

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Civil rights leaders say: 'No draft!'

Urge mass turnout for March 22 nat'l protest

By Osborne Hart
and August Nimtz

Black and student leaders are urging a gigantic turnout for the March 22 national demonstration against registration and the draft in Washington, D.C. Significant support has also come from unionists and from the antinuclear and women's rights movements.

Teach-ins and rallies to build support for the demonstration are going on throughout the country. In the past week, antidraft gatherings of 1,000 in New York, 800 in Washington, and 400 in Denver helped promote the national mobilization.

Bus ticket sales are moving into high gear. Tens of thousands of leaflets and posters are out.

On the West Coast, March 22 antidraft actions are set for Los

Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego.

Significantly, some of the strongest support for March 22 has been voiced by Black leaders.

U.S. Rep. Parren Mitchell from Baltimore recorded a message to be played on radio stations in the Washington-Baltimore area in the final days before March 22.

"My name is Parren Mitchell," the recording says, "and I would suggest to all Black Americans that we rally in Washington on March 22. You don't solve Black unemployment by drafting Black youngsters. You don't solve Black ills in economics by rattling sabers and by armaments.

"The only way we can stop the power of the military-industrial combine is to show our bodies.

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'All out March 22' say (clockwise from top left): Ben Chavis, Hilda Mason, Joseph Lowery, Frank Jackalone, Parren Mitchell, and Victor Gotbaum.

Women, the draft, & U.S. military

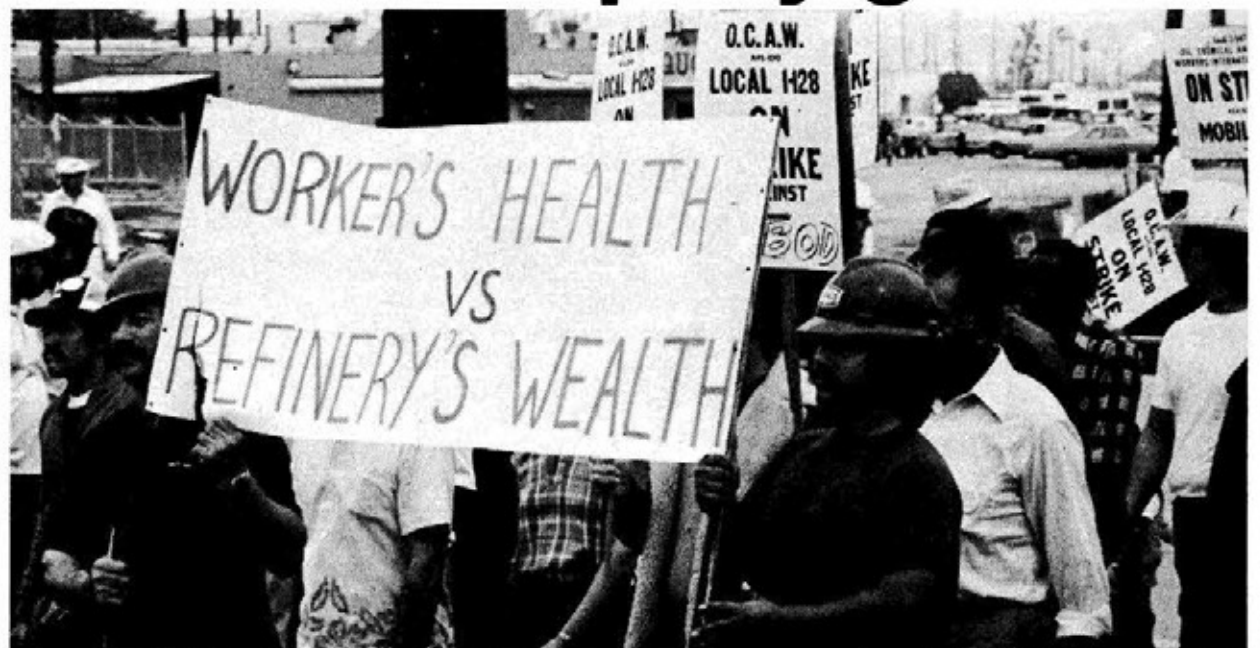
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IRAN

Auto workers leader speaks out

—PAGE 7

OCAW strikers stand up to oil company greed



Los Angeles solidarity march. Sentiment is growing for more such actions. See pages 3-4.

Militant/Walter Lippmann

To break Big Oil's stranglehold...

The American people face an inflation emergency, and energy is at the heart of it.

Energy prices rose a staggering 7.5 percent in February alone. That's an annual rate of 90 percent, without compounding.

Energy accounted for more than half the 1.5 percent increase in producer (wholesale) prices for February.

Carter and his advisers have been sending up trial balloons for a major policy statement promised soon on the inflation crisis. According to published reports, the centerpiece of Carter's plan is to balance the federal budget through . . . higher energy prices.

Specifically, the administration is said to be weighing a \$10 billion tax on oil imports. This would work out to at least another ten cents a gallon on gasoline.

The tax comes on top of Carter's earlier decontrol of domestic crude oil prices, which will cost consumers some \$1 trillion (yes, \$1 trillion) over the next decade.

The other part of Carter's "anti-inflation" plan is federal budget cutbacks. The *Wall Street Journal* reported the latest list: \$2.3 billion from jobs programs, \$2.2 billion from revenue-sharing, \$500 million from abandoning Saturday mail service, \$400 million from health care for impoverished children.

Carter declared March 7 that although his plan would be "very unsettling for some people," it's time for Americans to "bite the bullet."

And there will be plenty of bullets to gnaw on, if not much else. This year's increase in military spending is set at about \$20 billion. That's so the Pentagon will have plenty of muscle to defend Big Oil's interests around the world.

Everywhere we turn, working people are the victims of the energy monopoly's profit grab.

Fifty-five thousand refinery workers in the

Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union have been forced on strike for more than two months because these fabulously wealthy companies won't grant wage increases and health benefits to partially catch up with inflation.

Our health and safety are threatened by oil spills, pollution, and deadly nuclear plants. Now there's the added danger of scab-operated refineries blowing up.

To top it off, Carter wants to draft American youth to fight and die for "our" oil in the Middle East.

In the face of today's energy/inflation emergency, the interests of working people demand a different solution:

Nationalize the energy industry!

Take energy out of the hands of the profit-mad, destructive, and disorganizing rulers of private industry. Let production and distribution of these vital resources be democratically planned for society's needs.

Why are prices soaring when oil supplies are at an all-time high? What is the real cost of producing energy?

The only way to find out is to abolish the secrecy of the oil barons. Workers in the oil fields, refineries, coal mines, and power plants can play a crucial role in bringing out the truth. These workers should have the right to control conditions, hours, pace of work, and safety and health conditions.

Management of the nationalized energy industry should be put into the hands of an elected board. Books and records must be open, meetings public, everything out in the open.

The energy monopolists have the working people of this country—and the world—by the throat. A fight for nationalization is the way to break their grip.

Don't die for Big Oil—nationalize it!

Another Chrysler?

The Council on Wage and Price Stability announced March 7 that the Ford contract ratified by the United Auto Workers last October violates Carter's wage guidelines. Administration officials said they are determined to penalize the giant auto corporation unless it comes through with a lower pay agreement.

There's little danger that this charade threatens Ford with anything but bigger profits. Ford workers, however, should beware.

The real meaning of the Carter administration's proclamation on Ford was made clear by a council decision the same day okaying Chrysler's revised contract with the UAW. Under the guise of "bailing out" the ailing corporation, Chrysler workers have been saddled with an agreement that robs them of up to \$643 million in wages and benefits.

We warned when this scheme was first proposed that it wouldn't stop with Chrysler workers. If the employers could get away with it once, they would try it again and again.

Is Ford next? It too is pleading poverty and threatening to close plants.

It's time for labor to draw the line. No more Chryslers!

Help get out the truth

Carter and all the capitalist politicians competing for his job are covering up the real causes of unemployment, soaring prices, and cutbacks in social services.

And the big-business news media are trying to fill our eyes and ears with lies about Afghanistan, Iran, Vietnam, and Kampuchea (Cambodia).

When they're not lying, they build up a wall of silence like the one around the Nicaraguan revolution.

That's why the ten-week circulation campaign that supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance are beginning this week for the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* is so important.

Week after week, we tell the truth, providing information you will find nowhere else. We defend the interests of working people and all the oppressed—in this country and around the world.

The *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* are also campaign newspapers for the Socialist Workers Party presidential ticket of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann. Their campaign fights to build a working-class alternative to the reactionary policies and empty rhetoric of the Republican and Democratic contenders.

We urge all our readers to join this effort to get out the truth. Contact the SWP or YSA nearest you—a list is on page 23. Or write to the Militant Business Office, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

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Hands off Nicaragua!

Thousands of Nicaraguan workers and students demonstrated March 6 against U.S. government freeze of loan to their country. **Page 8.**

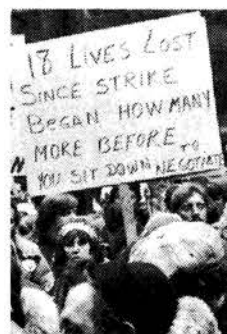
Fire fighters return victorious

Chicago fire fighters ended a twenty-three-day strike, dealing major setback to Mayor Byrne's union-busting drive. **Page 11.**



Auto jobs & imports

Auto workers speak out against attempts to blame imports for unemployment, pitting U.S. workers against their brothers and sisters in other lands and letting profit-hungry U.S. companies off the hook. **Pages 12-13.**



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Solidarity deepens for striking oil workers

By Walter Lippmann

LOS ANGELES—Following meetings between all the harbor-area unions here, it was announced that picketing by the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union would be substantially increased, and that the members of the Seafarers International Union would now honor the OCAW pickets.

OCAW has been on a nationwide strike since January 8, after the big oil companies refused the union's demands for wage increases and health benefits.

Under the harbor agreement here, workers on tugboats will refuse to guide the big tankers of the struck oil companies into the harbors. This is expected to greatly reduce the operations of the struck refineries that require transport in or out of the harbor.

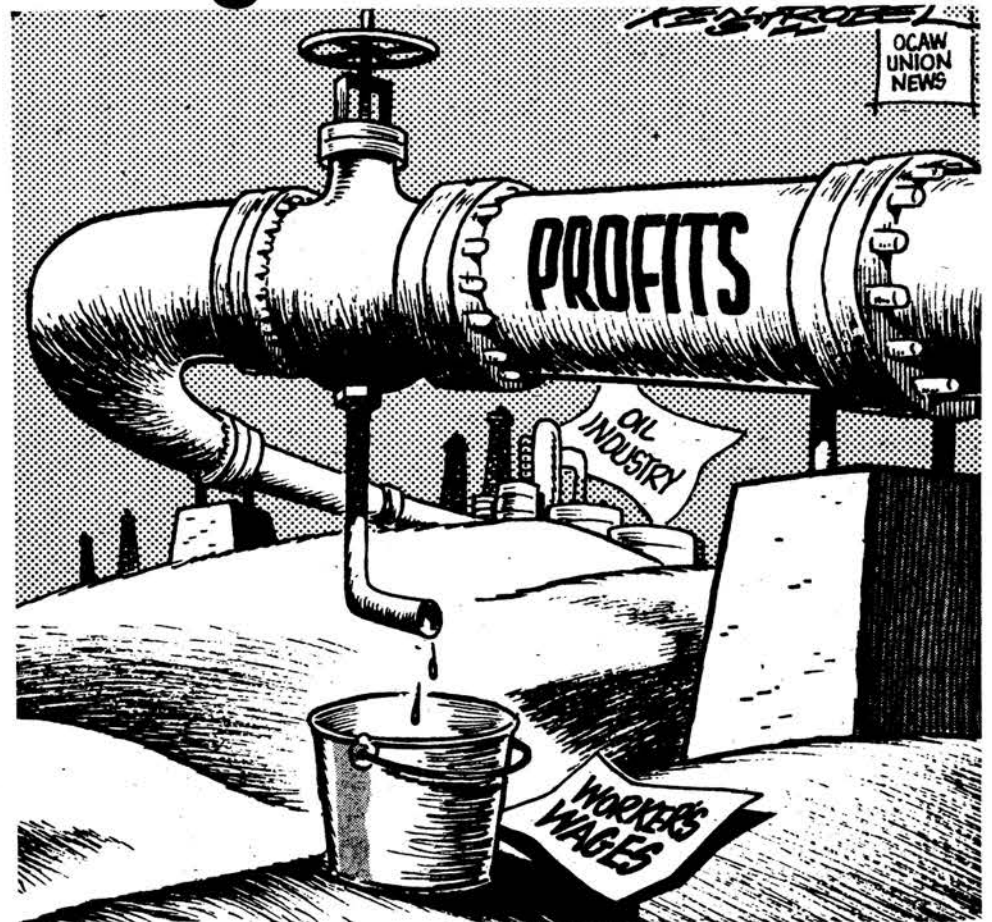
This advance in solidarity follows the March 1 harbor-area rally and work stoppage for the OCAW strike, in which 4,000 people took part. The longshore union, together with others in the Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor Area Coalition, brought the harbor to a virtual standstill that day.

By Jeff Mackler

OAKLAND—The OCAW Daily Strike Express is scheduled to roll out of Martinez, California, next week, filled with oil workers who will distribute leaflets at Bay Area plant gates, rail yards, docks, and campuses to seek support for their strike.

Jake Jacobs, secretary-treasurer of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in Martinez, announced the plan March 6 at a meeting of the Labor Community Support Coalition for the strike. The coalition has broad endorsement from the California labor movement, including the heads of the five major Bay Area Labor Councils and the secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation, John Henning.

The coalition is helping to organize a solidarity rally March 22, at which speakers will include Robert Goss, international president of OCAW, and James Herman, international president of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.



A DROP IN THE BUCKET

Dangers to health, safety posed by Big Oil scabs

By Jim Garrison

An oil refinery is always a hazardous place to work. Even with highly-skilled union workers on the job, the danger of injury and death from explosions and poisonous gases is a constant threat both to the workers and to those living near the refineries.

But today that danger is vastly increased by the oil companies' policy of using untrained non-union personnel as strikebreakers to maintain production during the current OCAW strike.

In a drive to maintain their huge profits, Big Oil is using supervisors, engineers, secretaries, and many others unfamiliar with the refinery and its hazards.

To date, this policy has claimed the lives of at least two strikebreakers—contract workers caught in an exploding waste oil recovery tank at the Amoco Refinery in Texas City, Texas, February 13. The tank ignited from the sparks of a welding torch the two were using nearby.

With the union out of the refinery, critical health and safety measures are ignored at will. In violation of union contract and federal law, Amoco has been blocking an investigation of the deaths by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration accompanied by the union-designated safety representative.

Just five days after the accident, the pro-company *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans published a story from this same Texas City refinery under the title "Refinery runs smoothly without striking workers."

"To be honest," a plant engineer was quoted as saying, "we have had fewer

maintenance problems since the strike than before. . . . The men who designed some of the equipment are taking care of it. It's a personal touch, a personal pride."

Local OCAW official Billy Jones told the *Times-Picayune*, "There's a lot of difference between designing and working [equipment] day after day, month after month. There just isn't the experience. And if a major breakdown happens, the knowledge to fix it won't be found in the refinery today."

A Shell maintenance supervisor in Norco, Louisiana, E. L. Spurlock, boasted, "Because the strike frees us from working under restrictions, we've been able to increase productivity."

These restrictions are the very measures fought for by OCAW to protect the health and safety of oil workers and surrounding communities.

Air pollutants from petrochemical plants have been linked to higher cancer rates in nearby communities. This link has been documented in studies by OCAW working with the National Cancer Institute.

Without union workers present to blow the whistle, emission of pollutants has increased. In Texas, the government environmental agency has turned its back on complaints, citing the strike as an excuse to suspend enforcement of pollution restrictions.

A tanker truck, improperly filled by scab labor, had to be escorted out of Port Naches, Texas, city limits to be hosed down by fire fighters to avoid a possible explosion.

On February 12, the community around a scab-operated chemical plant in Norco, which is located near a Shell refinery, was rocked by an explosion in a sulfane production unit. Because

Scabs live it up; strikers scrimp

The following are excerpts from an article by 'Los Angeles Times' reporter Harry Bernstein that appeared in the New Orleans *'Times-Picayune'* February 1.

Thousands of oil industry supervisors and technicians are earning up to \$1,000 a week more than they usually make these days, eating thick steaks for breakfast, lobsters for lunch and juicy roasts for dinner.

The catch is that to earn the extra money and the gourmet meals, they must live inside the refineries and work 12 hours a day, six days a week.

None of the major oil firms would allow reporters to see how the non-striking employees were living and working under emergency conditions.

A Shell Oil executive said that interviews at the refineries might be misconstrued as an "invasion of privacy" by those still working behind picket lines, while spokesmen for the other major firms said they feared a look at their operations might upset negotiations with the union.

But they made no secret of their

corporate satisfaction in keeping oil production high without adding any new workers.

"When you have real hardship conditions and the adrenalin is high, people can really work," one company officer said, adding that "in return we expect to pay them well and keep them as healthy as possible with the best meals we can find."

The companies have moved in sleeping bags, cots and folding beds so that no time is lost going home at night, but one company spokesman quickly added: "Of course, nobody is a prisoner and many do go home after work, but many do sleep in the plants too."

Supervisors who usually are paid a salary instead of an hourly wage have their income converted to an hourly rate and then get regular overtime for all hours worked over 40 a week.

This means they get 32 hours of overtime pay a week, which amounts to a substantial sum and a "real incentive to keep working," said one company executive.

The strikers are living on their savings, plus \$25 a week they get from the union in strike benefits.

there were not injuries, the danger was brushed off by a company spokesperson, who said "there was no effect on the community except that it scared a few people."

Anthony Mazzocchi, director of health and safety for OCAW, pointed out at a recent union-sponsored forum, "During this strike, the health risks—

cancer, birth defects, and we now believe, heart disease—are all appreciably increased."

The public, Mazzocchi explained, has "a desperate stake in the outcome of this strike." Should the union end this strike in a weakened position, Mazzocchi said, everyone but the oil industry will lose.

Special offer to new readers

The Militant—10 weeks/\$2.50

55,000 oil workers have been out on strike for more than two months, while the profit-glutted oil companies stonewall. The oil workers' fight for wage raises and health benefits to meet inflation is a fight for all of us. To get the strikers' side of the story, and to keep up with the solidarity movement, subscribe to the *Militant* now.



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Challenges Cranston, Gann

Socialist auto worker runs for Calif. Senator

By Arlene Rubinstein

SAN FRANCISCO—Socialist Workers Party presidential standard-bearer Andrew Pulley joined in launching the candidacy of George Johnson for U.S. Senator at a March 1 rally here.

During several days of campaigning in the Bay Area, Pulley and Johnson also spoke with workers at plant gates, at support meetings for striking oil workers, and at campus gatherings.

The March 1 rally was attended by 175 people. They heard Jake Jacobs, head of striking Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in Martinez, and Fernando Guerrero, a member of the negotiating committee of OCAW Local 1-1978. The oil strike leaders were greeted by the audience with chants of "On strike, shut it down!"

Among the unionists attending the rally were oil, auto, steel, and rail workers, members of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, and others. More than \$3,700 was raised in a spirited collection.

Johnson opened his speech by hailing the gains of the Nicaraguan revolution. He recently returned from a one-week fact-finding tour of Nicaragua. "From the Nicaraguan *compas* that I and other socialist candidates talked with two weeks ago, I bring you revolutionary greetings from Nicaragua Libre."

"As you might have guessed, *compa* means comrade, and you hear that word everywhere in Nicaragua. We're all *compas* in this room in support of the Nicaraguan revolution."

Johnson predicted big new advances in the revolution in the coming months as the masses of workers and peasants, led by the Sandinista government, mobilize against sabotage by Washington and the remaining Nicaraguan capitalists and landlords.

He urged the audience to redouble efforts to defend the revolution against attack and to demand the material aid that Nicaragua desperately needs.

Jobs crisis

"Here in California," Johnson continued, "there are not so many people who are calling themselves *compas*. But more and more will change as the employers try to resolve their crises by driving against our living standards, our democratic rights, and our ability to survive on this planet."

Johnson, a laid-off member of the United Auto Workers Local 1364 at the General Motors Fremont assembly plant, continued: "Like me, like the 1,670 Pico Rivera auto workers who face the closing of their plant, there are tens of thousands of auto workers and steelworkers laid off throughout this state, without prospects for being

called back. We face higher housing costs, cutbacks in schools, and worsening pollution."

Johnson's program calls for cutting the work week with no reduction in take-home pay and a massive program to build schools, hospitals, clinics, and low-cost housing to provide jobs for everyone.

Johnson dissected the programs of his Democratic and Republican opponents for the senate seat. The leading Republican contender is Paul Gann, co-author of Proposition 13, which has resulted in cutbacks in social services throughout the state.

Johnson quoted Howard Jarvis, Gann's collaborator on Proposition 13, as complaining, "We've got to get rid of this idea that you can tax the rich and not tax the poor..."

"But the rich aren't being taxed," Johnson answered. "Working people pay more through the sales tax and other unfair taxes, while the rich get tax breaks like Proposition 13 and often don't pay taxes at all."

Cranston's record

Johnson pointed out that Democratic incumbent Alan Cranston, who runs as "a friend of labor," is a sponsor of Senate Bill 2153, which would exempt up to 85 percent of businesses from inspections by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The socialist candidate pointed to the death three days earlier of a San Jose sheet metal worker who fell seventy feet from an I-beam at the Kaiser cement plant in Cupertino. "There were no safety rails or nets and the workers had been complaining about the unsafe conditions for months. Until the accident, this company would have been exempt from OSHA inspection under Cranston's bill."

"You know, four steelworkers are killed each month in basic steel accidents. Does it sound to you as if safety requirements in industry should be weakened? Hardly, but that's because you're workers. Cranston writes bills for the employers, not us."

Johnson cited signs that working people are looking for alternatives to the Republicans and Democrats. "John Henning, the executive secretary of the state AFL-CIO, proposed a discussion about the need for a labor party, and a number of meetings were held for that purpose."

A labor party based on the unions is urgently needed, Johnson said. It would give working people a way to use the power of their unions in a political fight "to reverse the present situation in which we pay while the rich benefit."

After the rally, a former auto work-



Militant/Sonja Franeta

Left, SWP campaign table at San Francisco 'Day in the Park for Women's Rights,' March 8. Right, George Johnson campaigns at anti-nuclear-power demonstration in Livermore.



Militant/Joey Ryan

er from Flint, Michigan, volunteered to help build support for Pulley's and Johnson's campaign. "This is the party where I belong," she said.

Ballot drive

In an interview the next day, Johnson told the *Militant* about the Socialist Workers Party's ambitious plans for getting on the ballot in California.

It's a big job. We'll have to get 100,000 signatures to get Pulley and Zimmermann on the ballot and 100,000 more for me to be on the ballot against Gann and Cranston," he said.

"We'll need all the help we can get. But we'll be using the petitioning, too,

to spread the word about the campaign and get new supporters."

Johnson welcomed a state court of appeals ruling that independent candidates can choose a party label, put it on the petitions, and have it placed on the November ballot. In the past all parties that had to petition for a place on the ballot had to appear under the heading "independent" and were not allowed to use a party designation.

Petitioning to place the socialist alternative on the California ballot is to begin June 7. Johnson urged everyone interested in helping to contact the Socialist Workers campaign office in your area.

