

REVOLUTION



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Victory

Nixon's Jan. 11 announcement abolishing the Pay Board and mandatory wage controls was a victory for the workers' struggle against government controls. But the government will try to strangle and crush the workers' movement with different forms of attack.

For an analysis of how this attack and the workers' resistance is developing, see centerfold articles on Pay Board and Peter Brennan, new Secretary of Labor. In the March issue of *REVOLUTION*, we will analyze this situation further.

Vietnam:

what's behind
Nixon's moves?

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NOVEMBER...WORKERS DEMAND, "ABOLISH THE PAY BOARD!" AND DEMONSTRATE IN SAN FRANCISCO IN SUPPORT OF 3 WORKERS, INCLUDING BLACK VIETNAM VET, BEATEN AND ARRESTED AT EARLIER PAY BOARD DEMONSTRATION.

Black Students Defy Murder, Build Struggle

(The following article is based primarily on an interview conducted by *Revolution* with Fred Prejean, a leader of the Black "United Students" group at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, an all Black school. Part of the information is taken from the January, 1973 issue of the *Bay Area Worker*--Ed.)

On November 16, 1972, police gunned down Douglass Brown and Denver Smith, Black students at Southern University in Baton Rouge. Another in the long list of cold-blooded murders of Black people in this country and the blood-debt crimes of the U.S. ruling class. Even the governor's hand-picked committee had to admit that the police did it--who else!--after the authorities first tried to claim that the students themselves were responsible!

But unlike so many Blacks, Douglass Brown

and Denver Smith did not die alone, lynched by cowardly night-riders in a deserted field, or shot down by murdering pigs in a dark alley. Brown and Smith fell in the midst of the Black students at Southern University fighting against a racist educational system and the oppression of the whole Black community. And the struggle at Southern U. has continued to grow more powerful, despite vicious repression.

Four years ago, students at Southern were shot, gassed and arrested by police who occupied the campus to try to put down the struggle. "The grievances then were practically the same as the grievances today," brother Fred Prejean told us. But, he added, the students have learned from past struggles and have become more sophisticated.

Last fall, students at Southern U. campuses

in both Baton Rouge and New Orleans rejected backroom meetings with Administration-established committees that led nowhere and took the struggle to a higher level through mass demonstrations. At the New Orleans campus, the students seized the Administration building, demanding the resignation of an Uncle Tom dean.

The students there also put forward the following demands: curriculum restructuring, better handling of scholarship funds, health care, better wages for campus employees and the use on campus of symbols--such as the Black liberation flag--more relevant to Black people.

The demands at the Baton Rouge campus were basically the same. Underlying these demands is the fight against the indoctrination of students,

Continued on back page

Farah, p.5 Miners, p.6 "Superfly," p.12

Editorial: Advance the Struggle!

The courageous struggle of the American people against imperialist exploitation and oppression and for liberation is rapidly widening and deepening. The U.S. imperialists, their once-mighty throne splintering and cracking beneath them, are trying desperately to stem the tide of revolutionary struggle here and around the world, but their efforts will certainly fail.

In the accompanying article on this page, "The Tasks Ahead," we of the Revolutionary Union outline how we think the revolutionary struggle in the U.S. is developing and, given these developments, what communists in this period must do. The article sums up the main and other key tasks this way:

"The main task of communists now is to build the struggle, consciousness and revolutionary unity of the working class and develop its leadership in the anti-imperialist struggle.

"At the same time, communists must also work in all the people's movements, among all oppressed strata, merge together the people's struggles and build the broadest possible united front against imperialism.

"And in close connection with the people's struggles, we must boldly conduct communist propaganda, find and train as revolutionaries the people who come to the fore as leaders of the workers' movement and other mass struggles, and unite the genuine Marxist-Leninist organizations in order to form a new Communist Party with real political authority among the class conscious workers and other revolutionary-minded people."

Analyzing Events & Struggles

The purpose of Revolution, the Revolutionary Union's national newspaper, is to help fulfill these urgent tasks. In each issue we will try to analyze the key theoretical, political, and organizational questions confronting the revolutionary movement in the U.S., the major events of the day both in the U.S. and elsewhere, and the various struggles of the American and world's peoples.

We also plan to write articles summing up our own political work, especially our efforts to

organize workers. These articles will deal with what we believe are the strengths and weaknesses of our work, and what we feel is its significance for building the revolutionary movement and its working class leadership.

We want to encourage other revolutionary groups and persons to submit material about struggles they are involved in, as well as their ideas on how to carry out the major tasks of this period. In this way we can clarify points of unity and difference, find the basis for working more closely with each other, and move closer toward the formation of a new Communist Party.

This does not mean that Revolution will be an abstract debating journal expressing a hodge-podge of views divorced from reality and the people's struggles. The newspaper will bear the definite political stamp of the RU—its line, policies, views, work, etc. We do feel, however, that a principled exchange of ideas and practical experience is an important part of what the newspaper can contribute.

Learning from Others

The Revolutionary Union has existed approximately four years. We are a young organization and have much to learn, especially from the great American working class which has a rich history of valiant and often bloody struggle against the capitalists and their yes-men, and which today is rising once again to deal with the enemy blow for blow.

We hope that Revolution can make a positive contribution to the developing revolutionary movement in the U.S. and around the world, and can help us to learn more from others. And we are confident that if all revolutionary forces and individuals in the U.S. do learn from each other, struggle things out honestly and in a good way, and overcome narrow self or group interests in the revolutionary interests of the American masses, the revolutionary movement in the U.S. is bound to grow. It is bound to thoroughly smash the hated imperialist enemy, and build a socialist society based on the rule of history's most powerful and progressive class—the working class.

The Tasks Ahead

The last 15 years have been a period of great awakening and great struggle for the American people. From the civil rights movement to the present Black and third world liberation struggles; from the early student movement and the first anti-war protests to the anti-imperialist student movement; from the strikes and wildcats of the 1960's to the present rank and file upsurge and the growth of rank and file workers' organizations; and on various other fronts, the people's

struggles have grown broader and more deep-going.

The face of the enemy has become clearer to literally millions of people. Despite the collapse or retreat of particular individuals and organizations, despite temporary confusion of the struggling people and occasional demoralization, the general direction has been forward, the ranks of the struggling people have swelled, and the number of conscious revolutionaries dedicated to the overthrow of the imperialist system has grown.

Our imperialist tormenters, whose rule seemed unshakable, are shaken by rebellion on all sides. Going down to defeat in Vietnam, exposed and isolated everywhere, they are caught in a growing crisis. Their system is in decline.

More Resistance

The period ahead will be marked by the further decline of U.S. imperialism, the deepening of the imperialist crisis, intensified attacks by monopoly capital on the working class and the people, and increasing resistance to these attacks.

The main task of communists now is to build the struggle, consciousness and revolutionary unity of the working class and develop its leadership in the anti-imperialist struggle.

At the same time, communists must also work in all the people's movements, among all oppressed strata, merge together the people's struggles and build the broadest possible united front against imperialism.

And, in close connection with the people's struggles, we must boldly conduct communist propaganda, find and train as revolutionaries the people who come to the fore as leaders of the workers' movement and other mass struggles, and unite the genuine Marxist-Leninist organizations in order to form a new Communist Par-

ty with real political authority among the class conscious workers and other revolutionary-minded people.

In the final analysis, only such a Party can truly represent the revolutionary interests of the working class and establish its leadership in the broad united front of struggle to overthrow imperialism.

In recent years the developing people's

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REVOLUTION is the monthly publication of the Revolutionary Union (RU), a national communist organization. We would appreciate any comments or criticisms you have of REVOLUTION, and also any articles, letters, photos, cartoons, poetry, etc. you would like to submit. Please send to: RU, Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 60654.

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Starting with the March issue of REVOLUTION, there will be a section in Spanish.

Imperialists on the Run

An outlaw on the run, trying to cover his tracks, Nixon is double-dealing and back-tracking furiously on Vietnam. First he agrees to a peace settlement last October. Then thinking the heat's off, he scuttles it and resumes the genocidal bombing of north Vietnam, with charges that the Vietnamese liberation forces are "going back on the agreement and preparing for another offensive."

This is like the man who shoots into a crowd killing innocent people, then yells, "help, maniac!"

Now with the crunch of political and military defeat in Vietnam, the growing people's



G.I. REBELLIONS KEY FACTOR FORCING GROUND TROOP PULLBACK FROM VIETNAM.

movements in the U.S. and around the world, and the worsening economic crisis, Nixon is attempting to manipulate the peace negotiations to salvage what he can from the rout of U.S. aggression.

The peace negotiations by no means reflect a change in U.S. strategy in Southeast Asia, only a change in tactics. The present level of the negotiations and last minute introduction of unpalatable demands shows that the long range aim of total domination has not been scrapped. But *short range goals have to be re-evaluated in the face of defeat in Vietnam.*

The military situation: despite years of counter-insurgency, strategic hamlet program, intensive pacification program, genocidal bombing and defoliation, U.S. imperialism has failed to win militarily because it has failed to win politically.

The liberation forces have the overwhelming support of the people, whether in liberated zones or among the millions of peasant refugees forced to live in the Washington-Saigon created and dominated urban slums.

The present U.S. policy is not new, but a step backward from direct intervention. The last

act of direct control will be to try and ensure a place for the puppet Thieu to do his lackey dance.

With the gutlessness of the puppet Saigon troops, and the demoralization and then the withdrawal of U.S. combat units, the viability of the Saigon government can be counted in days, perhaps hours. To avoid this disaster, the U.S. must find a way to prop up Thieu, and at the same time lay the ground work for re-intervention.

Key to this policy is an effort to permanently divide Vietnam and for the U.S. to continue to dominate south Vietnam. Four factors will be an integral part of this policy: 1) try to force the Vietnamese to agree that there are north Vietnamese forces in the south, that they constitute an "illegal presence" there, and then to use this in an effort to disarm the south Vietnamese liberation forces and local guerrillas; 2) leave the set-up of national elections in the hands of Saigon; 3) step up the already large U.S. military build-up in Thailand, and move U.S. command headquarters to that country; simultaneously maintain 7th fleet close patrol of Yankee station off the coast, with already constructed invasion landing zones on the Vietnamese shore; 4) continue clandestine operations in Laos and Vietnam with U.S. "advisors" in substantial numbers, classified as "non-combatants."

All this can be done in the name of "with-

drawing from Vietnam and letting the Vietnamese settle it themselves." Puppet regimes in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Saigon, coupled with Soviet capitulationism, is an attempt to encircle the revolutionary forces and stave off the inevitable collapse of the imperialist policy.

