

Some with 14 years seniority axed as

Steel giant robs 7,300 workers of jobs

By JOHN CATALINOTTO

NEW YORK, Aug. 23—Bethlehem Steel announced Aug. 18 that it would lay off 7,300 workers in Johnstown, Pa., and Lackawanna, near Buffalo, N.Y. This immense and horrible layoff is obviously a permanent one.

With only a few days' warning the multi-billion dollar corporation told the Black, Brown and white workers with up to 14 years of seniority that their "services were no longer required." Bethlehem is simply shutting down large fractions of the century-old plants and telling Lackawanna and Johnstown to go to hell.

This company has made profits of forty, fifty, and sixty million dollars a year since the beginning of World War II, but now it is cutting off the lives of thousands of the people who produced those profits.

Steelworkers in the two affected plants are stunned but furious. Workers from five Johnstown locals met in Pittsburgh on Aug. 19 and announced that they would march through Johnstown Saturday in protest. "Only a determined fight by steelworkers in the Johnstown community can force them to drop their job-cutting plans," said their leaflets.

TOTAL DISREGARD FOR WORKERS

A rank-and-file committee at Bethlehem's Lackawanna plant near Buffalo issued a leaflet hitting the companies' "total disregard" for the life and welfare of the workers and their families.

Bethlehem's chairman Lewis Foy tried to divert this anger from the company blaming imported steel, de-facto government price control, environmental regulations, and the recent flood which damaged the Johnstown plant, for the decision to lay off workers and cut production.

Protesting Johnstown workers answered: "Bethlehem is using ever excuse, from the flood to Environmental Protection Agency to foreign imports, to save face and get us to stop fighting for our jobs. The truth is that their drive for greater profits is their problem."

"The Japanese," said a Buffalo rank-and-file leaflet, "didn't take a plant with over 20,000 workers and reduce it to 8,000. Bethlehem Steel did that."

But the steel union's leadership, with the power of over a million and a half workers behind it, has all but

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Steelworkers leaving the Bethlehem Steel plant in Lackawanna, N.Y., after it was announced that employment there would be cut by 3,500

The best years of your life

To a Lackawanna steelworker with 14 years seniority just laid off for good

By VINCE COPELAND

Fourteen years. Winter, summer, spring and fall, you drove into the parking lot or pulled up in the bus on Ridge Road or Hamburg Turnpike and walked a quarter of a mile to your locker and worked your eight hours—days, afternoons, and nights. You were gassed in the coke ovens, or burned on the blast furnaces, or almost got pneumonia from the changing temperature at to open hearths, the BOFs, or the mills.

And now you're out.

You used to tell yourself there was no future and it was a lousy job, but the pay was good and you could buy a home or finish the payments on the one you started.

But now you can't.

You looked up at those cold, grey sheds that seemed to be a mile high against the sky when you came in at the gate long before dawn in the winter mornings, and your heart sank again and again, while you wished you were back home in bed. But you bent your head against the 10-degree-below-zero wind coming off the lake and you went to work. You gave the best years of your life.

Oh yes, and you worked overtime when the plant was snowed in. But overtime meant a 16-hour shift. That was dandy when you got your paycheck, but it was hell on your personal life. How many sixteens did you work for them over those 14 years, summer and winter? How much sweat did you leave behind

that gate they closed behind your back?

Maybe you're lucky they didn't kill you just from the work, though. I remember a guy in the Blast Furnace Department who worked five sixteens in a row, Monday to Friday—he was buying a house somewhere—and on Saturday morning he died. But then, he was in his fifties, maybe older than you are.

Funny, I have forgotten his name and I only remember his face. (But the Company forgot his name long, long before I did.)

The boss would ask you for an extra lift or an extra push or an extra pull—and you gave it. You gave them your best. And what did they give you?

A job? Yes. But they never would have made a cent if you and the rest of Lackawanna didn't work for them and keep all those furnaces going and the mills running. They never gave you anything you didn't earn—in fact they never gave you all you did earn.

And now it's over.

The "guaranteed wage"? There isn't any guarantee, because they laid off "too many" people. There will be only a couple of dollars left for you in a few weeks. And then the unemployment insurance until you find a job—if you do—at half the wages you used to get.

Who did it to you?

Was it your allegedly "high"

1500 rally in Ohio

Defend memory of slain Kent State students

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Special to Workers World

KENT, Ohio, Aug. 20—Nearly 1,500 persons rallied here today to demand that a gymnasium not be built on the site where National Guardsmen murdered four students during an anti-war protest on May 4, 1970, and to call for an end to police harassment of the May 4th Coalition.

Today's successful rally, one of the largest yet in this struggle, came on the heels of a setback in the courts when U.S. District Judge Thomas Lambros ruled that the constitutional rights of the Coalition to a redress of grievances had not been violated and lifted a restraining order on gym construction. However, the following day the restraining order was reinstated while the decision is being appealed. An appeals hearing is set for Aug. 24 in Federal court in Cincinnati. Noted attorney William Kunstler has joined the May 4th Coalition Legal Defense team.

One of the featured speakers at the enthusiastic rally was folksinger Joan Baez, who sang several songs, then explained that many of the things that the anti-war movement did in the '60s are embodied in the soil at Kent.

Martin Scheuer and Arthur Krause, both parents of slain

students, thanked the Coalition for "being here to preserve the hill," and urged everyone to besiege their Congressmen with letters.

PICKET KENT POLICE

Following the rally, the protesters marched to the campus police station, then moved off campus through downtown Kent to City Hall to protest the recent police harassment and frame-ups.

On Thursday night, Aug. 18, Kent cops arrested five Coalition members, including one of the

attorneys, for "aggravated riot." The arrest was a setup by the same cops who fought Kent students during several days of anti-war protest in 1970 which culminated in the May 4 shootings.

On July 26, the parents of Alan Canfora, one of the wounded, were stopped at a police roadblock and verbally and physically abused and handcuffed, and filmed for TV news broadcast. They have filed suit against Portage County Sheriff Allen McKittrick, charging him with false arrest.



Demonstration on July 28 at Kent State protesting gym construction on site of 1970 murders.
WW photo: Alan Roth

Within the past week, other events have put tremendous pressure upon the Kent Board of Trustees to build the gym somewhere else. On Aug. 18, the parents of two slain students spoke on the steps of the Statehouse in Columbus to press the Coalition's demands. South Dakota Senator James Abourezk announced that he will introduce a bill in Congress to stop gym construction while the Department of the Interior decides if the site is to be a national historical landmark.

Even members of the Ohio legislature claim they can provide funds for a change of site, but are angered by the Trustees' refusal to make such a request. Yet word is out that the Trustees are nearer to considering an alternative site.

The Coalition's next activities to keep the pressure on include a "construction alert" at the gym on Aug. 24, in case the appeal fails, and the bulldozers begin moving. Later in the day, they will picket an emergency Board of Trustees meeting in the administration building.

Mass support for the Kent struggle is growing, and the possibility of victory in this long battle—which has resulted in over 300 arrests—is much nearer.

Among the Coalition supporters are Louis Stokes, Congressman from Cleveland, Dick Gregory, Sidney Peck, a national leader of the anti-war movement, the National Lawyers Guild of Cleveland, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Cleveland, Women Speak Out of Cleveland, and Youth Against War & Fascism.

People around the country can show their support by putting pressure on Congressmen and Ohio state legislators, and by sending letters and telegrams to the Board of Trustees, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44240, and by making financial contributions to the Kent Legal Defense Fund at P.O. Box 366, Kent, Ohio 44240.

Protest Houston police murders

By JOANNE GAVIN

HOUSTON, Aug. 13—In the continuing fight for justice for the police murder of Jose Campos Torres, a multinational protest of about 100 marched the long route from police headquarters downtown to Moody Park in the Chicano community here today.

At a rally in the park speakers also remembered the even more recent police murder of Roland Johnson, a young Black hostage who was killed in a rain of police gunfire into the car of a robbery suspect.

Barrios Unidos en Defensa, sponsors of the march, said that the demonstration was held to call

attention to the fact that defense lawyers for the two of the six cops who actually got indicted in the Torres case had obtained a change of venue for the trial to Huntsville. That town of 20,000, about 70 miles from Houston, is the seat of the state prison system and the site of a police massacre of prisoners who attempted to escape and of their hostages. The townspeople are almost entirely white and economically tied to the Texas Department of Corrections.

Barrios Unidos has chartered a bus to take Houston people to the trial, but is also demanding that it be moved back to Houston, and that

an all-Chicano jury hear the case.

Torres, a young veteran, was beaten by six cops, who then pushed him off a bridge into Buffalo Bayou and left him to drown.

There were speakers at today's march and rally from the Lee Otis Johnson and Oliver Lee Davis defense committees. Johnson, a leader of the local Civil Rights Movement in the '60s, has been the object of continual police harassment. He is currently in prison on a trumped-up burglary charge.

Johnson fired for protest activities

HOUSTON, Aug. 15—Estelle Johnson, director of the Lee Otis Johnson Defense Committee and wife of Lee Otis, was fired today from her job at the Houston Better Business Bureau (BBB).

Mrs. Johnson had been seen in TV coverage of a march last Saturday protesting the murder of Jose Campos Torres by Houston cops. Richard McClain, a known right-wing extremist who monitors the news for the BBB, gave the order for the firing, saying, "I don't think she (Mrs. Johnson) has the right attitude to work ANYWHERE."

This greatly amazed Mrs. Johnson's immediate supervisor, since McClain had recently recommended a substantial raise for her. (She has been twice promoted in her two years on the job.) Estelle Johnson is the sole supporter of her two-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Jennifer, since Lee Otis is in a state concentration camp on a framed-up "burglary" charge.

The kind of Black-Brown-white unity against repressive forces shown by Saturday's march is bound to upset servants of the ruling class—like McClain—whose positions depend on working class disunity. And the kind of militant protest on the very steps of Police Headquarters which was shown in TV coverage of the march must give them nightmares!

Aug. 11th Coalition demands Medicaid funds for abortion

By FRANK ALBERT

ATLANTA, GA., Aug. 11—Today 25 picketers, mostly Black and white women, chanted "Stop the War on the Health of the Poor" outside the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) Southeast regional offices. At the

same time representatives of the August 11th Coalition were inside demanding that HEW restore Medicaid payments for abortions.

The August 11th Coalition was formed virtually overnight in the face of the recent barrage of attacks on poor women's right to safe and legal abortions. Today's nationally coordinated action was timed to coincide with similar demonstrations in other cities.

Following the meeting, Dianne Grey, of the Feminist Women's Health Center, told *Workers World* that "local HEW officials argued" that they were powerless to do anything about the recent decisions, but that they would relay the sentiments of the Atlanta community up the chain of command to HEW officials in Washington."

Knowing this will not be enough to effect a change, members of the Atlanta Feminist Women's Health Center, the Women's Caucus of Workers World Party, and others are building a local coalition to defend the health care rights of poor women against attacks from the Supreme Court, HEW, and "Jimmy" 'human rights' Carter.

—Layoffs

(Continued from p. 1)

abdicated its responsibility and virtually told the company to go ahead with its awful massacre of human lives.

Having accustomed themselves to the idea that struggle is out of date—via the infamous Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA)—the top union leaders are all but silent.

Both towns affected are in areas of high unemployment, over 8% officially in Buffalo. Bethlehem plans to reduce production at Lackawanna from 4.8 million tons to 2.8 million tons annually.

The lost jobs will stay lost, and these losses will affect associated industries that depend on steel production or services that depend on the income of steelworkers. For instance, when the laid-off can't spend money on goods and services, fewer goods will be bought, and other workers will also lose their jobs.

Besides the economic problems, Johnstown was also hit by a flood on July 20 which left 2,200 families homeless. The homeless included steelworkers, one of whom said, "Why rebuild our homes if there's no town to live in?"

But the workers are still more angry than despairing. Four Buffalo locals met in Pittsburgh yesterday with the United Steelworkers international to begin a campaign to fight the layoffs, kicking it off with a petition drive.

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The Lance affair:

Carter's Watergate?

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, Aug. 22—No sooner had President Carter finished praising his budget director, Bert Lance, at a press conference last week as "a man of competence, of honesty, of integrity," than news broke that, in violation of Federal election law, Carter made two political campaign jaunts aboard a plane owned by Lance's former Georgia bank. Asked about these trips, Lance has simply refused to answer.

Carter mouthpiece, Jody Powell, says that the White House is "not particularly" embarrassed by the revelation about Carter's use of the bank's airplane, but the New York Times (August 23) which has backed Carter, admits "it is illegal for a corporation to make a campaign contribution 'or expenditure' on behalf of a candidate in a Federal election and for the candidate to 'knowingly accept' such a contribution." The cost of Carter's trips financed by the Georgia bank was \$1,793.70.

"Mr. Carter," the Times adds, "received loans amounting to almost \$5 million from Mr. Lance's bank."

Lance's corruption and Carter's attempt to cover it up have evolved into a major scandal over the past few months. Carter's maneuvers to get Lance off the hook have not really saved the Budget Director so

much as they have tied Carter himself closer to the burgeoning scandal.

Carter's statements that "my faith and confidence in Bert Lance has been reconfirmed" (Carter said that Lance has been "conducting himself as a gentleman") just won't cut the mustard. Three separate congressional subcommittees, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and both the Senate and House Banking committees are planning more hearings on the Lance case.