Pulley: Oil strike is fight for all

LOS ANGELES—"The Socialist Workers Party stands on the side of the OCAW strikers," said Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president, on his March 4-7 campaign tour here.

Pulley met with members and leaders of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-128, who told him of the area-wide solidarity march of more than 4,000 people on March 1.

"We need more events like the Labor Solidarity March," Pulley said afterwards. "And we should extend that solidarity to include Blacks, Latinos, women, youth. Everyone who is under attack by the government's austerity and militarization drive should back the oil workers."

"In particular," he added, "I think that every antidraft, antinuclear, and consumers' protest should invite a representative of the oil workers to speak. Because the oil workers are in the front line of resistance to the sacrifices Carter is trying to impose on us to pay for war preparations."

Pulley explained, "The oil workers are fighting the very same oil companies that send inflation sky high. That own the nuclear plants. That need the draft and the war budget to protect their investments in the Middle East and elsewhere."

"The oil companies admit they have the money to meet the workers' modest demands, yet they refuse to do so. They are trying to deal a crippling blow to the union—to its ability to organize more of the oil industry and to enforce safety on the job, as well as protect its members' wages. This is a threat to all labor."



Militant/David McDonald

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president

The socialist candidate told the *Militant* that the oil strike was also a test case for Carter, to see if the administration's proposed 7.5-9.5 percent wage limit can be enforced. "With inflation running at 13-17 percent, that would mean another big wage cut for all of us," he said.

Is Big Oil too strong to be beaten?

"They're strong, but they can be beaten. If the oil workers stand firm and solidarity spreads throughout the country, we can beat them."

"Whatever the outcome, it will affect all of us. That's why all working people should stand behind the oil strikers."

Oil workers' leader to SWP: 'I defend your ballot rights'

Jake Jacobs is secretary-treasurer of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 1-5 in Martinez, California. Following are excerpts from personal greetings he gave to the March 1 campaign rally.

I've been waiting for an opportunity to express my thanks for the support and assistance you have rendered the oil workers union in the past as well as now, and the assistance that I know will be rendered us in the future by the Socialist Workers Party.

I've always known that if we need help we need but ask, and in most cases we don't even have to ask.

My association with the SWP goes back quite a few years, to the time of

the antiwar movement. We were on strike against the mighty Standard Oil Company in 1969, one of the bitterest strikes I've ever been involved in. The workers were in trouble as we are now once again. The SWP was there when we needed help, as you are now.

I personally recognize that you have fought for most of the great social causes in this and prior days.

I am not a member of the SWP, but I will defend your right to a place on the California ballot. I oppose the unreasonable restrictions which tend to prevent it.

We know why these restrictions are there, we know who put them there. We're going to have to fight to remove them. And I will support you in that effort.

...civil rights leaders back antidraft protest

Continued from front page

Therefore, Black America ought to be present March 22 in Washington to demonstrate."

Rev. Ben Chavis, one of the defendants in the Wilmington 10 frame-up case in North Carolina, is scheduled to speak at the March 22 rally. In a telephone interview with the *Militant*, Chavis said:

"I plan to be there, and I plan to help mobilize the Black community to be there, because we found out in Vietnam that the Black community paid a heavy price for these wars of imperialism. And I will not be silent. I will be trying to mobilize the Black community across the United States to resist the reinstitution of the draft."

Shortly after speaking to the *Militant*, Chavis addressed a nearly all-Black audience of 800 in Washington on March 11. Among the issues he talked about was Blacks and the draft.

"We ain't going to fight no more wars for imperialism. From D.C. to South Africa, we're going to fight for freedom. We're going to say to Carter and the Pentagon that they may as well not even make those new uniforms, because we got some other kind of business to take care of."

"We're going to be there, March 22!"

Corporate Interests

Hilda Mason, Black city council member in Washington, D.C., is also scheduled to speak March 22. She told the *Militant* why Carter's war drive must be opposed.

"We must plan to be critical of the world view served to us from national

The March 22 national demonstration in Washington, D.C., will assemble on the Ellipse at 11 a.m. March begins at 12:30 p.m. and will proceed past the White House to the Capitol. Rally begins at 2 p.m. For more information contact Mobilization Against the Draft:

In Washington (202) 234-6883 or 234-0820.

In New York City (212) 260-2002.

In San Francisco (415) 731-9378.

leaders who are all too ready to turn away from the real problems that face our nation—inflation, unemployment, racism, and the energy crisis," Mason said.

"We know how powerful financial interests will manipulate our nation's policies and priorities. I am absolutely convinced that a push for the draft is a dangerous drift toward militarism, which the people do not want. It serves not your and my interests, not the people's interests, but it serves the multinational corporations."

"Once again our people's real interests will suffer a setback, especially in our national budget, because our re-



Campuses have become centers of antidraft organizing.

Militant/Lou Howort

sources will be gobbled up in a hungry defense machine.

"We know that this registration, the draft, and war are all closely related to profits. All of this killing is so that some people can get rich. I'm totally opposed to the registration and the draft."

As for March 22, Mason said, "We're organizing very hard to get as many people as possible—Blacks, browns, whites, and all people—to participate."

One of the first Black leaders to speak out in support of March 22 was U.S. Rep. Ronald Dellums of California. In a statement last month he declared: "I am appalled at the proposal to make a new generation of young Americans hostage to the promotion of a confrontation with the Soviet Union. . . ."

"The March on Washington is a constructive first step in the struggle to determine your own destiny and not to have it determined for you by those whose professed concern for human rights is in direct contradiction to their political actions."

Rev. Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, also endorses the March 22 protest. Stokely Carmichael is scheduled to speak.

Andrew Pulley, the Black steelworker who is Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, is urging participation in the march on Washington as he campaigns across the country.

Campuses have been the main or-

ganizing centers for the antidraft movement. The United States Student Association and its president, Frank Jackalone, helped initiate the March 22 demonstration and have spread the word to hundreds of student governments.

Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD) chapters are also organizing on high school and college campuses throughout the country. Mobilization for Survival and other anti-nuclear groups have been deeply involved from the beginning, along with such traditional peace groups as SANE, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the American Friends Service Committee.

Among the political organizations participating in the national protest are the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, Communist Party, Young Workers Liberation League, Libertarian Party, Americans for Democratic Action, and War Resisters League.

Scheduled speakers for the Washington rally include Bella Abzug, Sen. Mark Hatfield, U.S. Reps. Ted Weiss and Robert Kastenmeier, Michael Harrington, and David Dellinger.

Union support

Union support for March 22, while still modest, is a significant indication of the new potential for labor involvement in the antidraft movement. District Council 37 of the American Feder-

ation of State, County and Municipal Employees is sending buses to Washington. Its director, Victor Gotbaum, is scheduled to speak. District 65, United Auto Workers, is also backing the action.

West Coast antidraft protests have drawn broader labor participation.

"You can count on the continued support of the Machinists in your campaign to stop the draft," was the message from Raymond Gabel, directing business representative of District 115, International Association of Machinists, to a March 6 news conference announcing plans for a San Francisco march and rally on March 22.

Gabel noted that the draft sweeps up "mainly the poor and disadvantaged."

The California Conference of Machinists, representing 150,000 IAM members, had earlier adopted a resolution noting, "There are no American working people's interests served in Afghanistan or Iran, only Multi-national interests," and resolving to "stand opposed to the registration and draft of both males and females to defend and protect Multi-national interests any place in the world."

NOW backs protest

Andrea Teper, president of the San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women, told the San Francisco news conference, "NOW is opposed to compulsory draft. The draft is a return to the racist and sexist discrimination policy. We are against the draft for women and men."

Other speakers at the news conference included Milton Mapp, local president of the American Postal Workers Union; Karen Westmont, University of California at Berkeley student body president; and Randal Stallings, Unitarian Church.

The San Diego Coalition Against Registration and the Draft plans a March 17 news conference to announce that city's March 22 demonstration. A letter sent to unionists urging their involvement was signed by Doug Dunker, Machinists Local 2215; Larry Schwartz, American Federation of Teachers; Wanda Faust, vice-president, California Federation of Teachers; and Carolyn Ferrar, Communications Workers of America Local 11509. The executive board of CWA Local 11509 recently passed a resolution against the draft.

Local chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and NOW are also supporting the antidraft protest.

Sixty students representing campuses in the University of California system met March 8 and endorsed the March 22 actions in the three California cities.

In Denver, nearly 400 people rallied at the federal building March 8 to oppose draft registration. "We're not going to fight for the oil companies' profits" was the overriding theme.

Jan Bell, representing Service Employees International Union Local 105, told the crowd, "Carter says we have to protect our oil interests in Iran and Afghanistan—it's not our oil, it has never been."

Ernesto Vigil, Crusade for Justice; Frank Black Elk, American Indian Movement; James Joy, American Civil Liberties Union; and Sylvia Zapata, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate also spoke.

More than 1,000 people attended an all-day antidraft teach-in at New York University March 10. Among the speakers at the evening rally were Kevin Lynch, UAW District 65; Herman Montoya, El Salvador Support Committee; Michael Harrington, Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee; and NYU Prof. Bertell Ollman.

Other building activities for March 22 were reported in Washington; Baltimore; Newark, New Jersey; Detroit; and Boston.

Additional March 22 protests are slated in Minneapolis, New Orleans, San Antonio, and Kansas City, Missouri.

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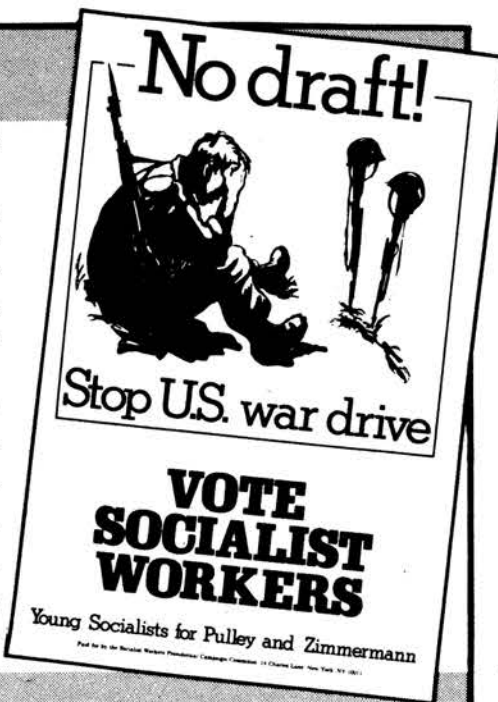
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Return of shah is only just solution

Iran masses defend embassy occupation

By Fred Feldman

On March 10, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini threw his authority behind the Muslim Students Following the Imam's Line (the youth occupying the U.S. Embassy) and the thousands of Iranians who have gathered daily outside the embassy to support them.

On March 6 the students, citing "intolerable pressures," declared themselves ready to turn the hostages over to Iran's Revolutionary Council, which was demanding that they allow the United Nations commission of inquiry to visit all the hostages.

The students feared such a visit would legitimize Carter's claim that the commission was judging Washington's "grievances" against Iran as well as the crimes of the shah.

At this point the Iranian working people stepped in to make their views known. Demonstrators called for no compromise on the demand that the hostages be returned only when the shah is turned over to Iran. They opposed any concessions to Washington over the role of the UN commission.

According to the March 11 *New York Times*, "Several groups, including construction workers, had threatened to strike if the hostages were freed."

Khomeini's statement declared that the hostages should remain in the students' custody, and that the UN commission should be allowed to visit all the embassy personnel as soon as it issues its report on the shah's crimes. He added that the commission could interview any hostages for information about Washington's role in the shah's crimes.

Later on March 10, the Revolutionary Council endorsed Khomeini's position. The commission left Iran the following day without completing its investigation.

A comment by John Kifner in the March 12 *New York Times* tended to confirm the students' view that the United Nations was trying to advance Carter's goals and not justice for Iran.



"To the Iranian revolutionaries," wrote Kifner, "the purpose of the commission was to carry out a serious investigation" of the shah's crimes.

But Carter and UN Secretary General Waldheim saw the commission simply as a gimmick to get the hostages released, Kifner explained. "There was little pretense that the United Nations was suddenly moved by either curiosity or outrage at the prospect that the shah might not have been a benevolent ruler after all."

The new round of demonstrations confirmed that, in the eyes of virtually the whole Iranian people, the return of the shah is the only just solution to the embassy crisis.

Carter not only continues to protect the royal butcher, he told journalists on March 8 that he still won't consider making a simple apology for Washington's role in putting the shah on the throne, building up his secret police

force of professional torturers, and backing him to the bloody end.

Instead Carter's aides sniped at the Iranian government. "A serious question has arisen about the ability of the Iranian government to function as a government," one official was quoted as saying. In Carter's eyes a government that bows to majority will is no government at all. No wonder he supported the shah, who certainly couldn't be accused of such democratic failings.

The Carter administration even tried to stop the popular television show *60 Minutes* from airing a segment that proved the correctness of Iran's charges that U.S. officials put the shah in power and helped cover up torture during his reign.

But more and more Americans are coming to realize that recognizing the justice of the Iranian demands is the only fair way to end the embassy impasse. This includes the families of many hostages.

The parents of army warrant officer Joseph Hall said from their home in Little Falls, Minnesota, that they favored a trial for the deposed shah and his return to Iran if he is found guilty.

Barbara Timm, mother of Marine Sgt. Kevin Hermening, said she was asking Carter to make a national apology to the Iranian people. She said she had written a letter to the *Milwaukee Sentinel* that said in part, "If we have wronged a nation, we must humble ourselves to at least apologize."

Relatives of hostages John E. Graves and Sgt. Ronnie Sickmann have also called on Carter to recognize the U.S. role in the shah's crimes.

To counter growing awareness of what the shah's regime was like, Freydon Hoveyda is on a speaking tour. Hoveyda was an envoy to the United Nations for the shah's regime from 1971 until just months before the dictator was ousted from power.

About 200 U.S. and Iranian students picketed at the Arizona State University campus March 3 when Hoveyda spoke there.

In Monroe, Louisiana, Hoveyda's visit provided a glimpse of the kind of mistreatment Iranians who oppose the shah are still subject to in the United States. Forty-seven students were jailed on misdemeanor charges after protesting Hoveyda's appearance at Northeast Louisiana University March 6. The jailed students are on a hunger strike.

HKE prisoners

Supporters of the Iranian revolution are circulating an appeal for the release of two women prisoners in Iran, Mahsa Hashemi and Fatima Fallahi. Both are members of the Iranian Revolutionary Workers Party (HKE) and longtime activists in the fight against U.S. imperialism. The two women are being held in Evin Prison in Tehran.

The appeal has been signed by prominent individuals who have indicated their support to the Iranian Revolution and opposition to the U.S. government's threats against it. Signers include Robert Allen, an editor of *Black Scholar* magazine; Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; Dave McReynolds, War Resisters League; Prof. Dennis Brutus, Black South African anti-apartheid activist; Elizabeth Reed, Local 535, Service Employees International Union, San Diego; Paul Wishard, Building and Construction Trades Council, Denver; James Haughton, Harlem Fight Back; Sami Esmail, Palestinian activist and former prisoner in Israeli jails; Abdeen Jabara, Palestinian activist and attorney; Rev. Orris Walker, participant in the Black Minister's Conference in Detroit; and Morton Sobell, co-defendant with Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Telegrams should be sent to president Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, Tehran, Iran, with copies to the *Militant*, 14 Charles Lane, NY, NY 10014.

Did U.S. war drive gain from Afghan events?

By Fred Feldman

"The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan changes everything!" U.S. officials and news media crowed after Soviet troops moved in to help block a reactionary takeover in that country. The whole capitalist world would now rally to support stepped-up war preparations by the Carter administration, we were told.

Some foresaw a "new cold war," with Washington able to take the offensive against the Soviet Union and in the Middle East because of "Moscow's miscalculation."

They expected that the Pakistani military dictatorship would welcome the chance to forge open military ties with Washington against Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Iran, it was hoped, would now see Soviet troops in Afghanistan as its real enemy, and would hasten to mend fences with Washington by returning the U.S. hostages and dropping the demand for the return of the shah.

The big capitalist powers of Western Europe and Japan would forget their differences and unite with Washington to back economic sanctions against Moscow and military moves to bar new Iranians and Afghanists.

This new spirit of unity behind Washington was to be symbolized by the boycott of the Moscow summer Olympics by an outraged world.

Most importantly, Afghanistan was said to mark the end of the "Vietnam Syndrome" in the United States—the term the government and media use for our opposition to war. Stampeded into patriotic fervor, American working people would support big increases in arms spending, accept the reinstitution of the draft, and go along with economic sacrifices to meet the "Russian threat."

When bodies like the United Nations and the governments of most Islamic nations issued con-

demnations of the Soviet Union, and when Congress clapped and cheered as Carter called for draft registration, many observers thought the American rulers were making headway. The fact that these bodies are not representative of working people or the oppressed of the world was overlooked.

But when it came to moving from tough talk to action, Carter's plans ran into a stubborn obstacle—the antiwar sentiments of working people in the United States and Europe, and the anti-imperialist struggles of working people around the world. His moves to reassert Washington's domination, and to isolate Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, are coming a cropper.

On March 6, the Pakistani military dictatorship of Zia ul-Haq announced rejection of a \$400 million arms and economic aid package offered by the Carter administration. A brutal ruler facing growing opposition, Zia decided that open ties to Washington would be the kiss of death.

Zia had earlier dismissed the aid offer as "peanuts," but more than the size of the bundle was involved. As one U.S. official said, "It seems that the Government in Islamabad concluded that the political costs of relying on us were viewed as outweighing the economic and military benefits."

Zia wasn't able to convince many Pakistanis that Soviet troops in Afghanistan were a threat to their interests. While the U.S. embassy in Islamabad was burned to the ground in November by pro-Iranian demonstrators, no such protest actions have been reported against the Soviet Union's. And many among the oppressed Baluchi and Pushtun minorities in Pakistan are attracted to the gains that have been won by national minorities and other working people in Afghanistan.

To the growing frustration of the Carter administration, horror stories about Afghanistan haven't made the Iranian revolution go away either.

Hundreds of thousands continue to mobilize demanding the return of the shah. And anti-imperialist students continue to hold the U.S. embassy and its personnel, with the backing of Khomeini.

Iranian President Bani-Sadr (like Khomeini) took a reactionary stand in supporting the Afghan rightists. But he has fallen far short of Washington's expectations. Stating on February 12 that his government was not aiding the rightists, Bani-Sadr added:

"We must first distinguish between the Afghan groups attached to the U.S. and to Pakistan and those really fighting for the independence of their country, these being the only ones we would like to support. The task is not easy and takes time."

Washington's European allies have also been a disappointment. Richard Burt reported in the March 7 *New York Times* that "during Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance's mission to Western Europe last month, allied leaders were unwilling to agree to any punitive steps in their relations with Moscow."

The West German and French governments have been particularly recalcitrant, with French President Giscard d'Estaing warning against attempts to draw him into "bloc to bloc confrontations" with Moscow.

Burt concluded that the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan "created a new strain in European-American relations that some Carter administration aides believe could threaten the underpinnings of the Western Alliance."

Carter's boycott of the Moscow Olympics is also in trouble. Athletes in the United States and around the world have stepped up demands that the games go on as planned. The French and West German governments have yet to endorse Carter's call.

In Australia, the boycott proposal met opposition

Continued on page 20

What revolution means at GM plant

Iran auto worker leader speaks out

By Cindy Jaquith

At the General Motors stamping plant in Tehran there is a display of posters showing U.S. cops beating up American demonstrators.

Iranian GM workers feel deep solidarity with Americans who stand up to the big U.S. corporations, their government, and their cops. Workers in Iran have been fighting the same enemy for years.

I visited the GM plant last December. A lot had changed since the shah's time. A leader of the plant's shora, the factory committee elected by the workers, told me how the changes came about.

Under the shah, General Motors in Detroit owned 45 percent of the plant, an Iranian capitalist owned another 45 percent, and 10 percent of the shares were held by the Pahlavi Foundation, a front for the shah's family fortune.

The shiny Buicks, Chevys, and trucks manufactured at the plant were never seen again by the workers, who couldn't afford to buy a car. Most of the vehicles were sold abroad at a high profit because GM paid such low wages.

'Treated like machines'

Working conditions were miserable. "The American bosses treated us like machines," the shora leader said. He described the company buses that brought employees to work each day. They were so old and poorly heated that the workers brought small oil heaters with them in order not to freeze.

The GM workers did not have a union of their own to combat these conditions. A company union was imposed on them instead.

But the biggest obstacle to organizing for their rights inside the factory was SAVAK, the shah's secret police. As in most Iranian plants at the time, SAVAK agents were stationed right in the plant, ready to arrest any worker who spoke out.

There was plenty to speak out about. The American executives lived in luxurious homes in North Tehran, with chauffeured cars for both husband and wife. Some made a hundred times the wages of the workers, who took home \$100 to \$135 a month.

"Iranian workers felt the exploitation of the United States—they could touch it. It was obvious that they did all the work while the profits went into U.S. pockets," the shora leader told me.

The American managers regularly reported to SAVAK about "troublemakers." And if you got arrested, you would be tortured and likely killed, as happened to three GM workers who helped lead a strike several years ago.

When the big demonstrations against the shah's dictatorship began to sweep Iran in 1978, the GM workers became inspired to fight back in an organized way. The shora leader told me that after the march of millions on September 4, 1978—called "Black Friday" because thousands were gunned down—the organizing began in earnest.

Clandestine organizing

"At first we secretly distributed leaflets and tapes of Khomeini's speeches," he said. "We did this as individuals—no one knew who the other leafletters were—so that SAVAK couldn't trace us."

Later that fall, the worker militants decided to become more open. They went through each department of the plant, gave a quick impromptu speech on the need to get organized, and asked for volunteers to serve on a shora.

This first "election" of the shora—carried out under the threat that SAVAK would appear any minute—didn't convince all the workers. "Only the most committed were ready to sign up at that point."

But the shora went ahead and held its first meeting. GM instantly announced that the factory would be closed down and threw the workers out on the street.

"But on the buses going back home, we talked to workers and convinced them to come to Tehran University, where we could meet more freely," the shora leader explained.

The meeting was a success, and GM was forced to reopen. The workers returned and immediately organized a slowdown in all departments.

The slowdown was aimed at improving conditions in the plant, but was also part of the nationwide factory protests calling for the overthrow of the shah.

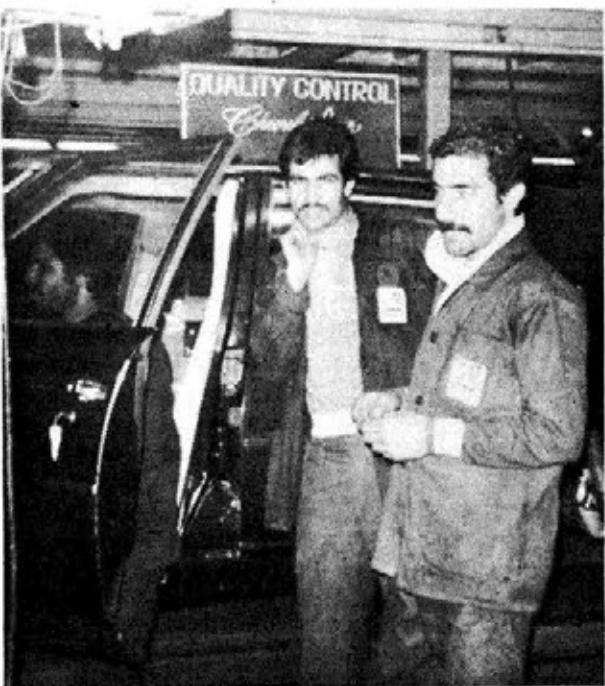
Links with anti-shah movement

"Our aim was to merge the revolutionary feelings of the workers at GM with the anti-shah movement outside the plant," the shora leader explained.