Nixon and Strangelove Kissinger think they have an ace up their sleeve. They are pressuring the rulers of the Soviet Union, who have restored capitalism in that country, to force the Vietnamese people to give up their fight for independence.

The Soviets, who send only second hand, low quality equipment to the north Vietnamese, are already doing everything they can to sabotage the liberation struggle of the Cambodian people. They refuse to support the revolutionary government that controls 90% of the country and recognize instead the reactionary government of Lon Nol, made in the USA by the CIA. But Soviet backstabbing can't save imperialism from defeat.

China Won't Play

There is another big obstacle to the U.S.-Soviet desperation moves to suppress the Vietnamese people: the People's Republic of China. Nixon and Kissinger's "strategy" was to neutralize the Chinese stand on Vietnam, but the Chinese, of course, will have none of it.

China is not yet a developed country and cannot send lots of heavy equipment to Vietnam, but it does extend and increase free aid, including basic foodstuffs such as rice, as well as oil, arms and ammunition. At the same time, the Chinese encourage the Vietnamese to rely mainly on their own strength, determination, and unity to wage a protracted struggle.

The American people also have suffered from the U.S. government's war of aggression in Asia. The people have fought for years and have built an anti-war movement of millions from all walks of life. Nixon's double-dealing will never deceive the American people into giving up our struggle against the war.

Even his "peace is just around the corner" act just before the elections failed to have credibility as thousands of people, many of them working people—Black, white, Puerto Rican, and Asians—marched through the streets of NY shouting, "Nixon you liar! Sign the ceasefire!"

These protests occurred in NY and around the country because these demands are deeply felt by the great majority of the American people. We must expand and step up our struggle until U.S. imperialism is forced out of Southeast Asia and around the world.



In the final days of December, Mad Dog Nixon was forced to stop the barbaric bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong. Of course, he and his mealy-mouthed menagerie of Washington parrots squawked that it was the Vietnamese liberation forces who gave in by offering to go back to the Paris negotiating table.

But everyone who has been following events knows that the Vietnamese maintained all along they wouldn't return to negotiations until the bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong was stopped—and that is exactly what happened. Nixon stopped because the Vietnamese people—once again displaying tremendous courage and determination—refused to be bombed into submission, and also because of the great public outcry around the world against the bombing.

What is especially noteworthy about this worldwide demand to stop the bombing is that in the forefront were the workers of several nations, many of whom took powerful and effective actions.

In Australia, for example, the Australian Seamen's Union started a boycott against U.S. shipping on Dec. 28 in protest of the bombing,

a boycott that spread throughout the country. And the stevedores of Genoa, Italy, also started a boycott of U.S. shipping—even without official authority from their union. Danish dock workers were getting ready to engage in a similar boycott when the bombing was halted, and U.S. newspapers reported just before the bombing halt that workers throughout Europe were considering plans for a joint boycott across national boundaries.

All these actions serve as shining and inspiring reminders of the great power of the world's working class and of the tremendous spirit of internationalist unity that exists between the workers of all nations and the heroic working masses of Vietnam.

These actions are a clear indication that the workers of all nations increasingly see that the revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese and all the Indochinese peoples for peace and liberation is also their struggle, and that a victory for one is a victory for all against the common enemy—U.S. imperialism.

So let Mad Dog Nixon froth on and on about who is giving in to whom. We all know what the real score is; we can all see the soaring strength of the international working class!

Workers Act Worldwide Against War

Equal Rights, Yes!

"Women's Amendment," No!

Ever since 1824 women workers in the U.S. have been battling for better working conditions. That was the year that women factory workers first walked off their jobs to demand higher wages, a shorter work day, and decent working conditions.

Now, nearly 150 years later, the gains won by working class men and women through generations of struggle are being grabbed back by the ruling class from whom we won them in the first place. And it's no surprise that today some of these grabs are gloved in all kinds of fake cloth.

Under the phony banner of "curbing inflation," our wages are kept down while prices go up. On the pretext of "keeping taxes down," social services are cut. And under the slogan, "equality for women," state protective laws for women involving hours of work, weight-lifting limitations, rest and meal breaks, etc. are being stricken from the books.

Enter ERA

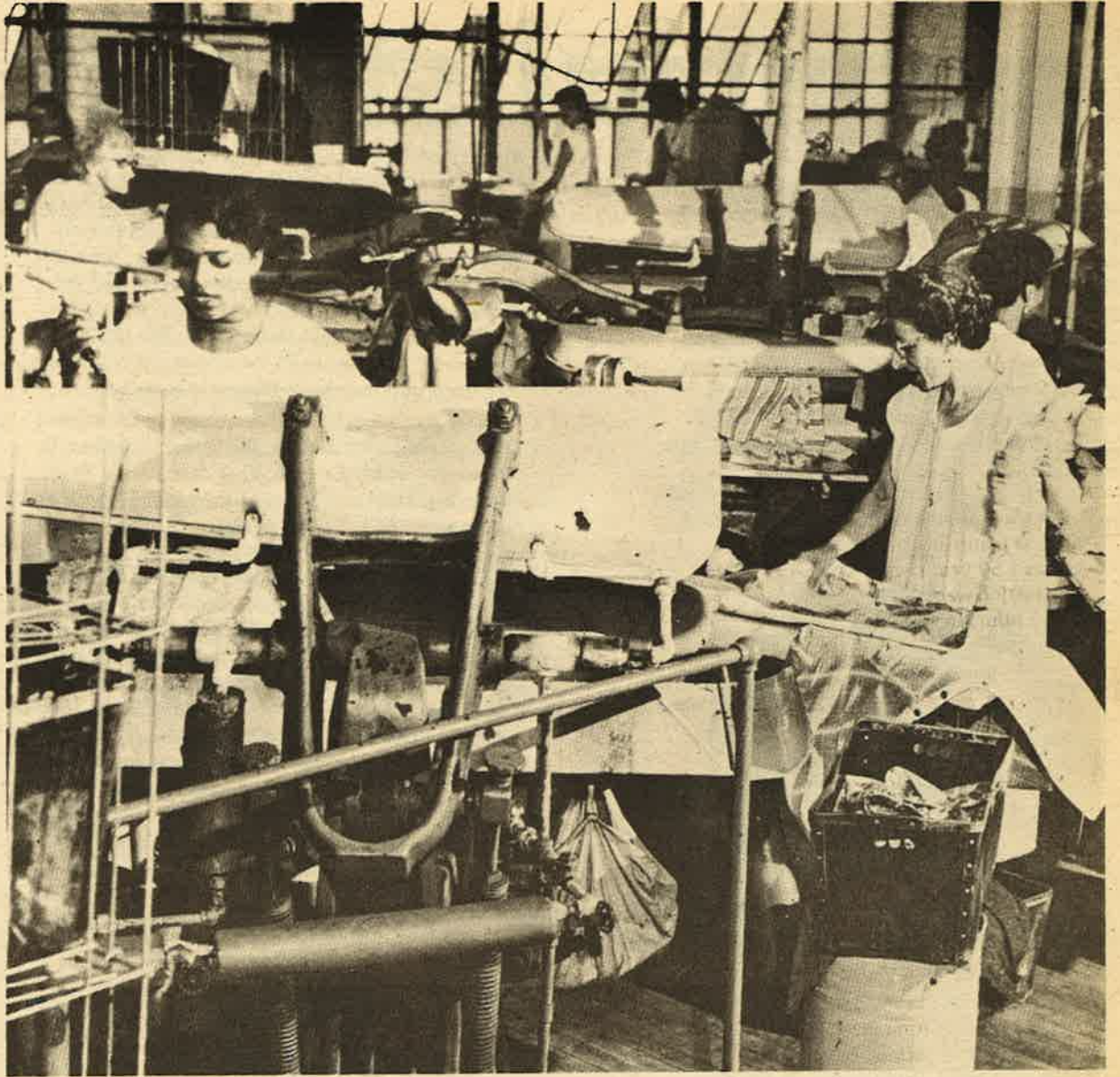
A big push for this came last March 22 when Congress passed the so-called Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Within four months 20 state legislatures had passed it, followed by Pennsylvania last September. That leaves, as of latest count, 17 states to go before the ERA is added to the U.S. Constitution. (U.S. amendments must be ratified by 3/4 of the state legislatures). It will then go into effect two years after ratification to give states time to bring state laws into line.

The amendment itself is very general. Its basic provision is: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States of America or by any state on account of sex."

It sounds fine, on the surface. But in actuality the ERA will bring nothing but sham equality and more real oppression for the vast majority of women in this country. It is part of the overall attack on the people's living standards launched by the U.S. ruling class.

Bosses Respond

This is what it has already meant for thousands of working women in states where employers have pressed to get protective labor laws revoked, in their great, big-hearted concern for the "rights of women." They cite Title VII of the Fed-



eral Civil Rights Act of 1964 as justification. Title VII prohibits discrimination in private employment based on sex, as well as on race, color, religion, or national origin.

In November 1969, Fibreboard Corporation which has at least four large mills in California, petitioned the state Division of Industrial Welfare for a blanket waiver of all state protective laws for women and minors, saying that the Federal law voided all state laws. Before the Division got around to ruling on the request, Fibreboard "offered" women all kinds of jobs and working conditions they had previously been excluded from.

Under the threat of being laid off, women were "asked" to work 12 hours a day, to work doubles (16 hours), and were given jobs far too heavy for them, resulting in many injuries and severe back sprains. Meal breaks were cut down or eliminated.

This is "Equality"?

Shortly after this, in February 1970, representatives of six big employer associations testified at a public hearing called by the California State Assembly; they agreed that all state protective laws under question--the 8-hour day, 40-hour week, rest periods, lunch hours, and lifting requirements--should be suspended.

In another California factory, the plant owner even tried to lower men's wages to the level of the women's--naturally because he didn't want to discriminate between men and women

any longer. (This low-down act was successfully fought and defeated by the workers.)

More recently, in Ohio on March 14, 1972, the State Supreme Court struck down all state protective labor laws for women. But even before this, women at Inland Manufacturing Co. in Dayton had direct experience with such "equality." One woman of average build with nine years experience was placed in a job formerly classified for men only and held by a six-foot, 235-pound man. She was forced to work 12-hour shifts.

In addition, working women who don't have unions to help them fight for decent working conditions will be hardest hit by efforts to strike down state protective laws. For every woman worker in a union, there are seven non-unionized women workers. Most of these are in the least skilled, most menial jobs, and many of them are Black, Latino and Asian.