MORE SHADY DEALS

They will take up a number of shady deals Lance has been engaged in during the recent past, including the Budget Director's schemes involving New York and Chicago banks, as well as "overdrafts" drawn by Lance and his family on Georgia banks he headed before coming to Washington.

These "overdrafts" almost landed Lance in prison in 1974, when the Controller of the Currency recommended that "both administrative proceedings and criminal referral were appropriate" steps for the Justice Department to take against the Georgia banker.

Then, suddenly, two days after Carter appointed Lance to his Cabinet, the Justice Department abruptly dropped the case.

That Lance had overdrawn his account by \$110,000 in one bank he controlled was temporarily forgotten. And even now this theft is being played down. Apparently, we're supposed to believe that the Director of the United States Government's budget is basically honest—he just doesn't know how to balance a checkbook!

Besides the usual corruption, the Lance affairs also highlights the deep and bitter power struggle that has raged in this country for many years between rival economic groupings within the rich ruling class of big businessmen and bankers.

The Director of the Budget is a very powerful official, and each of the various monied dynasties and

(Continued on p. 10)



Bert Lance and "Jimmy" Carter

More on Carter's roots

When "Jimmy" Carter was running for President, his public relations team gave a lot of thought to how to portray their candidate as a man of the people, a humble peanut farmer. Photos of him in loafers and Banlon sports shirts emphasized that this man (unlike Nixon) would not attempt to build an "imperial" Presidency.

Then a few weeks ago came the report from a class-conscious British organization which traces the ancestry of blue-bloods that Carter is directly descended from some pretty aristocratic and wealthy English families. One of them went on to become a major landowner known as "King" Carter.

Robert Carter, "King" Carter's grandson, was a big

enough member of the Virginia ruling class that his home and life-style were described in the book *History of the Great American Fortunes* by Gustavus Myers. Here are a few glimpses into the ancestry of today's "Jimmy" Carter:

"Robert Carter luxuriated in Nomini Hall, a great colonial mansion in Westmoreland County. . . . The interior was one of unusual splendor for the time, such as only the very rich could afford. There were eight large rooms, one of which was a ball-room thirty feet long. . . . (Carter) was the owner of 60,000 acres of land spread over almost every county of Virginia, and he was the master of six hundred Negro slaves. The greater part of a prosperous iron-works near Baltimore was owned by him,

and near his mansion he built a flour mill equipped to turn out 25,000 bushels of wheat a year.

"Carter was not only one of the big planters but one of the big capitalists of his age. . . . Like the other large landholders he was one of the active governing class; as a member of the Provincial Council he had great influence in the making of laws. . . .

"He was one of the first few to see that chattel slavery could not compete in efficiency with white labor, and he reckoned that more money could be made from the white laborer, for whom no responsibility of shelter, clothing, food and attendance had been assumed than from the Negro slave, whose sickness, disability or death entailed direct financial loss."

Agee expelled from France

By EDDIE YOOD

Aug. 18—The French government today expelled Phillip Agee, a former CIA agent who has exposed the identity of this secret police bureau's agents and the nature of some of its criminal activities, as an "undesirable." This came on the heels of Agee's expulsion from Britain in June for unspecified activities described as prejudicial to national security.

The French Interior Ministry said of Agee, "His presence on French soil is judged undesirable because of his past activities and of the consequences that certain of his present activities are likely to have on the relations France maintains with certain friendly countries."

Thus two capitalist countries have sided with U.S. imperialism in protecting the CIA, which has bloodied the soil in every corner of the globe: from murdering 1,000,000 Indonesians in the 1965 coup there, to launching the Bay of Pigs invasion and other attacks against revolutionary Cuba, to carrying out clandestine activities in Africa from the Congo to Angola, to conducting a bloody coup against the Allende regime in Chile, to committing additional crimes from Jordan to Iran to Greece and the Philippines, from Thailand to south Korea.

In his book, *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, Agee said, "I became the servant of the capitalism I rejected. I became one of its secret policemen. The CIA, after all, is nothing more than the secret police of American capitalism, plugging up leaks in the political dam night and day so that shareholders of U.S. companies operating in poor countries can continue enjoying the rip-off."

But the efforts to silence and muzzle Agee and others can only backfire. The critics and enemies of the CIA are growing in number,

both inside the United States and around the world.

In the oppressed countries exploited by imperialism, and also among the workers and oppressed in capitalist countries, the crimes of the CIA, and U.S. imperialism only inspire still greater resistance on the part of the masses.

After too many payless Fridays

Special to Workers World

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 22—The state of Pennsylvania finally passed a budget last Saturday, largely due to pressure from mass protests of workers and oppressed people.

On Friday, more than 8,000 state workers staged a "sick-out" to protest the failure of the Pennsylvania state legislature to pass a budget after seven weeks without a budget—and 19 days with no authorization to spend money.

This delay has meant disaster for state workers and welfare recipients in the state. Some 1,500 state workers were laid off on July 20, with 5,000 more layoffs scheduled. Not one Pennsylvania state worker received a paycheck for three weeks. The state's 800,000 welfare recipients did not receive payments for two weeks.

Two weeks of militant protest by both state workers and welfare recipients culminated in a demonstration in Harrisburg, the state capital, of 1,000 state workers on the day of the "sick-out." The demonstration occurred in the face of threats by some state officials that workers who participated would be put on "leave without pay."

Most of the protesting workers were there because they, as one worker put it, have been hurt "financially, emotionally, and in every other way" by the situation.

Other workers, however, were there in solidarity with the working and oppressed people affected.

One worker said that, although he himself was being paid, he wanted to protest in "sympathy with my brothers and sisters." Another, a welfare worker, said that his primary concern was for "those who have no other means of receiving food."

PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL CUTS

The Pennsylvania budget crisis had its official start when the Philadelphia school system was forced to eliminate \$173 million from its 1977-78 budget. This meant the layoff of 9,700 employees, the elimination of kindergarten, all counseling services, all library service, all sports programs, and the closing of some school buildings.

A consortium of banks, led by First Pennsylvania Bank of North America, wanted to take over all the school buildings and property and lease them to the state school districts in return for meeting the \$35 million loan which would enable the schools to complete the fiscal year.

On June, two bills were introduced in the State legislature. The first one was to create a state agency to float bonds to finance school districts. The second would raise

taxes in order to finance this state agency. Upstate legislators from small, rich, and predominantly white communities were against the bills, and the bills were defeated.

The argument in the State legislature was over whether to single out the Philadelphia school district for more educational funds. Philadelphia, the largest city in the state, has the largest school board, and one of the greatest populations of poor and oppressed people.

BUDGET FINALLY PASSED

On Saturday, Aug. 20, the budget was finally passed, but the Philadelphia school system has not been restored to full capacity.

So far, the school board budget breakdown is as follows: \$50 million from the state, and \$24 million from the city, with a possible loan from the consortium of banks to meet the rest of the budget needs—another \$50 million. If the loan goes through, the banks will have penetrated the field of education just as if they were moving into some new field of management.

POOR AND WORKING PEOPLE HURT

Governor Milton Shapp will be remembered for two statements he made in his announcement of the passage of the budget.

The first was that the seven-week

budget battle did not hurt the Democratic Party. This is true. While the ruling class may be inconvenienced by the general capitalist crisis which is reflected in Pennsylvania's budget crisis, it is the working and oppressed people who suffer. It is those who have been evicted from their homes, whose utilities have been shut off, whose children have gone hungry; they are the ones whose hardships cannot be rectified by the belated receipt of their checks.

The Governor also claimed that the demonstrations held by working and oppressed people had nothing to do with the passage of the budget, coupling this statement with the remark that "the crisis was over."

But the crisis is not over and will never be over as long as the capitalist system which is responsible for such crises continues to exist.

The crisis for the Philadelphia schools has only begun; and it will require the militancy which has characterized the struggle of working and oppressed people in this state over the past few weeks to guarantee quality education for Philadelphia's children. The groundwork for this and for future struggles which are sure to come has been laid by the recent struggle of working and oppressed people in Pennsylvania.

Self-determination demanded by 19 organizations**U.S. colonial hold over Puerto Rico hit at UN**

By PRESTON WOODS

NEW YORK, Aug. 21—The UN Special Committee on Decolonization held two days of hearings this week on the question of Puerto Rico's colonial status in relation to the United States, while in Hato Rey, Puerto Rico, hundreds of demonstrators lined the streets in front of the offices of the U.S. government demanding independence for Puerto Rico and freedom for the Five Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners. The demonstration was called by the National Committee for the Freedom of the Five Nationalist Prisoners.

When the committee reconvenes on Sept. 1, it will take up a resolution initiated by the Revolutionary Government of Cuba which affirms the right of Puerto Rico to independence and self-determination, and which clearly establishes that Puerto Rico is a colony of the United States.

The giant U.S. corporations, which yearly rob the Puerto Rican people of billions of dollars, are facing growing opposition to their ruthless policies of exploitation.

The resolution presented, in the midst of tumultuous applause from the audience, by Ricardo Alarcon, Cuban Ambassador to the United Nations, and which is backed by other anti-imperialist forces, also demands the immediate and unconditional release of the five Puerto Rican Nationalist prisoners who, after 23 years, still remain in U.S. jails.

In 1953, the U.S. arranged to

have Puerto Rico's official UN status changed from "colony" to "commonwealth." This official change in status, however, meant no change in the day-to-day reality of the Puerto Rican people, who still suffer under the ruthless yoke of U.S. imperialism.

In response to growing anti-imperialist sentiment in Puerto Rico, and international solidarity with the struggle for independence, the U.S. has feebly tried to claim that the question of Puerto Rico is an "internal affair" of the United States, and vainly tried to keep the question of Puerto Rico out of the UN. This year, there is a possibility of the Cuban resolution coming to a vote.

The Decolonization Committee hearing brought forth many speakers who spoke in favor of Puerto Rican independence and who described the terrible conditions which U.S. imperialist domination of the island has caused for the Puerto Rican people.

On Wednesday August 17 Juan Mari Bras, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party and Ruben Berrios, President of the Puerto Rican Independence Party both addressed the Decolonization Committee in support of Puerto Rican independence.

Eneida Vasquez, President of the Puerto Rican Peace Council, spoke for 19 pro-independence organizations, including the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the Nationalist Party, the Puerto Rican Independence Party, and others. She pointed out that U.S. cor-

porations control all of Puerto Rico's communications, trade, currency, transport, and other vital concerns. She said that giant U.S. corporations extract over \$1.3 billion from Puerto Rico's economy each year.

She went on to describe Puerto Rico's rich natural resources, which include substantial deposits of nickel and gold, large quantities of natural gas, and newly discovered oil deposits. The U.S. clearly seeks to continue its wholesale robbery of Puerto Rico and is eager to grab the newly discovered oil deposits.

A speaker for the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico pointed out that the people of Puerto Rico cannot exercise their inalienable right to self-determination while U.S. interests still occupy Puerto Rican national territory.

The U.S. imperialist ruling class is fearful of a growing movement for independence among the Puerto Rican people, who are fed up with massive unemployment, soaring inflation, and increased political repression in their daily lives.

Only this week Julio Rosado, Andres Rosado, and Luis Rosado were sent to jail for refusing to "cooperate" with a New York City grand jury which is conducting a witchhunt against pro-

independence militants. Just two weeks ago Vicente Alba and David Perez were picked up amidst a hysterical campaign conducted by Mayor Abraham Beame and the press alleging their involvement with the FALN (Armed Forces for

National Liberation). And earlier this year Maria Cueto, Raisa Nemiken and Pedro Archuleta were also imprisoned for refusing to testify before this same grand jury.

The U.S. wants to defeat the (Continued on p. 10)

Message from Andres Figueroa**'I ask of the movements...'**

The following statement to all liberation movements was made from prison this summer by Andres Figueroa Cordero, one of the Five Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners, the longest held political prisoners in the Western Hemisphere. Figueroa, presently incarcerated in the Federal Penitentiary at Springfield, Mo., is suffering from terminal cancer. A suit has been filed calling for his unconditional release due to terrible prison conditions. Supporters and lawyers hold the prison directly responsible for the rapid progress of Figueroa's cancer.

In the name of the Five and mine I send fraternal and cordial greetings to all the fighters for our freedom

and the unity of all the freedom movements for the liberation of all the people who live under the colonialist system of Yankee imperialism or any other oppressive empire of the world.

I ask of these movements for liberation at this time to only criticize and attack Yankee imperialism and not to include the socialist bloc in these attacks because the socialist countries are the friendly defenders of the struggle for the dignity and honor of our Puerto Rican nation and of all the people of the Third World.

At present I have a very bad cough and I cough blood every time I cough, but my spirit is at the height of all those men who struggle with vigor for the national liberation of all the peoples of the world.

About the court case, it is being handled by the North American lawyers of civil rights and the lawyers of the Legal Counsel of the College of Lawyers of Puerto Rico. I am very grateful of the white, Chicano, Afro-American, and Indian movements who are struggling for our freedom and the freedom of all the political prisoners in the Yankee prisons.

I embrace all the left movements and the pacifists who are defending with honor all the North American brothers and sisters who live under Yankee imperialism.

Long live free Puerto Rico and all the international socialist movements.