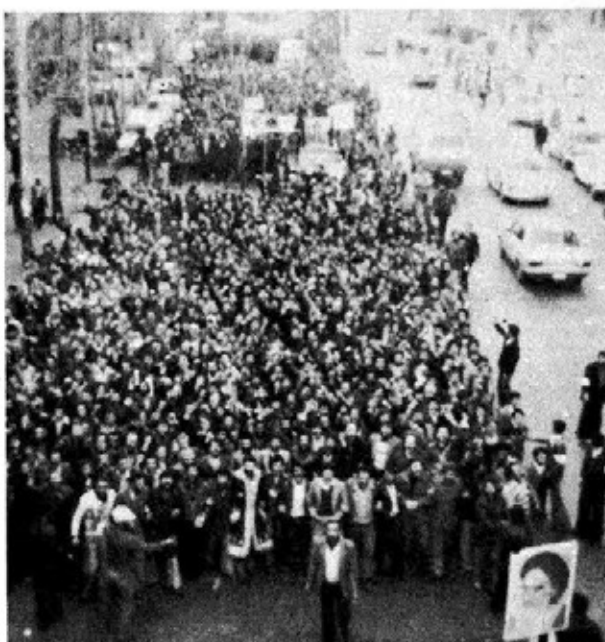
This happened not only at GM, but throughout



Poster display in plant of U.S. cop brutality



General Motors workers in Tehran



GM contingent at December 23 workers demonstration in Tehran.

the country. The dictatorship was finally brought down in February 1979 through a general strike, mass demonstrations, and a rebellion in the armed forces.

When the GM workers returned to work after the February insurrection, most of the bosses were gone. The Americans had fled months before.

The relationship of forces was now qualitatively changed inside the plant. Most importantly, the system of terror designed by the American bosses and carried out by SAVAK was gone. Before that, the shora leader explained, "SAVAK created such a dictatorship that no one dared say a word."

Now with SAVAK gone, the shora announced to those managers remaining that it would run the plant from now on.

Since the old shora had been made up of volunteers, an election was held to vote in a new shora by secret ballot. The new shora had nineteen members, representing the 3,050 workers and other employees at the plant.

Shora committees were set up to organize management, production, finances, raw materials and imports, waste control, and sports. A five-person executive committee was also established, and shora representatives selected to run each department.

The workers also elected a research and technical committee to study and develop new technology in car production. Engineers in the plant were encouraged by the workers to serve on this committee.

With the right to a voice on production and working conditions for the first time in their lives, GM workers have made important gains since last February. In listing the advances at the plant, the shora leader emphasized that there is still a long way to go. "The working class has suffered for so many years in Iran, I don't think we can overcome everything in just two years," he told me.

Gains won by shora

Nevertheless, the gains are big ones:

- The shah's company union has been dissolved, replaced by an elected shora.
- Workers wages have more than doubled. High-paid executives had their salaries reduced, and all benefits taken away.
- A credit union has been set up, with interest-free loans. By auctioning off the property of the American bosses, \$100,000 was raised to start the loan fund.
- A library has been built.
- The three segregated cafeterias (one for bosses, one for office workers, and one for production workers) have been merged into one facility.
- An Islamic Association (banned under the shah) has been organized.
- New buses have replaced the rickety, old vehicles. The company cars owned by the American bosses have been sold at reduced rates to the workers.
- Known SAVAK and company agents in the plant have been fired and/or arrested.

GM workers recognize that the rights and benefits they have won are tied to the advance of the Iranian revolution as a whole. Much hinges on steps they can take to free their country from the domination of U.S. imperialist interests.

There is the problem of spare parts, which are drying up as U.S. and European suppliers demand concessions for new supplies. The GM shora has met with auto workers in other Tehran plants, as well as in the cities of Arak and Tabriz, to collaborate on finding the parts needed.

GM workers also have strong opinions about what kind of vehicles they should produce. Instead of big sedans, the workers want to concentrate on trucks and jeeps, which are greatly needed in the development of the country as a whole, especially in the rural areas.

At the time I visited the plant, all but the American-owned shares had been nationalized. The shora leader I met with said he didn't think General Motors was owed anything for its 45 percent.

'We owe U.S. nothing'

"They don't own anything here, not because we've taken it away, but because they owe us so much," he explained.

GM didn't invest its own money in the plant, he pointed out, "it was the money of our people that they used to start up the plant. They made huge profits by exploiting the workers, and then sold their products high."

GM workers are determined that U.S. exploiters will never again dominate their country. They know this is a political, as well as an economic, battle.

That's why outside the plant a banner hangs declaring the workers' support for the students holding the U.S. Embassy downtown. And that's why the GM shora turned out 1,000 members on December 23 in the big workers demonstration against U.S. imperialism and for deepening the revolution.

The December 23 demonstration adopted a resolution that called for ending Iran's dependence on imperialist interests, for nationalizing all the factories under shora control, for land reform, and for the return of the shah.

The resolution ended with a call to the working masses of the world: "We appeal to all the oppressed of the world to join with us in struggle against the colonial system headed by U.S. imperialism."

American auto workers, and all U.S. working people, have learned a great deal from our sisters and brothers in Iran. We owe them our solidarity in return.

Thousands march against CIA

Nicaraguan protesters demand: U.S. hands off!

By Fred Murphy

MANAGUA—On March 5 a U.S. Senate committee froze indefinitely the \$75 million loan the Carter administration promised to Nicaragua months ago. Responding quickly and angrily, thousands of workers, students, and other Nicaraguans poured into the streets here March 6 in a militant protest demonstration.

Opposition to Washington's stepped-up pressure against the Nicaraguan revolution has been mounting here



Militant/Fred Murphy
Sign in February 17 march by Rural Workers Association quotes Nicaraguan hero Sandino: 'Because only the workers and peasants will go all the way.'

since February 27, when the U.S. House of Representatives went behind closed doors to hear a secret CIA report on alleged "communist infiltration" in Nicaragua.

"Hands off Nicaragua!" and "Death to the CIA!" were among the most popular slogans chanted by the demonstrators on March 6.

They were answering a call by the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST) to protest "the maneuvers of imperialism and its sinister CIA—who yesterday armed the genocidal tyrant Anastasio Somoza and who today are trying to hold back the unstoppable advance of the Sandinista people's revolution."

The march stepped off late in the afternoon from the CST's headquarters, passed through several neighborhoods in west central Managua, and ended with a rally outside "El Chipote," the headquarters of the National Directorate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Guerrilla commander Omar Cabezas addressed the demonstrators and called on Nicaraguans to be alert to efforts by Washington to "destabilize" the revolution.

He pointed to the CIA-orchestrated economic sabotage that undermined the Allende regime in Chile and paved the way for Pinochet's bloody counterrevolutionary coup in September 1973.

"In Nicaragua they won't be able to throw the army against the government" as in Chile, Cabezas said. "Instead we will throw [the Sandinista People's Army] against the hoarders and speculators and against those who boycott production."

"What happened in Chile is not going to happen here. Here there is a revolution."

An editorial in the FSLN daily *Barricada*

the day after the demonstration hailed it as "an event that most clearly shows how deep the class struggle in the country has gone."

"The people did not turn out to search for spies," *Barricada* continued, "although we are certain there are some, but rather to demonstrate their power and unity and their repudiation of the concrete manifestations of imperialism in the country—the traitorous bourgeoisie and those who are decapitalizing their enterprises, the diversions and opportunists, the financial maneuvers of imperialism."

The Nicaraguan government issued

a decree March 2 against capitalist sabotage of efforts at economic revival. This "decapitalization" by industrialists refers to their attempts to remove from the country the capital and equipment that is needed for Nicaragua to overcome the war destruction, its related scarcities, and high unemployment.

"The anti-imperialism that took to the streets yesterday must from now on be taken up in the workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, villages, and government bodies, turning the entire nation into a bastion of anti-imperialist struggle," *Barricada* said.



Solidarity with Nicaragua!

Round-up of solidarity meetings

A Nicaragua solidarity meeting in Denver February 23 heard Art Warner of the American Friends Service Committee, attorney Harry Nier, and Socialist Workers Party U.S. senatorial candidate Silvia Zapata.

Two hundred dollars was raised at the Cleveland Nicaragua Solidarity Committee's first public event February 24. Speakers included Baldomar Velásquez, president of the Toledo-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee; Father Robert Scullin, co-coordinator of the solidarity committee; and John Powers, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate who recently made a fact-finding tour of Nicaragua.

Supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution in Toledo are gathering forces to form a chapter of the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People by showing the Network's slide show. Seventy-five students at Bowling Green State University saw the show March 5 at a meeting sponsored by four campus groups—Social Awareness Committee, Social Justice Committee, Latino Students, and All African Peoples Revolutionary Party.

Seventy people attended a solidarity rally at San José City College February 27. Featured speakers were Sayda Hernández and Noel González, representatives of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). Several weeks before, 200 had turned out at Santa Clara University to hear Miguel Obando y Bravo, the archbishop of Managua, who was on a brief visit in the United States.

St. Louis dance raises \$900 for medical aid

The Greater St. Louis Latin America Solidarity Committee sponsored several activities in support of Nicaragua last month. A dance on February 16 raised \$900 to send medical aid. A slide show at St. Louis University on February 19 was cosponsored by the Latin American Studies Department on campus.

The National Town Meeting sponsored a slide showing at Southern Illinois University on February 21. Dr. Richard Millet, author of a book on Somoza called *Guardians of the Dynasty*, also spoke at the meeting.

Missouri campus hears Nicaraguan consul

As part of the international week of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people, the Peace Studies Program and the Association of Latin American Students at the University of Missouri in Columbia held a teach-in February 21. Hilda Sequeira, Nicaraguan consul in Washington, D.C., was the featured speaker, reports *Militant* correspondent Antonio Vindell. The impact of the civil war in Nicaragua if estimated in terms of human costs, writes Vindell, is 34,000-40,000 dead, 100,000 wounded, 40,000 orphaned, 200,000 homeless families, 33 percent unemployed, and 75,000 dependent on food assistance. "Our revolutionary goals were to eradicate illiteracy, poverty, and exploitation, and this is what we are going to do," Sequeira told the meeting.



Militant/Antonio Vindell
HILDA SEQUEIRA

New fund-raising materials

The February/March newsletter of the National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People reports several new materials available for fund-raising. These include Literacy Crusade Bonds from Nicaragua (\$10 each), literacy crusade T-shirts (\$3 to committees, \$6 to individuals), and a Network poster on the literacy crusade (\$.60 to committees, \$2 to individuals).

For a resources brochure and more information, contact the National Network at 1322 Eighteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 223-2328.

Compiled by Nancy Cole

Salvadoran rulers launch new wave of repression

By Fred Murphy

MANAGUA—The U.S.-backed military rulers of neighboring El Salvador have launched a fresh wave of repression and terrorism against the workers and peasants movement.

According to figures released March 11 by the Salvadoran Human Rights Commission, ninety-four persons were killed by the repressive forces or by paramilitary right-wing terrorist groups during the preceding week.

Among the victims were Carlos Arias, a leader of the United People's Action Front (FAPU), and Roberto Castellano, press secretary of the Democratic Nationalist Union (UDN).

Castellano's wife, Annette Mathiessen—a Danish citizen—was also killed.

Following declaration of a state of siege and suspension of constitutional guarantees on March 6, security police carried out raids on the homes and offices of activists in left groups, trade unions, and other popular organizations.

At the same time, right-wing terrorists stepped up their activity, focusing on the campus of the National University, one of the few places in the country where the revolutionary organizations have been able to maintain public headquarters and hold meetings.

The government's new attack on the anti-dictatorial forces accompany a series of desperate moves aimed at diffusing the rising mass movement in the countryside and weakening the opposition politically.

On March 6, the ruling military-civilian junta announced the confiscation of some 376 big estates—about 30 percent of all cultivatable land in the

country—and sent army units to occupy them. The government then called on the peasants and laborers who live and work on the seized estates to hold meetings and organize cooperatives.

In a sermon delivered March 9 at a funeral mass for Castellano and Mathiessen, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero condemned the continuing repression and termed the land expropriations "capitalist" reforms that "are taking place through a military occupation of the countryside that at a given moment can generate the return of the wealthy to power."

Despite its demagogic "agrarian reform" and similar moves such as the nationalization of the banking system and the imposition of state controls on foreign trade, the Salvadoran junta is now more isolated than ever.

The only civilian political force that has lent support to the dictatorship is the Christian Democratic Party, three of whose leaders joined the junta when it was formed in early January. On March 4, however, one Christian Democrat, Héctor Dada Hirezi, resigned from the junta and went into exile in Mexico.

When the Christian Democratic leadership met on March 9 to choose a replacement for Dada, a sharp debate broke out and culminated in the expulsion of ten leaders from the party. These figures claim the support of some 80 percent of the party's ranks and are reportedly involved in talks with the Revolutionary Coordinating Committee of the Masses, the opposition block that includes the FAPU, UDN, Revolutionary People's Bloc (BPR), and the February 28 People's Leagues (LP-28).

Gov't still refuses to act

Ultraright Cuban terror group exposed

By Gus Horowitz

Articles published recently in two New York City newspapers have shed new light on the functioning of Omega 7, the Cuban counterrevolutionary group claiming responsibility for bombing the Cuban Mission to the United Nations twice in recent months, as well as the Soviet Mission and the New York City offices of the Soviet Airline Aeroflot.

Omega 7 also claimed responsibility for the murder in Union City, New Jersey last November 25 of Eulalio José Negrin. Negrin, a 37-year-old Cuban-American, was a member of the Committee of 75 that negotiated with the Cuban government to arrange travel by Cubans living here to visit their families on the island.

The March 3 *New York Times* carried an article by Robin Herman in which United States government officials are said to be giving "highest priority" to the capture of the anti-Castro terrorists.

FBI officials told the *Times* that they now regard Omega 7 "as the most dangerous terrorist organization in the United States." The FBI said, however, that it was experiencing "unusually difficult problems" in penetrating the organization and gathering the evidence for a conviction.

These assertions were disputed by Jeff Stein in the March 10 *Village Voice*, who reported that the federal government claims "are met with considerable skepticism by local and regional officials, who still complain that the Justice Department has failed to assemble a national strike force for the effort."

Stein's article, as well as an earlier article he wrote in *New York* magazine (September 10, 1979), are a devastating indictment of government inaction and covert encouragement of the terrorists.

Leaders known

"There is little doubt," he reports, "that both local and federal intelligence agencies have known for years who the key Omega 7 figures are." And he goes on to cite names, dates, and places—much of the information provided to him by federal and local police investigators.

Even the *Times* article reports enough of this information to discredit the government's claim that it cannot dig up the evidence.

The associates of Huber Matos

Revelations about Omega 7 and other anti-Castro terrorist activity have unearthed information about the associates of Huber Matos, who was recently released after serving twenty years in prison in Cuba for counterrevolutionary activity. Matos was portrayed in the mass media in the U.S. as a heroic figure.

Manuel Santana, who provided the bodyguards for Matos when he came to the New York area in December, is the "First Secretary of Foreign Relations" for Abdala, one of the key groups linked to Omega 7.

José Dionisio Suárez, who was associated with Matos in Cuba, became a member of the Cuban Nationalist Movement here. Suárez is wanted for the murder of Chilean exile Orlando Letelier in 1976.

Gaspar Jiménez, another associate of Huber Matos in Cuba, was jailed in Mexico in 1976 for planning to kidnap and murder the Cuban consul in Merida, Mexico. Jiménez escaped to the United States, but is now facing extradition proceedings in Atlanta.



Armando Santana (above), leader of Cuban Nationalist Movement, is thought to be head of Omega 7 terrorist operations. He served two years in prison for trying to bomb a public theater. Julia Valdivia (shown right, with her husband Luis) is CNM sympathizer and a powerful figure in government of Union City, New Jersey. City hall helps finance right-wing Cuban papers.

The picture of unbridled right-wing terrorism that emerges is ominous.

In the New York City area alone, Omega 7 has claimed responsibility for at least nineteen bombings in the past five years, in addition to the Negrin murder.

The New York area group has links with similar groups in Florida and Puerto Rico. In total, they have carried out over a hundred terrorist actions in recent years. These include the April 28, 1979, murder in Puerto Rico of Carlos Muñoz Varela, who was also a member of the Committee of 75; and the bombing murder of Chilean exile Orlando Letelier and an associate, Ronni Moffitt, in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1976.

The greatest loss of life occurred in an international operation: the bombing of a Cuban airliner off Barbados in October 1976, killing all seventy-three people aboard.

Public offices

From the newspaper accounts it is not clear whether Omega 7 is a distinct organization or simply a code name used by various anti-Castro groups to sign their terrorist acts. There seems to be no doubt, however, that the main organization linked to Omega 7 in the New York area is the Cuban Nationalist Movement (CNM), which maintains public offices in Union City, New Jersey.

The current leader of the CNM, and the reputed head of Omega 7, is Armando Santana, who served two years in jail for an attempted bombing in 1974. Santana assumed leadership of the CNM after the former leaders, Guillermo and Ignacio Novo, were convicted in connection with the murder of Orlando Letelier.

Also linked to Omega 7 is Abdala, a youth group with headquarters on Twenty-ninth Street in New York, and a chapter at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Important in the Miami area is Brigade 2506, originally composed of exiles who took part in the CIA-organized Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961.

The *New York Times* article points to "extortion of Cuban businessmen" as one source of funds for the terrorist groups. Stein reports that Robert Carballo, until recently the head of Brigade 2506, "is also said by Dade County police officers to be on a per-



Two murder suspects linked to Omega 7

Arthur Nehrbass, special agent in charge of the Miami FBI office, said on March 5 that an assassination plot by anti-Castro Cubans was thwarted when two of the would-be assassins were arrested in connection with an unrelated "violent act."

He gave no specifics, but *Miami Herald* reporters Dan Williams and Joan Fleischman disclosed March 6 that the "violent act" was the murder of an 18-year-old youth in an argument over a parking space.

The two individuals charged in connection with the murder are Mario Tauler of Westbury, New York, who is accused of firing the gun; and Carlos Dominicus, a den-

tist from the Union City, New Jersey area, who, according to witnesses, told Tauler to "shoot 'em, shoot 'em, shoot 'em."

Dominicus is reputed to be a leader of Omega 7, while Tauler, who was recently released from jail in Cuba, was acting as Dominicus's bodyguard.

The intended victim of the assassination plot is Bernardo Benes, a banker, associated with the Committee of 75. Benes was recently slandered by Hialeah minister Manuel Espinosa, who accused him of being a Cuban agent.

Authorities indicated that Benes' life is still in danger.

sonal retainer to [ousted Nicaraguan dictator] Anastasio Somoza, now in exile in Paraguay."

Union City connection

A connection also exists with officials of the Union City government, which in the past eighteen months spent \$30,000 in city funds for advertising in Cuban counterrevolutionary papers, including \$6,000 to *Guerra*, the paper of Brigade 2506.

Julia Valdivia, who is officially an aide to Mayor William Musto, but who is generally conceded to be the real power in the city, is a CNM sympathizer.

"I don't see any violence to worry about," she said, in reference to Omega 7 bombings in Union City.

She describes Guillermo Novo, who was convicted in the Letelier murder, as "a friend," and she appeared at rallies in his defense. "He believed in what he was doing, and I respected what he did," she said.

Why no arrests?

In view of the public knowledge of groups and individuals linked to Omega 7 and the additional information supplied to the *Times* and *Voice*

reporters, how can the lack of prosecutions be explained?

A Cuban government official suggested the following to Stein: "We believe that it is more than coincidental that this violent campaign resumed against us in 1976. We believe the U.S. wants to punish us for our Angolan involvement."

Investigating this point, Stein reports:

"In the Dade County police department, terrorism experts exchange smiles and look down at their hands when you ask them if the CIA's involved with exile anti-Castro activities. They look to each other to answer first, clear their throats, shift in their seats. The answer is yes."

In New York, a police official tells him: "You get just so far on a case and suddenly the dust is blown away. Case closed. You ask the CIA to help, and they say they aren't really interested. You get the message."

The conclusion is inescapable. Nothing is being done because neither the federal nor the local governments really want anything to be done.

As long as this is so, then Stein's observation will remain in force—that "the bombers believe the police are on their side."

Steel notes...

Good reading

The February issue of *Steeltor*, the official union paper, is worth reading. In the last year there has been an improvement in both format and content. It is mailed free to all members of the union. (If you are not getting it, the address is *Steeltor*, 2457 E. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46201.)

The front cover is a full color cartoon showing a USSenator barring a plant gate to an OSHA inspector. Behind the gate is a fat capitalist with his diamond stickpin and bag of money and three injured workers behind him.

There is an article in the paper about the British steel strike. The article notes that the "International Metalworkers Federation (IMF), of which the USWA is a member, has called upon all European affiliates to stop steel exports to England."

The support to the British strike is welcome. It does not mention whether the USWA is in favor of stopping steel shipments from the U.S. also. Contrary to the impression you get from the deluge of company propaganda on imports, the United States does export a large amount of steel.

There is a full-page attack on the TV program *Skag*. The article quotes four steelworkers who point out unrealistic incidents. The writers of *Skag* could not decide whether the character is a steelworker or a foreman. The article quotes Pete Razanskas, an electrician at the U.S. Steel Torrance, California, mill where scenes for the show were filmed: "A boss leading a wildcat strike? Why, they'd have him canned immediately!"

(Some steelworker *Militant* readers have written in about their own and other workers' reactions to *Skag*. If you have any comments, let us know.)

Most impressive in this issue is the full page article with pictures of the labor march for the Equal Rights Amendment in Richmond, Virginia, on January 13. The article is very positive and ties the USWA even more closely to the movement to win ERA.

The article mentions that the USWA moved the site of next fall's international convention from Las Vegas to Los Angeles because Nevada has not ratified the ERA.

The only problem with the article is the failure to mention that Local 65 (U.S. Steel South Works, Chicago) President Alice Peurala was also a speaker in Richmond. Her opposition to the McBride leadership probably explains the omission. But the fact that she is the first woman president of a basic steel local is a big plus for the union as a whole.

In Canada, the Steelworkers put out a different edition of *Steeltor*, called *Steeltor*. They also translate it into French for Quebec, where it is called *Le Métallurgiste*. On the cover of the January edition is a picture of Chris Liscio, a steelworker who was a candidate from Toronto of the New Democratic Party, the labor party in Canada, for federal Parliament in the February 18 election. Liscio came in second.

The involvement of the USWA in the Canadian labor party is quite a contrast to the support of capitalist candidates here. The address for *Steeltor* (that's how it's spelled) is 55 Eglinton Ave. East, 8th floor, Toronto, Ontario M4P 1B5. Showing the Canadian edition around may help encourage discussion on the need for a labor party here.

Company blackmail

Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation increased its profits 160 percent from 1978 to 1979. On February 13 the company blackmailed its workers into voting in favor of a pay cut, under threat of the Allenport, Pennsylvania, plant being closed down.

The company estimates that the wage cut will save it \$3.2 million in incentive payments to the steelworkers at the mill in the next two and a half years. The company claims it will reinvest this to help keep the plant open. But as Harry Reis, USWA Local 1187 president, told the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette*, "There is no guarantee as far as the plant remaining open."