What Do We Do?

The "equality" promised by the ERA is nothing but phony equality for the great majority of women, and we will have none of it!

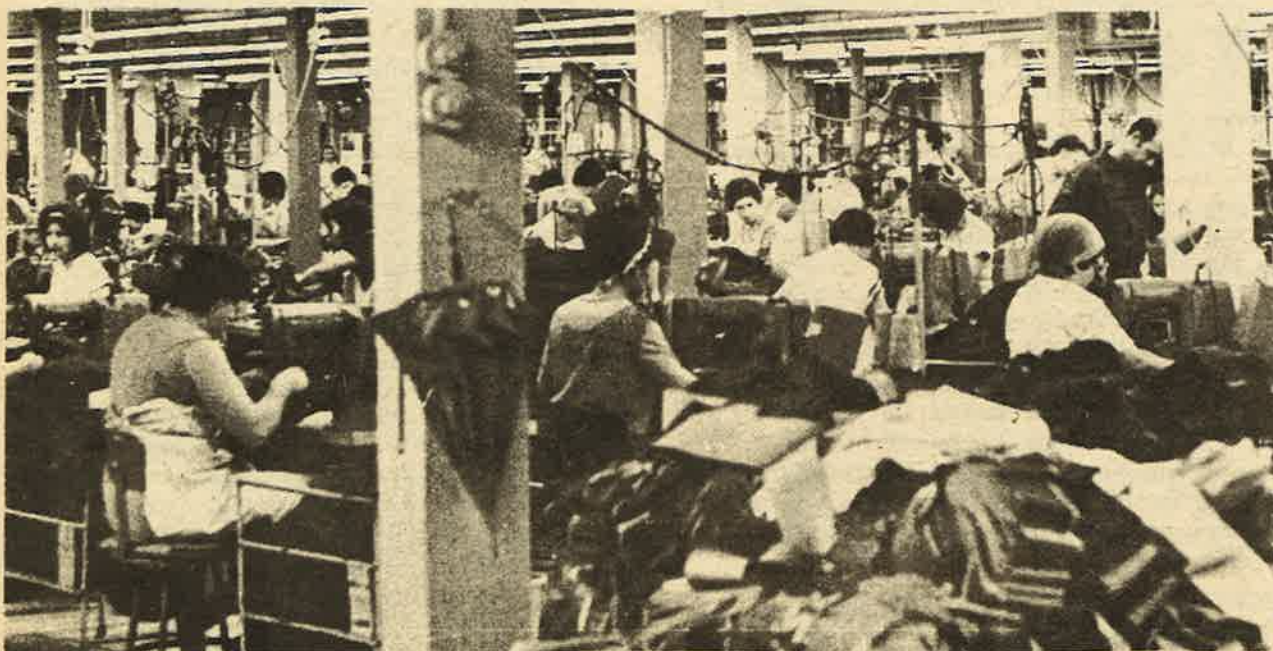
At the same time, we must fight for equal pay for equal work for women and equal opportunities for jobs, education, and military training, and the right to participate equally in all aspects of society. We must fight against the special oppression and exploitation of women wherever it occurs.

We must also fight against the incorrect and reactionary arguments against the ERA--that it would weaken the home, that women shouldn't be in the military, that the male alone should provide for the family, etc. We will have none of them either!

We must go forward, not back. Protective and minimum wage laws should be extended to men as well as women and to all workers in the U.S., in all kinds of jobs. In states where the ERA comes up this year, including probably California, Illinois, and Ohio, we should oppose its passage. We should use the opportunity to expose the inequalities women suffer, and mobilize women and the working class generally to fight the attacks by the ruling class.

And next month, on March 8, International Women's Day, when women and men come together in cities all across the country, the meaning of real equality and equal rights and what we must do to achieve them must be made clear.

(This is the first in a series of articles about the ERA and women's rights. Next month we will analyze the reasons why some individuals and organizations, including several trade unions, support the ERA.)



Farah: key southwest strike

Chicano Workers

Lead the Way

This article is written by RU members and some staff members of the Bay Area Worker, who recently visited the Farah workers' picket lines in El Paso, Texas--Ed.

For over eight months, shouts of "huelga!" have been heard in front of the factories of Farah Manufacturing Company in Texas and New Mexico.

Farah, a family-controlled textile company with nine plants in the southwest and two overseas, has a 50 year record of sweatshop exploitation. Starting wages--and top pay for many--is \$1.70 an hour. In the whole history of Farah, not one worker has been retired--instead, to eliminate any retirement benefits, they're fired when they get near retirement age.

"We don't really know if there's sick leave here," workers said; "people just go to work when they're sick. The company also pushes competition between us," they added.

Faced with these and other oppressive conditions, the workers in the largest of Farah's plants, the huge Gateway plant in El Paso, began a union drive in 1969. Despite the firing of several organizers and other frantic company attacks, the workers in a key department--cutting--voted in October 1970 to affiliate with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

Suppression Intensified

The company refused to recognize the election and stepped up its union-busting: more workers were fired, personal conversations were restricted, people with union badges were kept under constant surveillance, and the ID badges were color-coded to keep union supporters in each department from talking up the union in other departments.

Despite this repression, the union drive gained strength. Finally, on May 9, 1972, after hearing that workers in the San Antonio plant had walked out, the workers at El Paso struck. They knew they were up against a powerful enemy --Farah at El Paso employs 14% of the labor force, almost all Chicano, 80% women.

But as one Chicana on the picket line told us: "I didn't go out on strike at first; I have a daughter to raise myself. But when I saw the picket line outside, I knew where I should be--and because of my daughter, I went out."

Farah has responded to the strike with one attack after another. Plant guards were issued guns and dogs--to deal with "boozed up Latin kids,"

as owner Willie Farah called the strikers. The plant was surrounded with barbed wire and telescopic cameras, the courts issued an injunction against mass picketing, and 1000 arrest warrants were issued--some for people who were out of town or even scabbing on the strike!--with the local Justice of the Peace pocketing \$4 for each warrant issued.

National Support

But the workers are determined to stay out until they win. They have received support from workers all across the country. The Amalgamated Clothing Workers have held several large support demonstrations on the east and west coast. Postal workers have donated money, and other unions--including the United Farm Workers, Maritime Union, Teamsters, and UAW--have come out in support of the boycott.

Support has also come from textile workers in England and other parts of Europe. The Hong Kong Textile Workers Union sent back cancelled, unfinished clothing products from Farah's plant there. Everywhere he turns, Farah faces the international solidarity of the working class!

To build on and strengthen this support, members of the RU have united with rank and file workers and workers' organizations, and Chicano organizations to form Farah Strike Support Committees in several cities in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas.

Militant picket lines, with as many as 100 people, have been set up at stores selling Farah products. The word is spreading wider: **BOYCOTT FARAH PANTS!**

Workers' solidarity with the Farah strike

is growing because it is a crucial trade union struggle. But the importance of this strike for the workers' movement reaches far beyond the immediate issues of union recognition.

The origins of the Farah strike really go back to the time of the conquest of the southwest by the U.S. capitalists. Since that time, the Chicano people have faced the theft of their land, the systematic attempt to destroy their history, culture and language, and the brutality of being forced into miserable living conditions and the most dangerous, low-paying jobs.

But the history of the Chicano people is a history of struggle as well as oppression. In Texas, from the first days of conquest, Chicanos like Juan Cortina, who led a guerrilla army for ten years, have continually fought back.

Today, the struggle continues, but in new forms. Chicanos are concentrated in basic industry in the urban areas of the southwest. Their experience in socialized industrial production, and the key role they play in production in the southwest, have given the Chicano people a more powerful basis for organizing, and they have launched a new wave of resistance, more widespread than ever before.

As the U.S. economy continues to crumble, as the U.S. imperialists are forced to shift more and more of the burden of their crisis onto the backs of U.S. workers, areas like the southwest become increasingly important battlegrounds.

A victory for the Farah strikers will be a victory for the whole working class. Not only because the unionization of the southwest will tighten the noose around the monopoly capitalists, but most importantly because the solidarity that is being built among Chicanos and all working people is an important step towards the day when the united working class will overthrow the monopoly capitalists and establish a new society. A socialist society, in which national oppression and wage-slavery are done away with, forever.



500 WORKERS IN DETROIT PICKET IN SUPPORT OF...



Miners Victorious, Movement Develops

The victory of the Miners for Democracy (MFD) slate, led by Arnold Miller, in December's United Mine Workers (UMW) elections was the result of a genuine mass movement among coal miners.

Beginning in 1968, there was a big upsurge in wildcat strikes in coal. The number of miners involved in strikes in the three years, 1968-70, was greater than in the previous ten years by over 100,000. The struggle continued on this level through 1971 and '72.

Another key factor in the election victory was the formation of a broad-based coalition of the reform organizations that have existed for several years in the coal fields: the Black Lung Association, the Disabled Miners and Widows of Southern West Virginia; working miners fighting to secure and improve working conditions; the family, friends and supporters of Jock Yablonski (a former member of the UMW International Executive Board who ran against Boyle in the 1969 election and was murdered, along with several members of his family, shortly after that); and rebels who have fought the Boyle machine for years.

Message Gets Around

These forces came together at a rank and file convention (open to all miners) in Wheeling, West Virginia, last May to write a platform--the Miners' Bill of Rights--and pick candidates. This coalition carried the reform message to every miners' bath house and local UMW union hall in the country, and gave leadership to the mass strike movement.

Under the repeated and increasingly stronger blows of a strike movement it could not stop, and the struggles of the organized reform groups that continually exposed its collaboration and corruption at every turn, the Boyle machine began to disintegrate.

These struggles exposed the operators and union hacks under a glaring light. Public opinion was shocked and outraged by the Mannington disaster (Boyle publicly praised the operators on their safety record after 78 men died in an explosion).

Added to this was a long list of outrages:

the Hyden and Blacksville mine disasters, the Buffalo Creek flood, the "discovery" of black lung disease, the plundering of the union treasury and pension funds, the Yablonski murders and the fact that top union officials, with the trail leading to Boyle himself, were involved in the pay-off of the Yablonski killers.

Government Suddenly Moves

So, after years of faithfully serving the capitalists' interests, the Boyle machine could no longer function effectively and had to go. Suddenly, after two years of ignoring complaints of vote fraud and intimidation connected with the 1969 Boyle-Yablonski election, the federal courts ordered a government-supervised election held in December 1972. Thoroughly rotten and an unsightly embarrassment to its patron, the coal operators, the Boyle slate was defeated by the MFD.

