoat. But these exposure and denunciation rites are usually over before mining families have even finished burying their dead.

Who, then, is to blame for the deaths—not just the deaths of the 26 in Scotia Company No. 1 Mine, but the tens of thousands of working people who die every year due to industrial accidents, toxic poisons, black lung, brown lung and hunger?

According to government officials charged with investigating these deaths, the fault lies in most cases with the workers themselves: carelessness, cutting corners, rushing through a job, as if constant speed-up on the job were self-imposed. When MESA officials were



DEATHS IN THE MINES continue despite regulations.

asked to explain the sudden upturn in deaths and injuries in Kentucky mines, they attributed them to "human error," claiming the men were not "aware that these things can happen."

MESA was set up five years ago to enforce the 1969 Mine Safety Act, but since that time it has not won a single criminal conviction against a coal company for violations. Yet no one denies day-in day-out violation of the law.

Under MESA's supervision, the number of deaths in the mines has risen. Even government figures estimate that over 60% of all mine accidents are never reported. When MESA does investigate a mine, the coal monopolies prepare a "clean" section, as they did in the Scotia mine the day before the explosion. The coal monopolies are charged with carrying out "self-regulation" by the government, and the government dutifully slaps the wrist of the monopolies for falsifying air samples, safety records and reports.

This state of affairs exists because the major coal and energy monopolies—as we saw during the so-called energy crisis—control the government along with the other big banks and monopolies. With their enormous wealth gained through ownership of mines, mills and banks, the large monopoly

capitalists of this country either sit directly on the governing boards or send their representatives into government on every level. Laws are made in accord with their interests and their profits. When under extreme pressure by the workers to institute reforms like the 1969 Mine Act, they will do so, but they will not enforce those laws.

While death and injury rates climbed over the past two years, the top ten coal monopolies in-

creased their profits. Consolidation Coal profits were up by 111%, Pittston Coal, up 168%.

Even the newspaper men of the ruling class papers who visited the Scotia mine blamed the companies for outright violation of the law and the government for inadequate enforcement. But to call for "less violation" and "more enforcement" as a solution is not sufficient.

In the November 16-30 United Mine Workers Journal, a 5-point program is delineated to deal with mine disasters, deaths and injuries, calling for "more union inspections, more training, stiffer penalties for violations, more government inspectors, tougher state laws." While this program sums up a number of the just demands of miners and would reduce the flagrant violations now committed, calls for "more" of what already exists won't solve the problem. We live under a system where coal monopolies decide what is safe based on profits and have the political power to violate laws, buy off investigators and disband investigations.

'76 ELECTIONS...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

considerably more substantial. As he barnstormed around the country, President Ford revealed a few of the items that all politicians try to dish out in the course of their campaigns:

"Shortly before the New Hampshire primary," reported the March 22 Time magazine, "Ford said that he intended to retain the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which the Defense Department had threatened to close...By funny happenstance, too, just before last week's election (in Florida), the Air Force awarded an Orlando company a \$33.6 million contract for missiles, and the Department of Transportation granted \$15 million to launch a rapid transit system for Dade County." The March 22 U.S. News and World Report added to the list: "During a campaign appearance before a farm audience in Illinois, the President announced his proposal to increase the estate tax exemption from \$60,000 to \$150,000—a powerful issue with farm families.

Disputes over policy are also common among the capitalist politicians. This is most obvious this year in the debates over how best to collude and contend with the

other imperialist superpower, the Soviet Union, in the struggle for world domination. While all the candidates are supporting in various ways the preparations for a new world war, Jackson and Reagan are insisting that these "defense" outlays are not proceeding fast enough to match the efforts of the social-imperialists.

As for the "solutions" being offered for the economic crisis, the candidates usually fall into two camps. On one hand, the liberals want to increase spending for social services, a practice which expands the federal deficit, increases inflation and thus drives down the living standards of the masses. On the other hand, the conservatives want to cutback on social spending, a practice which curbs consumer demand, increases unemployment and thus likewise assaults living standards.

All the candidates actually advocate a hodgepodge of both policies, as the laws of monopoly capital compel them to do. Even hard-nosed conservatives, for instance won't oppose "liberal" deficit spending when it goes for the war machine. Thus the prospect for the people continues to be one of austerity, massive unemployment and continuing inflation, regardless of which party runs the White House.