While the company is taking \$1.28 million a year from the pockets of the 2,265 workers in the bargaining unit, stockholders are being treated to a special \$1 a share year-end dividend. The dividend celebrates the huge profit increase plus final approval of a \$150 million loan guarantee from the federal government.

Sixty percent of the workers, those who get incentive, will be affected by the cut, says the company. That comes to a contribution of \$1,000 a year from each of the 1,300 workers.

It would have been nice to see management and stockholders stand out at the gate on some cold morning shift change and ask for the contributions.

Unfortunately the success of U.S. Steel in its Youngstown and American Bridge blackmail, and now Wheeling-Pittsburgh, will encourage other steel companies to try the same.

Wheeling joined the other bloodsuckers February 21 in raising prices 5 percent.

Youngstown

A federal judge issued a temporary order to U.S. Steel not to close its Ohio and McDonald Works in Youngstown, Ohio, until a March 17 trial on a suit brought against the company. The suit was filed last December by five steelworker locals in Youngstown, the United Auto Workers local in Lordstown, the Republican congressman from Youngstown, and other groups and individuals. The suit claims that U.S. Steel violated a contract with the Steelworkers by ordering the plants closed. The locals had given up various health, safety, and job descriptions won over the years as part of an agreement they thought would keep the mills open.

—Stu Singer

9,000 steelworkers rally, demand contract

By Jon Hillson

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—Thousands of steelworkers sent Tenneco a message on March 7, in a huge turnout at the Hampton Coliseum. The message was: "We want a decent contract now!"

Nearly 9,000 workers attended the two meetings called by United Steelworkers Local 8888, a daytime gathering for the second shift and a 5 p.m. meeting for the first and third shifts.

The massive show of force was bigger than the mobilization of steelworkers that authorized the union's 1979 strike for recognition.

The meeting had been called on February 23 in the wake of what USWA District 35 Director Bruce Thrasher termed an "impasse" in negotiations.

At the time, union negotiators explained to shipyard workers that Tenneco's economic package was totally unacceptable. Thrasher stated that the "details of the negotiations" would be "thoroughly discussed" at the meeting.

On February 27, over 500 shop stewards met and mapped out plans to build the meetings, the first union gathering since early December.

On February 29, in a statement to the media, Thrasher reported that the impasse had been broken and negotiations would resume. Talks reopened on March 5.

According to steelworkers in attendance, Thrasher told union members at

The mood was decidedly different at the meeting of seven to eight thousand first and third shift workers later on. They had come with questions on their minds, and expected answers. Steelworkers who attended the meeting told the *Militant* that the major question was wages.

After several members of the negotiating committee spoke, referring to general aspects of the contract in regard to noneconomic language, modest applause turned into challenges and questions shouted from the floor.

When no answers were forthcoming, booing started. Each official speaker "said just about what the last one said," a steelworker later told the *Militant*.

Workers shouted out:

"What does the language say?"

"What about money?"

"Language won't put food on the table!"

Subdistrict Director Jack Hower also spoke through the din, detailing the inadequacies of the old PSA contract.

When Thrasher began to speak along the same lines as the negotiators, many workers began to leave the meeting. By the time he wound up his remarks, more than two-thirds of the unionists had departed.

"We still don't know anything," was a common remark by these workers, who felt it was their right to know the details of the negotiations.



Newport News shipyard workers march during 1979 strike

the second shift meeting of the changed negotiating situation. The talks were now at "a delicate stage." Tenneco's board of directors in Houston was now considering a new economic package which would be ready "in a few days."

The USWA official urged the workers to "be patient" and to "bear with me." He said he hoped they understood why neither he nor the members of the union's negotiating committee could answer any questions at the present time.

Other committee members spoke, stressing general gains in the area of contract language over earlier sweetheart deals between the shipyard and the Peninsula Shipbuilders Association, the ousted company union.

After Tenneco's new package was available, Thrasher said, it would be presented, along with non-economic and benefit proposals, for discussion at a membership meeting. The contract would then be presented in written form for study. A secret ballot vote would follow later.

The loudest applause from the more than 1,000 workers at the second shift meeting came when Thrasher and committee members pledged to veto an unsatisfactory offer from Tenneco and to take whatever steps were necessary to get a better contract.

"It was an OK meeting," one departing worker told the *Militant*. "Nothing much was said, so we just have to wait and see what Tenneco comes up with. I'm pretty optimistic."

He seemed to speak for most of the steelworkers there.

Other steelworkers defended the character of the report. "Things changed since the meeting was called," one worker said. Some felt that reporting out incomplete results would hamper negotiations.

"Next meeting it will all be out in the open," one steelworker said. "We're still together."

"It's been a long, long haul and people are really frustrated," another steelworker told me. That frustration was vented at the meeting, and in the steady exit of thousands of workers as they sensed that the reports they expected to hear weren't going to be presented. These Local 8888 members did not agree with the view that such reports were inadvisable.

"Ignorance doesn't exactly make us stronger," a pipefitter told the *Militant*. "Tenneco sure as hell knows what's going on."

This combative mood at the meeting is an indication of the readiness of Local 8888 to do whatever it takes to secure a decent contract from Tenneco. Many workers have gone two years without a wage increase. According to the USWA, Newport News shipyard workers are the lowest paid in the ship building industry. The size of the meetings was a mandate for the union and its negotiators to press ahead against Tenneco's pennypinching offers.

"It's all up to the company now," a young worker told the *Militant*. "They know where we stand. Our people are hurting. We don't want to hurt anybody. But if they force us out, it's on them."

Chicago fire fighters win union victory

By Hattie McCutcheon

CHICAGO—Jubilant fire fighters returned to work here March 8 with a union victory. Their stubborn twenty-three-day strike dealt a major setback to the Democratic Party administration of Mayor Jane Byrne, which had tried to smash their union.

The fire fighters won because they stood unshaken in the face of an all-out attack, and because they won important support from powerful industrial unions and the Black community.

Earlier, city transit workers and teachers had been targets of the municipal cutbacks and takebacks drive.

The fire fighters' strike was deliberately provoked by Byrne, who refused to meet their demand for a union contract. She did so despite her pre-election pledge to grant the contract.

After weeks of bad faith negotiations by the city, the fire fighters struck. They stayed out in defiance of a back-to-work order by the courts. And they maintained solid ranks in the face of an anti-union onslaught.

Byrne branded the strike "illegal" and flatly declared she would not negotiate.

Frank Muscare, president of the striking union, Local 2 of the International Fire Fighters Association, was sent to jail with a five-month sentence. Heavy fines were levied against the union and its leaders. Byrne vowed that the strikers would never work for the city again. Punitive action was launched against 372 of them.

In a move that had all the marks of a frame-up, banner headlines announced a grand jury arson probe of a warehouse blaze. They asserted three unnamed fire fighters were suspect.

Unqualified scabs

Meanwhile, with cold-blooded disregard for human lives, the city began hiring totally unqualified scabs to fight fires.

Democratic party ward heelers were publicly invited to submit applicants from their patronage lists.

With such "fire fighters," the death toll in tenement blazes increased. With the shrill support of the media, the administration intensified its propaganda blaming the strikers for the deaths.

The unionists responded with facts that proved the blood of the fire victims was on the hands of the strike-breaking Byrne administration. The anti-union propaganda began to backfire.

The labor haters had calculated that they could easily whip up sentiment



March 6 march through Loop (top). Jesse Jackson (left) and Ed Sadlowski at March 5 strike rally. An example for all labor.

against the fire fighters in the Black community, where many of the fires were occurring.

Also, the city has long hired mainly white workers to the department, with the result that the union had come to be regarded by many as a white job trust.

The move to turn the city's working people against the strikers suffered its first big setback when key unionists declared their solidarity with the fire fighters.

Alice Peurala, president of Steelworkers Local 65, made a rousing solidarity speech at a downtown rally for the strikers.

Ed Sadlowski, Steelworkers sub-

district director, spoke at a big strike meeting along with Charles Hayes, a vice-president of the United Food and Commercial Workers. Hayes is also president of the Chicago Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

A union solidarity committee was formed, and included among its members James Balanoff, director of Steelworkers District 31.

Breakthrough

Then came a dramatic breakthrough for the strikers. Rev. Jesse Jackson, foremost figure in the Chicago Black community, appeared at a huge union strike rally March 5.

Jackson, president of Operation Push, made a militant speech in support of the fire fighters. He had already met with city officials to urge them back to the bargaining table, and he called on the strikers to turn out the next day for a downtown rally and march to voice their demands for a contract.

The next day, the city changed its tune. Union negotiators went to city hall accompanied by Jackson, whom Mayor Byrne declared a "mediator."

Time was taken out from the "mediation" while Jackson and acting union president William Reddy led several thousand strikers and their families on a march through the downtown Loop, chanting "We want a contract!"

The basis for this vital alliance between the fire fighters and the Black community was laid when the union, in response to Jackson's initiative, incorporated an affirmative-action clause in their contract demands.

This development was not simply an action by the union leadership. It reflected a swift development of consciousness among the union ranks on the need for an alliance with the Black community, as well as with the rest of organized labor.

This was demonstrated at the March

Could you repeat that?

CHICAGO—For Mayor Jane Byrne, signing a "letter of agreement" with the fire fighters union instead of a contract was a face saver—but not much.

Reporting the end of the strike, the March 8 *Chicago Tribune* recalled that during the first days of the strike, Byrne "vowed that no one on strike would work for the city again."

Even before the walkout, Byrne declared on TV, "I will never again sit down with Mr. Muscare [the union president] and his men—not again, not ever."

On March 3, a federal mediator told reporters he had contacted city officials and their position remained unchanged: "Return to work, then we'll talk."

That same day, Mayor Byrne told a political reception: "Nothing has changed. I will not meet with the fire fighters union. It is an illegal group, and I will not meet with an illegal group."

Five days later, "Stonewall" Byrne signed a union agreement.



5 Amphitheater rally. When Jackson took the podium, the predominantly white strikers and their families rose to their feet and gave him a thunderous ovation. They knew what his presence meant for their struggle.

Solidarity

That same spirit of solidarity dominated the march through the Loop the next day.

These fire fighters were clearly proud to be marching behind a nationally prominent Black figure.

And the solidarity that had existed from the beginning of the strike between the white and Black fire fighters seemed even deeper.

The attempt of the Byrne administration to smash the fire fighters was calculated to escalate the attack on all city workers and on working people generally. That assault has now suffered a sharp setback.

There will be new blows aimed at city workers. But the solidarity forged around the fire fighters shows how they can resist takeback demands more effectively.

It also points toward the fighting alliance needed to defend education, health care, and other social services now being slashed in city budgets.

With the victory of the fire fighters' strike, Chicago working people have set an example for other cities. All workers face the same capitalist attack, and they all need the same solidarity.

Terms of agreement

CHICAGO—According to initial reports, the agreement won by the fire fighters union includes the following terms:

- An affirmative-action program will be established with a reported goal of at least 800 more Blacks and 500 more Hispanics. Among the city's 4,350 fire fighters, there are presently 400 Blacks and 60 Hispanics.

- Crew size on fire trucks will be increased from four to five. Half the engine crews will go to five immediately, the rest in 1981.

- Fire fighters will retain all rights and privileges held prior to the strike.

- Charges initiated against striking battalion chiefs, which could have cost them their jobs, will be dropped.

- The city will seek "leniency" on the \$910,000 in fines levied against the union and twelve of its leaders for defying an antistrike injunction. The judge who put un-

ion president Frank Muscare behind bars was slated to consider a motion to release him on March 13.

The union's demands on overtime will be submitted to a fact-finding panel and then, if need be, to binding arbitration. The same will apply on the union's demand to represent officers as well as rank-and-file fire fighters.

The only penalty accepted by the union is that fire fighters will work one day without pay; five battalion chiefs will lose four days pay.

The pact signed by the city and union is designated as a "letter of agreement," and includes provisos for its being superseded by a formal contract after a year of fact finding and arbitration on unresolved issues.

According to initial reports, if the union is dissatisfied with the outcome of such negotiations, it has the right, on ten days notice, to go on strike.

Auto workers discuss imports

United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser announced in January that his union was launching an anti-imports campaign. Imports should be restricted, he said, unless foreign auto corporations move production to the United States. The fact that this is Fraser's major proposal for combatting unemployment among auto workers has provoked discussion among UAW members. Below are two contributions to that debate from auto workers in Kansas City and Detroit. We urge other readers—especially auto workers—to send in their comments.

What about international solidarity?

By Tom Headley

DETROIT—With nearly 200,000 American auto workers unemployed, there is a concerted campaign to confuse us about the cause and what can be done.

The big-business media complain about the "foreign import problem," which they claim is responsible for stealing jobs.

True to the U.S. corporate interests they represent, Republican and Democratic politicians eagerly chime in with the same message.

The purpose of this campaign is to divert our attention from the fact that it's U.S. employers who decide how many workers are employed and how many are laid off.

Unfortunately, this campaign has found an echo among union leaders.

United Auto Workers President Douglas Fraser recently traveled to Japan to coax auto companies there to either reduce their U.S. exports or build plants here.

But Fraser has admitted that a "sluggish response by [U.S.] manufacturers to the public's demand for small cars was at the root of the import boom."

So why all the noise about Japanese

imports? Shouldn't we go to the root of the problem?

According to *Solidarity*, Fraser also says that "erecting trade barriers was not the answer to the import problem except as a last resort. Setting quotas, he declared, would only invite reprisals, and other countries then would not accept American exports, including many UAW-built items like farm machinery and aircraft."

But if you acknowledge that trade barriers invite reprisals, leading to even more job losses for workers all over the world, how can they be considered even a "last resort" solution?

Fraser proposes that Congress pass legislation requiring any Japanese firm with annual sales of 200,000 cars or more in North America to build "a substantial percentage of the content here. If not, fines and quotas should be imposed." So much for opposition to trade barriers.

He goes further to characterize Japanese auto companies as "exporters of unemployment" for not building plants here.

If Fraser wants to find "exporters of unemployment," he doesn't need to travel to Japan. Ford, General Motors, and Chrysler have been exporting unemployment for years.

The 1978 *Ford Annual Report* states that its operations extend to six continents and encompass 200 countries.

The situation is much the same with General Motors, which has announced its decision to build five component plants in Spain, Austria, and Northern Ireland.

Fraser's recent statements on imports will make it easier for the capitalists to convince American workers that foreign workers are the cause of our economic difficulties.



U.S. auto closings (top left) companion

This can only aid in diverting workers' attention from the real source of these problems—the profit drive of the U.S. corporations.

The labor of auto workers has enabled the industry to develop the productive capacity to produce far more vehicles than can be sold . . . without lowering prices. This is especially true considering the decline in working people's purchasing power.

Price reductions could benefit auto workers. Sales would increase, thus stimulating production and contributing to a reduction in unemployment. The only problem is that such a price reduction would lower profit margins.

That's where the real conflict of interests lies. The needs of working people versus the profit drive of the rulers—not the jobs of American workers versus the jobs of Japanese workers.

Auto production has become increasingly internationalized. The car strictly "made in the U.S.A." is practically extinct.

From South African chrome on bumpers to fully-assembled engines from Canada, "our" products usually consist of parts and raw materials from several countries. The "world car" recently developed by General Motors and Ford, with its standardized interchangeable parts, makes this all the more obvious.

The world car trend also increases the importance of international labor solidarity. If workers go on strike at a world car plant in one country, the company involved can just increase production in similar plants elsewhere. Fraser's recent handling of the imports issue leads away from developing international labor solidarity.

So it is the American employers who make the decisions to lay off American workers. They have been making such decisions with a vengeance lately. Threats—or implementation—of international trade barriers are no substitute for a shorter work week when it comes to fighting unemployment.

Toledo bosses push for givebacks

By Peter Archer

TOLEDO—Workers from plants throughout the Toledo area gathered at the Militant Forum recently, to discuss the United Auto Workers contracts that are being negotiated in many of the shops in the city.

In every case, it is clear that the companies are pushing for big givebacks by the workers—around mandatory overtime, cost-of-living clauses, health and safety, and many other issues.

Faith Einerson, a worker at Baron Steel, spoke first. Einerson is one of the only women in the plant, which is a subsidiary of Champion Spark Plugs. Although the plant is owned by Champion, she said, the company says workers can't get the same kind of contract Champion workers have—a contract that would lead to a substantial wage increase for Baron workers.

Last November and December, Baron workers struck for six weeks against the company's proposed contract.

The strike was hampered from the start by a lack of communication with the union members, Einerson said. During negotiations, "the [shop] committee disappeared. We never saw

them. They would say, 'There's no progress.' When the strike deadline came, workers were confused about what to do.

"But people did a fantastic job of organizing themselves."

Although workers voted down the first contract proposal, "the whole structure [of negotiations] was designed to starve us out or make liars and criminals of us." The workers were able to hold out long enough to win a contract with no cap on the cost of living, and no mandatory overtime.

Cheryl Lusky, a worker at Champion Spark Plug, spoke next. Lusky has been indefinitely suspended by Champion for her part in organizing a protest against the company's contract proposal.

About twenty workers took early "pass-outs" from work and set up a picket line outside the Champion gates. "Somehow," she commented, "the company feels they have the power to overrule federal law. I was terminated for protesting for my rights on public property."

An important issue in the Champion contract negotiations was the issue of mandatory overtime. Unfortunately the final contract includes, for the first time, a clause requiring employees to

work two Saturdays a month.

The final speaker at the forum was Paul Tierney. A worker at Champion, Tierney is also a member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Tierney began by pointing out that while Champion workers have a relatively better contract than other auto workers in the city, "Champion is out for as much profit as possible."

The companies' drive for profit has been acutely manifested in Toledo, he said. He pointed to thousands of workers laid off at Jeep and Chevy. Then he extended this picture to the layoffs, plant shutdowns, and soaring prices that are occurring across the nation.

Tierney outlined the socialist proposal for dealing with the Chrysler crisis: nationalize it and let a publicly elected board manage it. Open all Chrysler's books and meetings to public scrutiny, and let the workers control conditions on the job.

The struggle for such far-reaching social demands is a political one, he explained. It will require breaking from the two capitalist parties, the Democrats and Republicans.

"The UAW in Canada supports the New Democratic Party, a labor party," Tierney pointed out. "Why shouldn't the UAW in this country do the same?"

Why not a campaign to nationalize?

By Martha Pettit

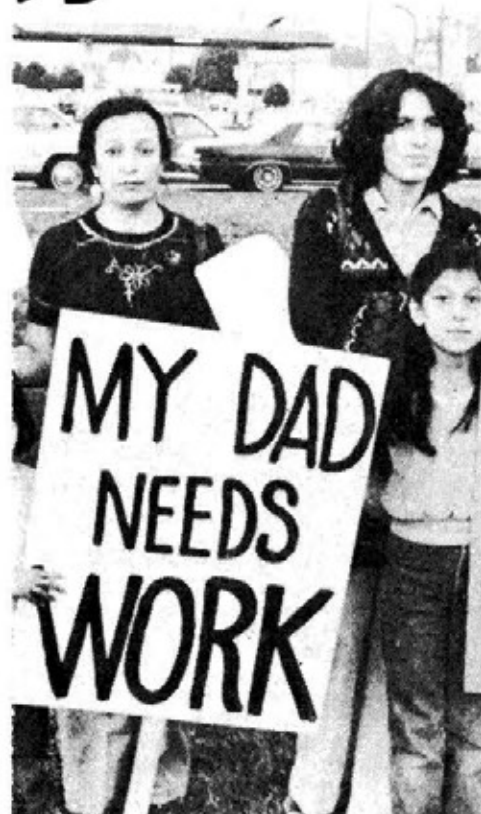
KANSAS CITY, Mo.—The lead story in the February issue of *Solidarity*, the United Auto Workers' monthly, is: "Fraser Challenges Japanese Automakers: 'If You're Going to Sell Here, Build Here.'"

Douglas Fraser, the UAW president, warns Japanese auto makers to follow Volkswagen's lead and build plants in the United States. The German manufacturer assembles the Rabbit in Pennsylvania.

"If the Japanese auto firms want to continue to benefit from the American marketplace," he told cheering delegates at the UAW legislative conference in Washington, D.C., "they must also contribute to it."

The article admits there has been some confusion about Fraser's comments. Some radio and television commentators have "misstated his position as one of breaking with the UAW's fair-trade position. A few letter-writers in some papers also saw it as an attempt to throttle competition from abroad," says *Solidarity*.

Martha Pettit is a member of United Auto Workers Local 93.



Solidarity/Cliff Kalick

workers face massive layoffs and plant out portraying Japanese auto workers is enemy plays into divisive scheme of

Fraser denied favoring import barriers—"except as a last resort." He also said that he "welcomed the competition from Japanese-owned companies because of the pressure it placed on U.S. firms to build smaller cars."

But a much quicker way to convince Chrysler, General Motors, and Ford to build smaller, safer, and more economical cars would be a UAW-led movement for nationalization of the giant auto companies. They've proven over and over again that they simply don't operate with the best interests of either workers or consumers at heart. Their only concern is profits.

Ironically, the publication also features an article explaining the heart-break, economic loss, and dislocations of thousands of UAW members by auto plant closings or relocations.

For example, a fifty-nine-year-old auto worker turned from happy-go-lucky to severely depressed when the Seaman Manufacturing Company, in Pontiac, Michigan, closed. His wife testified that he stopped eating, attempted suicide six times, and died prematurely of "heart failure" six weeks after the plant closed.

What does Fraser think would happen to thousands of Japanese auto workers and their families if Datsun, Honda, and Toyota moved plants to this country?

If these auto workers were dues-paying members of the "International" UAW, then you can bet that Fraser would not so quickly suggest that they be put out of work.

The article states that "Fraser's dramatic challenge underscored the union's concerns with the problems of unemployment, plant shutdown, inflation, energy, and other issues that stalked America into the new decade."

But in fact, Fraser's "solution" only makes the problems worse. Not only for Japanese auto workers, but for American auto workers as well.

By taking for granted that economic decision-making power belongs in the hands of the owners of Chrysler, General Motors, and Ford instead of with working people, he is only guaranteeing us more of the same: unemployment, plant shutdowns, inflation, high gas prices, and the like.

The UAW is one of the most powerful unions in the country. It could lead a vastly popular movement to nationalize the giants and retool the plants to meet society's need instead of the greed of the capitalists.

I'm afraid Fraser has identified himself as part of the problem, not part of the solution.

Ford threatens shutdown

By Rick Congress

CLEVELAND—Auto workers at Ford's huge Brook Park facility here are in an uproar over company threats against their jobs.

An internal memo made public last month revealed that Ford planned to close the Brook Park engine plant operations and move to Mexico—eliminating 5,000 jobs. The memo noted possible opposition, stating that "much will depend on how seriously the Cleveland UAW local decides to protest this action."

United Auto Workers Local 1250, which represents Brook Park workers, held a special meeting attended by more than 1,000 members on February 23, the day after the disclosure.

UAW Region 2 Director Bill Casstevens began his remarks by saying he was speaking "on behalf of [UAW President] Doug Fraser and on behalf of [Ohio Democratic Senator] Howard Metzenbaum." He said that the issue is "fair trade," and claimed that Japanese auto companies dump their cars on the U.S. market and cause unemployment. Casstevens urged support to legislation on plant closings now pending in Ohio.

Thurmond Payne, president of Local 1250, denounced Ford for its callous disregard for its workers and called for a one-day "blue flu"—for every worker to call in sick as a protest. Workers shouted "Set the date" and "Why not a whole week?"

Payne replied that "we will get together with the regional director on this." He also called for a march of unemployed workers on Washington for jobs and against imports.