The MFD will have great influence in the whole workers' movement because it has made the most successful thrust of the many militant reform struggles springing up in the trade unions. So it is very important to understand the weaknesses, as well as the strengths, of the MFD campaign.

From their beginning, the groups that formed the MFD, while organizing militant mass action, have also tended to rely on the government, especially the courts. For example, the Miners' Bill of Rights, under the autonomy section, states: "After 35 years of trying (referring to internal union struggle to win autonomy for the union locals) it was and is clear that full autonomy would never be restored without resort to the courts. We make no apology for seeking a judicial solution to an otherwise insoluble problem."

This ignores the fact that autonomy suits have been in the courts for more than 11 years. It was only the growing militancy and independence of the miners that forced the capitalist class to grant this basic democratic demand.

The MFD has also failed to expose the fact

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*I was born in old Kentucky,
in a coal camp born and bred,
I know all about the pinto beans,
bulldog gravy and cornbread,
And I know how the coal miners work
and slave in the coal mines every day
For a dollar in the company store,
for that is all they pay.*

*They take our very life blood,
they take our children's lives.
Take fathers away from children,
and husbands away from wives,
Coal miners, won't you organize,
wherever you may be,
And make this a land of freedom
for workers like you and me.*

*I am a coal miner's wife,
I'm sure I wish you well,
Let's sink this capitalist system
in the darkest pits of hell.*

Sara Gunning
Harlan County, Kentucky



FROM EARLY DAYS MINERS HAVE BUILT STRONG BLACK-WHITE UNITY, WAGED MILITANT BATTLES.

MFD Platform Highlights

1. Salaries of international officers to be reduced substantially; reduce the number of payrollers and end nepotism in the union hierarchy.
2. Same pension for payrollers as miners, with mandatory retirement for officers at 65.
3. Headquarters of the international to be moved to coal fields.
4. Continuation of the struggle for full autonomy in every district.
5. Pensions to be raised to \$200-a-month, \$10-a-month more for each year in the mines over 20, with pension eligibility after 25 years or after 20 years if 55 years-old.
6. The same pension for all union members, whether bituminous, anthracite, or Canadian.
7. Employers should pay into the Welfare Fund for ABC workers, whose contracts should expire on the same date as the UMW.
8. An end to taking away welfare cards from disabled miners, widows, and dependents.
9. Full-wage sick pay benefits for 14 days per year, immediate pension for disabled miners, and dental benefits under the Welfare Fund.
10. Establish a black lung assistance program and expanded clinics, and insist on dust control enforcement and research.
11. Increase jobs and safety with 4 six-hour shifts, one a safety maintenance shift.
12. Detailed safety requirements in the contract including paid work stoppage when mine is unsafe.
13. Expanded international safety division and total support for safety committees, including full-time local safety committeeman chosen by local and paid by company.
14. Create additional jobs and union revenues by organizing 44,000 non-union bituminous miners, many in strip mines, and by insisting that reclamation be done by UMW members.
15. Protect the land by requiring strict enforcement of strip mine operators' responsibility for reclamation.
16. Support for local efforts to stop land destruction by operator such as the broad-form deed and acid pollution of streams.



AT MINERS FOR DEMOCRACY MEETING, WHEELING, W. VA.

that the government only intervened in the election to try to clean up a messy situation for the operators and keep production going smoothly. The MFD, while it correctly took advantage of the contradictions and cracks in the operators-government-Boyle camp to win the election, left the field open to Boyle to sound off hypocritically against government interference in union affairs. Many rank and file miners, including many who strongly support Miller, have no illusions about the government's role in fronting for the capitalists.

Finally, some of the MFD propaganda puts too much emphasis on the personal role of Miller and other reform leaders, and plays down the real heroes of the miners' struggle—the thousands of fighting miners themselves.

The record does show that Miller and other reform leaders have worked and fought hard to oppose the companies and union bureaucrats. But, more importantly, the record shows that the masses of coal miners fought hard for victories like the passage of the black lung bill, and backed up their demands with a strike when Nixon made noises like he might not sign this bill. The miners' mass movement is the real muscle that has wrung concessions out of the ruling class.

The MFD victory demonstrates powerfully that, even at a time when the capitalist class is stepping up its attacks on the workers, it is possible, by relying on the mass struggle of the rank and file, to fight back and win victories.

These victories, however, will be short-lived unless the movement is built in such a way that the miners become fully conscious of their own strength through mass struggle and come to see their struggle as a part of the movement of the whole working class—a struggle not just against the coal operators, but against the entire capitalist class and against the government that supports that class.



800 DEMAND ACTION AT HEARING ON BLACK LUNG DISEASE BENEFITS, HORSE CREEK, KY., 1970.

Workers Defeat Payboard

The following is a report by members of the Revolutionary Union in the San Francisco Bay area on work in building the workers' struggle against the Pay Board--Ed.

The Pay Board serves the capitalist class openly, arrogantly, with only a shabby attempt to conceal its master. Economically it works to cut wages and boost profits. Politically it works to bring the unions under the complete domination of the government and to condition people to the idea of more and more government controls.

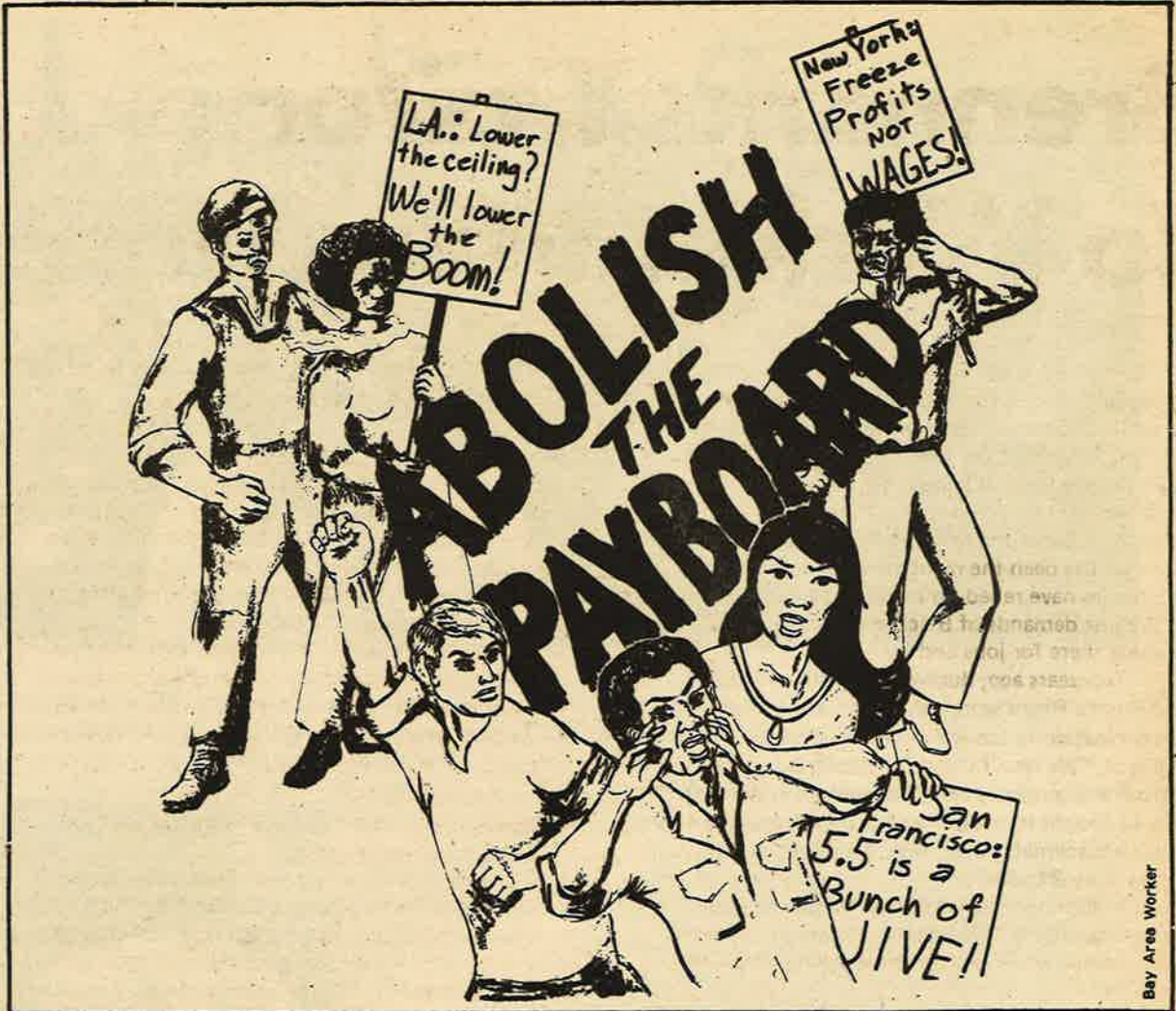
Increasingly, workers have seen through the lie that the wage freeze will "curb inflation," and have defied the Pay Board and its 5.5% wage guideline. In 1971, 80,000 miners refused to return to work until their right to a hard-won 15% wage gain was recognized. Several months later, 1000 aerospace workers (IAM) demonstrated at the Federal Building in San Francisco, after the Pay Board struck down a 12% wage increase for 100,000 aerospace workers.

In August, 1972, 500 Chicano workers, members of the Furniture Workers Union local 500, with the help and support of the Labor Committee of La Raza Unida Party, shut down 6 plants in Los Angeles and held a "One Day Political Strike" against the Pay Board.

About the same time as the Los Angeles political strike, we discovered in the Bay Area that the Pay Board was planning a visit to San Francisco, as part of a "public relations" tour. The Pay Board hoped to sneak in and out of town quietly, and later bill their appearance as a "public hearing" where all had the chance to be heard.

Workers Committee Formed

The RU recognized that this was a very important opportunity to unite workers, employed and unemployed, to demonstrate publicly the anger that many, many workers feel about the Pay Board, and to help raise the workers' solidar-



Bay Area Worker

ity and struggle against the government's attacks on working people. The RU helped to bring together active workers from various unions and rank and file organizations in the Bay Area to form the Workers Committee Against the Pay Board.

The Committee planned a demonstration outside the Pay Board hearing, raising the demand, "Abolish the Pay Board!" and called on workers and unions from all over the Bay Area to join the demonstration and go together to the "public hearing" to voice this demand.