The final irony in the election charade this year is that the rich will finance the spectacle with the tax dollars of the working people.

Not only will the working class and the oppressed nationalities have to put up with the fact that they only have capitalist exploiters to vote for, but now they end up paying for the hoopla that got them on the ballot in the first

The revisionist "Communist" Party proposes to solve the problem, however, with such narrow, reformist measures, attributing the blame for the Scotia disaster to a lack of congressional legislation. In the March 12 Daily World editorial on the mine explosion, the CP bemoans the fact that the Ford administration "has postponed debate and action on vital reforms until after elections..." Yet there are more laws on the books governing mining than any other branch of industry—and still the deaths go on.

No kind of reform under the present system will make the mines a safe place to work. Only in a society where the miners themselves are fully responsible for safety, where they oversee production and carry it out, will these crimes cease. In socialist China, the mines and mills are run by the workers themselves, who are the masters of the whole society. It is the miners who design and check ventilation systems, measure and control coal dust pollution and assure the safest conditions and production standards.

The final answer to atrocities like the Scotia Black Mountain explosion only is to be found in a system where workers run the mines and the government, make the laws and enforce them.

place. As the March 1 U.S. News and World Report points out:

"Besides the matching funds for pre-convention activities, the U.S. Treasury—that is, you the taxpayer—will pay a full \$2 million to finance each major party's convention and will finance all of the general election campaign up to the limit of just under \$22 million per candidate."

Despite all these features of the presidential campaign, at least one "third party," the revisionist CPUSA, still maintains that the working class can get rid of capitalism through the electoral system. Gus Hall, the party's presidential candidate this year, is running what the party calls a "humane candidacy" aimed at "curbing" the monopolies and establishing "advanced democracy"—all within the limits of capitalist rule. At the same time, the party is leaving the door open to backing a liberal Democrat as election day draws near.

By way of contrast, nearly 100 years ago Frederick Engels, the revolutionary working-class leader, described the Democratic and Republican parties in the U.S. as the "two wings of a single capitalist bird of prey." The fact that nothing essential has changed since then underscores the truth that the working class and its allies will not win freedom through the ballot. Instead the very machinery that these sham elections are a part of, the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, will have to be smashed and replaced with the genuine democracy based on the armed power of the working class, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

GARY TYLER...

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"When I got to the court they gave me a paper and told me when I got on the stand to read it. You know, so I read it, and it wasn't the truth." In fact she was at the other end of the bus, too far away to see what had happened. She said she was threatened with being charged as an accessory to murder if she didn't testify.

When an appeal was made to the state supreme court for a new trial, the DA cleverly persuaded the court to refer the decision back to the racist judge who rendered the original conviction.

In response to this "Klan" justice many groups and organizations, both locally and nationally, have taken up the task of publicizing the case, circulating petitions demanding freedom and fund raising for legal defense. The Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF) has taken up the campaign throughout the South. In Boston the local Fight Back committee agreed to "take up the Gary Tyler case in our city, and link it to the fight against segregation."

The Gary Tyler case is part of the overall liberation struggle of the Afro-American people. Frame-up trials like his will persist until the Black masses, in alliance with the entire working class, win political power and the right to self-determination in the Black Belt.

Fearing the movement for political power, the ruling class constantly instigates violence against Black people and their allies. For example, Richard Dunn, a 19-year-old Black youth, was murdered in the early morning hours of March 28 as he stood outside a fundraising dance for Gary Tyler. Dunn was killed by shots fired from a passing car containing two white men, according to a companion who was also shot at. The next day Dunn's mother and sister appeared at a public rally in support of Gary Tyler. Although visibly shaken, they spoke of the connection between the two cases and called for an end to both "legal" and "illegal" repression of Black people.

Demonstrations will be held on April 21 at the Destrehan court house when the motion for a new trial will be heard. Demonstrations on the weekend of May 1 both in New Orleans as well as other cities will raise freedom for Gary Tyler along with other May Day demands.

Join the fight for Gary Tyler's freedom! Write: Committee to Free Gary Tyler, P.O. Box 15810, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70121.

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