UAW Local 420 President Joe DiMico told the gathering that of the 4,000 workers at Ford's Walton Hills plant, only 2,300 remain on the job. The union is trying to settle local grievances, but the company won't negotiate. Ford is threatening to shut down and move out if the union doesn't take its offer.

DiMico pledged Local 420's support to whatever is decided to counter Ford's attacks. "The movement has got to start now," he said.

A few days later, Ford announced that it would not move to Mexico, but instead retool Brook Park Engine Plant 2 for four-cylinder engine production. This proposal would shut down the plant for two-and-a-half to three



Solidarity

Is Ford's talk of moving to Mexico a ploy to force a Chrysler-style agreement on its workers?

years, putting 2,000 employees out of work.

Ford Vice-president John A. Betti assured workers that they would be rehired when the retooling was completed.

But the next day Betti was quoted in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* as saying that Ford could not guarantee that all the workers affected by the shutdown would be rehired. In fact, he couldn't say whether any of them would get their jobs back.

Ford cites declining sales and a profit pinch to justify its actions.

But in 1979, Ford had its third best year in history—largely due to record profits from its foreign business. While domestic sales declined, according to an Associated Press dispatch, "in 1979 outside the U.S. sales, Ford led all producers in motor vehicles for the fifteenth straight year."

Ford's latest blow comes in the context of mounting layoffs and looming economic disaster for workers here.

The Brook Park plant used to employ 15,000 workers. Before the latest announced shutdown, 5,000 were on indefinite layoff, and another 5,800 were on temporary furlough. Huge layoffs have occurred in the auto and steel industries in northeast Ohio during the last year.

Many workers are talking about Cleveland as "another Youngstown," alluding to U.S. Steel's devastation of that city through mill closings.

There is much discussion among auto workers and other working people here about Ford's actions, the overall economic crisis, layoffs, inflation, and the energy ripoff.

First and foremost is the growing conviction that Ford is lying. Is the move to Mexico really off?

What about the long time for the retooling shutdown? UAW members point out that during World War II, auto assembly plants were converted into tank plants within five months.

Other questions come to mind. How do Ford's claims of a financial squeeze and foreign competition square with its booming profits and growing foreign sales?

Is Ford trying to force a Chrysler-style agreement on auto workers? Will its next demand be that UAW members reopen their contract and take less for the "good of the company and jobs"?

So-called plant closing legislation is being pushed by Democratic Party politicians as a way to solve the problem.

What will this legislation do?

Senate Bill 188, introduced in the Ohio State Legislature, provides for a State Community Readjustment Council. This council must receive two years' notice from an employer of its intention to either shut down or move.

The bill exempts state bodies, governmental subdivisions, tax-exempt enterprises, companies that employ fewer than 100 workers, and those that have operated in the state less than five years. The council can grant more exemptions.

The company would have to pay minimal compensation—one week's pay for every year worked—to employees losing their jobs.

In no way does the bill stop any plant from closing, nor does it save even one job.

Socialist answer to plant closings

CLEVELAND—John Powers, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Senate from Ohio, voiced strong support for auto workers' protests against the threatened shutdown of Ford's Brook Park assembly plant.

"Ford—the twelfth most profitable corporation in the country—puts its drive for even more millions ahead of the jobs and lives of thousands of workers," Powers said.

Powers, a member of United Auto Workers Local 451, explained the SWP campaign proposals on plant closings during a March 4 Brook Park city council meeting.

"Current 'plant closing' legislation proposed by the Democrats is inadequate—it's cover for doing nothing," Powers told the *Militant*. "We demand that the government provide full compensation at union-scale wages for every worker hit by layoff or plant closing—for the full duration of unemployment, regardless of time on the job."

"A worker who has been on the job six months pays the same prices for food, gas, and rent as a worker who has twenty years," Powers said. "Both need full compensation for

these job losses they are in no way responsible for."

Powers went on to say that auto workers "have a right to be dubious about Ford's claims of poverty." He demands that Ford "open all its books and records to public examination."

"What are Ford's real profits? What are their secret plans for restructuring the industry, eliminating jobs, and imposing speedup?" Powers asked.

"Auto workers have a right to know the truth."

Powers said that if Ford "refuses to provide jobs and continues to force its workers onto unemployment lines, the company should be nationalized—taken out of the hands of private owners. It should be run to produce safe, fuel-efficient, and pollution-free cars and mass transportation for human needs, not private profits for the few."

"Auto workers, through their union, should control production, with veto power over line speed, hours, working conditions, and all questions of safety."

His nationalization proposal would place Ford under the manage-

ment of a publicly elected board, whose meetings, records, and decisions would be open to full public scrutiny.

To eliminate unemployment throughout the economy, the SWP candidate called for legislation to prohibit forced overtime and to shorten the workweek to thirty hours with no cut in pay.

Commenting on Ford's threat to move the plant, Powers remarked, "the best cure for 'runaway shops' is to give them no place to run."

The senatorial candidate calls for repealing the Taft-Hartley Act and all anti-union "right to work" laws in the country. Such laws aid Ford and other corporations in blocking union organizing.

Powers says that labor needs to break from the Democrats and Republicans, who serve only the interests of Ford and other giant corporations. The SWP campaign advocates that labor form its own political party.

"A labor party based on the strength of the unions—like the UAW—could fight politically in the interests of auto workers and all working people," Powers concluded.

Women, the draft & U.S. military

By Suzanne Haig

"NOW Opposes Draft; Supports Women's Registration" is the headline of the March issue of the *National NOW Times*. It is an attempt to sum up a position paper issued by the leadership of the National Organization for Women that appears in the paper along with a statement by NOW President Eleanor Smeal.

The position paper, like the headline, tries to embrace contradictory stands. It professes opposition to the draft, but advocates registering and drafting women if these are imposed on men.

Support to registering and drafting women is incompatible with a stand against the draft.

Worse, the bulk of the position paper is devoted to advocating a *stronger* U.S. army. It argues that a volunteer army is more effective for Washington than a draftee army and is in the interests of women. It portrays a volunteer army with a higher percentage of women as a better killing machine, and argues that women's role in helping to build a powerful U.S. army will be a big step forward for women's rights.

In short, the army needs women and women need the army—although the position paper argues that these needs can be better met without the draft.

This position has been put forward without discussion or vote by the NOW membership. It poses a mortal danger to NOW and to the entire women's movement. It threatens to lead NOW into an alliance with the very forces that are the worst enemies of women's rights, the worst enemies of working people all over the world.

Discussion

Fortunately, this policy statement by the national leadership has provoked widespread discussion within NOW chapters. Some have already unequivocally rejected the false notion that registering to die for Exxon is a step forward for women.

"We are opposed to reinstatement of compulsory registration," Smeal's statement begins.

"NOW is against the registration of young people precisely because it is a response which stimulates the environment of preparation for war," the position paper reads. "Too many of us still remember the senseless killing and destruction in Vietnam—which we also protested."

In another section it states correctly what thousands of working people believe: "To fight a war for oil is to deny that the inherent rights of all human beings must take precedence over the economic self-interest of a very few."

However, the remainder of the six-page position paper and Smeal's statement are in contradiction to this stand.

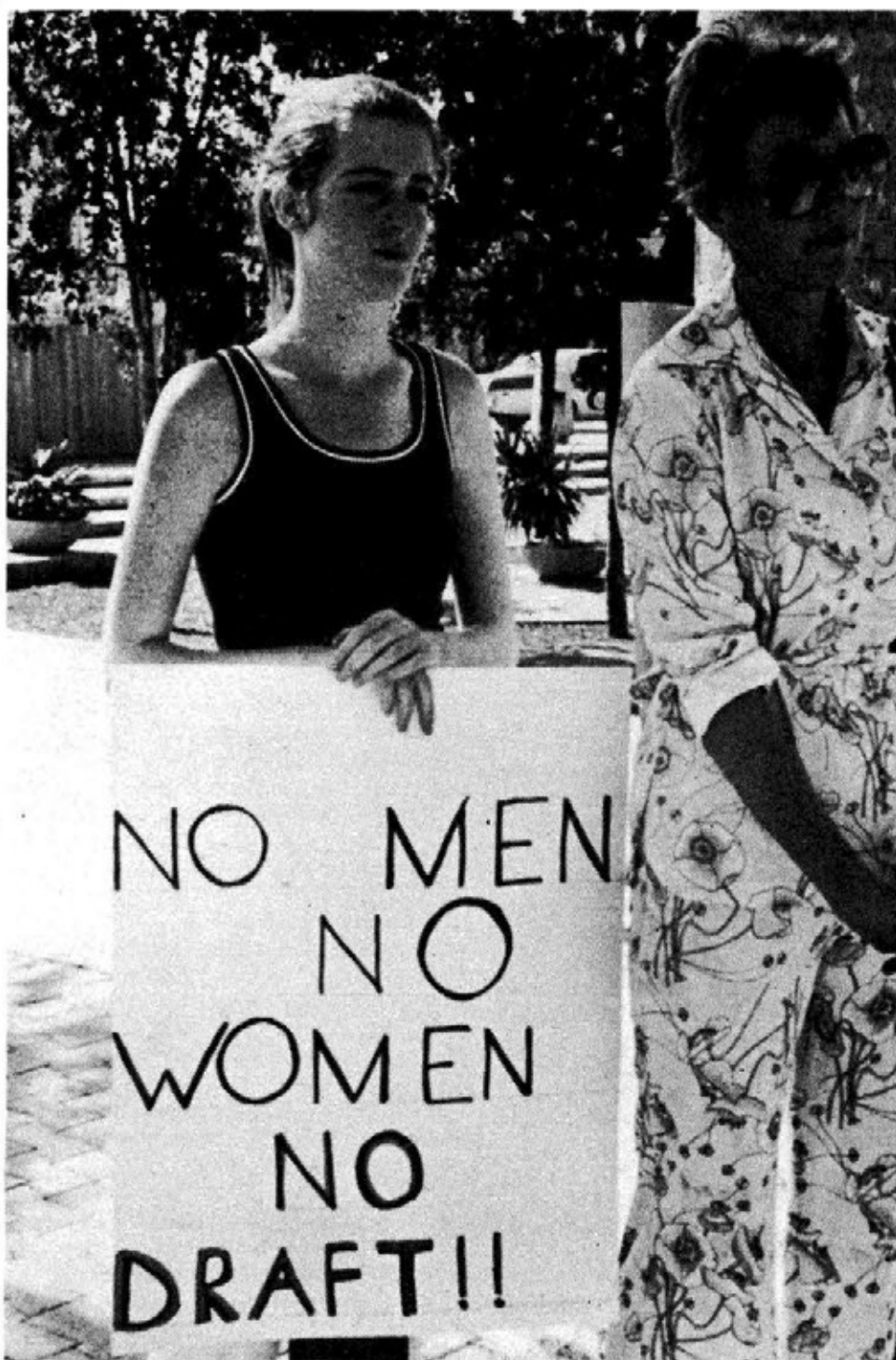
The position paper's arguments against the draft are largely presented in terms of the needs of the military machine. It argues that the U.S. army can best be strengthened by maintaining the All-Volunteer Force (AVF) that has existed since massive popular opposition to the Vietnam war forced the government to end compulsory military service.

Reading the position paper underscores the fact that the question of what attitude to take to the drafting of women cannot be separated from the question of the role of the U.S. army.

Whose interests does it serve? What kind of wars does it fight? Why is Carter pushing for the draft now?

World cop

While slick advertising paints the army as a great place to learn skills, have fun, see the world, and have equal opportunities, this is a cruel deception.



Militant/Andrea Baron

The U.S. army is a killing machine whose function is to protect the property and profits of Big Oil and the other corporate giants. It is used against working people and oppressed nations around the world.

For decades it forcibly conscripted young working-class men to fight and die for these ruling-class interests, and now Carter proposes to push women into the meat grinder too.

Washington's ability to use this instrument of terror was dealt a stunning blow by the powerful, organized opposition to the Vietnam War. But today Carter is striving to reverse the antiwar sentiments of the American people. He needs to beef up the war machine so it can be used to take on challenges to big business, particularly from the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

He needs to be able to use U.S. military force as a credible threat against the Iranian people. Millions—including millions of women—went into the streets to bring down the shah, who made that country safe for the oil companies by torturing and killing tens of thousands.

Washington wants to be able to use its army to stop freedom struggles in Central America. In El Salvador a contingent of U.S. marine "advisers" are reported to be fighting to keep a hated military dictatorship in power.

Nicaragua and Cuba

Carter calculates that reinstituting the draft would make military blackmail more effective against Nicaragua. There working men and women are taking the land and resources into their own hands, repairing the destruction carried out with U.S. planes and

weapons by the Somoza regime.

Washington wants to escalate the pressure on Cuba, where the socialist revolution has eliminated unemployment, illiteracy, and malnutrition by throwing out the profit-hungry U.S. corporations.

Even more, Cuba continues to thumb its nose at U.S. might by actively supporting revolutions in Nicaragua and in Africa.

Carter's military threats are directed against the workers and peasants—and women—of Afghanistan, who are fighting to end centuries of near-feudal relations. Washington is backing the ultrareactionary forces who are trying to bring down this government, one of whose "crimes" was to begin to educate women.

Ultimately, of course, Carter's threats are directed against the Soviet Union. Washington's antagonism has only been heightened by Soviet military and economic assistance to Afghanistan and Cuba.

Aimed at U.S. workers

And Carter's militarization drive is aimed at the masses of American working people. We have to be convinced of the need to sacrifice for Texaco before we will accept the blows being dealt to our standard of living and our rights—including the blocking of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The army is a repressive force used against working people at home as well as abroad. Carter threatened to use federal troops to break the United Mine Workers strike in 1978. Federal troops killed dozens of Black people during the Detroit rebellion of 1967 in an operation directed by the current Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance.

The women's rights movement must stand shoulder to shoulder with the social forces fighting for equality and a better life at home and abroad. Our enemies are the same and our victories are intertwined. Our stance must be one of unconditional opposition to the U.S. army, which exists *only* to protect the economic interests responsible for our second-class status.

Unfortunately, the NOW leadership's position paper has a very different stance:

The best way "to improve the quality of the national defense . . . is to remove the sex discriminatory restrictions on women in the military."

Women, Blacks, and Latinos who find themselves dragooned into the military by law or by economic compulsion must fight racist and sexist victimization by the professional officer corps. It is a matter of elementary survival. This is the opposite of trying to improve the fighting qualities of the military machine. But this is not the NOW leadership's point.

"Without these discriminatory practices," they say, "women recruits would be in far greater supply and of a higher caliber than additional male recruits."

Women as cannon fodder

The paper reasons that women should be regarded as just as good—if not better—cannon fodder than men.

"Our experience in ground combat with Asian men (who are on the average smaller than American women) in Korea and Vietnam demonstrated that smaller men can be the victor because of skill or training," the NOW leadership says. Moreover, "the person who pushes the button may be in a combat role, but does not require extraordinary strength to carry out her/his duties."

"A small, agile person is more advantageous than a large, heavy person in many situations," the position paper proclaims.

The authors stop short of suggesting that Carter could save money on pine boxes by providing them for "small" women rather than for "large, heavy" men. But they come dangerously close to that kind of thinking.

Women are not fighting for equality in order to more efficiently lay waste to the lives and livelihood of our sisters and brothers in Vietnam or any other country. Nor would it be more progressive to have the honor of pushing the button that launches a war of nuclear annihilation. The position paper says it opposes new wars. What, then, are such bellicose arguments doing here?

While talking about pressing a fight against sexism in the army, the paper suggests that the Pentagon can turn discrimination to its advantage. "The average woman recruit is much less likely than a male recruit to become a discipline problem," the position paper asserts, falling back on the stereotype of women as docile and respectful of male authority.

Job discrimination can also work in the military's favor: "Many personnel categories required by the modern armed services—clerical workers, key-punch operators, computer specialists, communications experts, administrative personnel—are more readily found already trained in the female population."

Make the army better?

Not only are women good for the military, according to the paper, the military is good for women. "Despite the sex discrimination which restricts them to few and truncated career paths," it states, "the military is attractive monetarily to many women. . . . The services, unlike the private sector, do pay men and women equally if they are of the same grade,

longevity, and skills. Like the private sector, however, enlisted women are clustered in the lower pay grades and are under-represented in the higher pay grades."

The *National NOW Times* issue which carries the position paper is full of pictures of women in the military practicing with M-16 rifles, firing machine guns, climbing into cockpits, and undergoing basic training. It could look to some like a recruiting poster.

The paper treats the military like any other employer in society which practices sex and race discrimination.

But the army can no more become a vehicle for advancing the interests of women and oppressed nationalities than the police force can be reformed by recruiting more women, Blacks, or Latinos. Their job is to intimidate and repress working people into accepting the rule of the rich.

Our stand must be one of unconditional opposition to the army, not attempts to give it a more "progressive" image through improvements in its "hiring practices."

Discrimination against women

The position paper argues that if the draft is reinstituted women will benefit by having years ripped out of their lives by the army. "Omission from the registration and draft ultimately robs women of the right to first class citizenship and paves the way to underpaying women all the remaining days of our lives. Moreover, because men exclude women here, they justify excluding women from the decision-making of our nation."

Women are not discriminated against in society because we are "omitted" from killing and dying for Exxon in equal numbers.

Women's second-class status is rooted in our economic dependence: inequality is indispensable to the profits of big business. That is what "paves the way" to underpaying women.

The corporations reap profits from paying women fifty-nine cents to every dollar made by men, and from using women's unpaid domestic labor in the family to reduce the costs of social services. The same forces opposing the ERA are those who favor reinstituting the draft.

Do the authors of the position paper believe that by women showing concern for U.S. military superiority, the current war drive atmosphere generated by Washington will lead the government to reward women with equal rights? Dying for imperialism—the very system that is built on discrimination against women—will never bring us one step closer to equality.

One has only to look at the plight of Blacks and Latinos today. They served more than equally in the fighting and dying on the front lines in Vietnam. They received no rewards or inclusion in the "decision-making of our nation."

The vets upon returning home faced poverty and unemployment. Many were victims of drug addiction or cancer and other diseases caused by the deadly Agent Orange. The conditions of Blacks and Latinos in jobs, education, health, and housing has deteriorated since Vietnam.

Women can fight

In contrast to the reactionaries who argue that women are too weak to fight, the position paper stresses correctly that women are as capable of combat as men.

Women's capacity to fight heroically for a cause that is in their interests has been demonstrated from the American war of independence in 1776 to the battles of the labor, civil rights, and women's movements.

National liberation struggles in Algeria, Vietnam, and Nicaragua provided stirring examples of women fighting side by side with men for freedom.

But the authors of the position paper pass over an important fact: the great majority of women, including those firmly committed to the fight for women's equality, oppose the registra-



Woman pilot, mechanic, machine gunner. U.S. armed forces photos from March 'National NOW Times,' which presents Washington's army as force for women's liberation.

tion and drafting of women.

We oppose being registered or drafted for the same reasons men do! Being drafted is not a "right" but is a violation of our rights and our interests. It is a forcible disruption of our lives.

In light of the actual feelings of women, the position paper's repeated promise that "women will serve" rings hollow. If ever masses of women "serve" the army, it will be for the reason that many men did in the past. They were compelled to on pain of jail or exile, or by unemployment and poverty.

Equality and Equity

"Young people who have common aspirations, hopes, and education will resent women being excluded," the paper argues.

No. It is the government that young people resent, for it is trying to force men and women to give up their aspirations and hopes. Demonstrations have been called to oppose the draft—not to insist that women be included in an "equitable" draft.

Contrary to the authors, drafting women has nothing to do with equality. Equality for the oppressed sex means the extension of rights and opportunities for women on the job, in education, and society.

Registration and the draft would not be a new opportunity for women, but a new restriction on our freedom.

Women's rights supporters never argued that violations or restrictions of rights should be extended to women. They are not in favor, for instance, of taking away those protective legislative measures which benefit women's health and safety.

These should be extended to men.

The position paper's argument is like recognizing that the death penalty is cruel and unjust, and then proposing that women be executed in equal numbers to assure "equity."

Drafting women would be no favor to working men. Should Carter be successful in drafting men, extending the draft to the other half of the population would mean an extension of the attack. "Now they want to take our daughters and sisters too" has been a common response.

It was in the interests of working people that women were not drafted into the slaughter of working-class youth during the Vietnam War. The issue during the war was not to extend the carnage to women but to build a

movement strong enough to bring the troops home—to end Washington's war of aggression as well as the draft.

Their position leads the authors to give credence to the reactionaries' claim that ERA will mean drafting women:

"In the event of registration or draft under the ERA, men and women would register and be drafted according to their ability."

It was exactly these kinds of false arguments that were used this year by anti-ERA forces to engineer its defeat in Missouri and Virginia. The proposal to draft women will continue to be used to disorient ERA supporters.

This was one reason why Carter called for registering women. While parading as a friend of women's rights, he knew equating ERA with the draft would deal a blow to the fight for equal rights.

The opposition to the ERA, which has blocked ratification, is part of a broad attack by the employers against the rights of working people.

The employers think passing the ERA would encourage fights to extend the rights of working people. And they are right.

The attack on our rights includes the draft. And the cutbacks in social spending, the growing unemployment, and the rampaging inflation that gobbles up our wages.

It includes the Hyde Amendment that the administration used to bar poor women from the simple right to decide whether or not to have a child.

It includes the attempts to roll back gains made by Blacks and Latinos in jobs and education.

The way to win the ERA is not to volunteer for the employers' war drive, but to join with other working people in fighting it.

The stand in the position paper undermines the fight for ERA by falsely identifying it with militarism and war. If it is maintained, it can only devastate NOW's efforts to win allies among working people and oppressed minorities.

Oppose the draft!

If the U.S. government succeeds in registering anyone it will be a blow against women's rights and against the rights of all working people. It will make it easier for the government and the employers to deal us further blows.

That's why it is so important that NOW mobilize its forces for the March 22 antidraft demonstration in Washington, D.C.

At the same time, NOW chapters, as some are already doing, need to discuss the leadership's current position on the draft and explain why it must be reversed.

Instead of photos of women climbing into bombers, perhaps the April issue of the *National NOW Times*, could carry photographs of women marchers in Washington.

Their slogans will point the real way to fight for women's rights: "ERA yes! Draft no!" "Hell no, we won't fight for Texaco!"

Militarism & the Draft

Militarism and Anti-Militarism

by Karl Liebknecht

176 pp., \$2.00

The Socialist Workers Party

in World War II

by James P. Cannon

446 pp., \$6.45

Out Now! A Participant's Account of the American Movement Against the Vietnam War

by Fred Halstead 759 pp., \$9.95

"Revolutionary Strategy in the Fight Against the Vietnam War,"

an Education for Socialists

booklet.

94 pp., \$2.50



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1st woman killed in iron mine

VIRGINIA, Minn.—Twenty-one-year-old Shelly Salo, a pit laborer, was killed February 28 at U.S. Steel's Minntac mine in Mt. Iron, Minnesota. A power cable stand that her crew was moving fell on her, puncturing her aorta. She died of internal bleeding.

Salo was the first woman killed at Minntac.

At a campaign meeting here March 1, Ilona Gersh, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the Eighth Congressional District, charged the company was responsible for Salo's death. Gersh works at the Minntac taconite mine and is a member of United Steelworkers Local 1938.

"U.S. Steel says it was a freak accident," Gersh said. "They're going to try to blame it on one of the crew members, or on Shelly Salo herself. I'd call it murder."