On August 21, 1972, the day of the Pay Board hearing--which was held on a work day, starting at 9 a.m.--over 200 workers, including delegations from several unions, showed up to join the picket line. When we attempted to gain entrance to the "public hearing" we were told outright--"you are not the public." We were ordered to leave the building. Although outraged at this type of treatment, everyone began to leave together.

But this was not enough for the government. As people were leaving, federal marshals beat and arrested 3 workers.

The Committee, greatly enlarged by workers who were enraged by the arrests, united with the arrested workers' union, the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees, to build the arrested workers' defense and the fight against the Pay Board. We expanded the slogan to "Drop the Charges, Abolish the Pay Board!"

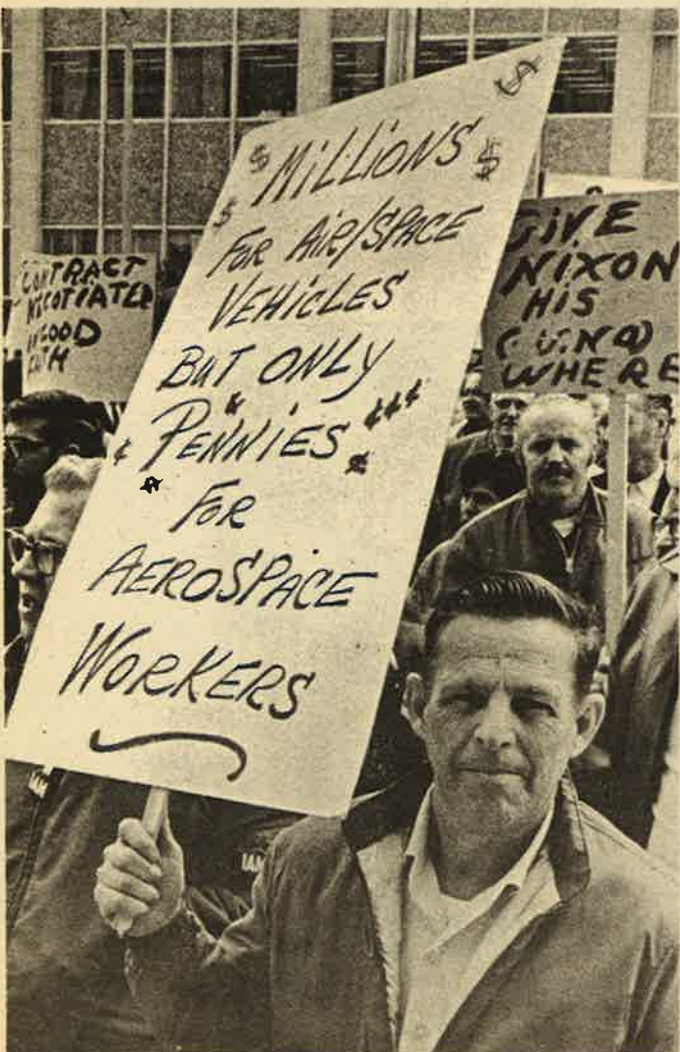
The Committee passed out thousands of leaflets at plant gates and circulated hundreds of petitions of support. Everywhere people expressed outrage at the Pay Board's policies and the government's treatment of workers who spoke out for their rights. One worker said, "If those bastards had their way,

THE FOLLOWING POEM WAS BY WORKERS COMMITTEE

I went to a meeting just the other day
The purpose of the meeting was to
had to say.
This meeting consisted of many
We all held a discussion in behalf
we sought to free.
These people had been arrested
While peacefully protesting against
and demanding that it fall.
A lot of ideas were suggested about
In order to get action and results
We must have support from everyone
When you have read these lines,
and wondered what you should do
Just try and remember, it could
When this meeting was over, one
When people get together, the
are much easier to find.

they'd have us all working for 25 cents an hour!"
Another worker, when he heard that one of those arrested was a Vietnam vet amputee put into words what thousands of workers felt: "It's bad enough that they draft you and send you to fight in Vietnam where you get your leg shot off, but then they got the nerve to beat you, arrest you and try to take your job when you try to speak out against the government!"

By the time the case came to trial 2500 workers had signed petitions. Nearly 20 union locals and 4 AFL-CIO Labor Councils had passed resolutions demanding that the Pay Board be abolished and the charges be dropped. This happened mainly because



AEROSPACE WORKERS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST WAGE FREEZE...THIS & OTHER WORKERS' ACTIONS FORCED GOVT. TO FOLD UP PAY BOARD.

Brennan: Traitor To Working Class



NIXON BARKS ORDERS AT PETER BRENNAN, NEW SEC. OF LABOR, REPLACEMENT FOR NIXON'S FAITHFUL OLD DOG, "CHECKERS."

Peter Brennan, Nixon's newly appointed Secretary of Labor, is the first union official to be selected for a cabinet post since the Eisenhower Administration. What are Brennan's special qualifications for the "Nixon team"? What's behind his appointment?

As head of the NY Building Trades Council, Brennan has been the main man the construction companies have relied on to organize opposition to the just demands of Black and Puerto Rican workers there for jobs and equality.

Ten years ago, during the height of Black and Puerto Rican workers' demonstrations against discrimination in the NY construction trades, Brennan said, "We won't stand for blackmail... we had it from the gangsters and Communists in the 1930's and we fought it... and if we have to fight integration-by-blackmail today, fine, we'll fight it." (NY Times, July 24, 1963.)

In Brennan's twisted little mind, the struggle for equality is "blackmail." Communists and other people who fight for the working class—who

have led the fight for industrial unionism and democratic unions and for equal employment—are "gangsters."

Finally, in 1970, mass demonstrations and other militant struggles forced Brennan to sign an agreement on training Black and Puerto Rican construction workers and admitting them to the building trades. But Brennan has played a big part in sabotaging this program.

As of the end of 1972, there were less than 600 trainees in the program, although the agreement called for 800, and only 22 of the trainees had been admitted into the skilled construction unions. In the New York City area, where the minority population is 30%, Black and Puerto Rican workers still make up less than 2% of the skilled construction crafts.

Brennan's long record of betraying the working class has made him the favorite "boy" of the Rockefellers & Co. within the labor movement. And there is nothing Brennan won't stoop to in order to show his loyalty to his monopoly capitalist masters. In 1970 he mobilized members of the lily-white construction crafts to attack a demonstration protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia. Following that he held a big ceremony to present Nixon with a hard hat.

Brennan in no way speaks for the ranks of labor. He is a racist dog and a reactionary to the bone—a pro-war, pro-imperialist scum-sucking pig who has tried to pimp the hard hat and the heritage of the working class for the chance to lie at Nixon's feet and lick up the crumbs of imperialist plunder.

War on Blacks

From the git-go, Brennan's appointment is a blatant, deliberate attack on Black people. It is part and parcel of the same policy that led to the recent murder of Black students at Southern University in Louisiana. From the office of President on down, the policy has been set and the word has gone out: "If any 'nigger' gets out of line, cut him down"!

This has historically been the way the ruling class has dealt with Blacks in this country. But this undisguised attack now is a reversal of the official government rhetoric of recent years. It is a straight appeal to sections of the petty bourgeoisie and to the minority of privileged white workers to unite with the monopoly capitalists in a declaration of war on Black people.

As such, it is an open attack on the broad ranks of working people of all nationalities, and on the people's movements in general.

Brennan's appointment is a key part of the Nixon strategy of putting the workers' movement in a vice.

In a nutshell, this strategy is: consolidate the top labor officials as overseers of the rank and file, turn the unions into police agencies for monopoly capital, to whip the workers into line, "increase productivity" (through speed-up), etc.

This means: throw the weight of the government even more forcefully behind the drive of the Abel's, Meany's, Fitzsimmons', Bridges', Beirne's & Co to wipe out any union democracy; set up Nixon's council on "industrial peace" to replace strikes and job actions with back-room deals with "labor leaders."

It also means direct government attacks on the working people: step up government injunctions against strikes, extend the wage freeze, pass and enforce more anti-strike legislation, force welfare recipients to take jobs for slave wages, replacing union-scale labor--**BUST THE POWER OF THE UNIONS AS WORKERS' DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS.**

While Nixon and his advisers are masterminding this attack, it is not just the plot of the "ultra-right," as some so-called "revolutionaries"—including the "Communist Party," USA—whine, in chorus with various "liberals" and dogooders. This is part of the stepped-up attack on the American workers and the whole American people by the entire monopoly capitalist ruling class.

But the workers' rank and file movement is growing and uniting greater numbers, and the class consciousness of the workers is developing, despite repression from above and sabotage from within. The American working class has a long, proud tradition of militant struggle and has produced many revolutionary fighters and leaders. In the many battles ahead, we will certainly revive and build on this tradition.

WRITTEN BY A MEMBER OF THE
AGAINST THE PAY BOARD

...ay.
...hear what everyone

...on, working people like me;
...some working people

...hout just cause at all;
...an unjust law,

...what we all should do,
...om our plans;
...ossible working man.

...d do;
...e happened to you.
...ing was embedded in my mind;
...ers to their problems

the Committee took the issue to the rank and file and relied on them to carry it in their local unions. The head of the National Alliance also took a strong stand and sent letters requesting support to many union officials.

Whenever the 3 appeared in court, the place was filled with supporters. More than once, several workers from one shop gave up a day's pay to come show their support for their fellow workers on trial.

Government Backs Down

The government repeatedly tried to get off the hook by offering deals to the defendants (lesser charges if they would plead guilty), always accompanied by threats that they would really get it if they turned down the deals. But the 3 workers, seeing that a real organized resistance was growing, chose to fight.

Faced with this determination and growing opposition, the government was forced to back down. Two workers were acquitted and the third was given a token sentence of 30 days court probation. All who were involved and supported the fight understood clearly that it was the pressure from thousands of workers—and not the "justice" of the courts—that brought about this verdict.

This was a real victory for the working class. The government had attempted to intimidate workers. The Pay Board had attempted to keep attention from its anti-labor policies. They failed.

The struggle against the Pay Board is an important advance for the working class both because of the immediate victory and because of the great potential unleashed for future struggle. Through our experience we can see that organizations like the Workers Committee Against the Pay Board are very important in helping to build the organized resistance and the consciousness of the working class.





Powerful NY Demo

The leaflet on the opposite page was passed out by the Nov. 4 Committee at the 5000-strong Nov. 4 demonstration in New York. The Committee, a coalition of revolutionary, rank and file and community groups, organized the demonstration in the face of "liberal" imperialist attempts to kill off anti-imperialist struggle with the Mc Govern campaign.