Andres Figueroa Cordero, #7998-132, Box 4000, Springfield, Missouri.



Rafael Cancel Miranda addressing supporters at his father's funeral.

Nationalist prisoner greeted by hundreds in Puerto Rico

By TOM SOTO

NEW YORK, Aug. 21—Rafael Cancel Miranda, one of the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists held in U.S. jails for more than 23 years, was flown today under heavy police guard to Puerto Rico to attend the funeral of his father, Rafael Cancel Rodriguez. Over 500 pro-independence supporters greeted him as he arrived for the funeral in the city of Mayaguez.

Rafael Cancel Miranda, along with Lolita Lebron, Irving Flores, Andres Figueroa Cordero and Oscar Collazo, have been imprisoned for militantly resisting with arms the colonization of the Puerto Rican nation. On Nov. 1, 1950, Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola attacked the Blair House, temporary residence of President Truman, coinciding with the takeover of Jayuya and other cities in Puerto Rico during the 1950 Revolution. Torresola was killed in the attack.

On March 1, 1954 Rafael Cancel Miranda, Lolita Lebron, Irving Flores, and Andres Cordero assaulted with arms the U.S. Congress, bringing to the attention of the world the plight of the Puerto Rican people. The Five, all members of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, have become known as the Five Puerto Rican Nationalist Prisoners.

Rafael Cancel Rodriguez, a long-time fighter in the struggle for independence, was a participant in the historic Ponce march of 1937, which was drowned in blood by the colonial puppets of U.S. big business who feared the growing nationalist movement, which at the time was led by Don Pedro Albizu Campos. Mr. Rodriguez was also a leader of the "1950 Revolution" for which he spent three years in jail. In

1959 he helped found the Pro-Independence Movement (MPD); and in 1971 the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), of which he remained an eminent member. He was 77.

VISIT DELAYED BY U.S.

Authorities in the U.S. delayed granting Rafael Cancel Miranda the speedy visit to his father, who was dying. According to the Aug. 19 editorial of Claridad, newspaper of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, "High government officials, particularly Secretary of State Reinaldo Paniagua have been told that Rafael Cancel Rodriguez before dying requested that his son be brought to his side." Finally he was brought on Aug. 21 in a cage that had been previously used to transport a dog.

But with all the insult and degradation meted out to brother Rafael at this difficult time, his fighting spirit remains strong. He told reporters that if he were ever to be released he would "continue the struggle for the liberty of my country, the same as always." At the funeral he addressed the crowd, saying, "This is not a time for tears... raise your fists and be strong"; and as the crowd raised its fists he went on, "Be strong, be firm, be cautious."

And Puerto Rican people will be strong in their struggle, for the day is surely nearing when the National Liberation Movement of the Puerto Rican people and the struggle of the working class in the U.S. will put an end for all time to the exploitation and oppression of U.S. imperialism.

U.S. OUT OF PUERTO RICO!
FREE THE FIVE PUERTO
RICAN NATIONALIST
PRISONERS!

Argentine socialists sponsor tribute to fallen fighters**Trelew martyrs honored in NYC**

By DIANE FEINBERG

NEW YORK, Aug. 21—Last night an event was held here that further solidarized the struggle of all the people of the Americas for freedom from capitalist exploitation.

Almost 350 people, mostly Latin, came to William O'Shea Junior High School here to pay homage to Trelew, an historic event in the history of the struggle in Argentina. The evening of solidarity with the Argentine people was sponsored by the Anti-imperialist Movement for Socialism in Argentina (MASA), an anti-imperialist organization of Argentinians living in the U.S.

The story of Trelew began on Aug. 15, 1972, when members of Argentine guerrilla organizations, held prisoner in the Rawson military prison in Chubut province, boldly took over the prison and, with outside help, carried out a daring mass escape.

Members of the ERP (People's Revolutionary Army), FAR (Revolutionary Armed Forces) and the Montoneros, basic revolutionary organizations of the time, worked and planned together for this battle

with the Argentine military dictatorship.

Twenty-five prisoners dressed as guards emerged from the prison and headed for the airport at Trelew. Within one hour from the time the operation had begun, the airport and control towers were in the hands of the revolutionaries.

During an extremely heavy exchange of gunfire the freedom fighters were separated. Six of the guerrillas were able to seize control of a jet which took them to Chile. They later received safe conduct to Cuba.

Nineteen revolutionaries remained at the helm of control at the airport and held nationally televised negotiations from there. After being publicly guaranteed that their lives would be spared and that they would receive humane treatment, they surrendered to the military.

On the night of Aug. 22, the 19 revolutionaries were struck down with machine gun fire in the corridor of the prison at the Trelew naval base, murdered by the regime of then-president General Lanuse.

Three people miraculously lived and sent out eyewitness accounts from the hospital.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF MASSACRE

Tonight several speakers, Argentine folk singer Julio Patino, and Puerto Rican composer and singer Roy Brown paid homage to the struggle in Latin America in word and song.

Carmen Lora Martell from El Comite-MINP went over the background of Trelew and called for all organizations doing solidarity work around specific struggles to unite.

Deirdre Griswold from Workers World Party and editor of Workers World newspaper spoke of the deceptive means U.S. imperialism uses to cover up the real nature of its relationship with Latin America—pure exploitation. She exposed the latest coverup, Carter's "human rights" campaign, as designed to conceal U.S. responsibility for all the military dictatorships in Latin America.

(Continued on p. 5)

W. Germany also implicated

Italian gov't aids escape of Nazi war criminal

By JOHN CATALINOTTO
NEW YORK, Aug. 22—A week ago, Nazi war criminal Herbert Kappler escaped from confinement at Cielo Military Hospital in Italy, reappearing in Lueneburg in West Germany. The West Germans have refused Italian requests to send Kappler back and have no plans to put him on trial.

Given little coverage in the U.S. press, this event has been front-page news in Europe. In Italy it has unleashed a scandal implicating top levels of the military and the secret service. Fear of mass outrage forced the Italian government to postpone vital economic talks between Italian Premier Andreotti and West German Chancellor Schmidt.

In the last few days, tens of thousands of Italians have demonstrated to protest the escape and government complicity. Thousands of West German progressives have protested the protection given Kappler by the West German government; banners had slogans against "the militarization and fascistization of the state."

While the West German bosses' press has scorned Italian sentiments, taunting Italy for being "the fatherland of fascism," socialist East Germany's newspaper Neues

Deutschland presented the situation as an indictment of the West German political system.

KAPPLER A MASS MURDERER

During World War II, on March 23, 1944, Italian anti-fascist partisans ambushed a column of the elite SS troops in Rome's narrow streets, killing 33. SS-Colonel Kappler was ordered to execute ten Italians for every German soldier killed.

Kappler gathered his victims from the Roman population, selecting 70 Jews among them, and arranged for their executions in the Ardeatine caves outside the city. He took his turn shooting the victims, seated in groups of five, setting an example for the soldiers under his command. Five hours later, the executions carried out, specialists dynamited the caves shut on the bodies of 335 Italians.

Five extra were killed by mistake. Kappler said of them: "They were there, weren't they? Too bad for them. And then they had seen too much." (Le Monde, Aug. 18.)

For the executions, for the five killed in excess of his order, and for removing 110 pounds of gold from the teeth of murdered Jews, an Italian court sentenced Kappler to death in 1948. But the Italians had just abolished the death penalty, which changed this to a life sentence.

The 70-year-old Kappler recently married a 52-year-old West German woman who served in the Red Cross on the Russian front in World War II. A year ago, Kappler was reportedly stricken with a terminal case of stomach cancer, and was moved from Gaeta prison to Celio Military Hospital. He's been guarded there by a large unit of carabinieri (national police), put there to assure the angry relatives of his victims that he wouldn't escape.

SECRET POLICE SUSPECTED

There Kappler stayed until a week ago, when he "disappeared"



Anti-Nazi demonstrators in Soltau, West Germany, picketing in front of family home of Herbert Kappler.

under the noses of the carabinieri, turning up two days later at his wife's home in Lueneburg, West Germany, not far from Hamburg. Mrs. Kappler said she planned and carried out the escape herself, carrying off the 70-pound Kappler in a valise.

The Italian newspaper Repubblica stated Aug. 18, however, that the car Mrs. Kappler rented turned up in northern Italy, abandoned at a gas station by two men, "one of whom spoke Italian with a heavy German accent." A few days later, neo-Nazi groups were taking turns standing guard for Kappler outside his wife's Lueneburg home.

A general, two colonels, and a captain of the carabinieri were punished for Kappler's escape. They, in turn, said that the

responsibility would be found on "higher levels than those hit." According to Repubblica, this would mean only the very top of the armed forces or the secret service—those groups already suspected of complicity with the Italian ultraright.

WEST GERMAN PRESSURE

It is widely believed that when the West German government loaned \$1 billion to Italy last year, they asked that Kappler be granted clemency and sent to West Germany. Left-wing members of Italy's parliament have demanded that verbal agreements made between the West German and Italian governments with regard to Kappler be made public.

The Italian government tried to

grant clemency, but the Italian working class protested in outrage against the freeing of Kappler. The ruling class politicians, fearful of this protest, pulled back.

Repubblica raises the question that the secret service might well have taken it upon itself to carry out secretly a policy that the government couldn't carry out openly. This suspicion is shared by many Italians. At a protest rally of 10,000 last Wednesday in Bologna, a city liberated from the Nazis by Italian partisans in April 1945, Provincial President Rimondini stated that the escape "certainly would not have succeeded if inside the state apparatus itself there did not exist anti-democratic forces, secretly active weaving their subversive plots."

—Trelew martyrs

(Continued from p. 4)

Jose Andres Torres, from the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP) explained that to understand the significance of the Argentinian revolution it is important to remember that U.S. imperialism regards this hemisphere as its own private area for super-exploitation. However, this same super-exploitation has resulted in a profound revolutionary consciousness of the masses in Argentina.

Robert Cohen, a poet and writer, spoke of the oppression of the peoples of Latin and North America by the same enemy, U.S. imperialism. In the context of Trelew, Cohen raised the names of political prisoners in this country—Assata Shakur, the Wilmington Ten and George Jackson.

A representative from MASA, Pablo Lopez, characterized the massacre at Trelew as not the first or the last barbaric act, but the constant answer of the ruling class to the just struggle of the Argentine people. He pointed out that the answer of the working class was to organize their own violence, qualitatively different in what it seeks—an end to poverty, misery, and privilege.

Lopez called the U.S. the mastermind of the military dictatorships throughout Latin America which are now trying to crush popular resistance.

Following U.S. imperialism's defeat in Southeast Asia and Africa, the U.S. has reinforced its domination over Latin America. But, said Lopez, the people of Argentina are "ready to fight regardless of the unequalness of the fight and regardless of the power of the enemy."

Predicting victory, Lopez said, "The fire of resistance remains bright."

By BILL DEL VECCHIO

NEW YORK, Aug. 22—Despite all the verbiage to the contrary, the Carter administration is privately in support of recent Israeli moves towards annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

The Carter administration last week publicly denounced the Israeli plan to create three new Zionist settlements on Palestinian land in the West Bank, calling the move "illegal." But according to an Aug. 19 interview with Dayan in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Aharonoth, the U.S. has actually encouraged the ultra-right Begin administration to maintain its aggressive and pro-war positions.

Last week the Israeli settler state announced two major moves towards annexing the Arab lands which have been occupied since the 1967 war. The first move, on Sunday was the announcement that government services would be extended to the occupied areas.

The second was the announcement on Wednesday that three new Zionist settlements on the West Bank would be given official authorization.

Dayan said in his interview that the Carter administration in private meetings has made it clear that it supports Israeli annexation as

proposed in the "Dayan plan."

Dayan further stressed the dominating role played by U.S. imperialism in the affairs of the Israeli settler state, saying, "The key is in the hands of the Americans." He added, "The Americans can add some weight, and they have the leverage not only to pressure us but also the Egyptians, who are very much in need of their economic aid."

U.S. PROPAGANDA CHARADE

Dayan's revealing comments fly in the face of the U.S. propaganda charade, in which Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is prevented from achieving his goal of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East by the uncompromising Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin. At the same time as the administration mildly criticizes Begin, the imperialist press builds an aura about him; "the unswerving Begin," and "the man of principles."

Begin truly has been unswerving in his dedication to oppressing, terrorizing, and murdering the Palestinian people. In 1948, as leader of the terrorist Irgun organization, Begin led the massacre of 250 Palestinian men, women, and children at Deir Yassin.

Sound trucks then went to other Palestinian villages, warning the

people to flee or "the fate of Deir Yassin will be yours."

Dayan's statements about administration support for Begin are backed up by the warm reception Begin received on his trip to the U.S. last month. Meanwhile, U.S. arms continue to flow into the settler state at the rate of \$1.8 billion a year, and new deals for 200 F-16 jet fighters and a new "super-tank" are currently in the works.

The charade of Carter and Begin is a classic example of the "hard cop, soft cop" routine. The soft cop says, "You know, I'm really on your side, but my friend over there wants to tear you apart." He then offers the victim a deal which might save him from the hard cop's wrath.

Despite all the concessions the reactionary Arab regimes have made, the U.S. is still trying to use the Begin regime as a club to force them to come completely back into the camp of U.S. imperialism.