"Shelly and more than 130 other steelworkers around the country have been killed in the past three years in on-the-job accidents. They were killed by the steel company's profit drive. By obsolete equipment. By speed-ups on the job and overtime that wears you out just enough so you don't have the energy to watch out for your own safety."

"U.S. Steel and the other criminal corporations blame it on human error. But that's just

a cover-up. Shelly's death was a gross, outrageous example of how U.S. industry is geared to making billions in profit—regardless of human lives.

"The government should be forced to make the mine companies comply with safety and health laws," Gersh continued. "As it is now, the Mine Safety and Health Administration just fines the companies a few dollars for a violation. And today, when the number of deaths and injuries on the job are increasing, they're talking about doing away with MSHA altogether."

"Let's put the blame for killings like this where it belongs—on the company and on the government."

Women gain in coal jobs

During 1979, 11.4 percent of all underground coal miners hired in the United States were women, reports the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

That's up from no women miners in 1972, at least according to federal figures.

Hiring of women underground miners began in 1973 and since then 2,940 have begun work.

Last year, when general hiring was the lowest since 1973, 555 new women became miners.



Coal Employment Project

Coal companies have been under pressure to hire women in large part because of lawsuits filed by women throughout the coalfields. The biggest action was a complaint filed by the Coal Employment Project against 153 coal companies in 1977. Consolidation Coal, the nation's second largest coal producer, reached an out-of-court settlement in December 1978, agreeing to hire one woman for every four inexperienced men.

A similar affirmative-action plan was agreed to by Blue Diamond Coal Company for its Kentucky operations in December 1979.

The NIOSH figures on the hiring of women are reported in the February issue of the CEP's newsletter, *Coal Mining Women's Support Team News*. It also includes a breakdown by states of new women miners. (West Virginia tops the list in 1979 with 174 hires.) To

subscribe to the newsletter, send \$3 to P.O. Box 3403, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.

Abortion rights fighter

DETROIT—Dr. Edgar Keemer, Jr., died here February 27 at the age of sixty-six. A memorial meeting was held March 9 at Wayne State University.

Keemer was known for his courageous fight for women's right to abortion and for his persistence in performing abortions for poor, Black women in Detroit—in defiance of anti-abortion laws—since 1938.

A civil rights activist as well as a fighter for women's rights, Keemer once characterized his life's work as "a forty-year

struggle for freedom of choice for women and against racism and hypocrisy."

He was a member of the Socialist Workers Party in the 1940s and a columnist for the *Militant* under the pen name Charles Jackson.

A review of his autobiography, *Confessions of a Pro-Life Abortionist*, appeared in the February 29, 1980, *Militant*.

Though in poor health, Keemer participated in the fight for abortion rights until his death. Last October he spoke at a rally in Lansing, Michigan, to demand continued Medicaid funding for abortion.

"I believe that just as in the civil rights struggles of the sixties, women's right to control their own bodies will only be sustained by militant action—protests, pickets, boycotts, and marches, such as the one today," he said.

"This struggle will not die. In the end, we must win. Carry on, sisters!"

Toxic waste time bomb: PCBs in Baltimore

By Baxter Smith

BALTIMORE—Despite pleas by unionists, local officials, and others, the federal government is moving ahead with a plan to stockpile thousands of gallons of a deadly chemical in the Baltimore area.

The first load of toxic PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) was placed in storage on the city's outskirts February 22.

Some 33,000 gallons will be stored in a General Services Administration depot in the densely populated Curtis Bay area of nearby Anne Arundel County.

The PCBs were previously kept illegally outside in rusting oil tanks in Sharpton, Maryland, a small community one hundred miles southeast of here. But repeated complaints from Sharpton residents forced their removal.

PCB is so toxic that its manufacture was outlawed by the federal government in 1976. It is a known carcinogen, or cancer-causing substance. For decades it was used in electrical transformers and capacitors because of its extreme resistance to heat.

Events leading up to the transfer have produced front-page coverage in the local press. Other recent news about PCB has helped bring the issue into the minds of many.

In early October fifty gallons of PCB oil leaked from two electrical transformers aboard a truck in an East Baltimore parking lot. The Coast Guard, which has jurisdiction over the handling and cleanup of PCB spills, ordered the truck and 450 square feet of contaminated asphalt to be dug up and buried in an EPA-approved site in Alabama.

Later in October it was discovered that dozens of PCB transformers were leaking at Bethlehem Steel's giant

Sparrows Point plant. Workers there, aware of the hazard of the chemical, balked at orders to clean it up without adequate safeguards.

"Bethlehem's attitude has been that this is not a safety problem," said Alan Fisher, a United Steelworkers official at the plant. Foremen ordering the cleanup, he pointed out, used the excuse that many substances, such as saccharin, cause cancer.

"That is true," Fisher countered, "but as far as I know, when they spill saccharin on the ground, they don't dig up the concrete."

The decision to move PCB-laden oil from Sharpton to the Baltimore area provoked an angry response.

Officials in Anne Arundel County hurriedly passed an ordinance to require haulers to obtain permits to ship hazardous wastes through the county. But a county circuit court judge forbade the county from applying the law in the case of PCB.

County officials, however, believed that a loophole in the judge's ruling might allow them to halt the trucks transferring the PCB and arrest the drivers after they crossed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and entered Anne Arundel County.

County Solicitor Richard Hillman puzzled though "how, practically, a county police car can stop a State Police-escorted convoy on a state highway."

"We'd be stuck with the stuff," he admitted.

County officials tried to adopt another law to forbid the storage of PCB. It was struck down by an appeals court on February 15.

"If Anne Arundel County can regulate state action," Chief Judge Richard Gilbert asked, "why can't all the other counties regulate the state?"

In the meantime, the Coast Guard moved ahead with its plans to oversee the PCB transfer. Coast Guard Captain J. William Kime stated that the dangers had been "blown out of proportion."

Then a PCB spill was reported February 15 at the Coast Guard's own headquarters in Curtis Bay. Soil from the facility had to be dug up and carried to Alabama for burial.

With all legal barriers swept aside, the first shipment of 3,600 gallons began in the early morning of February 22.

Knots of protesters met various state and federal environmental officials and the police-escorted truck convoy when it arrived.

"Take away the PCB. Take away the PCB," they chanted.

"[Maryland Governor Harry] Hughes thinks PCB means Pollute Curtis Bay," read one protester's placard.

"We want to let them know that even at four in the morning we're going to watch them to make sure they live up to their promises," explained Michael Cashen of the City-County Coalition for Survival. "We're not going to let this thing die."

1.5 billion deadly tons

BALTIMORE—The Maryland Occupational Safety and Health agency (MOSH) sponsored a one-day seminar on PCB February 23.

Speakers included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, MOSH, United Steelworkers of America Local 2609 at Sparrows Point, and the Metropolitan Baltimore AFL-CIO Council.

The manufacture of PCB, it was pointed out, began in 1929 by the Monsanto Chemical Corporation. It is estimated that some one-and-one-half billion tons have been manufactured in the U.S. by various companies under about twenty brand names.

PCB is found in heat exchange systems, fire retardants, electromagnets, adhesives, textiles, sealants, printing inks, caulking compounds, air conditioners, microwave ovens, and elsewhere.

The first evidence that PCB had slipped into the life cycle of animals, and possibly of humans, was when biologists found it in the eggs of peregrine falcons.

In 1968, the Rice Oil Epidemic in Japan was traced to PCB that had gotten into rice oil. Thirteen hundred people were hospitalized. The offspring of the victims had darker skin than their parents and some

had internal bodily disorders.

PCB attacks the mucous membranes and respiratory system. Some victims contract jaundice and liver problems. PCB has caused pancreatic and skin cancer, and it affects the reproductive system.

PCB is not broken down by the body if ingested, but is stored chiefly in the fatty tissues.

It is estimated that most people have less than 10 parts per million of PCB in their bodies. The Rice Oil Epidemic victims had about 30 ppm.

EPA regulations call for the burial in approved landfills of anything contaminated with between 30 ppm and 50 ppm. There are nine such EPA-approved landfills in the country.

Anything contaminated with between 50 ppm and 500 ppm of PCB must be disposed of in special boilers.

Contaminated substances containing more than 500 ppm must be disposed of in incinerators that can produce a high enough temperature to tear apart the PCB molecule.

There are no such high temperature EPA-controlled incinerators in existence. Yet a portion of the PCB slated for storage in Curtis Bay contains upwards of 1,000 ppm.

—B.S.

Baxter Smith is a member of International Chemical Workers Union Local 976 at W. R. Grace Chemical Co. in Curtis Bay.

Proposes years more study

Carter's nuclear waste plan: still no solution

By Dick Roberts

After months of deliberation, Carter sent Congress his plan for the long-term disposal of nuclear wastes last month. He called it "this nation's first comprehensive radioactive waste management program."

It proposes studying the problem for several more years, trying to come up with both a method and disposal sites, which are projected to be operational by 1995 at the earliest.

Carter's program concedes just how far science is from finding a solution to this deadly problem after four decades of nuclear production.

The White House report to Congress even admitted that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is in the process of "determining whether or not it has confidence that radioactive wastes can be disposed of safely."

Meanwhile every day that nuclear power plants continue to operate, they are producing more of this waste. Utilities are already running out of space in temporary storage bins at reactor sites.

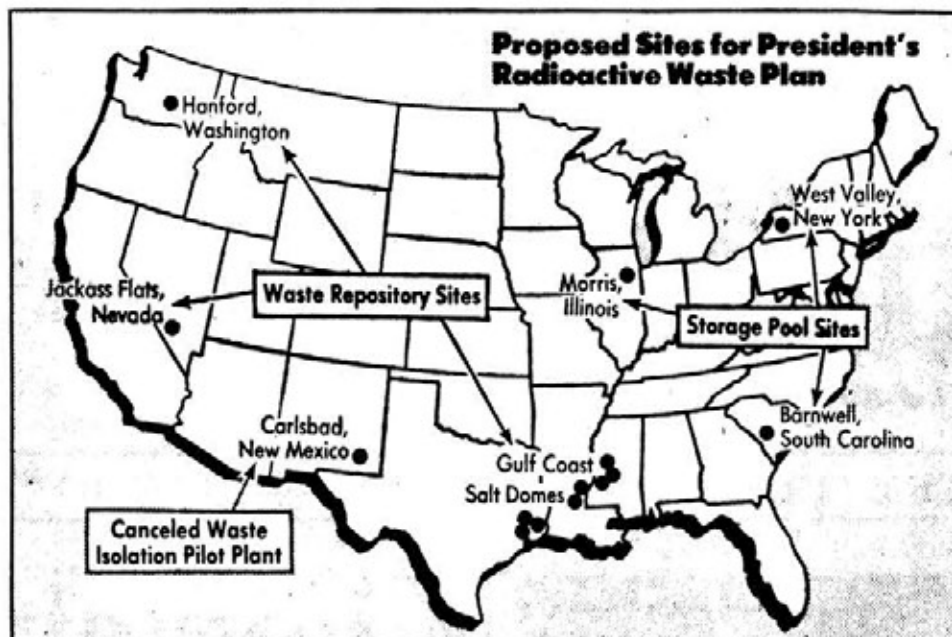
Carter's go-slow study proposal is also a recognition of the increased public awareness about the nuclear waste danger. It will require a high pressure campaign to sell the idea to any state or community that they should take the risk of being a permanent storage site.

One part of Carter's proposal is abandoning for now the plan to bury military nuclear wastes in a salt dome near Carlsbad, New Mexico. Ninety million dollars has already been spent developing the site, but apparently local and state objections proved to be much an obstacle. Instead, Carter suggested eleven possible sites for study, including Carlsbad.

Site selections

Three sites are under consideration for a storage plant for spent nuclear fuel from commercial power plants.

Carter's proposed bill also calls for setting up a nineteen-member council



Map shows possible sites for away-from-reactor storage pools for spent fuel and permanent burial sites for waste once plutonium is removed.

of governors and other officials to "overcome the local political problem of site selections"—in the euphemistic words of the *Wall Street Journal*.

Carter's study proposal, complained *Business Week*, "will add to public pressure to halt new nuclear construction and makes it unlikely that the industry will get much domestic business until the problem of waste disposal is solved."

That will be a tall order to fill.

Every aspect of the nuclear fuel cycle is dangerous—from the mining of uranium to the disposal of what is left after the nuclear fuel has been consumed. It is this last part of the cycle that is concerned in the White House's proposed \$300-million nuclear waste bill.

A good place to get an idea of the problems involved is the pamphlet *What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power* by Fred Halstead.

High-level nuclear waste, which would kill people exposed to it for even a few seconds, results from the using up of the fuel rods and other parts of the reactor core in nuclear power plants.

According to Halstead, "Sections of the core must be replaced every year or so. This means removing thousands of pounds of heavy metal and spent fuel, all of which is not only deadly radioactive but hot in temperature as well. It remains deadly radioactive for thousands of years."

"This waste," Halstead continues, "is removed from the core by remote control. The used-up sections of the

core are placed in a large pool of water, something like a deep swimming pool, right next to the reactor. The original plan was to remove these bundles of spent fuel rods to a permanent, government-operated storage facility after no more than ten years.

"But the government has been unable to develop a permanent storage facility, so the stuff is piling up at the plant sites."

Plutonium removal

The distinction between permanent burial sites for military wastes and storage sites for the spent nuclear fuel comes from the fact that plutonium and other isotopes that could be used for weapons are still locked up in spent fuel and they can be removed through reprocessing.

The waste that remains after the removal of plutonium is what the

federal government wants to bury permanently.

According to *Washington Post* reporter Thomas O'Toole, "Almost all the radioactive waste in the United States is spent military fuel that has been reprocessed to extract its plutonium since before 1950. About 100 million gallons of highly radioactive waste is stored in double walled stainless steel tanks at Hanford [Washington] and Savannah River, South Carolina, alongside the reprocessing plants."

Halstead describes the reprocessing "nightmare" at Hanford and Savannah River. "Most of the waste is kept in large carbon-steel tanks which resist corrosion for only twenty-five years. Newer stainless-steel tanks are expected to last fifty years. Since the first such wastes were deposited twenty-five years ago, the early tanks are about to give out."

"This liquid must be kept from contact with living things for thousands of years, but some of the tanks have already leaked due to cracks or mishandling. Some 440,000 gallons have leaked into the soil at Hanford. It is seeping toward the water table and the Columbia River."

There are fierce local objections to becoming a nuclear dumping ground and becoming another Hanford. The governor of Washington is herself attempting to prevent other states from dumping low-level radioactive waste at Hanford in the future and there are six states—California, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, New York, Oregon, and Wisconsin—that presently prohibit the construction of new reactors until the disposal issue is settled.

Carter's promise of a 1995 solution can have done little to reassure people in these states or any others. It has once again bolstered the arguments of those who demand: Shut the nuclear power plants down today!

What Working People Should Know About the Dangers of Nuclear Power

a pamphlet by Fred Halstead

40 pages, \$95

Order by mail from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please enclose \$.75 for postage.)

200 at So. Calif. conference

By Barry Schier

FULLERTON, Calif.—More than 200 people met here on the weekend of February 23 for the semi-annual conference of the Southern California Alliance for Survival.

The conference reflected the anti-nuclear group's rapid growth from a few dozen members in mid-1977 to over 15,000 members in more than seventy chapters and eighteen task forces.

A rally preceding a series of workshops featured Rev. Jim Lawson, regional vice-president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and Stan Schecter, a maintenance mechanic at Atomics International, a nuclear fuel-rod production facility in Los Angeles's San Fernando Valley.

Contrasting the plant's extreme security measures with its lax health and safety precautions, Schecter charged that it is possible

for workers to walk out of Atomics International each day with as much as three grams of uranium dust in their hair, clothing, and shoes.

A resolution urging stepped up efforts at reaching out to Black, Latino, and labor groups and one supporting the national oil workers strike were both approved by the conference unanimously.

The meeting here also endorsed an extensive list of spring events including a March 22 Los Angeles anti-draft rally and teach-in, March 28-30 commemorations of the 1979 nuclear disaster at Three Mile Island, April 26 local rallies in solidarity with that day's march on Washington, and a May 4 antiwar, anti-draft, antinuclear march in Los Angeles on the tenth anniversary of the killings of antiwar students at Kent and Jackson State universities.

No nukes!

Notes from the movement against nuclear weapons and nuclear power



March 28: Three Mile Island one year later

"THE ACCIDENT IS NOT OVER," declares a call to action by the March 28 Coalition in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The one-year anniversary of the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster will be marked there by a series of protest activities.

Friday, March 28, will begin with a 4 a.m. vigil near the site of the power plant, followed by an 11 a.m. speakout. After an evening interfaith service in downtown Harrisburg, protesters will march by candlelight to the Harrisburg Forum auditorium for a nuclear debate. The nationally televised live debate over PBS stations will begin at 9 p.m. The pro-nuclear side will include Dr. Norman Rassmussen, author of the famous 1977 Rassmussen Report, which was so full of lies that even the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had to repudiate it last year. The antinuclear debaters will include Dr. Henry Kendall, a founder of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Dr. Vince Taylor, an energy research specialist.

On March 29, antinuclear forces will rally at 11:30 a.m. at the Capitol building in Harrisburg.

Other antinuclear events are scheduled on March 28 in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and Mountain Lakes, New Jersey. March 29 activities are planned for Boston, San Diego, and Kansas City, Missouri.

For more information, contact the March 28 Coalition at 1037 Maclay Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17103 (717) 233-6853.

Maine to vote on nuclear power

Maine will become the first state where voters will decide whether an operating nuclear power plant ought to be shut down. State election officials announced March 9 that the Nuclear Referendum Committee had submitted 55,383 signatures calling for a late-summer vote on a proposal to ban nuclear generation. Only 27,026 signatures were needed.

Compiled by Nancy Cole

Antidraft youth arrested at Texas campus

In an attack on the right of young people to oppose the draft and support socialist candidates, police in Arlington, Texas, arrested two supporters of the Pulley-Zimmermann ticket March 6 on the University of Texas campus.

Arlington is near Dallas. In recent weeks the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign's Dallas headquarters, in which antidraft posters are prominently displayed, has been the target of gunfire.

Chris Horner and Floyce White were distributing statements against the draft by SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley and congressional candidate Lea Sherman when they were arrested, handcuffed, frisked, and taken to jail.

They were released on \$50 bail, but face possible \$200 fines for "criminal trespass."

Both plan to fight for the right to campaign for socialist candidates on the campus. "The University administration has a double standard on this," insisted Horner.

"Two weeks ago when Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, spoke on the campus, the Ku Klux Klan picketed in full regalia without any interference by the authorities. And before that the University administration brought two

busloads of high school students to campus for an anti-Iranian rally. But we criticized Carter's draft proposal and ended up in handcuffs. This is a threat to the rights of everyone opposed to the draft."

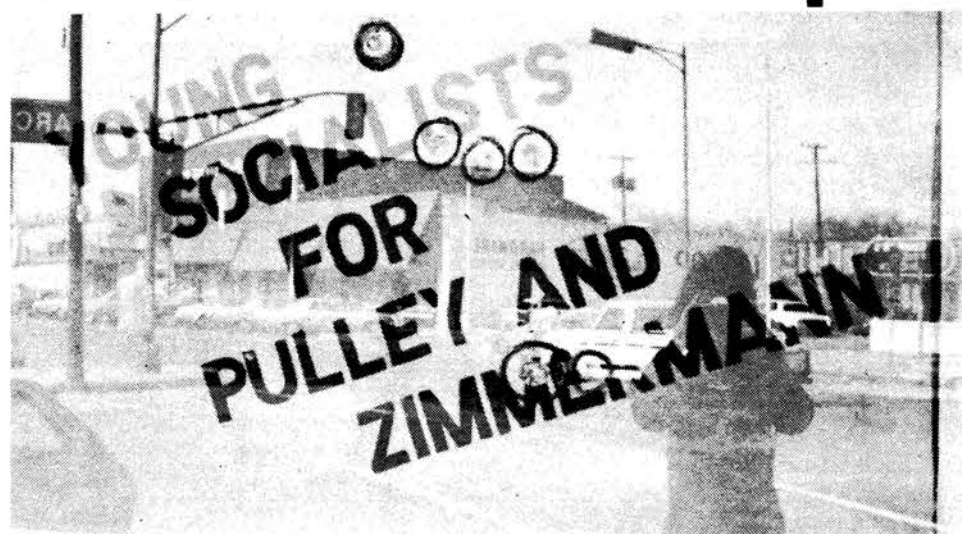
Telegrams protesting the arrests should be sent to President Wendell Nederman, University of Texas-Arlington, Post Office Box 19125, Arlington, Texas 76019.

The arrests came in the context of stepped-up KKK activity in the Dallas area, and escalating harassment of socialist opponents of the draft.

Nineteen shots have been fired into the Dallas headquarters of the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign in four separate attacks. Although the headquarters is just down the block from an all-night restaurant that is a favorite police hangout, the right-wing attackers have felt secure enough to stop in the intersection in front of the window and calmly fire as many as six or seven shots.

The Dallas Police attribute the attacks to vandalism by teenagers. "There is nothing we can do," they tell the socialists.

Lea Sherman, candidate for congress from the fifth district, charged that



Pulley-Zimmermann campaign office in Dallas was hit by nineteen bullets in four attacks. Some bullet holes are circled in photo above. Violence comes as KKK is increasingly active in Dallas area.

these attacks were intended to intimidate her and her campaign supporters from speaking out against the draft.

The campaign is circulating a public statement condemning the attacks and demanding an investigation of right-wing attacks in the city. Initial signers include Daisy Anderson, president of

the Dallas NAACP; Judith Time, president of the Dallas American Civil Liberties Union; Robert Medrano, Dallas School Board; Cynthia Rutledge, president of Dallas County NOW; and Charlie Young, coordinator of the Bois d'Arc Patriots, a large tenants rights organization.

Ky. campaigners gain support on campus

By Chris Rayson

"Hey, is this the Socialist Workers Party? I've been meaning to get in touch with you."

Tom Pinckley's comment summed up the enthusiasm that greeted socialist petitioners on a one-week tour of college campuses in central Kentucky. Team members—Robert Bush, Bronson Rozier, and Chris Rayson—netted 2,386 signatures in four days to put Tom Swetland, SWP candidate for U.S. senator, and the SWP presidential ticket on the November ballot. In order to put the presidential ticket and senatorial candidate on the Kentucky ballot, socialist campaign supporters must collect 5,000 signatures for each.

A student at Eastern Kentucky University, Pinckley had been impressed to see the SWP's name on Kentucky

election ballots over the last few years.

Then he saw TV coverage of the YSA convention held in Louisville last December including an interview with senatorial candidate Swetland. He decided he is a socialist too, and is now helping the socialist campaign in Kentucky.

Another high point of the tour was the team's stay at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. With 20,000 students, it is Kentucky's largest campus. UK has an active Committee Against Registration and the Draft (CARD).

The campaign team attended a debate on the draft organized by CARD with representatives of the American Legion that drew 90 students. Many signed socialist petitions when they

heard that Pulley-Zimmermann and Swetland opposed reinstituting the draft.

Two CARD activists signed up as Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann and are helping circulate petitions. In a day and a half they collected 215 signatures. CARD has invited a representative of the Young Socialist Alliance to speak at an anti-draft rally being held March 12 to build the national antidraft action ten days later in Washington.

During the draft debate team member Bronson Rozier was interviewed live on television by station WLEX in Lexington. Rozier, recently laid off at General Electric's Appliance Park in Louisville and chairperson of the Louisville YSA, told the interviewer that none of his coworkers

wanted to die for Texaco.