The New York Nov. 4 demonstration was a powerful blow against the imperialists: working people from many industries, and people from the Black, Puerto Rican and Asian communities formed a large, leading contingent in the march, which raised the demands: "Nixon You Liar, Sign the Ceasefire!" "End All National & Racial Discrimination," "End All Attacks on Working People."

The leaflet by the Nov. 4 Committee celebrates the great advance represented by the Nov. 4 demonstration and calls for greater unity and greater struggle against the common imperialist enemy. We reprint this leaflet to help spread the call to action and the lessons of the demonstration.



UNITE ALL WHO CAN BE UNITED

The November 4th Committee believes this to be a very important day. As we celebrate the continuing victories of the Vietnamese People against the rich and powerful rulers of the United States—our common enemy, we praise and thank them for their inspiring militant courage that faced and defeated the most systematic rain of death and terror in the history of the world!

Their victories, including the latest peace settlement, teaches us that the power of the reactionary and grasping ruling class of the U.S., though deliberate and deadly, cannot prevail over a people united in struggle, and we take this lesson to heart as we determine to unite oppressed and working people inside the United States in the struggle for a better life in militant solidarity with the peoples of the world. The lessons of Vietnam is that the victory of the peoples of the world and our own marches double-time to greater successes as we learn to link up and unite our struggles. The world is changing—oppression and exploitation have to go. If the Vietnamese people and their allies can defeat the power of the Rockefellers, the Nixons and their puppets, why can't we? We, too, have powerful allies among the struggling peoples of the world, and united with them, victory is certain.

We take a certain pride in the current victories of the Vietnamese people, in that the growing and militantly expressed opposition to U.S. aggression here at home played a significant part in making our big shots backtrack. But only a little pride—the major credit has to go to the heroic Vietnamese who helped open our eyes as they stripped the veneer of respectability from our "public figures" and their backstage 'puppet masters' and exposed them as death dealers—profit hungry, racist oppressors. And our pride must be a cautious one because the enemy has not yet been completely defeated. We know from our own bitter experiences, how after our rulers are forced to make some concessions with one hand, they try to take it back with the other. And the same holds true for their forced withdrawal from Vietnam; they will certainly try through subversion, bribery and black mail to accomplish what naked power failed to do. We do not think they can succeed, because at this very moment the IndoChinese Peoples are consolidating their victories, but still we must be vigilant in exposing the maneuvering and sabotage on the part of the U.S. government: the stalling in signing the ceasefire, and the pulling the strings of their puppet Thieu to make him sound more belligerent than he actually is. These as well as other attempts to put off the final day of reckoning will certainly be forthcoming from the "White House," and we must certainly meet them and defeat them. Above all we must be alert and ready to prevent future Vietnams wherever they may occur—in Asia, Africa or Latin America. This is no idle warning. We must not be lulled into thinking that the big banks and the Pentagon have now become pacifist and peace-loving angels. Nor has IT&T forgotten about Chile. Wherever they can, the profit-seeking murderers will use their means to protect what they have and feed their appetites. At this moment in the Philippines, in Mozambique, in Guatemala and Santo Domingo, in Palestine and the Middle East, the U.S. special agencies are working day and night to put down the armed revolutions of Third World Peoples. **We Want The U.S. Out Of Indochina Now. Yes. And We Want The U.S. Out Of All The Oppressed Countries Of The World.**

This rally and demonstration has been called to end U.S. aggression, to end all national and racial discrimination, and to end all attacks on working people. Just as the struggle against the war has shown how a handful of rich people held the power to force us to invade Vietnam against our own best interest, took from our hides to taxes and money to buy the weapons of destruction they control, and killed or wounded thousands of Americans and over a million Vietnamese in order to get richer and stifle resistance, so every struggle we engage in pits us, the millions of North Americans against this same handful. When black and other oppressed peoples in this country fight for jobs and equality, it is the Rockefellers who send the storm troopers in. When prisoners demand the right of human dignity it is this same people who send in mad dogs to murder them. When workers put it on the line in order to defend and protect their living standards it is again these "liberals and conservatives" who line up the court injunctions and the soldiers, while they commit all kinds of criminal misdeeds and espionage in full view of the public and go unpunished.

Both Democrats and Republicans are responsible for the high prices that correspondingly lower wages. Both are responsible for price boards that don't work and wage boards that do. At the same time, they have shown skill at keeping us divided and in making trouble. Division is fomented between white and oppressed peoples, between black and other oppressed people, between employed and unemployed, between working men and working women. *This is the secret of their power.*

Hit especially hard by the oppressive tactics of criminals who run this country is the Black Worker and their Spanish-speaking sisters and brothers who are forced into the lowest paid sectors of the working class, forced into the worst jobs in the labor market, subjected to being the largest group of unemployed, semi-employed, and permanently unemployed, subjected to the most hazardous working conditions, discrimination in hiring, job placement, upgrading and classification, to firing, suspensions, slander and violence, and forced into the armed service to die on the battlefield in Asia, Africa and Latin America fighting in the interest of the big banks and Corporations.

Therefore we must vigorously strive to end the many divisions between us, by linking our struggles and forging solidarity, to go from partial victory to greater victory, to unite all those who can be united to defeat our common enemy.

The unity developed in the Nov. 4th Committee, composed of representatives of many people's organizations and this rally is only a small beginning for what is required. What we express is the will to unite and spread that unity through all the struggles that effect our lives. Yes, we have to teach unity, but the greatest teacher is the struggle itself. That means jointly supporting every legitimate struggle and developing in every struggle the leadership of poor and working people. Though this rally was hurriedly called and inadequately prepared and the first unity achieved with some difficulty, we are determined to guard it with care, knowing full well that we must rely on the people and their struggles, on our own strength. For this reason we have called the rally before the election to emphasize that we must build up our own forces and forms of struggle, our own political apparatus, and not be reduced to saying Amen once every four years to the rule of murderers and criminals!

This rally and demonstration is a good thing, a great beginning. But our aim is not to base ourselves on making demonstrations, but, rather, to build our struggle where the people are—the factories, workplaces, communities and schools and wherever, to help each other overcome the obstacles that stand in the way of unity and victory. But demonstrations are also good because they enable us to see how well or badly we are doing, to assess our strength and to uncover our weaknesses so that we can correct them. So let us plan another demonstration—on May 1st (1973), the International Workers Holiday celebrated all over the world where people are struggling. This holiday got its start in the American workers struggles for an eight hour day. Let us meet again along with thousands of others on that day to take stock, reaffirm our solidarity and plan our next steps!

Cast Away Illusions And Prepare For Struggle!
We are many and they are few!

Review of "Black movies"

"Superfly" won't get over

We don't expect Hollywood to make revolutionary movies; the people will have to develop a revolutionary culture and make their own. But in the meantime, we must expose the blatant counter-revolutionary nature of the current wave of so-called "Black movies."

They are called "Black movies" possibly because there are some Black people in them. But if Black means awareness of oppression and the Black liberation struggle in the U.S., we will have to strain to find Blackness in these nickel slick flicks.

In these movies we learn that revolution is found in a customized El D, and liberation exists in an unlimited supply of cocaine. The people are helpless chumps unable to cope with their own oppression, but along comes the super hero who shows them how to deal with the Man on his own terms.

We see the supreme individualist Sweet-back ("where do you get that we shit") running 90 miles into the desert in a crushed velvet suit, but he is cool. In Buck and the Preacher, the ex-slaves are unable to defend themselves from attack, and have no knowledge of survival after a 250 year history of slave revolt and struggle against oppression. Only Sidney Poitier can save the masses.

Hollywood's "Community Control"

These movies have been followed by others equally jive but sometimes "entertaining": Slaughter, Black Gunn, Shaft, Son of Shaft, etc. In Charleston Blue we learn that would-be revolutionaries like to style, too; that community control simply means local Black gangsters can take over from the white gangsters, and in the end the moral is trust your local Black pig.

In each of these movies the hero follows a pattern: he's out there doing his thang, he doesn't work, he has no real ties with the people, he has some kind of hustle, he is a pusher or a pig, but he knows how to style.

Super Fly is one of the most popular movies of this type. The hero is a coke sniffing dude who wants to get out of the cocaine hustle, and he promotes the good life style of the pusher trying to get over, but it is totally unreal.

Let's bring it down front: is it conceivable that the top pig in the city and he alone is involved

in dope supply? That the mafia has no hand in it, that in fact you could have a mafiosi rolled one night and the next day buy a contract from the same dude on the police commissioner? Bullshit.

Music Has Different Message

The Black revolutionary nationalists are depicted as groveling fools who don't know what time it is; but the hero knows what's good for the Black community—enough dope so he can make his getaway.

And while the hero, Priest, is getting his ass kicked by the pigs, he stops everything while he snorts some coke, just to make sure he can handle it. What ghetto does he come from? Despite all the madness on the screen, the music by Curtis Mayfield is good:

*"Little child running wild,
Watch while you see he never smile;
Broken home, father gone,
Mama tired, she's all alone;
Kinda sad, kinda mad,
Ghetto child thinking he been had....*

*One room shack, on the alley back,
Control I'm told from across the track;
Where is the mayor that makes all things fair,
He lives outside of polluted air."*

And also:

*'I've met people over the years, and in my
opinion I have found that
People are the same everywhere;
They have the same fears
Shed similar tears
Die in so many years;
The oppressed seem to have suffered the most
on every continent
From coast to coast;
Now our lives are in the hands of the pusherman:
We break it all down in hopes that you
might understand
How to protect yourself;
Don't make no profit for the Man.*

These words from the Mayfield songs have to do with the oppressive conditions in the Black community, not with the rather dubious successes

of one coke sniffer. These movies are designed to poison the minds of young Blacks by saying the people are nothing and by downgrading revolutionary Black consciousness, by worshipping Negro lackeys who serve capitalism and not the people.

Workers Make History

In these movies lumpen is revolutionary, and the heroes are the very elements that are used as the agents of exploitation and living death—pimps, pushers, and petty gangsters who, like the ruling class, profit from the misery of the masses.

These movies are an out and out attack on the masses of working Black people, because they show how one man supposedly strikes back at the system in a totally unreal way. They completely ignore the historical fact that it is the working people who change systems and make history.

Show us a movie where the masses of people get some politics, get organized, and really deal with the Man. To win real liberation, we need proletarian politics and armed struggle, not dope and dummies.