Defeating the Palestinian and nationalist movement in Lebanon, clamping down on the Syrian and Egyptian workers and peasants, opening their countries up to imperialist investment, breaking their close ties with the Soviet Union, providing military assistance to imperialist puppet Mobutu Seko, all these actions have not been enough for U.S. and Western imperialism. They still view the

limited independence of the Arab regimes with hostility, and continue to depend on their most reliable agent, Israel.

REVOLUTIONARY POTENTIAL OF ARAB MASSES

The reason behind this hostility is the U.S.'s recognition of the instability of the present pro-imperialist regimes and the revolutionary potential of the Arab masses.

It was the anti-imperialist action of undertaking the 1973 war against Israel that strengthened the hand of the regimes of Sadat in Egypt and Assad in Syria, making it possible to conciliate to imperialism later without getting toppled.

But each new concession has weakened these regimes, and a move last February to remove food price subsidies in Egypt set off an uprising in which Sadat was nearly overthrown. Even the stability of the Saudi regime, by far the most reactionary and pro-imperialist in the Arab world, is in question as rapid development has brought together a strong working class, and the potential for a social upheaval.

So, despite the willingness of the reactionary Arab regimes to accommodate their imperialist allies, the U.S. relies on the naked violence of the Israeli military to protect its interests in the Middle East.

In Detroit

Strikes, wildcats on the rise

By DANA ELLIS
DETROIT, Aug. 19—For the past several weeks in Detroit, every local news broadcast has been dominated by stories about strike after strike involving autoworkers, telephone operators, bus drivers, truck drivers, nurses, and restaurant workers. Most actions in this wave of worker militancy have been wildcats with unusual staying power.

Initiating the series of strikes on Aug. 8, 4,500 members of United Auto Workers (UAW) Local 372 shut down the Chrysler Trenton Engine Plant for five days in a wildcat protesting the firing of six workers, including a chief steward, and disciplines handed down to 48 others for a July heat walk-out.

Despite threats of firing by Chrysler, threats of arrest by local and federal authorities, and orders from the UAW International to return, the wildcat remained solid for five days, eventually necessitating the shutdown or short-shifting of many other Chrysler plants.

Although the six workers have not yet been re-hired, the rank-and-file strength shown during the walk-out has forced the International to promise to fight for their jobs.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE

During the same week, a four-day authorized strike by Red Cross bloodmobile drivers, members of Teamsters Local 299, led to a contract agreement upping their inadequate hourly wage of \$3.69 an hour to \$4.50 immediately and \$5.27 at the end of the three-year contract. Although the strike involved only 16 workers, their persistence was remarkable in the face of vicious hysteria whipped up against them by the local press. Nurses gave the

strikers support by refusing to cross their picket lines at blood donor centers.

On Friday of that week, many city nurses, members of the Registered Nurses Organization (RNO), called in sick for one day at Detroit General and Herman Kiefer Hospitals and neighborhood clinics across the city, to protest their lack of a contract since June 30 and the city's arrogant stand in negotiations (which the RNO has organized its rank-and-file to attend en masse).

No sooner had that week's strikes ended than Michigan Bell Telephone workers across the state, and Southeastern Michigan Transit Authority (SEMTA) bus drivers in the Detroit metropolitan area wildcatted Monday. The Bell Telephone workers in Detroit, Flint, Plymouth, Ann Arbor, and Allen Park, among other locations, were largely led by the women operators, who maintained strong picket lines all week in the face of vicious police harassment. (See accompanying article for details on the Bell strike.)

NO CONTRACT SINCE APRIL

Over 300 militant SEMTA bus drivers in the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union Local 1564 staged their wildcat in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties to protest their lack of a contract since April. Served with court orders to return to work on the second day of the strike, picketers tore them up.

SEMTA bus drivers had staged a sick day last month to protest the lack of progress in negotiations. The drivers forced the resignation of their entire bargaining committee, including the local officers, after they twice rejected tentative settlements with the bus authority. The drivers want wage parity with City of Detroit bus drivers and are

fighting SEMTA's attempts to restrict their use of sick leave. They returned to work after three days, and have since voted on another tentative settlement. The outcome of the voting and details of the settlement are not yet available.

Finally, during that week, a near wildcat by waiters, waitresses, and other workers at Detroit's plush Renaissance Center was averted at the last minute by their union leadership, which agreed to renegotiate a provision in the tentative agreement with the Renaissance Center restaurants that would have reduced the workers' 15% gratuity to 13%.



Bell striker Barbara McCullough is brutally arrested.

Defying bosses, cops, and press blackout

Women lead Michigan Bell walkout

DETROIT, Aug. 19—Led by women operators, Michigan Bell Telephone workers across the state wildcatted this week to protest provisions of tentative national and local agreements between Bell and the Communications Workers of America (CWA).

Beginning Monday, after an hours-long official strike by the Michigan district CWA ended with a tentative local agreement Sunday morning, strong picket lines went up at Bell facilities throughout Detroit, Flint, Plymouth, Ann Arbor, and Allen Park. Twenty-four hour picketing has lasted throughout the week at many sites, and a mass picket line at the downtown Detroit Bell headquarters was organized Thursday.

At the downtown Detroit facility, police harassment of the women picketers, most of whom are Black,

led to the brutal arrest Wednesday of Barbara McCullough, a 35-year-old operator. She was thrown up against a police car, her hands were handcuffed behind her back, then she was taken to police headquarters so that she could be ticketed for "interfering with a city official in the performance of his duty."

A picketing operator explained to *Workers World* that the slightly-built Ms. McCullough had merely been trying to get a clarification of a city ordinance being read to her when four cops pounced on her.

POLICE WITH ATTACK DOGS

Police had been called in by Bell that day and they have surrounded the downtown building since in squad cars, on motorcycles, and in tactical mobile units with attack dogs ready to threaten the picketers.

Picketing operators at the downtown lines were largely concerned about non-salary provisions of the tentative agreements. "The national contract provides only two sick days," one operator explained to this reporter, "and only one of those is paid! On top of that, we can't even use those days when we need them. If Bell is short-staffed the day you're sick, they tell you you better come in anyway or else. We have to raise our hands to go to the bathroom, and they only allow five minutes twice a day for that."

Other operators complained to reporters about being penalized for leaving the building on their breaks and the fact that they are marked down for unexcused absence and not paid when they become ill on the job after less than four hours.

"The newspapers and press get paid off by Ma Bell," one operator told *Workers World*, remarking on the partial black-out of local news coverage of the wildcat, and on a particularly vicious column by Detroit Free Press writer and high society gad-about Nickie McWhirter, which blamed phone rate hikes on Bell workers' wages and implied that Bell operators are lazy and stupid.

"Bell makes money off us by paying us relatively low wages for very hard work. We don't even make \$5 an hour in actual wages now. [McWhirter had claimed that operators make \$10 an hour in wages and benefits—D.E.] And Bell makes millions off its customers, too, so they shouldn't be against us. No, we don't trust what the press is saying about this wildcat at all—that picket lines are coming down here and there. We send cars out to the other sites ourselves to find out what's going on, and believe me,

there are picket lines all over!"

Accurate estimates of the actual number of workers involved in the wildcat are unavailable, but Bell Telephone admitted during the week that disruption of information and repair services was indeed taking place.

—D.E.

—Best years

(Continued from p. 1)

wages? Was it the steel imports? Was it the Johnstown flood?

You know it was none of these. You know that somebody is lying. And you know that the newspapers are covering up for the liars.

It was the owners of Bethlehem Steel who did it. And those owners are not a bunch of workers with three shares of stock apiece.

The owners are the big banks. And those banks in turn are owned by a tiny group of big profiteers a thousand times bigger than the biggest gangster or the biggest department store owner in Buffalo. Every one of them has at least 20 million dollars for every time you ever strained your back.

THE BANKS DID IT

The Rockefeller banks, the Morgan banks of New York, and the Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh—that's who owns Bethlehem Steel. That's who laid you off. That's who got richer and richer over the past fourteen years and doubled and trebled their millions while you were going into debt.

Do you think they couldn't put up a hundred million or even a billion dollars and make the steel so easily that they could sell it cheaper and beat the foreign competition and still keep you working?

Sure they could, and you know it! But there's a faster buck to be made in aluminum, plastic, automobiles, and oil. The Mellons and the Rockefellers and Morgans are into all that—big. And by laying you off and closing down part of the plant, they'll have more money to open another plant in South Korea, or Taiwan, or Mexico, or Puerto Rico—while they tell you that the poor people in those countries are taking away your job.

And what about steel imports anyway?

This country was built on imports, including the importing of human beings. And there was progress and jobs for everybody before the banks owned everything.

After four months on strike

Essex workers stay firm

By P. KIMBALL
ELWOOD, INDIANA, Aug. 12—Despite mounting pressure, workers at the Essex Wire plant here have voted 140 to 8 to continue their four-month-old strike, and to reject a company offer which would have meant the surrender of their seniority rights to scabs.

One of the votes to stay firm was cast by Carol Frye, a 25-year-old mother of two who was shot in the back in a military-style raid by Essex plant guards on the strikers on the morning of July 11. Released from an Indianapolis hospital last week, she still suffers from partial paralysis, and the bullet, impossible to remove, is still lodged near her spine.

Indiana state police occupied the plant site the morning of Ms. Frye's shooting. Before that time, 7 strikers were shot, 13 run down by cars and trucks, and men and women struck and manhandled by guards and scabs.

Essex is still determined to give "super-seniority" to the scabs—they claim 90 in number—who enter the plant daily under police guard. If the number of scabs reaches 112, Essex could threaten to hold an "election" among them to decertify United Auto Workers Local 1663, the strikers' bargaining agent.

COMPANY'S OFFER IS UNCHANGED

As far as wages and benefits are concerned, the company's new offer

is virtually unchanged from its original ultimatum-style position—a 63 cent an hour wage increase over three years, which would mean a miserable \$3.30 an hour in 1980; \$5 a day sick pay; and a promise to discuss the possibility of a pension plan two years from now.

Essex is also pursuing a court case against 49 strikers for "malicious trespassing" and damaging its building. However, a striker told *Workers World*, "The films they used as evidence were so fuzzy you couldn't see anything, but the one thing they did show was their guards mauling one of our women." The next court appearance is set for Aug. 18 in New Castle, Indiana.

The company which owns Essex, United Technologies Inc. (UTI), is an international arms merchant

with over \$4-billion in sales last year. According to the June 6 issue of U.S. News and World Report, UTI's President, Harry J. Gray, is the highest-paid corporation executive in the U.S.; with a straight salary of \$650,000.

Referring to the story, a striker commented, "Maybe they'd like to report how he makes so much money—that there are people out here working for \$2.76 an hour."

Neither side is giving in. The workers' overwhelming vote to keep up the fight, after four months marked by police harassment and gunfire, speaks for itself. As for Essex—when the state police came in, they boarded up the holes in doors and windows which their guards had used as rifle ports. Now these ports have been re-opened.

75 job openings draw crowd of 5,000

The Muncie, Ind., plant of Chevrolet last week advertised openings in 75 factory jobs.

Over 5,000 workers from as far away as Chicago and Tennessee showed up for these 75 positions.

The same thing happened this spring in New York City when thousands of youths lined up for days to get summer jobs that turned out to be nonexistent.

The right-wing lie is that people are unemployed because

they're lazy or just won't work. But who would travel long distances and line up for hours and even days unless they were desperate to find work?

These scenes of thousands of workers hunting for jobs, in New York yesterday, Indiana today, and someplace else tomorrow, show better than any government statistic how critical the level of unemployment remains in the U.S.

Buffalo unemployment over 8.5%

By JOAN MARQUARDT
BUFFALO, Aug. 20—The announcement Thursday, that 3,500 workers at the Bethlehem Steel plant in neighboring Lackawanna are being permanently laid off will bring the area's official unemployment rate to over 8.5%. Adding in the rippling effect of jobs to be lost by other workers who service the steel company and steelworkers—jobbers and contractors, store clerks and waitresses—will make the

jobless rate climb considerably higher.

Bethlehem will save \$1 million weekly by dropping the 3,500 workers from the payroll. But for the steelworkers and their families, the layoffs will mean an immediate lowering of their standard of living. Though many will be able to modestly provide for their families on the unemployment insurance to which they will be entitled, many others will not be so lucky. At

Bethlehem's Gate One on Thursday afternoon, Richard Schmitz said, "I have only a few weeks of SUB-pay left, I don't know what I'm going to do."

Not only is New York State already borrowing money from the federal treasury (currently \$120 million) because the unemployment reserve fund has already run out, but Bethlehem's Supplementary Unemployment Benefits (SUB) plan is almost dry too.

Like the 500 Bethlehem workers who were already laid off, and like the thousands of area workers, young and old alike, who've lost jobs in recent years, the steelworkers will not be able to find new jobs. They will either end up on welfare or be forced to move away.

LAYOFFS IN RELATED JOBS

And when these workers cannot spend money on goods and services it will cause layoffs in other areas too.

About 150 truckers who work for private trucking companies, work hauling materials for Bethlehem here. The secretary-treasurer of their union, Teamsters Local 449, said on Thursday, "If they're not producing as much steel, we won't have as much work."

Workers and their families will indeed be the ones to bear the burdens of the companies' and corporations' mad drive to maintain their super-profits during this period of overall decline in the capitalist economic system.