Team members were invited into the Berea College student center to set up a petitioning table near the cafeteria lines during dinner. Several hundred students signed.

One student, Yolande, who writes a column called "The Proletariat Review" for the campus newspaper signed up to support Pulley and Zimmermann.

Another student—leader of Students United Against Apartheid—joined the Young Socialist Alliance.

Team members found openness to socialism and a new spirit of activism during this trip. Students were especially interested in hearing from team members about the radicalization of industrial workers.

Campaign needs funds for tour by young socialists

By August Nimitz

As March 22, the date of the National March against registration and the draft in Washington, D.C., draws nearer, opponents of the draft are intensifying efforts to ensure a successful action. The Young Socialist Alliance and the Socialist Workers Party presidential and vice-presidential candidates are very much a part of this effort.

Four members of the YSA are touring the South on a Young Socialists for Pulley and Zimmermann team, to publicize and mobilize support for the march in the final two weeks, and to campaign for the socialist candidates.

The YSPZ team will spend its first week in the Charleston, West Virginia, area. The four campaigners will be distributing and selling SWP campaign literature, posters, and buttons opposing the draft in the coal fields, at the plant gates, and campuses. Selling the *Young Socialist* and *Militant*, newspapers of the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign, will be another major activity for the team.

The team's second week will be spent in the Piedmont region of North Carolina. An important item on the agenda will be visits to predominantly Black colleges in the area.

Two in particular—North Carolina Agricultural and Technical and Bennett College—played a big role in the success of the February 2 march against Ku Klux Klan terror. The YSPZ team hopes to draw on the same enthusiastic and activist spirit in building support for March 22.

There's a lot more to the Pulley-Zimmermann campaign than the promises and hoopla that are filling the newspapers and airwaves during primary season. The Pulley-Zimmermann ticket goes all out to build demonstrations against the draft like March 22 and other struggles in the interests of working people.

Pulley-Zimmermann supporters want to reach into every community throughout the United States and mobilize American workers around the major issues that affect their well-being.

To do so we need your help. The campaign is on a drive to raise \$50,000 by June 15. So far \$3,165 has been contributed.

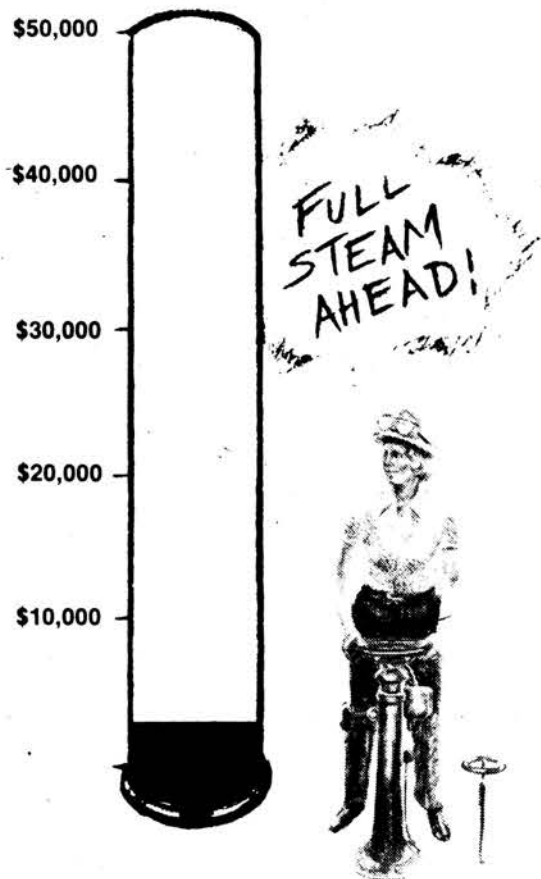
Send your contribution now to help keep the Young Socialist campaigners on the road.

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
Union/School/Org. _____

Make checks payable to:
Socialist Workers Election Campaign Committee,
14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

A copy of our report is filed with the Federal Election Commission and is available for purchase from the Federal Election Commission, Washington, D.C.

A federal court ruling allows us not to disclose the names of contributors in order to protect their First Amendment rights.



By Frank Lovell

(third in a series)

"In the end he was a man of great political power who felt that he could challenge the President as almost an equal," contended the *New York Times* obituary for George Meany.

This image of the man who for a quarter of a century was the nation's most prominent labor official sharply contradicts with reality.

When Meany died January 10, labor's political influence was weaker than anytime since the early years of the CIO movement—despite an increasing interest in politics today by new layers of the working class.

The only social legislation on the AFL-CIO agenda is a national health plan, and labor lobbyists see no possibility of getting this "elected-by-labor" Congress to pass it.

Other legislation that has been high on the AFL-CIO priorities list is the common situs picketing bill, which the building trades unions hope will be passed some time, but they no longer talk about a schedule. For all practical purposes, that bill is dead.

The same can be said of the labor law reform bill that stirred up a lot of controversy in 1978.

And the list goes on.

It is the story of a labor bureaucracy whose political strategy consists of total subservience to its fair-weather friends in the Democratic and

the only place where union gains could be protected and extended.

Meany adamantly opposed the labor party, of course, but others played the key roles in averting it.

Labor's Non-Partisan League

United Mine Workers President John L. Lewis, who had been in the Republican camp through the 1932 presidential election, saw the need and the opportunity to organize workers politically. With Sidney Hillman and David Dubinsky from the needle trades and other CIO leaders, Lewis set up Labor's Non-Partisan League in early 1936.

Their purpose here was the same as the so-called American Labor Party founded at about the same time: to gain control over the working-class vote and deliver it en bloc to Democrat Roosevelt as "labor's candidate."

They talked about independent political action, but that was only to catch the attention of the many hundreds of thousands of unionists who then customarily voted Socialist or Communist or were looking for a labor party.

Those workers would not vote for the machine-controlled Democratic Party, but they could be persuaded to support Roosevelt through their own union-sponsored "independent" political organizations. In this way the union bureaucrats managed for a time to corral and deliver a decisive bloc of votes to Democrats.

Through its pro-war alliance with the government during World War II, the union bureaucracy man-

proceeded to draw up the antilabor Landrum-Griffin bill, imposing government controls over union finances and union elections.

Meany threatened "war." He went so far as to warn, "I have always said we do not want our own political party, but if we have to do that to lick the people who want to drag us back to the past, we will start our own political party and do a good job of it."

Meany's bluff and bluster made no difference. The bill slipped through Congress with the support of both parties.

Even though Sen. John Kennedy had more to do with the drafting and enactment of the Landrum-Griffin bill than anyone else, Meany, as well as the UAW's Walter Reuther, campaigned for Kennedy's election the following year.

Social protests

As far back as the AFL-CIO merger in 1955, social forces had begun to emerge that would eventually change the political climate in this country. It started with the Montgomery bus boycott, the determined fight of Black people in Alabama against the Jim Crow system of legalized segregation.

Throughout the decade of the 1960s the union bureaucracy, in accordance with its own narrow interests and under Meany's guidance, tried to undermine the movements of social protest.

Even when the power of the civil rights movement commanded the attention and respect of the Kennedy administration, and later won legislative support from President Lyndon Johnson, Meany deplored the civil disobedience marches led by Martin Luther King and others. He belatedly endorsed civil rights legislation.

In relation to the movement against the Vietnam War, Meany and the union bureaucracy were implacably hostile. They could not understand what this new radicalized generation wanted, and they finally convinced themselves that opponents of the war were un-American, consciously trying to tear down what Meany and his cronies considered "the American way of life."

1968 election

This was one of the sore points between Meany and Reuther. Their political differences sharpened during the Democratic Party primary elections in 1968.

Meany was a loyal supporter of Lyndon Johnson and wanted him to run for a second term. Reuther knew that the antiwar movement and the mass protests against Johnson had finished him. He favored Robert Kennedy in the primaries because Kennedy looked like a winner.

The many other political differences between Meany and Reuther were exactly the same kind—all involving tactics within the Democratic Party or the capitalist two-party system. They agreed completely that the union movement should not organize a labor party to challenge the political monopoly of the employers.

After the defeat of the Democrats in 1968 and the election of Nixon, Meany began to despair of the future of the Democratic Party. The Democrats held a majority in Congress, but this "new majority" was not what Meany expected.

Nixon's 1970 invasion of Cambodia had aroused the antiwar movement in this country to new heights. Some Democratic Party politicians sought to use this popular antiwar sentiment for their own purposes.

In a Labor Day interview that year, Meany expressed his doubts about the Democratic Party. "It is not the so-called liberal party that it was a few years ago," he said. "It almost has become the party of the extremists insofar as these so-called liberals or new lefts, or whatever you want to call them, have taken over the Democratic Party."

Meany then set about demonstrating that the Democratic Party could not regain the White House without AFL-CIO endorsement. And he expected to gain a few favors from Nixon in the process. He failed on both counts.

Nixon's wage controls

On August 15, 1971, Nixon announced a "New Economic Policy," reversing his previous stand against wage-price controls. He froze wages for ninety days. After the freeze he introduced Phase 2, which established a government-controlled Pay Board to regulate wages.

Meany and other top union officials, including UAW President Leonard Woodcock and Teamsters President Frank Fitzsimmons, were invited to serve on Nixon's Pay Board. And they did.

All labor representatives left after a few months, except Fitzsimmons, because Meany discovered it was a "stacked deck." This did not discourage Meany—and all the others—from returning to serve

Continued on next page

George Meany

Labor's political debacle



Republican parties. Meany was loyally devoted to this strategy, which was fashioned well before his reign.

Gompers's legacy

In his long tenure as AFL president, from its formation in 1886 until his death in 1924, Samuel Gompers urged the affiliated unions to "reward labor's friends, and punish labor's enemies." This left the way open for top officials of the craft unions to operate in either camp of capitalist politics.

The rise of the CIO changed all this. An insurgent mass movement of workers created industrial unions and took by storm the open-shop strongholds of auto, rubber, steel, electrical, and other basic industries.

The most conscious workers soon learned that in class combat the Democratic and Republican politicians were all on the other side. Especially after Roosevelt and the "New Deal" Democrats broke the 1937 Little Steel strike by force and violence, sentiment for an independent labor party spread through the ranks of labor. The labor party was the necessary next step to carry the newly organized power of the industrial working class into politics—

aged both to tighten its own shackles over the union ranks and to institutionalize union subordination to the Democratic Party.

The payoff for the workers was political powerlessness in the face of speedup, inflation, the no-strike deal, and imperialist slaughter. Control over more and more aspects of union functioning was ceded to government agencies. By 1947 the bureaucracy was unable and unwilling to fight when Democrats and Republicans joined to pass the Taft-Hartley "slave labor" Act. It's been a long downhill slide for the unions in politics ever since.

No 'friends' to support

When Meany became AFL president in 1952 labor had no "friends" to support, and the prospect of transforming the Democratic Party had long ago vanished. Meany fell in step with the mood of other top AFL officials and trudged toward unity with the CIO. The merger was a defensive action, undertaken mainly to shore up labor's obviously weakened clout in the two-party system.

The 1958 general election was one of those great successes for labor, with union-backed Democrats an overwhelming majority in Congress. Congress

From camp of 'jungle luxury'

Pol Pot admits 'errors,' asks more U.S. help

By Fred Feldman

Khmer Rouge units are making no headway in their battle to topple the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea. But the top leaders evidently still manage to enjoy life.

This emerged from a recent series of articles in the *New York Times* by correspondent Henry Kamm. Kamm visited the main base camp of Pol Pot's forces in northern Kampuchea at the end of February.

Since being driven from Phnompenh in January 1979, the Khmer Rouge have held thousands of Kampucheans captive, submitting them to forced labor and stealing food supposedly provided for them by international relief agencies.

But the spartan lifestyle that the Khmer Rouge commanders impose on ordinary Kampucheans is not for the leaders themselves.

"The camp, recently built, is the latest in jungle luxury," wrote Kamm in the March 4 *New York Times*.

"The knowledge of the hunger of Cambodia, so painfully visible anywhere else on the border, was crowded out by ample supplies of food brought from Bangkok. The meals were French, except for the prime minister's banquet, which featured an infinite variety of Cambodian, Chinese and Western dishes. The best Thai beer, American soft drinks, Johnnie Walker Black Label Scotch, bottled water, soda and ice brought from Bangkok hundreds of miles away."

Crimes admitted

Haute cuisine could not hide the desperate political and military straits of the Khmer Rouge.

Kamm described them as holding only widely separated enclaves along the border, completely dependent on the Thai regime for lines of supply and communication.

"A visitor's impression was that Mr. Khieu Samphan is the nominal political leader of a guerrilla movement that is headed by former Prime Minister Pol Pot as military Commander in Chief and that governs no significant parts of the population or territory," Kamm stated on March 2.

Pol Pot and his aides want a massive increase in aid from Washington and its allies as their only chance of presenting a serious challenge to Heng Samrin. But the revulsion of working people all over the world against the crimes of the Khmer Rouge regime has been an insuperable obstacle to a more open and active stand by Washington.

Khmer Rouge diplomacy now centers



Pol Pot (left) wants all of us to forget his past (right)



on cosmetic measures aimed at removing this obstacle.

The latest ploy, for which Kamm was invited into the jungle, was a public criticism of some past Khmer Rouge policies by Deputy Prime Minister Ieng Sary.

"Mr. Ieng Sary," Kamm wrote February 29, "said Cambodia should have allowed families to live together rather than separate them into work brigades, allowed schools to function normally and not imposed collectivization or abolish private property or the use of currency. It should also have permitted freedom of worship, he said."

Ieng Sary denied mass extermination, but admitted "abuses," attempting to shift the blame to local commanders. "Each region constituted a small kingdom. They ran their own affairs," he said of Pol Pot's four years in power.

Feared Vietnamese revolution

Ieng Sary said he had been attacked as a rightist during Pol Pot's reign because he had supposedly "defended the intellectuals." Kamm added, "The remark seemed to concede implicitly that many educated Cambodians were killed or mistreated merely because they were educated."

While claiming that he personally was opposed to the expulsion of the urban population that took place in April 1975, Ieng Sary tried to defend it. "He said the decision, which was fatal

to countless city dwellers, was made out of fear that Vietnam would have infiltrated the cities, killed Cambodia's leaders and 'taken us quickly, as they did Laos.'"

This statement is noteworthy from two standpoints. First, it is further confirmation that fear and hatred of the Vietnamese revolution was, from the outset, a major factor behind the reactionary and repressive course charted by the Khmer Rouge when it took power in 1975.

Second, the reference to Laos was evidently intended to win sympathy from Washington and other imperialist capitals by reminding them how much better off they were with the Pol Pot regime than with the government that took power in Laos in December 1975. Unlike the Khmer Rouge, the Pathet Lao sought to retain the support it had won among workers, peasants, and the urban poor. The result has been a deepening social revolution and the forging of a tight alliance with Vietnam against Washington's pressure.

Having sought absolution over a few "errors," the Khmer Rouge commanders got down to appeals for more help from the capitalist West.

Forgive and forget?

Kamm reported in the March 1 *New York Times*:

"Sounding deeply pessimistic, Mr. Ieng Sary said that no single group could succeed in driving Vietnam from Cambodia. 'We alone also cannot suc-

ceed. We need international support. Not necessarily with armed forces, but economic, political and diplomatic pressure can do it.'"

Khieu Samphan thanked the U.S. government for helping the Khmer Rouge keep Kampuchea's seat in the United Nations. "Your interests and ours coincide."

"Our main concern," he emphasized, "is to fight to drive all the Vietnamese forces out of Cambodia and defend our nation, our people and our race."

Khieu Samphan also gave Kamm a taste of the racist program that is used to hold the Khmer Rouge units together. He and the other Khmer Rouge leaders "never used the words 'Vietnam' or 'Vietnamese' but always the racially contemptuous 'Yoon.'"

Khieu Samphan asked that the crimes of the Pol Pot regime be forgotten. "If we talk about the past we will never, never finish. Everybody has a past."

In return, he said, the Khmer Rouge leaders stood ready to forget the U.S. war in Kampuchea.

In the name of forgive-and-forget, Pol Pot calls on the U.S. imperialists who devastated Kampuchea during the war to unite with the wing of the Khmer Rouge that committed barbaric atrocities in its wake in order to smash those who fought against both.

It can be safely predicted that such appeals will win Pol Pot no new friends among the working people of the world.

...Meany

Continued from preceding page

again in a later phase of Nixon's New Economic Policy.

Neither did it stop Meany from embracing the "neutrality" of the AFL-CIO executive council in the 1972 presidential race between Nixon and Democrat George McGovern.

Some unions endorsed McGovern. Several building trades unions and the Seafarers contributed money to Nixon. The reelection of Nixon was in no way ensured by the union support he received. Neither was McGovern's defeat caused by the AFL-CIO boycott of his campaign. The union movement appeared at that juncture to be irrelevant, without political influence.

Meany was among the first to call for the impeachment of Nixon during Watergate. But none of this served to restore either credibility or prestige to the union bureaucracy. It only added another touch of hypocrisy to their tarnished image.

After Nixon's departure, Meany adjusted easily to the "new look" Ford administration.

Ford publicly endorsed the common situs picketing bill, which guaranteed some picketing rights to the building trades union, but then vetoed it in response to open-shop forces who opposed any form of union recognition.

What they called the "Ford double-cross" brought

the open flirtation of the union bureaucracy with the Republican party to an abrupt halt. One of its purposes had been to put pressure on the Democratic Party, but that failed. There was nothing left for the labor bureaucrats but to support Carter in the 1976 election.

Now that 1980 has rolled around, Meany's grade of "C" for Carter's policies has been put aside. Top AFL-CIO officials are sidling up to Carter. Some others have thrown in with Edward Kennedy. The result will be another antilabor politician in the White House.

Meany's political record is the most solid argument there is in favor of an independent labor party.

...Afghan

Continued from page 6

from the Labor Party, the Australian Confederation of Trade Unions, and sporting groups. In Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the boycott has been well-received only by Washington's most slavish friends, as Muhammad Ali found out when Carter sent him as envoy to Africa.

But the biggest blow to Carter's war moves has come in the United States, where the "Vietnam syndrome" is proving to be alive and well.

Carter has pushed ahead with increasing the war budget, building up a U.S. armada in the Arabian

Sea, and probing for the right to use bases in Oman, Kenya, and Somalia. These steps were initiated well before the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

But when he began openly to push for the sacrifices that working people will have to make for new Vietnams, he got a sharp rebuff. At the suggestion of draft registration, the student movement went into high gear. Black leaders have been virtually unanimous in denouncing the proposal.

The deep antiwar sentiment in the union ranks has already found unprecedented reflection in official union bodies, with two dissenting votes cast in the AFL-CIO Executive Council against endorsing Carter's proposal. The California Conference of Machinists adopted a strong antidraft resolution.

The national antidraft mobilization in Washington called for March 22 has become the focus for the opposition.

And events like the oil workers' strike show that workers are far from ready to give their demands for decent living standards a back seat to "national security" interests.

Instead of strengthening Washington, the aftermath of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan has further undermined Washington's capacity to use working people here or in Europe as cannon fodder against oppressed nations like Iran and Afghanistan.

The discussions, debates, and clashes provoked by the struggle in Afghanistan are strengthening opposition to Washington's war plans.

The Great Society

Harry Ring



On making it—Jeno Palucci, founder of Chung King products and Jeno's Pizza products, advises: "No matter what you're selling, charge all you can for it. . . . You've got to be tough. . . . I tell my people they only become individuals after five o'clock; before that they're productive units. If anyone gets in the way of progress, he or she becomes like a rotting limb on a tree, I saw him off."

Morality department—We must admit to being impressed by the righteousness of the Pentagon. The folk who gave us the bomb, napalm, and Agent Orange are discharging a Marine sergeant because she posed in a see-through blouse for *Playboy*.

Clear, frank, unequivocal—Delaware's Gov. Pierre duPont, a former member of Congress, was among those named in an Iranian document as taking bribes from the ex-shah. The gov's press secretary

assured that duPont "never met with the shah. In his recollection, he never received anything of value. He has nothing in his possession now that he received from Iran."

Soulful Dirge—Some people might think they don't have any, but *Mortuary Management* reports that the growing demand for less expressive funerals is rocking members of the industry to "the very core of their souls." And, adds the philosophically inclined funeral service insider: "The only difference between the person who says he doesn't see any value in a traditional funeral and the one who says 'Let's spend less this time,' simply is a matter of degree."

Consistent—Charles Manson, the cult leader convicted of mass murder, says, "I'm all for the country," adding that if the hostages were not freed, "I'd turn Iran into a parking lot."

OLIPHANT



Union Talk

Crew cuts on the Missouri Pacific

This week's column is by Gary Sage, a switcher on the Missouri Pacific Railroad and a member of United Transportation Union Local 1403.

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—On March 30, 1980, the Missouri Pacific Railroad will begin implementing the reduction in operating crews from the present four-person crew (one engineer and three switchers) to three-person crews (one engineer and two switchers).

This agreement between the Missouri Pacific and the United Transportation Union will set the trend for other railway carriers in eliminating the third switcher on the crew.

Two categories of switchers will be created—those hired prior to March 30 (to be designated "protected employees") and those hired after this date (designated "unprotected employees"). The two-switcher crew will be achieved by retirement and voluntary quits of protected employees.

Jobs designated as two-switcher crews will first be filled by "protected employees" before any new hiring is done.

To make this reduction in the work force more palatable, the carrier will pay an extra \$5.02 a day per person to the switchers working on the reduced crews. Also, \$48 for each two-switcher crew worked will be contributed to a "productivity fund" that will be divided between all switchers within a district according to the number of times each worked on a reduced crew.

The fund will be administered by an independent trust company that will rake off the interest as payment for managing the fund.

The \$5.02 a day payment will be paid to both categories of switchers, but only "protected employees" will be eligible for the "productivity fund" contributions. In addition, the \$5.02 is subject to cost-of-living increases and future contract negotiations, but the \$48 is a fixed amount.

This is a big step backward for railroad workers. The result of the agreement will be to divide the work force along seniority lines, reduce the number of switchers, and thus sap the strength of the United Transportation Union.

It creates two classifications of workers with unequal benefits who perform the same task. This is a continuation of the recent agreement that pays new employees only 90 percent of the basic wage in their first year. If this pattern is followed, each successive generation of railworkers would get fewer benefits and fewer co-workers to share the workload.

Secondly, this agreement gives the company an economic incentive to fire "protected employees" whenever the opportunity may arise in order to get out of paying them benefits not required for "unprotected employees." If the company succeeds in creating animosity between railworkers, the older employees will find it harder to rely on solidarity from younger workers.

If this crew consist agreement is implemented, it

will cut membership in switchers locals of the UTU by a third. Not only does this numerically reduce the size and influence of the union, but it places more burden on fewer workers for dues and pension contributions.

Any reduction of the work force increases the likelihood of serious injury on the job. Due to the nature of rail work, we are often separated from members of our crew by considerable distances. The carriers promise that radios will replace the third switcher. The quality of radio equipment that we are currently provided makes me doubt the reliability of hand-held radios to pass signals. There is a considerable difference in safety between watching someone pass hand signals and having to interpret faulty radio communications.

It doesn't take much to see who gained and who lost in this agreement. The company will save seventeen dollars a day just on wages, not to speak of benefits for the third switcher. Railworkers, on the other hand, will lose a big chunk of their union membership, solidarity between younger and older employees will be jeopardized, and safety will be undermined.