(Next issue, a review of a "new" type of Black movie: Sounder.)



SUPER FLY! IT'S COOL!

THE **Super Fly**

A dude with a plan to stick it to The Man!

8TH BIG WEEK!

Starring **RON O'NEAL** as **PRIEST**

from Warner Bros. a Warner Communications company

SUPER FLY is brilliant. It has a solid, tense plot, eye-catching settings, sex, whirlwind-pacing.

Original soundtrack available on Custom Records

REGULATED BY THE FBI



THE MASSES MAKE HISTORY AND CHANGE SYSTEMS... NOT PUSHERS, PIMPS AND PETTY GANGSTERS.



photo by Floyd Webb

Chinese Troupe

Friendship and Unity

"This was the best possible Christmas present!" These were the words of a Black patient at Cook County General Hospital in Chicago after seeing an informal performance by members of the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe of the People's Republic of China, given during their tour of the hospital.

The patient was reacting not only to the Troupe's remarkable skill but to the genuine warmth and friendliness they showed to the American people while performing in Chicago, Indianapolis, New York City, and Washington, D.C. in December and January.

In the closing act on stage, the acrobats unfurl a banner in English and Chinese proclaiming: "Long Live the Friendship between the Chinese and American Peoples!" But more than this, the Chinese performers impressed all who saw them with their respect and concern both for each other and for the American people.

Questions about Workers

When the acrobats visited U.S. Steel in Chicago, for example, they asked many questions about the lives and conditions of the workers and pinned friendship badges on the workers they met. They also pinned badges on members of American welcoming groups, and the four children in the Troupe presented handkerchiefs, books, and postcards to the American children they met.

The acrobats themselves offered to perform for the Cook County Hospital patients, most of whom are working class and poor Black people. And upon learning that a number of people representing various trade unions, church and community organizations in the Chicago area, along with the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association, were eager to give the Troupe a rousing welcome, the Troupe leaders opened up the dress rehearsal to members of these organizations and others, making it possible for many to see the performance who could not afford to buy tickets.

The performances themselves reflect the values of socialist society, which promote cooperation and unity among the people. For instance, there is no destructive competition for applause among the performers, but a spirit of real cooperation and assistance.

Because protecting the lives and health of artists who use their skills to benefit the people is considered very important in China, the acrobats put on safety belts at the start of acts involv-

ing heights.

Women and men work as equals on stage. While there is some division of labor, with men generally doing the numbers that require more muscular strength, women are not relegated to second place or forced into taking sexy poses or showing a lot of flesh to gain attention. (Both men and women wear practical but colorful loose-fitting pants and shirts). This is a show the whole family can enjoy.

All acts were presented with great dignity; at the same time there was not a trace of pompousness or conceit.

Some of the big newspaper reviewers who used words like "thrilling, delightful, charming, artful, amazing, and joyful" to describe the performance, expressed great surprise at what they called the "show-biz savvy" of the Troupe. They praised the beauty of the stage sets, the touches of comedy, the suspense and excitement of the

most daring numbers.

That they were surprised at these things only shows how the U.S. ruling class has tried to distort what has happened in China since the 1949 revolution and to keep the American people ignorant of what proletarian dictatorship has meant for the masses of Chinese people.

That people can be both disciplined and creative, hard-working and enthusiastic, dignified and joyful, serious about serving the people wholeheartedly and at the same time have a spirited sense of humor, and under what kind of society these are possible, are things the U.S. ruling class would like desperately to hide.

Nixon's visit to China last year signalled the utter hopelessness and failure of this attempt to "contain" and isolate China. The U.S. Government has been forced to open the door a crack. And with Chinese friends such as the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe now visiting the U.S., the American people will never let the door be shut again.



ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD GREETS CHINESE PING PONG TEAM ON ARRIVAL AT SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT LAST YEAR. SIMILAR WELCOMES WERE GIVEN TO CHINESE ACROBATIC TEAM IN RECENT TOUR OF U.S. CITIES.

Tasks Ahead...

Continued from page 2

struggle has produced many revolutionaries who have begun to study and apply to the U.S. the political thought of Mao Tsetung, which upholds and enriches the revolutionary ideology of the working class, Marxism-Leninism, in opposition to revisionists like the "Communist Party," USA.

On this basis, several communist organizations, including the Revolutionary Union, have formed and gained strength. But these communist organizations are still very young, are not yet united, and have only begun to build real ties with the working class and become a significant force in the people's struggles.

By concentrating our efforts to build the workers' movement and raise its political level, communists will strengthen our ability to rouse even broader sections of the people to anti-imperialist struggle. And, through common work to build the workers' movement and the united front, the various communist organizations will make the greatest advances in resolving political differences, forging a correct political program and building toward the much-needed Communist Party.

How do we carry out our main task? At present the workers' movement is mainly around day-to-day economic struggles, and even here the level of workers' solidarity is still not very devel-

FBI Blast Shows Crisis

We see in the December 12 Wall Street Journal that the FBI, in its annual report, has labeled the Revolutionary Union a very dangerous organization "dedicated to destroying the government and creating a Communist society."

We of course are honored that a criminal band of misfits such as the FBI deem it necessary to attack us in this manner. It encourages us in our work, strengthens our resolve, and reminds us of what Mao Tsetung said nearly 35 years ago: "To be attacked by the enemy is not a bad thing, but a good thing."

More importantly, we realize that this latest broadside against the RU—one of several in recent years—is only part of the overall vicious campaign being waged by the FBI and other reactionary imperialist agencies against the rapidly growing struggles of the American people and their developing revolutionary organizations.

Real Nature of Revolution

By stating that organizations such as the RU are "dedicated to destroying the government and creating a Communist society," the FBI tries to make it seem as though revolution is simply a matter of a few isolated groups fighting the government rather than what revolution really is—a well-organized and violent upheaval of the masses themselves, led by their Communist Party, to overthrow the oppressive imperialist enemy.

This is just a crude and clumsy attempt on the FBI's part to conceal the true mass nature of revolution and to make it appear as though communist organizations are separate and apart from the great majority of the people.

This widespread campaign of vilification and intimidation—often accompanied by strongarm goon tactics and barbaric, violent repression, especially against Black and other third world people—is growing. And there is every reason to expect that it will become even worse as the imperialist enemy weakens and the people's revolutionary movement grows stronger. Like a wounded and cornered animal, the enemy will try to save his skin by lashing out with greater ferocity.

The Revolutionary Union does not fear these attacks—either against itself or against the people and their revolutionary organizations in general. At the same time, we don't take such attacks lightly.

We are convinced that the imperialists will be defeated, but only after great and difficult mass struggle. Thus, we believe the people and their revolutionary organizations must prepare themselves thoroughly to meet and repel these increasingly terroristic attacks by continuing to develop our mass political movement and our revolutionary skills.

oped. Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, founders of the communist movement, made it clear from the beginning that communists "have no interests separate and apart from the proletariat as a whole...they always and everywhere represent the interests of the (workers') movement as a whole."

As communists we must join with all the day-to-day struggles of our class brothers and sisters, help to organize this fight, to develop demands and tactics that can unite our greatest numbers, expose and isolate the misleaders and build greater and greater solidarity.

But at the same time, as communists we know that the system of private profit, especially in its monopoly-imperialist stage, cannot meet the people's needs and demands for a decent life. It can only exist by the greatest robbery of the working people, by worldwide plunder, especially of the colonies, by war, corruption and suppression.

It is our duty as communists to help the greatest numbers of working people to learn this through their own experience in struggle, to grasp the revolutionary necessity and fulfill the historic mission of the working class to liberate the people and society from the yoke of parasitic capitalism.

To raise the workers' movement from its present level to a class conscious revolutionary movement, communists must, as Lenin said, utilize the sparks of political consciousness that are generated in every workers' struggle. We must show in a living way the connection between events in a strike—use of the police, courts, bureaucracies, mass media, etc. against the strike—with police terror against Black and other third world people, students and anti-war demonstrations, etc.

We must seize every opportunity to organize the political struggle of the working class—against imperialist aggression in Vietnam and elsewhere, and against all manifestations of exploitation, oppression and tyranny by the imperialist state in this country.

The struggles of Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano, and Asian workers against discrimination

and super-exploitation are a driving force to move forward the whole workers' movement. These struggles strike at the very heart of the imperialists' divide and rule strategy, and develop a higher level of working class unity. They immediately raise broader political questions and can link up the workers' movement with militant struggles in the Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican and Asian communities.

It is vital for the development of the whole workers' movement to build powerful, fighting organizations of Black and other third world workers to lead struggles against discrimination and the exploitation of the whole class.

At the same time, communists must unite with the most active and advanced workers of all nationalities—those most dedicated to the cause of the whole class—to build various forms and levels of multi-national rank and file workers' organizations.

Learning from Struggle

These organizations are crucial to give leadership to day-to-day struggles; to fight for union democracy and build the solidarity of working people, organized and unorganized; to unite the struggles of the employed and unemployed workers; to fight for equality for women; to develop broader political struggle and consciousness among the workers and link these up with the other anti-imperialist struggles of the American people.

In all our work as communists, our goal is to help our class brothers and sisters to learn through struggle, to raise their consciousness from the trade union level and a hatred for individual exploiters and particular evils of the imperialist system to an understanding of the nature of the imperialist enemy.

Our highest goal is to build the revolutionary role of the working class in leading the people to overthrow imperialism and build socialism. So long as we keep this goal firmly in mind and base our strength solidly on the working class and the people, the promise of long years of struggle will certainly be fulfilled, and nothing on earth can prevent it.



MALCOLM

"I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing...between those who want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation...Power in defense of freedom is greater than power in defense of tyranny and oppression...Revolutions are never based upon...begging a corrupt society or a corrupt system to accept us into it. Revolutions overturn systems. And there is no system on earth...more corrupt, more criminal, than this system that...still colonizes 22 million African-Americans, still enslaves 22 million Afro-Americans."

FROM SPEECHES BY MALCOLM X, BORN MAY 19, 1925, ASSASSINATED BY THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS, FEBRUARY 21, 1965.

Leninism Exposes CP

The "Communist Party," USA (CP) claims to be a revolutionary organization fighting against imperialism and for socialism. They claim they are "Leninists."

But every time the CP sets down its program or talks about anything concrete, they slap themselves in the face and reveal themselves as slavish worshippers of monopoly capitalism.

One glaring but typical example is found on the front page of the December 8, 1972 CP paper, Daily World. In bold letters is a banner headline: "SENATE URGED TO AIR CHARGE MONOPOLIES GO ABROAD, BILK WORKERS."