Recognizing the powerful relationship the Bethlehem Steel Corporation maintains with the government, one worker, Chuck Wantuch, said on Thursday that the massive layoffs were "political hijinks." He added, "It's a way to get the big shots in Albany and Washington to let the steel industry do things the way they want to."

Another worker, Mike Reynolds,

expressed his feelings about Bethlehem's current billboard posted at the Lackawanna plant gates, which reads: "Foreign Steel Steals Jobs—Write Congress Now." He said, "I don't like the fact that the company has been blowing \$30,000 a month to put advertisements in magazines complaining about foreign steel."

In an effort to save their jobs, the United Steelworkers of America (USW) union locals are planning a petition campaign asking elected officials to investigate Bethlehem's decision, and to seek a reversal. A delegation of local union officials plans to meet with the USW International President Floyd McBride, and they hope to also meet soon with Bethlehem officials.

But only immediate, militant action by the laid-off workers and their sisters and brothers still working can force the company to immediately reconsider its plans.

French workers occupy plants

Aug. 20—Workers of closed down or bankrupt companies in France are stepping up their occupation of plants, and in some cases they continue production and pay themselves their wages.

The latest takeover is a number of plants owned by the Swiss-born Schlumpf Brothers, the largest woolen textile producers in Alsace.

French workers have also occupied the Ottawa Company, which manufactures electronic components, for almost two

years; and are on the verge of forcing the French government to build another such factory.

Devigne, a ready-to-wear women's clothing factory; and Mottsis, a furniture maker, and Montefibre, a synthetic fiber-making factory; have all been similarly taken over. The workers of the famous Lip watch company have occupied the plant for two years and are still making watches—and selling their product on the black market.

Unemployment in France is officially 4.9%; in the United States, 6.9%

Union orders miners back to work in defiance of rank-and-file militancy

NEW YORK, Aug. 24—Striking coal miners were ordered back to work yesterday by the International Executive Board (IEB) of the United Mine Workers union after an eight-week walkout protesting cutbacks in medical benefits.

In a closed meeting, the IEB voted unanimously to end the wildcat strike.

The six-hour meeting came to a head when 400 angry District 17 miners broke through the locked doors and demanded to be heard. Following an intense and heated debate, the executive board was forced to include in the back-to-work order a provision for a nationwide strike in 60 days if health benefits are not fully restored.

UNION OFFICIALS OPPOSED STRIKE

UMW President Arnold Miller and the other top union officials have been opposed to the strike since it began in the last week of June. The IEB has voted in previous meetings held in Washington, D.C., to end the strike.

Miller has been calling on miners to go back to work and even went on TV to make an appeal to the militant rank-and-file miners to return to the pits.

As the strike continued to spread, Miller, acting in accord with the IEB, appealed to the Department of Labor to intervene.

The IEB, which has many disagreements among its members on other issues, has been in total

agreement in opposing the strike.

The top union officials, more interested in maintaining their own good relations with the coal companies than in winning back full medical benefits for the rank and file, have sided with the bosses on this issue.

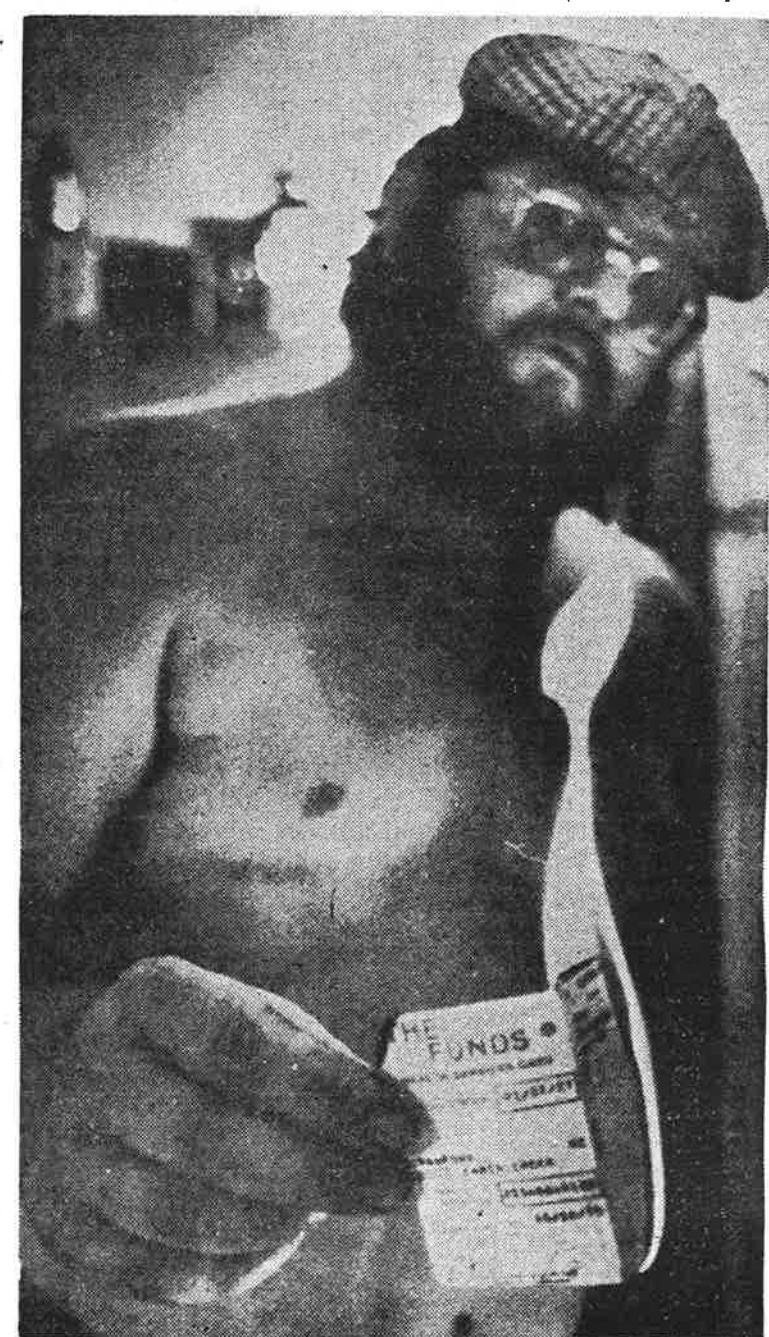
The coal companies, such as U.S. Steel and Standard Oil of Ohio, along with the government and the media have used every tactic at their

disposal to oppose the strike.

However, every attempt by the companies and the government failed to stop the determined strikers.

The strike has been in response to company-forced cutbacks in health care that will mean even greater hardships for coal miners, who daily face the most dangerous working conditions in this country. Retired

(Continued on p. 10)



A West Virginia miner burns his hospital card to protest reduction in medical benefits.

The 'understanding' labor leader

From the Wall Street Journal of Aug. 19—"Lloyd McBride, the new USW president said yesterday that 'much as we might resent the situation,' caused by the Bethlehem job cuts, 'It gets down to the basic question that in this free economy, nobody is going to be in business that can't make a buck'".

That's right, Lloyd. But nobody should be in the union business without trying to cut them down to 50 cents or less. And that ain't you!

The author of the above spent nearly ten years in the Lackawanna plant, most of it in the Blast Furnace department. He was successively steward, chief steward and top grievance committee member of Local 2601, Recording Secretary and editor of Local 2601 News. Fired in October, 1950 for leading a wildcat to defend workers' rights, another wildcat of the whole plant, then 17,000 strong, defended him.

by
VINCENT
COPELAND

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Sacco and Vanzetti, then and now

Fifty years ago this week Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were murdered by the government of Massachusetts. They were killed because they opposed the imperialist carnage of World War I, because they fought racial and national bigotry and oppression, and because they championed the cause of the working class.

This is an incontestable fact. Even present Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis has admitted the truth, officially proclaiming Aug. 23 Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti Memorial Day. "The atmosphere of their trial and appeals was permeated by prejudice," the governor declared, noting that because of anti-Italian fanaticism and red-baiting, two guiltless people were sent to their deaths by the state.

How true! Sacco and Vanzetti were framed by the Boston police and the FBI because big business interests, driven into a paroxysm of rage and fear by the Russian revolution, demanded their blood. The capitalist press, which tried and convicted the two before they even appeared in court, indulged in an orgy of chauvinist and anti-radical hysteria.

The New York Times, for instance, declared on Oct. 27, 1921, that "Federal agents have unearthed in Boston plans of an organized gang of radicals to spread a reign of terror over the whole United States for three days. . . . The plot, according to the investigators, is international in its organization and was to have been carried out by radicals to aid the cause of Sacco and Vanzetti."

Nothing but lies. And they all admit it.

BUT WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

What about the racist campaign the media right now carries out relentlessly, day-in and day-out, against "illegal aliens"? What about the harassment and jailing of Puerto Rican and Chicano activists who are being dragged before witch-hunting grand juries in New York and Chicago? Or the extraordinarily vicious press attacks on impoverished Black and Latin people following the rebellion of the oppressed communities in New York City on July 13?

It is ironic that now, at the very moment that the highest officials in this country are admitting that both Sacco and Vanzetti were executed on trumped-up charges, these same top officials are howling for the reinstitution of judicial killings, are calling for the return of the electric chair, the noose, the gas chamber and the firing squad.

If Governor Dukakis really wanted to honor what Sacco and Vanzetti stood for, he would take action against the white-supremacist thugs who are terrorizing the Black schoolchildren of Boston. But of course neither Dukakis nor any of the other Establishment politicians have the slightest interest in justice for the downtrodden.

No, as Dukakis said in his proclamation, he hopes that by honoring the two heroes he will also remove "any stigma and disgrace from the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts." Presumably the ruling class aims to use the pardon to demonstrate that "American justice" triumphs in the end.

And having made this point, the bosses can then return to their stock-in-trade: exploiting people and getting richer.

This cynical charade will fool no one, for in the long run reality will prevail over the cheap lies of the cruel and greedy men who run this country.

From his death cell in Charlestown, Vanzetti wrote, "I learned that class-consciousness was not a phrase invented by propagandists, but was a real, vital force, and that those who felt its significance were no longer beasts of burden but human beings."

The rich, who have taken to calling poor people "animals," will not accept this, for they are really no different from the rich of 50 years ago.

The world of today, however, is much different. U.S. imperialism is on the decline and the hour is drawing closer when the poor and working people of the U.S. will honor Sacco, Vanzetti, and all the countless others who have fallen in the fight against capitalism with the greatest tribute of all—a victorious socialist revolution.



Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti.



New York march demands

'Human rights for gay people!'

By PAUL WILCOX and BOB McCUBBIN

NEW YORK, Aug. 20—Over 600 people, women and men, gay and straight, Black, Latin, Asian, and white, marched through the streets of this city today demanding human rights for gay people, and serving notice on President Carter, Governor Carey, and Mayor Beame that the growing movement of gay people for their rights will become ever more militant and determined to struggle to stop gay oppression.

Organized by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights, demonstrators marched 40 blocks from Washington Square Park to Dag Hammarskjold Plaza chanting such slogans as "Gay Rights, Right Now!" and "Stop the Attacks Against Lesbian Mothers!" Banners and placards explained some of the many problems faced by gay people, who face manifestations of bigotry ranging from insults to police harassment and beatings, kidnapping of their children by bigoted courts, the forced use of drugs and psychological torture in the prisons, and the threat of being fired from their jobs.

PROGRESSIVE TONE WEAKENED

Today's march was a step forward in the fight against anti-gay bigotry, as it was an indicator of the increased confidence and strength of the gay movement. The progressive tone of the demonstration was severely weakened, however, by the presence there of several Cuban counter-revolutionaries. The Cuban reactionaries were small in number, but they attempted to increase their impact on the demonstration by carrying a large banner that lumped together the reactionary fundamentalist Anita Bryant with the revolutionary leader of Cuba. The banner read "Ni Fidel, ni Anita: Liberacion para los homosexuales cubanos" (Neither Fidel, nor Anita: liberation for Cuban homosexuals).

Until recently, the gay and women's movements in this country have been relatively free of right-wing intrusion. Demonstrations and meetings on these issues have drawn progressive people almost exclusively. The appearance of aggressive right-wing elements, not

just at this demonstration, but also at many of the recent statewide women's meetings, is an ominous development.

These reporters were particularly amazed that the principal organizers of today's demonstration not only tolerated the Cuban reactionaries, but actively assisted them. In particular, the Socialist Workers Party offered strong, visible support for them.

After the 40-block march, a rally was held at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. Representatives of many organizations spoke of their activities in the struggle for gay rights. A young white man from Chicago, a member of the Committee For Gay Rights in that city, gave a message of solidarity. Lainey Levitt, an organizer of Parents of Gays, said that any campaign for human rights must begin at home.

NAACP SPEAKER

A member of the Association pour les Droits des Gai(e) Quebec, expressed international solidarity with all people fighting gay op-

pression. He said that the growing movement in the U.S. was an inspiration to Canadian gays.

Leon Harris, president of the Village-Chelsea chapter of the NAACP, spoke of the need to unite the struggle against racism and anti-gay bigotry, as Black and gay people face a common enemy. He said that his organization had passed a resolution in full support of today's demonstration.