Despite the international union's reluctance to oppose crew cutbacks, it can be fought. Membership ratification of agreements is not allowed in the UTU, but the rank and file of the union can and should make our opposition clear.

We should decide to draw the line at this point. If not, the carriers' future demands will be even worse.

What's Going On

CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO

REVOLUTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: EL SALVADOR, NICARAGUA. Speakers: Roberto Alfaro, Committee for Solidarity with Salvadoran People; Selba Nebbia, participant in Bay Area Solidarity Conference for Reconstruction of Nicaragua, Fri., March 21, 7 p.m. 1053 15th St. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call: (714) 234-4630.

SAN FRANCISCO

ARE HUMAN BEINGS REALLY GREEDY? A talk on human nature and socialism. Speaker: Stephanie Coontz, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., March 22, 8 p.m. Donation: \$2. 3284 23rd St. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (415) 824-1992.

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY

LATIN AMERICA: WHAT WORKERS AND PEASANTS ARE FIGHTING FOR. Representatives of the Nicaragua Solidarity Committee, Chilean Solidarity Committee. Sun., March 23, 7:30 p.m. 4715 A Troost St. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call: (314) 753-0404.

NEW JERSEY

NEWARK

OPEN HOUSE TO MEET NEW JERSEY SOCIALIST WORKERS CANDIDATES. Speakers: Chris Hilbrand, SWP candidate for Congress, 10th District; Jon Britton, SWP candidate for Congress, 11th District. Slide show presentation on January 13 march for the Equal Rights Amendment. Sat.,

March 15, 5-8 p.m. 11-A Central Ave. (near Broad St.). Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: N.J. SWP Campaign. For more information call (201) 624-3889.

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

STOP THE DRAFT. Speaker: Manuel Archuleta, SWP candidate for Congress, District 1. Sat., March 22, 7:30 p.m. 1417 Central NE. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Socialist Workers Campaign Committee. For more information call (505) 842-0954.

OREGON

PORTLAND

RECEPTION AND RALLY FOR SOCIALIST WORKERS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. Speakers: Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president; Fred Anger, SWP candidate for mayor of Portland; Kris Carlson, Young Socialists

for Pulley and Zimmermann. Sun., March 23, 6:30 p.m., reception; 7:30 p.m., rally. 711 NW Everett. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers for Anger Campaign Ctte. For more information call (503) 222-7225.

TEXAS

DALLAS

MARCH & RALLY AGAINST THE DRAFT. Sat. March 22. Assemble at City Hall 12 noon. Ausp: Dallas CARD. For more information call (214) 823-5507.

UTAH

SALT LAKE CITY

THREE MILE ISLAND ANNIVERSARY. Film: 'Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang.' Sun., March 23, 7 p.m. Donation: \$1.50. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call: (801) 355-1124.

Debs on energy crisis



EUGENE V. DEBS

Withholding vital energy resources in order to boost prices and profits, as the oil companies have done, is an old tactic. This ploy was used by the coal companies during the early part of the century and was blasted in a speech by Eugene Debs.

Debs, the famous union leader and five-time socialist presidential candidate, made these remarks in 1918 at the convention of the Socialist Party in Ohio. This speech was the main evidence used to convict Debs of sedition; he was sentenced to ten years in prison. It is reprinted from 'Eugene V. Debs Speaks' (Pathfinder Press, \$5.45).

* * *

Again, they tell you there is a coal famine now in the state of Ohio. The state of Indiana, where I live, is largely underlaid with coal. There is practically an inexhaustible supply. The coal is banked beneath our very feet. It is within touch all about us—all we can possibly use and more.

And here are the miners, ready to enter the mines. Here is the machinery ready to be put into operation to increase the output to any desired capacity. And three weeks ago a national officer of the United Mine Workers issued and published a statement to the Labor Department of the United States government to the effect that the 600,000 coal miners in the United States at this time, when they talk about a coal famine, are not permitted to work more than half time.

I have often been in the coal fields; again and again I have seen the miners idle while at the same time there was a scarcity of coal.

They tell you that you ought to buy your coal right away; that you may freeze next

winter if you do not. At the same time they charge you three prices for your coal.

Oh, yes, this ought to suit you perfectly if you vote the Republican or Democratic ticket and believe in the private ownership of the coal mines and their operation for private profit.

The coal mines now being privately owned, the operators want a scarcity of coal so they can boost their prices and enrich themselves accordingly. If an abundance of coal were mined there would be lower prices and this would not suit the mine owners. Prices soar and profits increase when there is a scarcity of coal.

It is also apparent that there is collusion between the mine owners and the railroads. The mine owners declare there are no cars while the railroad men insist that there is no coal. And between them they delude, defraud and rob the people.

Let us illustrate a vital point. Here is the coal in great deposits all about us; here are the miners and the machinery of production. Why should there be a coal famine upon the one hand and an army of idle and hungry miners on the other hand?

Is it not an incredibly stupid situation, an almost idiotic if not criminal state of affairs?

We Socialists say: "Take possession of the mines in the name of the people." Set the miners at work and give every miner the equivalent of all the coal he produces. Reduce the work day in proportion to the development of productive machinery. That would at once settle the matter of a coal famine and of idle miners.

But that is too simple a proposition and the people will have none of it. The time will come, however, when the people will be driven to take such action for there is no other efficient and permanent solution of the problem.

Miami 'plumbing' case: issue is racist justice

In his column, "The Great Society," in the March 7 *Militant*, Harry Ring commented on an incident in Miami involving the purchase of gold-plated plumbing fixtures with public school funds. However, Ring was apparently not familiar with all the details of this case, which has become quite an important issue here.

The person accused of authorizing the purchase of these plumbing fixtures—which were never actually delivered or paid for—is school superintendent Johnny Jones. Jones is the highest Black official in this city, and he is admired and respected by Black Miamians.

When information about this irregular purchase order first came to light, Jones was immediately tried and convicted by the local media, although only circumstantial evidence backs up the charges against him.

With lightning speed, and in an unprecedented weekend session, a grand jury indicted Jones. In an emergency school board meeting, Jones was suspended.

Black Miamians have been outraged. The authorities' vigor in going after Jones stands in contrast to the handling of cases where Black people are the victims of crimes perpetrated by public officials.

For example, a group of

Miami cops who recently beat a Black man to death are being treated with kid gloves.

Indictments against them were slow in coming, none of them were charged with first-degree murder, the courts agreed to move their trial to Tampa, etc.

The Jones case has become a frequent topic of conversation by workers on the job. Many white workers express sympathy for Jones.

One young white machinist commented to me, "Look at Nixon. He got off scot-free while this guy is going to burn for some measley plumbing equipment even when it is not clear he intended any wrongdoing."

This witchhunt against Jones comes on the heels of similar attempts to discredit other Black officials here.

A possible reason for the attack on Jones at this time is because he was promoting a school re-zoning plan that called for busing students from crowded outlying schools to inner-city schools with open space. Shortly after his suspension this plan was essentially scrapped.

In general, Blacks and many other working people here feel the issue is not misuse of public funds. And the issue is not whether Jones did what he is charged with. At issue is the double standard of racist justice.

Rose Ogden
Miami, Florida

Press lies on Afghanistan

"These reporters spend all day at the bar at the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul, drinking and making up stories."

That was what C., a reporter for *New York* magazine who spent a week in Afghanistan writing for the *London Daily Mail*, told me about her colleagues from the Western press.

I met her on a plane trip to New York the following week.

C. was opposed to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, but she thought the rightist guerrillas were destructive, backward, and had nothing to offer Afghanistan.

"And they lie all the time. We were told they had captured some Russian tanks. They showed us one. It was a jeep!"

"One man says, 'Look at me, the Russians dropped napalm on me.' He didn't have a single burn on his body."

But the worst liar, she said, is the U.S. embassy. "They told us that there were 600,000 refugees from the Afghan regime in the camps. We visited some of those camps. We asked one guy how long he'd been there. 'Six years,' he answered [the Afghan revolution began two years ago]. We figured out that there were maybe 70,000 refugees in the camps."

"The reporters in Kabul make up their stories. *Newsweek's* De Borchgrave wrote that there was a riot outside

the prison where some political prisoners were being released," she said, showing me the article. "He says that the crowd attacked the prison, shouting, 'Death to the Russians!' That just did not happen. There was only a scuffle and nobody shouted anything."

"I'll give you another example," she said. "See where he writes about how two Russians were killed by Afghans with cleavers after an argument? I was in the hotel bar when that story was made up."

"A UPI wire service man ran up one day and announced that two Russians had been killed by a shopkeeper after an argument over his prices. The next day, the story was that a hundred Russians were killed with meat cleavers! When some other reporters investigated it, we found out it was just a rumor. Nothing had happened there."

But in *Newsweek*, of course, it appeared as gospel truth.

She knew and trusted some of the reporters, she told me, and had learned that some of their stories were altered by editors before they were printed. But she was sure that one editor she knew would not have willingly printed lies, and she suspected that an American intelligence agency had something to do with the untruths in the magazine.

Andy Tobin
New York, New York

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'Guardian' vs. 'Militant'

I've been reading both the *Militant* and the *Guardian* off and on for quite some while, and I've noticed a lot of anti-Trotskyist stuff coming from the *Guardian*, but I've never really read a Trotskyist analysis of their material.

Do you have any kind of printed analysis of the *Guardian*, the "new communist movement," Maoism in general, etc.?

Thank you. By the way, I like your analysis of Afghanistan.

Rick Charnes
San Francisco, California

[In reply: Pathfinder Press publishes a pamphlet *Marxism Versus Maoism: A Reply to the 'Guardian'* by Tony Thomas. Although written in 1974, Thomas's discussion of historical and theoretical questions remain relevant today.

Included are the Stalinist theory of two-stage revolution, which is defended by the *Guardian*; the popular front strategy in the fight against fascism; and differences over the events leading to the coup in Chile in 1973.

[The pamphlet is available from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014 for sixty cents a copy. Include seventy-five cents for postage.]

'Good as Gold'

I agree with Joseph Auciello (letter, February 22 *Militant*) that Peter Archer's review of *Good as Gold* didn't do the book justice. He misinterpreted Joseph Heller's main point: that the American government, from its most ludicrous and absurd facets to its most murderous, is an institution no thinking person should identify with much less aim to become a part of.

This is how Heller does it (simply and hilariously): The part of "Ludicrous and Absurd" is played by Bruce Gold's (the protagonist of the story) old college mate, now government official (better known as "unnamed source"), Ralph Newsome. He's fictional.

The part of "Murderous" is played by Henry Kissinger. He isn't fictional.

At the book's end, after these facets of the government and a few others have been hilariously and bitingly depicted, Heller has his Bruce Gold reject the goal of a government appointment. Gold does not in the end, as Archer contends, "come to accept" any part of what he finds in Washington. Just the opposite. He rejects it all.

Barbara Mutnick
New York, New York

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Has Kremlin changed its line?

In a conversation a few days ago, a friend said, "The *Militant* has always argued that the Soviet government's actions on the international field are aimed at making deals with imperialism to preserve the status quo. Now they are helping to preserve the gains of a revolution in Afghanistan, a revolution that Washington is very hostile to. Has their policy changed?"

In part, the answer to this question was given by Leonid Brezhnev on February 22. He demanded that Washington and its allies stop their counterrevolutionary drive against the Afghan government.

But he added, "People in Washington like to speak about the need to insure the safety of the routes along which oil is delivered to the United States. This can be understood to some extent."

Now Brezhnev knows that Washington's talk about security for oil routes is code for preserving the domination of the oil companies over the Middle East. He was indicating willingness to help Washington block further revolutionary developments in that region, provided Washington calls off its support to the counterrevolution in Afghanistan, which the Kremlin sees as potentially threatening Soviet borders.

This is not the first time that the Kremlin has been compelled to give vital material aid to a revolutionary struggle, while simultaneously angling for deals with Washington at the expense of revolutionary struggles.

In 1945, 1954, and 1972, Moscow put heavy pressure on the Vietnamese leaders to accept compromises with Washington that left the Vietnamese people far short of their goals of full independence and unification.

In 1972, we saw the sickening spectacle of Nixon being embraced as a friend of peace in both Peking and Moscow while the air war against Indochina was wreaking unprecedented destruction.

But those betrayals were not the whole story. Moscow provided limited—but vitally needed—military and economic aid to Vietnam. Without this the liberation struggle would have faced far more overwhelming odds.

And Soviet food shipments to Kampuchea last fall were decisive in winning the struggle against famine.

These actions present a dilemma for those who equate the U.S. and the Soviet Union as imperialist or "hegemonist" superpowers.

In Afghanistan, the interests of the Soviet state required the Soviet leaders to take the side of forces that are fighting for social progress; while Washington's interests lay with the heroin traders, landlords, and the opponents of literacy and women's rights.

In Kampuchea, the interests of the Soviet state obliged Moscow to take action to save the people from famine. But Washington sought to use the famine as a lever to overthrow the Heng Samrin government.

The contrast between the Soviet rulers' striving for a live-and-let-live agreement with imperialism and the aid they provide to certain liberation struggles stems from the contradiction between the Soviet state—a workers state—and the privileged, conservative bureaucratic caste that governs it.

This contradiction didn't always exist. The Bolshevik

Party headed by Lenin, which led the workers to power in October 1917, identified with the struggle of workers and oppressed people all over the world.

They knew that imperialism's profit hunger required reversing the revolution and subjecting the Soviet Union, like the rest of the world, to imperialist domination. And they knew that socialism—the end of all hunger and want—required victorious revolutions so that international economic planning based on the collaboration of workers in many countries could be established.

On November 27, 1920, Lenin stated, "We have now passed from the arena of war to the arena of peace but we have not forgotten that war will come again. As long as capitalism and socialism remain side by side we cannot live peacefully—the one or the other will be the victor in the end. An obituary will be sung either over the death of world capitalism or the death of the Soviet Republic."

Lenin's policy was expressed in the founding of the Communist International in 1919, which was designed to foster collaboration of revolutionary workers parties around the world.

After Lenin's death, a bureaucratic layer headed by Stalin pushed aside the workers and their representatives and took power into its own hands.

The bureaucracy was concerned with preserving and extending its own material privileges. To that end, it suppressed the democratic rights of Soviet workers and farmers, and began the search for deals with imperialism—offering to contain and limit liberation struggles if the imperialists would leave the Soviet Union in peace.

The goal is *stability* for their privileges. Revolutions appear to them not as inevitable products of a capitalist order in decay, but as disturbances to be brought under control.

But the bureaucracy's desire for stability cannot bring it into being. The status quo is continually disrupted by forces more powerful than the bureaucracy.

The imperialists cannot stop their drive to reconquer the entire world, including the Soviet Union and the other workers states. Nor can the workers stop their struggles against the employers. Nor can the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America cease trying to get the imperialists' feet off their necks.

And despite the bureaucracy's talk about "socialism in one country," the fate of the Soviet Union continues to be directly linked to the outcome of these struggles.

The bureaucracy defends its narrow interests by maneuvering between these clashing forces, now supporting one and then the other in pursuit of its chimerical goal of long-term stable collaboration with imperialism.

The Kremlin's policy is a major obstacle to the world revolution. It has led to catastrophes for the world working class—from the crushing of the Spanish revolution in the 1930s to the Pinochet coup in Chile in 1973. Without the collaboration of the Soviet bureaucrats, imperialism would be far weaker today.

But this does not prevent socialists from defending moves the Kremlin makes that aid revolutions: whether it is sending guns to Vietnam, grain to Kampuchea, or troops to Afghanistan.

—Fred Feldman

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- MASSACHUSETTS:** Amherst: YSA, c/o Rick Drozd, 203 E. Cashin, U. of Mass. Zip: 01003. Tel: (413) 546-5942. Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.
- MICHIGAN:** Ann Arbor: YSA, 4120 Michigan Union, U. of M. Zip: 48109. Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.
- MINNESOTA:** Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, P.O. Box 1287, Virginia, Minn. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.
- MISSOURI:** Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.
- NEW JERSEY:** Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.
- NEW MEXICO:** Albuquerque: SWP, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.
- NEW YORK:** Capital District (Albany): SWP, YSA, 103 Central Ave. Zip: 12206. Tel: (518) 463-0072. New York, Brooklyn: SWP, 841 Classon Ave. Zip: 11238. Tel: (212) 783-2135. New York, Lower Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 260-6400. New York, Upper Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 564 W. 181 St., 2nd Floor. Send mail to P.O. Box 438, Washington Bridge Sta. Zip: 10033. Tel: (212) 928-1676. New York: City-wide SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 533-2902.
- NORTH CAROLINA:** Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 216 E. 6th St., Winston-Salem. Zip: 27101. Tel: (919) 723-3419.
- OHIO:** Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 970 E. McMillan. Zip: 45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 13002 Kinsman Rd. Zip: 44120. Tel: (216) 991-5030. Oberlin: YSA, c/o Gale Connor, OCMR Box 679. Zip: 44074. Tel: (216) 775-0084. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.
- OREGON:** Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.
- PENNSYLVANIA:** Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (215) 734-4415. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 1210 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. State College: YSA, c/o Jack Craypo, 606 S. Allen St. Zip: 16801. Tel: (814) 234-6655.
- TEXAS:** Austin: YSA, c/o Tom Dynia, 2024 Goodrich Ave. #110 Zip: 78704. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 5442 E. Grand. Zip: 75223. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 806 Elgin St. #1. Zip: 77006. Tel: (713) 524-8761. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 112 Fredericksburg Rd. Zip: 78201. Tel: (512) 735-3141.
- UTAH:** Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.
- VIRGINIA:** Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.
- WASHINGTON, D.C.:** SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.
- WASHINGTON:** Olympia: YSA, Room 3208, The Evergreen State College. Zip: 98501. Tel: (206) 866-7332. Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave., South Seattle. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330. Tacoma: SWP, YSA, 1306 S. K St. Zip: 98405. Tel: (206) 627-0432.
- WEST VIRGINIA:** Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.
- WISCONSIN:** Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 3901 N. 27th St. Zip: 53216. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

THE MILITANT

'On to Chicago, May 10' Ratify the ERA!

San Francisco Women's Day builds national march

By Lynn Masterson

SAN FRANCISCO—"What could be so simple or so just as the Equal Rights Amendment?" Suzanne Kelly asked the crowd of 4,000 that turned out March 8 for the fifth annual Day in the Park for Women's Rights. Kelly is co-chair of Labor for Equal Rights Now (LERN) in Virginia and president of the Virginia Education Association.

Winning ERA was the theme of this year's rally organized by a coalition initiated by the National Organization for Women (NOW) and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).

The March 8 rally kicked off West Coast efforts to build the May 10 Mother's Day march in Chicago for the

NEW DATE FOR MARCH

The National Mothers Day March for the Equal Rights Amendment in Chicago, called by the National Organization for Women and originally set for May 11, has been changed to May 10 in order to secure a parade permit.



Militant/Sonja Franeta

Addie Wyatt, vice-president of CLUW and of United Food and Commercial Workers (left), and Eleanor Smeal, president of NOW (right), addressed some 4,000 people in San Francisco. They urged women and labor to unite to win ratification of ERA in Illinois.

ERA. The national march called by NOW has already won broad labor support.

NOW President Eleanor Smeal, a featured speaker here, said NOW is campaigning to build the largest possible demonstration in Chicago as the way to get the ERA ratified now.

Addie Wyatt, national vice-president of CLUW and of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, also spoke on the May 10 march in Chicago. She cited the power and unity organized labor and minorities can bring to the fight for the ERA.

Two of the largest groups of trade unionists present were from the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers and the rail unions. As OCAW member Lynne Morrel spoke about the OCAW strike, thirty oil workers handed out leaflets

for their strike support meeting March 22 (see story on page 3) and stated their support for the ERA.

Melanie Atisler, a rail road fireperson, spoke for the United Transportation Union. "With the ratification of the ERA," she said, "access to jobs like mine won't be a result of corporate consciousness raising but a legal right, an undeniable legal right."

Smeal and Kelly also raised another popular theme—opposition to the draft. "With the war drive on to keep the U.S. in a power position, NOW opposes the draft," Smeal said.

As Suzanne Kelly put it, "We won't

go to war for Carter or for Standard Oil. The question of equal rights should not be used against women. There's no equality in the draft."

John Crowley, secretary-treasurer of the San Francisco Central Labor Council, was among the major trade union officials who spoke and pledged support for women's rights.

All told, the day involved more than thirty speakers and entertainers; some seventy unions and other groups set up tables.

Andrew Pulley, Socialist Workers Party candidate for president, also spoke and voiced his support to the

May 10 ERA march. He told the rally, "Fighting for our rights in the streets and then in November putting the same politicians back in office makes no sense. The Democratic and Republican politicians know what they are doing; they know they are enforcing discrimination and they want it that way."

Pulley said that a labor party based on the unions is needed so that women, Blacks, Latinos, and all working people can fight politically for their rights.

Seventy-five activists from NOW, CLUW, and various unions attended a reception for Pulley after the rally.

Texas border cops kill 3 Mexicans

By Patricia Fernández
and Steve Marshall

HEBBRONVILLE, Tex.—Three undocumented Mexican immigrants—including six-year-old Estella Salazar de la Cruz—died near here March 5 after the pick-up truck they were riding in was fired on by two sheriff's deputies and two border patrol cops.

The cops say the truck ran a red light. Sheriff Juan Ramirez adds that the driver "could have been intoxicated, or carrying a load of contraband, or fleeing authorities for some other personal reason."

That apparently is the only excuse they think necessary for having opened fire with shotguns on an open truck carrying fourteen people. In addition to the three killed in the truck crash, several were seriously injured. A five-year-old's legs were amputated.

In a brutal display of racism, county officials refused to treat the injured at

a hospital in Laredo, the nearest city. They were sent across the border to Nuevo Laredo for treatment. In other words, they were summarily deported.

At first, Border Patrol Supervisor Millard McMillan tried to cover up the murders, claiming no shots had been fired. Then the sheriff's office and border patrol each claimed that the other's officers fired the shots. Now they say they thought the open pickup truck—with fourteen passengers—was empty.

Even after bullet fragments were recovered from a rear tire of the truck, cops charged the driver of the truck with involuntary manslaughter.

Hebbronville resident Adan Serna, a cousin of one of the deputies, told the *Militant* that the shootings were unnecessary. He said that cops could simply have called ahead to the town of Freer for a roadblock, rather than use shotguns to stop the truck.

The killings have outraged San An-

tonio's Chicano community. A March 8 press conference at Mario Cantú's restaurant called for the prosecution of the officers responsible.

Speaking at the press conference were Rubén Sandoval, National Council for LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens); Antonio Cabral of *El Pueblo* newspaper; T.C. Calvert, head of the Texas Black Caucus; and community activists Rubén Solis and Margarita Orta.

Orta announced the formation of the San Antonio Committee for Human Rights to investigate and protest the killings and other recent border patrol attacks, including several rapes and murders of undocumented women workers.

Following the press conference eighty people marched to the main plaza for a rally, where community leaders urged a renewal of the "Raza sí, migra no" movement. (*La migra*

refers to the Immigration and Naturalization Service.)

Represented at the rally were LULAC; MALDEF (Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund); *El Pueblo* newspaper; Walter Martínez, president of the Mexican-American Democrats; Mexican-American Betterment Association; MEChA; and supporters of Anthony Gonzales, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress.

In a news release, Gonzales called for full human and civil rights for undocumented workers, and demanded the border patrol and deputies be indicted and tried for murder.

San Antonio Committee for Human Rights leader Antonio Cabral told the *Militant* that the committee had sent a fact-finding team to gather information and establish communication between the Chicano communities of San Antonio and Hebbronville.