The story that follows tells how Senator Frank Church was "stung by (Chilean President Salvador) Allende's expose of huge superprofit rakeoffs in Chile by Kennecott Copper and IT&T." So Church "promised a full Senate Investigation of the explosive growth of investment abroad by U.S. companies."

We would like to ask the "Leninists" of the CP: Do you or don't you know that it is in the very nature of monopoly capital to "go abroad" and to "bilk (rob) workers"? Do you or don't you hold that monopoly capitalism is the same as imperialism, which means exactly the "explosive growth of investments abroad"? Do you or don't you recognize that the Senate is a mere puppet of these very imperialists?

Do you really expect people to believe that Senator Church, a "leading member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee," was ignorant of imperialist plunder ("super-profit rakeoffs") in Chile, or anywhere else, since the main purpose of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is to further and protect exactly this imperialist plunder? Do you really believe, as "Leninists", that the solution to the evils of imperialism lies in Senate investigations?

In his brilliant book, Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism, Lenin ripped the mask off certain so-called "revolutionaries" of his time, who had degenerated into slobbering apologists for imperialism, and who took the same stand as the CP takes today.

Lenin's Imperialism is a treasure for the working class. In this book he showed how small-scale competitive capitalism inevitably develops into monopoly capitalism. He demonstrated clearly that monopoly capitalism is the same as imperialism, and that "this summary proves that imperialist wars are absolutely inevitable under such an economic system, as long as private property in the means of production exists."

Therefore, the only way to eliminate the evils of imperialism is to eliminate the imperialist system itself, with its monopoly capitalist ownership of the means of production.

The aim of the workers' movement, Lenin insisted, must not be mere reforms, but the revolutionary overthrow of imperialism, the seizure of power by the proletariat and the establishment of a proletarian dictatorship over the former capitalist exploiters, to build socialism. And Lenin revealed vividly that imperialism is completely parasitic capitalism, capitalism in decay, rotten ripe for revolution, and therefore that "imperialism is the eve of proletarian revolution."

Finally, Lenin exposed how certain petty bourgeois reformers and their allies in the workers' movement, representing the minority of privileged workers, tried to cover up the true character of imperialism with talk about reforming away this or that particular evil, while leaving the imperialist system intact.

Today the CP is still putting forward this worn out reformist garbage. Wherever they latch onto the people's struggles, they always try desperately to drag them down to the level of relying on the imperialists to eliminate the evils of imperialism (Senate investigations), while covering this up with meaningless rhetoric like "the necessity of solidarity of U.S. workers with workers of other nations in a common battle against the giant U.S. multinationals (corporations)."

The CP does everything it can to hold back the revolutionary movement to overthrow imperialism and build socialism under the rule of the working class. They are out and out opportunists, agents of the imperialists within the ranks of the revolutionary movement. And as Lenin said, the fight against imperialism is a sham and a humbug unless it is connected with the struggle against opportunism!

Publications by the RU

SELECTIONS FROM RED PAPERS 1, 2 and 3. Major articles from the first three Red Papers, the RU's theoretical journal, originally published 1969-70. 50 cents.

RED PAPERS 4: PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION VS. REVOLUTIONARY ADVENTURISM. Major documents from an ideological struggle in the RU that took place Fall 1970. Published Spring 1972. \$1.

RED PAPERS 5: NATIONAL LIBERATION AND PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION IN THE U.S. Focuses on the history, struggles and political significance of the Black nation in the U.S. Published Fall 1972. \$1

CHINA'S FOREIGN POLICY: A LENINIST POLICY. Explanation and analysis of the main points of China's foreign policy. Published Spring 1972. 50 cents.

BUILD THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST STUDENT MOVEMENT. Includes a history and analysis of the student movement in the 1960's and early '70's and a program for building an anti-imperialist student movement. Published Summer 1972. 35 cents.

TEMPLE STRIKE: BLACK WORKERS LEAD STRIKE TO VICTORY. Description and analysis of a strike at Temple University in Philadelphia in Fall 1971. Includes a Spanish translation. 30 cents.

WALLACE: A WORKING CLASS VIEW. Statement by the RU after the shooting of George Wallace, Spring 1972. 5 cents

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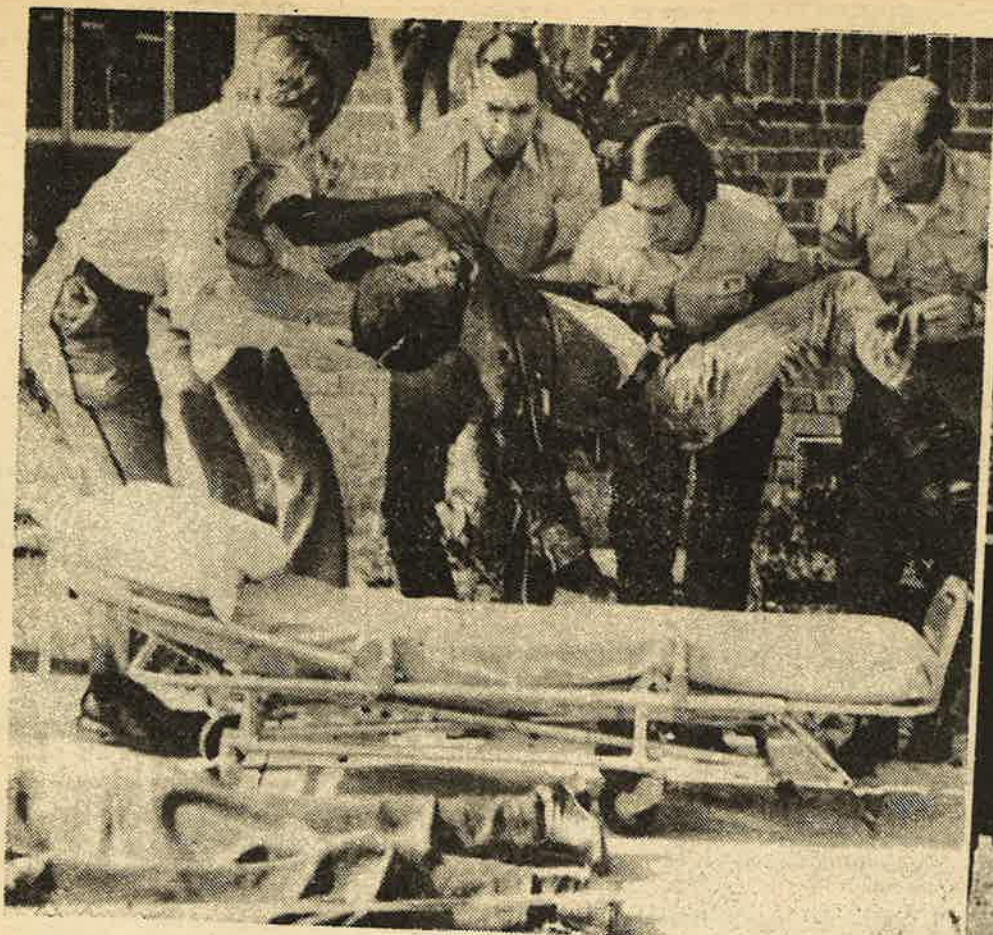
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Southern U. Students...

Continued from page 1

particularly Black students, to make them tools of the exploiters. Prejean broke this down further: "We came to the college brainwashed, only to find that the college perpetuates that same brainwashing process...It was not until a problem of our safety and our future confronted us that we realized that we were in fact brainwashed."

So the students went back to the community to get back to basics. "It was from that point," Prejean said, "that we began to get the idea that the problems follow the students into the community upon graduation, and we carried them with us everywhere we went."

"And this is how the problems in the community are perpetuated...we were in fact perpetuating those problems...So we started looking for answers, how do we solve the problems that exist...how do we keep from graduating from the university and going to work for an all-white concern constantly making the Man richer--and at five o'clock go back to our ghetto."

Prejean noted that Southern U. is the largest Black college in the country, and that it could serve as a "potential power base" for Black people "if the resources that existed were available to the people in the community."

Tail and Head

By struggling against an educational process that forces the students to become a part of perpetuating oppression, and by linking up their struggle with the people in the community, the students

at Southern came up against not only the college administration, but the educational system and the state government as a whole. "In dealing with the Administration," Prejean said, "we were only dealing with the tail of the snake...When we got to the State Board of Education we found the serpent's head, waiting to snap at us."

The students at Southern learned that all the talk of the ruling class and its Black lackeys about education being the sole answer to Black people's oppression is just another trick to further that oppression. When you see through that and fight against it, then the real power of the oppressor, the police, comes down on you.

But through their struggles, the students at Southern University have begun to develop powerful alliances. In the wake of last fall's murders at Baton Rouge, a conference was held of Black students from schools in the Southwest Athletic Conference (SWAC). Prejean noted that "this organization (SWAC) existed before, but has never before discussed uniting to fight oppression."

The Youth Organization of Black Unity, an anti-imperialist organization of Black youth in various parts of the country, sent representatives to Southern U. to build unity with the struggle there, and help spread the struggle of Black students across the country.

Ties with Workers

And the Southern U. students have built ties with Black dock workers in the area. Last spring Southern U. students twice joined with Black longshoremen in picketing and refusing to unload chrome imported from the racist regime of Rhodesia. Prejean emphasized the tremendous potential power of Black students and workers "linking up and really doing something about the problems."

Support for the struggle at Southern University continues to build all across the country. Black and white students have held militant demonstrations on more than 20 campuses to protest the murders. And especially in the San Francisco Bay Area, a number of workers' organizations and unions have expressed solidarity with the struggle of Black students at Southern.

In San Jose, Calif., 30 telephone operators, Black, Chicano, and white--a third of the day shift in a main phone company building--wore black armbands to work and sent a letter of protest to Louisiana's governor. Workers at Owens-Corning Fibreglas in Santa Clara, Calif., sent a letter of solidarity to the students. Locals 6 (warehousemen) and 10 (longshoremen) of the ILWU, and the Alameda County Central Labor Council in the Bay Area also sent letters of solidarity.

Clearly, the struggle of Black students at Southern University is a heroic inspiration and holds many valuable lessons for the overall Black liberation struggle and for the whole revolutionary movement.



SOUTHERN U STUDENTS WHO JOINED WITH DOCK WORKERS TO PROTEST U.S. IMPORT OF CHROME FROM RACIST REGIME OF RHODESIA LAST YEAR.