Kathy Dorsey, a Black Lesbian mother and militant trade unionist, spoke on behalf of Youth Against War & Fascism. She called for solidarity among all oppressed and exploited people in the struggle against U.S. imperialism, the common enemy. Answering the anti-Cuban reactionaries she said, "The CIA spreads lies about Cuba on this issue as on other issues to undermine the support for this heroic country." To enthusiastic applause, she reminded everyone that it is right here in the United States that anti-gay bigotry assumes its most malevolent forms. It was very clear that the vast majority of those present agreed with her.

From Sacco and Vanzetti

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were executed on Aug. 22, 1927.

"So, Son, instead of crying be strong, so as to be able to comfort your mother, and when you want to distract your mother from the discouraging soulness, I will tell you what I used to do. Take her for a long walk in the quiet country, gathering wild flowers here and there, resting under the shade trees, between the harmony of the vivid streams and the gentle tranquility of the mother nature, and I am sure she will enjoy this very much, as you surely would be happy for it. But remember always Dante, in the play of happiness, don't use all for yourself only. Help the weak ones that cry for help, help the persecuted and the victim because they are your better friends; they are the comrades that fight and fall as your father and

Bartolomeo fought and fell for the conquest and the joy of freedom for all."

Last letter of Nicola Sacco to his son Dante

"If it had not been for this thing I might have lived out my life among scorning men. I might have died unmarked, unknown, a failure. This is our career and our triumph. Never in our full life could we hope to do such work for tolerance, for justice, for man's understanding of man, as now we do by accident.

"Our words—our lives—our pains—nothing! The taking of our lives, the lives of a good shoemaker and a poor fish peddler—all!

"This last moment belongs to us—this last agony is our triumph!"

Bartolomeo Vanzetti, four months before his execution.

DFLP delegation visits Addis Ababa

Palestinians urge Eritrea-Ethiopia unity against reaction

By DEIRDRE GRISWOLD

The Ethiopian Revolution, because of its profound mass character and its total destruction of the old feudal ruling class, has opened the door to a revolutionary reconstruction of society. For this reason it has earned the enmity and active hostility of U.S. monopoly capitalism and of the reactionary Arab regimes tied to imperialism.

In their efforts to strangle and dismember the revolution, these counter-revolutionary forces are attempting to utilize every avenue. At the moment, they are giving every type of assistance and encouragement to whomever will fight against the Ethiopian revolutionary regime, particularly to the Eritrean secessionist movements, to the exiled feudalists, and to Somalia, which has launched a major attack in the Ogaden.

This calls for a new assessment of the Eritrean struggle by all revolutionary forces who want to see the interests of all the oppressed peoples of the Horn of Africa defended against the imperialist predators. How can this be done?

An answer to this question was offered recently by a delegation of Palestinian revolutionaries who visited the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. In the past, when the Eritrean struggle was directed against the reactionary U.S.-puppet regime of Haile Selassie, the Palestinians were among the strongest supporters of self-determination for Eritrea.

Led by its general secretary, Nayef Hawatmeh, the delegation from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) issued a statement directed to Eritrean progressives in which it called on them to unite with the Ethiopian Revolution in a common struggle against the forces of imperialism and Arab reaction.

UNITY URGED

The Palestinian delegation called for the formation of a national progressive front made up of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC), or Derg, and the progressive Eritrean movement. "Beyond the shadow of a doubt, such a solution would constitute a historic progressive achievement for the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples," the statement said, and added that it would "also weaken opportunist and rightist elements in the ranks of the Eritrean revolution."

"The program for a peaceful, progressive settlement requires speedy provision of the conditions for common struggle with the national progressive group at the head of the Ethiopian PMAC and with the Ethiopian political regime in general."

The Palestinians pointed out that "The triumph of the Ethiopian national democratic forces is surely a victory for the Eritrean people, their revolution and their national goals."

"As for the revolutionary members of the Eritrean people, they must resume discussion with the leaders of the party and conduct an exacting revolutionary criticism of the policies of the ultra-'left,' the alliance with Ethiopian and Sudanese reactionaries, and the hostility to progressive democratic organizations—policies which have meant political homicide for Eritrean progressive democratic leaders."

A major group recognized as representing progressive Eritreans is the EPLF—Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front. It has supported the organization in Ethiopia called



Ethiopian People's Militias: Armed Wonji sugar factory workers

the Ethiopian Peoples Revolutionary Party (EPRP) which, despite its name, has been engaged in an armed struggle against the revolutionary government, even though its program on paper barely differs from that of the Derg.

In its most recent programmatic statement, formulated at a congress held last January, the EPLF passed the following political resolution: "(EPLF) reaffirms its support for the democratic and revolutionary movements in Ethiopia fighting against the Dergue's fascist regime." (Published in Vanguard, official organ of the EPLF, Feb.-March 1977.)

What this has meant in practice has been a political alliance with the EPRP, a movement that, no matter what its written program may say, has been playing an actively counter-revolutionary role in Ethiopia, and which has claimed responsibility for the assassination of many leaders of mass organizations, trade unions, and in the government and army. It is undoubtedly this alliance the Palestinians are referring to when they call on progressive Eritreans to "conduct an exacting revolutionary criticism of the policies of the ultra-left."

The Palestinian statement also warned the progressive Eritreans that any alliance with the reactionary regimes of Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, and Jordan would eventually be used to stifle the Eritrean revolution itself.

"Their goal is clear," the statement said. "They want to suffocate democratic development in Ethiopia, coopt the Eritrean leadership and destroy the Eritrean movement's independent national character, and in the process, to bury the Eritrean revolution in the same grave they are digging for the PMAC and the Ethiopian revolution in general."

ETHIOPIAN ATTEMPTS AT ALLIANCE

It seems clear from bourgeois press reports and from the statements of the EPLF itself that the Ethiopian revolutionary government has been attempting to negotiate with the progressive Eritreans. The French bourgeois paper Le Monde reported in an article by Jean-Claude Guillebaud, which appeared in English in the May 1 Guardian of Britain, that the Ethiopians were "making increasingly pressing appeals to the 'progressive' Eritreans and are still hopeful of coming to an ideological rapprochement with the [EPLF]. . . . So far, the attempts have been coming unstuck over the [EPLF's] uncompromising attitude on independence."

With the unfolding of the

revolution in Ethiopia, the failure of the Eritrean groups to recognize the revolution and their continued reliance on Arab reaction have given imperialism and its henchmen in the Middle East a lever against the revolutionary masses in Ethiopia. When the Eritrean struggle was against the U.S.-backed feudal monarchy of Haile Selassie, which cruelly oppressed all the peoples incorporated in Ethiopia, then even a bourgeois-led struggle in Eritrea was progressive.

But the Ethiopian Revolution has led to an entirely new situation. Now, as the Palestinian statement added, "the responsibility for revolutionary initiatives and responses belongs to the progressive, nationalist, revolutionary and democratic Eritrean people first of all; second, to the Ethiopians. . . ."

The EPLF, according to its organ Vanguard, has said it will not enter into any discussion with Ethiopia without the participation of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF).

In other words, the more progressive Eritreans have said they will not enter into discussions with the leaders of the Ethiopian Revolution without the participation of the Eritrean group that they themselves have characterized as reactionary and opportunist.

But can the opposite be said to be true? Will the Eritreans who are cooperating with imperialism and Arab reaction demand that the progressive Eritreans participate in all their discussions? Just recently the ELF announced it had reached an initial agreement for an immediate merger with a third Eritrean group headed by Osman Saleh Sabbe. The EPLF has characterized Saleh Sabbe (who last spring called on Carter to intervene in Eritrea) as leader of a clique of "diehard pro-imperialist reactionaries."

Certainly the EPLF was not included in these discussions—yet they amount to tying the Eritrean struggle even more closely to imperialism, Arab reaction, and the Ethiopian feudalists. (Saleh Sabbe's group supports the Ethiopian Democratic Union, an armed force of feudal lords.)

Given the concrete conditions in the Ethiopian-Eritrean struggle, where both are poor and oppressed countries but where Ethiopia is at present under a full-scale attack coordinated by imperialism, it becomes the responsibility of the Eritrean revolutionaries to ally with

those fighting imperialism and reject an accommodation to imperialism's schemes.

As the Palestinian statement said, "Only then will it be possible to defeat all rightist, reactionary and fascist projects being prepared for the Ethiopian, Eritrean and Somali peoples."

MENGISTU OFFERS ISRAELI EMBASSY TO PLO

Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam, head of the Derg and leader of the revolutionary Ethiopian regime, utilized the visit of the DFLP delegation to lay to rest one of the most persistent lies of the imperialist press.

It has been reported from time to time in many Western bourgeois papers, without giving any hard sources, that Israel is supporting Ethiopia and that Israelis are giving military assistance there. This story is undoubtedly being circulated in the Arab world to provide the reactionary Arab regimes with a militant-sounding excuse for their collaboration against Ethiopia, since Israel is hated throughout the Middle East for its role as an imperialist agent against the Arab revolution.

The truth is that Ethiopia broke relations with Israel in 1974 after Selassie's overthrow. As recently as Aug. 10, the Ethiopian Ministry of Information stated categorically, "There are no Israelis in Ethiopia."

But Colonel Mengistu made his government's position crystal clear when he told the Palestinian delegation that the PLO was welcome to set up offices in Addis Ababa—in the building that was formerly the Israeli Embassy.

More Black youths killed, arrested

High schools are battleground in S. Africa

By RICHARD FERGUSON

NEW YORK, Aug. 23—The racist government of South Africa continues savage attacks on the rapidly growing liberation struggle of the oppressed Black masses.

Last week, the fascist South African police murdered a 19-year-old youth, Desmond Mabuse, inside a Soweto high school. This murder occurred during a series of police raids in which 137 Blacks, including 18 teachers, were arrested, bringing the total number arrested for that week alone to 340. These raids have been stepped up since the beginning of a three-week boycott by Black students of the dilapidated and highly inadequate Bantu school system. The boycott is supported by nearly all of Soweto's 1.2 million residents.

At one of the many high schools that were viciously attacked last week, a Black principal, M.P. Mzaidume, who is a member of the Committee of Ten, which is demanding self-rule for Soweto, said that his students had been discussing school outings when the police arrived and unleashed police dogs on the children. He went on to recall the horrifying incident of a young panic-stricken boy clinging to his waist as a dog "savaged" him. According to the Aug. 17 New York Times, similar horrifying incidents were described by many other prominent Black leaders, including Lucy Mvubelo, general secretary of the National Union of Clothing workers.

The South African government has threatened to close 40 of the high schools by an Aug. 25 deadline if, as the racists put it, "conditions

do not improve." Does the fascist Vorster regime actually believe the threat of closing these Bantu schools will actually have an effect on a liberation struggle that has risen from decades of the cruelest oppression imaginable?

There have been other attempts at cooling the rebellions, such as the recent decision of the government to allow Asians and what they term as "coloreds" to share political power. This outdated method of dividing the oppressed masses was immediately denounced by Black leaders as a mere gimmick and has been the subject of worldwide scorn.

Throughout the history of apartheid's brutal reign, the tactic of dividing the oppressed majority has been used. There are presently seven racial classifications imposed by

law. None of these groupings is allowed to mix in any way. Some are given a few more crumbs than others to widen these divisions. However, that the Third World population is well aware of their common enemy, has been shown on many occasions since the beginning of the Soweto rebellions, when all have joined together in strikes and demonstrations.

NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT?

While the U.S. is still talking majority rule and other lies, it was reported in Politika, a Yugoslav newspaper, that the United States has sold close to 230 pounds of enriched uranium to South Africa since 1965. This is enough to make ten atomic bombs. The paper went

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Sinister massacre in Rhodesia

NEW YORK, Aug. 23—In what was evidently a repeat of past atrocities committed by Rhodesian forces and then blamed on liberation fighters, 16 African men, women, and children were brutally massacred on a racist-owned farm near Umtali on August 21.

Throwing what's left of its credibility to the wind, the apartheid regime of Ian Smith quickly attributed the massacre to "a gang of terrorists," the racists' derogatory term for Zimbabwean guerrillas.

The settler farm owners

escaped from the attack untouched. However, none of the farm workers or their families were spared. The Rhodesian military headquarters neglected to explain why the guerrillas would kill their own supporters and allow their enemies to escape.

Previous murders of Africans and missionaries attributed to the guerrillas by the Rhodesian military were later exposed by the guerrilla organizations as the work of the notorious Selous Scouts unit of the Rhodesian army.

Class war in the packinghouses: union-busting is spreading

By JEFF KANNELL
MILWAUKEE, Aug. 19—Betty Frankenthal, daughter of the late president of Packerland Packing Company, has recently been convicted on five federal counts of bugging the telephones and recording communications of competing meat packing firms. For this she could receive up to 25 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine. Siegfried Frankenthal was indicted on these same charges last December, but died of a heart attack on the day the indictments were served.

Behind the story of this conviction is a saga of cutthroat competition, union-busting, poor working conditions, and flagrant pollution, all facts of life today in the meat-packing industry.

The Frankenthals defended their espionage against competitors by saying they believed there was a conspiracy to disrupt Packerland's bank credit, and to steal contracts away from them.

These fears are probably grounded, because there is intense competition among the packing houses for control of the industry, especially slaughtering operations, and companies which do not "compete" as well as Packerland or other growing firms have been forced out of business.

ATTACKING UNIONS IS NO CRIME

It is significant that the conviction was for offenses against other corporations, because, in spite of whatever tactics the companies use against each other, they all agree on the need to attack the unions in their plants.

Packerland operates plants in Chippewa Falls and Green Bay, Wis., and Parma, Texas. Safety conditions in these plants are little better than those described by muckraking journalists 70 years ago. Brutalizing work speed, long irregular hours, and dangerous and unsanitary conditions are still widespread in the meatpacking industry. The injury rate for the Chippewa Falls plant was 18 times the national industrial rate, and seven times the rate for other packing houses! In 1973, 50% of the permanent workforce suffered injuries resulting in loss of at least one workday. Two workers at the Parma plant and one in Green Bay have been killed on the job in the past three years.

In an effort to change these conditions at the Chippewa Falls plant, Local 444 of the Amalgamated Meatcutters Union launched a strike in 1973. They also fought to win wage increases above the \$2.50 per hour Packerland was paying at the time.

The company was able to hire nearly a full crew of scabs, but they had to contend with militant picket lines in order to get to the plant. The courts issued anti-picketing injunctions against the union to make it easier for the scabs to get in and out. In spite of this, the militancy remained, and, coupled with local labor support and an effective consumer boycott, the company was forced back to the bargaining table after nine months.

GOVERNMENT SCABS ON UNION

But just as victory seemed possible for Local 444, the federal government stepped in and awarded Packerland contracts for 70% of the meat for the federal school lunch program, even though two unionized companies underbid

Packerland. Then the Milwaukee School Board bought an additional 147,000 pounds of scab meat from Packerland, meat which the Army had rejected.

These sales allowed the company to keep up production and profit and to break off negotiations.

During the strike, Packerland hired armed guards to protect the scabs.

Frankenthal offered one of the workers \$10,000 just before the strike if he would organize a company union to help disrupt Local 444. Despite the bribe attempt, the worker struck. The union filed a photostatic copy of the payoff check and copies of letters about the plan from Frankenthal.

The strike was broken in early 1975 when the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) ruled that there was "insufficient evidence" of unfair labor practices (!) and therefore the strikers could not vote in a certification election.

UNSANITARY PRACTICES

The Green Bay plant has been a source of contention in the area since 1960, because of company policies like depositing blood, manure, and inedible offal on open soil near the plant, which is near a residential area. Both Wisconsin plants have been fined and ordered to close at different times, but both have managed to stay open and expand without substantially correcting their offenses.

The attacks by Packerland are not isolated. In Milwaukee, 750 meatcutters struck seven firms in the Milwaukee stockyards in January 1975. The owners forced a strike by their refusal to negotiate, and then proceeded to break the union. They claimed that since Packerland had become non-union, it was necessary for them to do the same in order to compete! Larger companies took advantage of the situation by forcing several smaller firms to sell out to them.

This strike was broken in similar fashion to Local 444; through anti-picketing injunctions, police harassment and arrests on the picket lines, company efforts to use racism as a weapon to divide workers, pro-management bias by the NLRB, and large purchases of scab meat by the government.

—Carter's Watergate

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wealthy interests naturally want to get their representative in this office. Attacks on Lance from within the establishment are inspired by those capitalist circles that feel he is hostile to their group. For them, Lance's corruption offers a golden opportunity to either force the Budget Director to resign or to at least bring Lance to heel and make him more amenable to their wishes.

Whether this faction fight reflects a serious disintegration of the business coalition that put Carter in the White House is not yet clear. One thing is certain, however. The bosses' hope for a return to the kind of governmental stability that followed World War II and ended with the Kennedy assassination will not be realized. Wall Street's dream of "an American Century" was destroyed on the battlefields of Vietnam, never to return.

Lance himself is just a small figure in this larger picture, but the venomous accusations and mutual

Local 248 now has only 1100 members and is in international trusteeship because of strike debts. Only this month, Wisconsin Packing, one of the previously struck firms, chose to close down rather than negotiate with workers who had signed up again with Local 248; again, the NLRB upheld this action.

In Dakota City, Nebraska, 2400 workers at Iowa Beef Processing, the largest slaughtering and packing operation in the world, are in the fourth month of a strike, their third in the last eight years. Like the others, this strike grows out of the ruthless battle for supremacy in the industry. And the victims of this competition are not the corporation heads who bug each other's offices, but the workers in the plants who are forced to fight to defend their jobs and their lives.

The meatcutters' struggle clearly shows where the government stands in the battles between labor and the capitalists. The government has done whatever it could to help the corporations break strikes and drive down the living standards and working conditions in the plants.

To defeat this alliance in the future will require the kind of determination which the meatcutters themselves have already shown, and a strengthened movement of poor and working people to stand with them in their struggles.

recriminations that swirl around his case demonstrate that, despite having "put Watergate behind" them, the ruling class' goal of capitalist stability remains only a mirage and a self-delusion.

—Puerto Rico

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movement and tries to do so by lying, increasing repression, and maneuvering constantly.

The hearings at the UN help to expose the real brutal nature of imperialism and demonstrate how the U.S. fears the growing involvement of the Puerto Rican masses in the fight for independence. The terrible conditions created by the U.S. imperialists will propel larger sections of the Puerto Rican working class into the struggle, and the struggle of the Puerto Rican people will show that the U.S. cannot postpone that which is inevitable — a free and socialist Puerto Rico.

—Miners

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miners, the disabled and their families now cannot afford medical care and have been forced to go without seeing a doctor or making necessary hospital visits.

COMPANIES OUT TO BUST UNION

The coal companies have made it clear that they are using this cut-back, along with other tactics, to break the union. Their final goal is

to weaken once and for all the traditionally militant UMW miners.

The issues in the strike are clear. Over half of the union's 170,000 active miners were out. Reports indicate that most of the other miners supported the walkout. But the IEB back-to-work vote caused great confusion among the striking miners.

The question facing most miners now is—what is the best way to win back the medical benefits?

The striking miners have faced great hardships in order to carry out the strike for two months. Great sacrifices have been made by the miners and their families who have gone without paychecks for so long.

In the face of such a large and determined strike, however, the coal companies have not budged.

RANK AND FILE ARE TRUE LEADERS

If it could be said that there was a weakness in this strike, it would only be that it wasn't yet big enough to bring the companies to their knees.

The union's bureaucrats, if they sincerely were working for the miners' interests, would have joined with those miners who have been carrying the burden of the strike. It is these miners who have given up so much to win full benefits for all the miners and their families who have shown the true leadership in the union.

Whether these rank and file miners are able to continue the walkout now, or must wait 60 days to show their strength, it is their actions that will assure that full medical benefits are restored.

Get in the struggle with Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party!

Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism are organizing and responsible for many of the struggles you read about in the pages of this paper. These groups are made up of women and men, Black, white, Latin, Asian, and Native American, young and old, straight and gay, working, students, and unemployed, who fight on all the issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society.

If you would like to find out more about Workers World and YAWF, or if you would like to join them in their struggles, contact the branch nearest you from the list below.

ATLANTA—Workers World Party,

P.O. Box 424, Atlanta, GA 30301. [404] 523-8990.

BALTIMORE—Workers World Party, 2402 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218. [301] 366-3713.

BOSTON—Workers World Party, 419 Boylston St., Room 204, Boston, MA 02116. [617] 247-1778.

BUFFALO—Workers World Party, 170 Franklin St. [Crosby Bldg.], Room 410, Buffalo, NY 14202. [716] 855-3055.

CHICAGO—Workers World Party, 542 S. Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60605. [312] 922-0326.

CLEVELAND—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 12576, East Cleveland, OH 44112. [216] 371-9293 or 231-8456.

DETROIT—Workers World Party, 229 Gratiot, Third Floor, Detroit, MI 48226. [313] 962-4979.

HOUSTON—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 52115, Houston, TX 77052. [713] 654-0798.

MILWAUKEE—Workers World Party, 150 E. Juneau, Milwaukee, WI 53202. [414] 224-0422.

NEW YORK CITY—Workers World Party, 46 W. 21 St., New York, NY 10010. [212] 255-0352.

NORFOLK—Workers World Party, P.O. Box 7032, Norfolk, VA 23509. [804] 627-0870.

PHILADELPHIA—Youth Against War & Fascism, P.O. Box 9894, Philadelphia, PA 19140. [215] 227-3517.

ROCHESTER—Workers World Party, 171 State St., Rochester, NY 14614. [716] 546-6429.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Workers World Party, 932 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20001. [202] 347-0138.

—S. Africa

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on to say that the U.S. has supplied considerable amounts of "heavy water" for the manufacture of atomic weapons and has trained about 150 nuclear specialists. It is feared that this outlaw settler regime will soon stage its first nuclear blast.

From Luanda, Journal de Angola, notes that the South African racists are not bound by any international agreements on nuclear weapons, and are developing such weapons with the help of the U.S., the Federal Republic of Germany, other NATO powers, and Israel.

Does a country that really disapproves of the way another country is running itself, as the U.S. claims to disapprove of South African policies, help them to gain nuclear capability?

This week there have also been increased attacks on the newly liberated Republic of Angola by the CIA and South African puppet troops of UNITA. The liberation of Angola and Mozambique are certainly recognized by imperialist powers throughout the world—and especially by the U.S.—as being a major factor in the determination of the South African people.

Even though the combined efforts of the U.S. and other imperialist powers to crush the liberation of South African people, this defiant struggle of oppressed people cannot be stopped.

Boycott J.P. Stevens!

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Atlanta rally protests railroad of Dawson 5

By DONNA LAZARUS and HEIDI SILVER

ATLANTA, Aug. 15—Chanting "Demonstrate against the chair, show your children that you care!" sixty militant protesters marched to the Georgia State Capitol today to demand that charges against the Dawson Five be dropped. The march, called by the Prisoners Solidarity Committee (PSC) of Workers World Party, the National Committee to Defend Dessie Woods, and Dekalb-Decatur Defense Committee, also demanded freedom for Dessie Woods, an end to the racist death penalty, and no more police attacks against the poor.

With placards and fists raised high, chants of "Tear down the walls!" and "Death row must go!" resounded in front of the Capitol. "The people have forced the State to drop the death penalty in the Dawson Five case, now we have to continue the fight until they are freed," said Kasseem Said Khalifah of the PSC.

Despite a total lack of evidence against the Dawson Five, Judge Geer, a south Georgia bigot, has set Aug. 29 for the opening day of the trial against these five young men whose only "crime" is being Black and poor.

Falsely accused of killing a white grocery store customer in Dawson two years ago, the Dawson Five have been the victims of coercion by the state to railroad yet five more victims through its racist courts.

"On death row they don't have a chance, the electric chair is plain



On Aug. 15, Lois Smith of Dekalb-Decatur Defense Committee address Atlanta march for freedom for Dawson Five, Dessie Woods, and against the death penalty.

WW photo: Tom Gardner

murder—that is no justice! The guilty go free, and the innocent die. My heart goes out to each and every mother who has gone through what I have," said Mrs. Young of the Dekalb-Decatur Defense Committee, speaking before the rally. She was one of several mothers present who have sons under death sentence in Georgia.

Lois Smith, a leading member of the Dekalb-Decatur Defense Committee, whose cousin's family

was a recent victim of police brutality in an Atlanta housing project, told the crowd, "We know the Dawson Five won't get a fair trial. We know Blacks are the ones they use the chair on! And attacks on the poor in Atlanta will never stop until people stand up together and strong!"

She also raised the urgency of defending Charles Henderson and Leroy Rogers, the valiant brothers who told the court at the Dawson

Five pre-trial hearing how they had been approached within Reidsville Prison to testify against the Dawson Five. Supporters are demanding that the two prisoners be transferred to an institution where they will not be in as much danger of

reprisals by the state.

Clearly one of the most vicious attacks against women in recent years is the case of Dessie Woods, a 31-year-old Black woman jailed for the act of defending herself against the sexual threats of an armed white man in south Georgia. Similar to the cases of Joann Little, Inez Garcia, and Yvonne Wanrow, Dessie Woods' case demonstrates the denial to women and all oppressed people of one of the most fundamental human rights, that of self-defense.

Olatunji Lumumba, representing the National Committee to Free Dessie Woods, exposed the role of the capitalist state in perpetuating a neo-colonial type of violence against poor and oppressed women in his speech to the rally. He said united struggle will end the exploitation, racism, and sexism which hurts all poor and working people.

DEMONSTRATE TO FREE DESSIE WOODS SEPT. 4

A national demonstration is being called on Sunday, Sept. 4th in Atlanta to demand immediate release from prison for Dessie Woods. The demonstration will assemble at Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Ashby Street at 10 a.m. to march to the state capitol, where a rally will be held.

WW interviews Dacajeweah

Attica '71—Napanoch '77

By BILL SULLIVAN and DIANE FEINBERG

OSSINING, N.Y., Aug. 18—"I believe Brother Khali, who I know personally, is being held accountable for the rebellion. The bureaucrats always have a way to try and get people to believe it was only one individual involved. This implies that no more than one individual can think or has the heart and sincerity to overcome repression."

The speaker was Dacajeweah, who is the last Attica Brother imprisoned for his participation in that great prisoner eruption, the Attica rebellion, in 1971. He spoke to *Workers World* from inside Sing-Sing, where he is serving zero-to-life, about the Napanoch insurrection on Aug. 8 and the 44 prisoner indictments that followed.

Khali (Frank Abney), president of the NAACP chapter in Napanoch, is being scapegoated as the "leader" of the rebellion by the prison administration, much as Dacajeweah has been scapegoated for the Attica rebellion.

Khali and other Napanoch inditees have been transferred here to Sing-Sing. As many as 400 prisoners have been kidnapped and brought here this week from Auburn, Napanoch and Woodbourne prisons following the strikes and uprising that began at those prisons last Monday. Many prisoners have already been shipped out again, but the Napanoch prisoners have been held here in A-Block which has been condemned and unused for five years.

While in the Sing-Sing hallway which leads to the cellblock, we saw seven prisoners being led under guard. Dacajeweah identified the

Brothers who walked so defiantly between the barred doors as being from Napanoch. They looked fresh and proud after emerging from the battle there. As they walked past us, moving as one body, we exchanged fist salutes and one Brother was able to call out that they were being held incommunicado.

ATTICA=NAPANOCH

After a twelve-hour siege last week at Napanoch, the prisoners gave up hostages and were returned to their cells with promises of concessions sent by Gov. Hugh Carey. Days later 44 indictments came down on prisoners. Prison administrators claimed Khali who is well-known in the prisoner anti-Klan struggle was "instrumental" in causing the rebellion.

Dacajeweah scorned the propaganda that one person rather than prison conditions causes a rebellion. He said that the struggle against oppression inside the New York State penitentiaries has raised the consciousness of the men and women incarcerated in them. "So there's not sole leaders anymore, there's collective leadership," he said.

Dacajeweah pointed to the similarities between the Attica rebellion in 1971 and the Napanoch uprising last week. Attica, prior to 1971, was the scene of constant beatings of prisoners by guards and murders of Brothers carried out by and covered up by the fascist prison administration.

"They used to tie a sheet around a Brother's neck, string him up, and say he committed suicide," he said. "The Brothers just had to seize the time," on Sept. 9, 1971, the day Attica exploded. "The

conditions were more than ripe, they was actually rotten. This racism meant the loss of our lives. We challenged it."

Speaking of Napanoch concentration camp 70 miles northwest of New York City, Dacajeweah said, "Everybody knows that the Klan has a large guard membership there. A Grand Dragon of the Klan, (Earl) Schoonmaker, worked there."

"For many years there has been a practice of guards burning crosses in front of prisoners' cells, or throwing lighter fluid in the cell and lighting it up while you're in it." Of the Klan-guard repression he said, "It's a racist death force and the Brothers must have gotten tired of that."

"This is definitely the Klan attitude that brought about this rebellion," he asserted. "You have to have a collective body of the Brothers who are being attacked to defend themselves. The only way to do that was to take the pen, take hostages, and let the world know what is still happening inside." Prisoner grievances at Napanoch include removal of the Klan and two sergeants that were named, that action be taken by the state legislature on a good-time bill, better food, and amnesty with no reprisals for those who participated in the rebellion.

Dacajeweah concluded that the state was unable to get the convictions against the 61 Attica inditees "due to mass support given by the people of the world, and in the end the truth about Attica came out. I strongly urge people in the street who are in a position to help and support Brother Khali and all the Napanoch Brothers to do all they can."



George Jackson

By MARTHA GREVATT

NEW YORK, Aug. 20—Prison leader George Jackson was brutally murdered by the racist officials of San Quentin prison on Aug. 21, 1971. He had been in prison since 1960, when he had been given a one-year-to-life sentence for allegedly stealing \$70.

As Field Marshal of the Black Panther Party, he became both a leader of the Black liberation movement and an inspiration to all progressive people.

He was to stand trial in September of 1971 on trumped-up charges of murdering a guard in a case against him and two other Black men, known as the Soledad Brothers. In 1970 his 18-year-old brother Jonathan was killed in a courtroom in San Rafael, Calif., in an heroic attempt to free Jackson and three other prisoners, including Ruchell Magee.

The assassination of Jackson was one of the sparks that led to the historic Attica rebellion a few weeks later. Six years later, Dacajeweah explained the significance of Jackson's life and death for poor and oppressed people all over the world.

"I must say I hold within myself a very sincere and strong place in my heart for the life of George Jackson. George Jackson represented a spirit to rebel," Dacajeweah continued, "George Jackson felt and expressed a need to challenge the status quo; unfortunately he wasn't able to reach his destination, but maybe he has, in the sense that he has reached the hearts and minds of many, many millions of people, and he serves as a symbol to continue in the spirit of freedom."

"There had been many George Jacksons before George Jackson and many brothers and sisters who have stood and challenged—many who are unnamed."

Aug. 26, 1977

Black and white parents tell Chicago school board

'We won't let racists victimize Black children'

By JEFF SÖREL
CHICAGO, Aug. 20—For the past year racist mob violence directed at Black people has been steadily increasing on the southwest side of this city. Black motorists and homeowners have been firebombed, shot at, and viciously attacked by racist mobs, primarily in the Marquette Park neighborhood.

This week, the racist violence

spread to the nearby Gage Park neighborhood, where several Black youths have been attacked by gangs of whites wielding baseball bats.

Now, the focus of the racist campaign is shifting to the schools. When they open next month, students from terribly overcrowded and run-down schools in the Black community will be bused, on a voluntary basis, to underutilized

and more modern schools in white areas on the Southwest Side.

However, because of threats of violence by groups of racist whites, primarily in the Bogan High School area, few Black students have signed up for the program at this point, despite the wretched conditions in their schools.

The Bogan parents, who work closely with such scum as the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazi party, have been packing school board meetings and claiming to represent the "white people of Chicago," when in actuality they are working against the interest of all working people, both Black and white.

The city government, far from guaranteeing the protection of the Black children who may be bused, has given encouragement to the racist forces. The Mayor and his aides have held sympathetic meetings with the Bogan bigots, dignifying their anti-Black point of view.

open support to the racists. Policeman Aloysius Majerczyk told the school board Wednesday that "many police officers can be expected to get the blue flu when called in to protect school buses." Showing his own racism, he continued, "We will not be used to destroy our schools." When asked about these remarks, Police Supt. James Rochford could only say, "I think he was exercising his freedom of speech."

The racist offensive is not going unchallenged. At a school board meeting Aug. 17, dozens of Black parents from the South Side turned out to speak out against the racists and demand that they be involved in any desegregation program.

Chicago Parents Against Racist Violence is a new organization of Black and white parents from different parts of the city who have banded their forces to counter the racist offensive. Their aim is to get the many thousands of people in this city who oppose the racist attacks to come forth and counter the small but noisy bands of bigots

in Marquette Park and the Bogan area.

Bill Massey from Chicago Parents Against Racist Violence told the School Board: "If the people of the Bogan area want to clean up their neighborhood, they should do it by getting the Klan and the Nazis out. We will refuse to allow Black children to become victims of racist mobs."

Chicago Parents as well as other community groups, is calling for as many people as possible to attend the Aug. 31st meeting of the school board, where it will present a resolution demanding that the board take a stand against the racists and that it provide for the protection of Black children in any desegregation plan. For copies of the resolution, petitions, or other information, call them at (312) 427-8038.

Numerous community and labor leaders have endorsed this resolution, including Charles Hayes, International Vice-President of Amalgamated Meatcutters Union; Robert Lucas, head of the Kenwood-Oakland Community Organization; author Studs Terkel; Jewel White, National Black Communications Coalition; Leo Draper, President of the American Postal Workers Union, Chicago Local; Lu Palmer, prominent Black broadcaster; Dr. Quentin Young; Milton Cohen, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs; and L.A. Dunigan, International Vice-President of the Textile Workers Union, among others.

The racist tide can be turned back. All those who oppose racist violence, who support the right of Black people to live in the neighborhoods and go to the schools of their choice, must unite and struggle together. All out to School Board meeting August 31st!



Parents Against Racist Violence street rally in Chicago.

WW photo: Linda

POLICE SUPPORT RACISTS

The attitude of the police is one of

Cops shoot first, ask questions later

Latest Chicago police victim a boy of 15

By CHARLIE HALE
CHICAGO, Aug. 8—Once again, the Chicago police have done what they do best—kill. The summer started with the brutal murders of Julio Osorio and Rafael Cruz in Humboldt Park; then came the death of 18-year-old John Neuman, shot in the back while handcuffed. The fourth police murder was that of 16-year-old Stanley Cox who was "accidentally" shot in the head. Now, a 15-year-old Black youth, Demetrius Thomas, joins the list of police terror victims.

Thomas and his family were celebrating the birthday of a family member when they heard footsteps above them in his sister's apartment. When Thomas and his two brothers went up to investigate they found three men robbing the apartment. The men escaped.

The Thomas family called the police for help, telling them to come to the second floor apartment. While waiting for the cops to arrive, the boyfriend of one sister went into the bathroom to change his clothes. According to Edna, Demetrius' sister, "He didn't make it there. I heard him screaming, 'Don't shoot me, man. Don't shoot me!'" She continued, "I looked toward what he was talking about and all I saw was a flashlight and a .38. Everybody got to panicking and running. We thought it was those boys that had come back." Of the man with the flashlight and the gun she said, "He didn't say he was a policeman. He didn't have any uniform. We thought he was a hoodlum coming back to shoot up the place."

THE COPS JUST SHOT

One brother ran to the rear of the

apartment, but changed his mind when he saw a man with a shotgun run to the rear of the building. He heard a shot, and saw Demetrius fall from the back window. Edna Thomas continued, "The man with the shotgun flashed his flashlight out the window and told his friend outside that everything was alright. He said 'Hey, they live here, man, everything is alright.' And then the man outside said, 'Well, then, who is this cat lying here?'"

The family rushed to the window and identified the body as that of

Demetrius Thomas. Edna Thomas shouted at the cops, "That's my brother! You killed an innocent 15-year-old boy!"

Along with the fatal shotgun wound, Demetrius had been shot twice in the legs.

The Chicago Police Department has since claimed that the cops in question "properly identified themselves" to the Thomas family. However, not one member of the family or any of the guests heard any of the strangers identify himself as a policeman.

In Chicago

By M. HOFFHEIMER
CHICAGO, Aug. 17—Three Puerto Rican activists were given indefinite prison terms today after refusing to collaborate with the FBI-sponsored grand jury witch-hunt of the Puerto Rican community here.

Jose Lopez, Roberto Caldero, and Juan Lopez had postponed appearing before the grand jury for nine months while the legality of the grand jury was challenged. These hearings were regularly attended by 50 to 100 supporters from the Puerto Rican community, who militantly demonstrated their solidarity with the three and their contempt for imperialist "justice."

Last week, when federal marshalls attacked supporters in the courtroom, the number of people admitted to the hearings was limited to 50, and those entering were further harassed by having their names and addresses taken. Nonetheless, the courtroom was rapidly filled to the limit with

supporters of the three, while others remained outside.

The last legal resort was exhausted today when Judge Parsons, contented with a simple denial by the prosecution, refused to look into defense allegations of wire-tapping of Jose Lopez's phone. He made this decision despite conclusive evidence presented by the defense, including photographs, several witnesses, an expert witness in electronics, and an affidavit by a telephone worker. The obvious contradictions in the judge's rationalization led many to speculate that he was under direct orders from his superiors to reach certain decisions regardless of what evidence was presented.

Parsons ordered the three immediately bound over to the grand jury, and the three soon returned from this secret tribunal charged with contempt (for refusing to collaborate), and appeared again before Parsons who sentenced them

When cops were killed in two separate incidents last year the whole state apparatus was mobilized in an effort to find someone to pin the deaths on. But when cops gun down workers or members of oppressed communities, very little happens. The Department inevitably finds that only "justifiable force" was used, and the state's attorney rubber-stamps the finding. Only the united efforts of poor and oppressed people can put an end, once and for all, to police murders of innocent people.

to jail until the grand jury dissolved.

Before being sentenced, both Jose Lopez and Roberto Caldero made moving speeches before the court. Lopez denounced the grand jury as yet another form of repression of the Puerto Rican community, and defiantly declared that despite imprisonment, torture, and even genocide of whole peoples, the struggle of the oppressed grows stronger daily, making the defeat of U.S. imperialism inevitable.

Caldero said that U.S. imperialism had invaded and colonized Puerto Rico, for over 75 years, oppressing Puerto Ricans both on the island and in the U.S. The imperialists, he said, should not be surprised when their massive and systematic brutality and repression of a whole nation is met by the just violence of the people. Both received sustained applause.

RACIST
VINDICTIVENESS

Three Puerto Rican activists jailed

The personal vindictiveness and racism with which the prosecution conducted the proceedings, denying even the most reasonable and normal requests at every stage, demonstrates the ends to which the bourgeois state is going to repress the oppressed communities within the courts, just as Humboldt Park dramatically demonstrated the military repression of the oppressed.

Although the grand jury has succeeded in imprisoning these and other leaders of the Puerto Rican community, its other goal—the complete destruction of the Puerto Rican liberation struggle—will never be achieved as long as activists sit in jail rather than collaborate; under such circumstances the grand jury is foiled and cannot conduct a fishing expedition into the Puerto Rican community. Rather than demoralizing the Puerto Rican liberation movement, the grand jury has provided a focus of struggle.