



Star Wars funding doubled on eve of Summit

Congress rubber stamps record war budget

1,000 Michigan trade unionists say 'Free South Africa!' —p. 3

Ortega in New York: 'History is on our side'

—p. 9

Ortega and wife, Rosario, greeted by supporters in New York City.

WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN



By Andy Stapp

OCTOBER 30—On the very eve of the Geneva summit with the Soviet Union, Congress has voted final approval for another record-breaking Pentagon budget, calling for construction of nerve gas weapons, more MX missiles and double last year's funding for Star Wars.

The authorization of \$302.5 billion for the military was passed on a **voice vote** with minimum debate. It was done that way so there would be no record of who voted for and who against. Members of the House from high unemployment districts where such lavish giveaways to the Pentagon are especially resented, prefer anonymity when they sell out their constituents. These politicians will all rush to give the good news to their "clients," however, the big high-tech arms contractors.

Among the hundreds of projects which got the nod were anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons, an important component of the Star Wars program. Last June, the House had voted to ban ASAT tests as long as the USSR maintains its moratorium against this weapon. But Reagan went ahead and shot down a satellite anyway, and now the House has reversed itself and beat a red-faced retreat.

In the last 40 years, Congress has never

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Isaac Asimov endorses 'Stop Star Wars' protests

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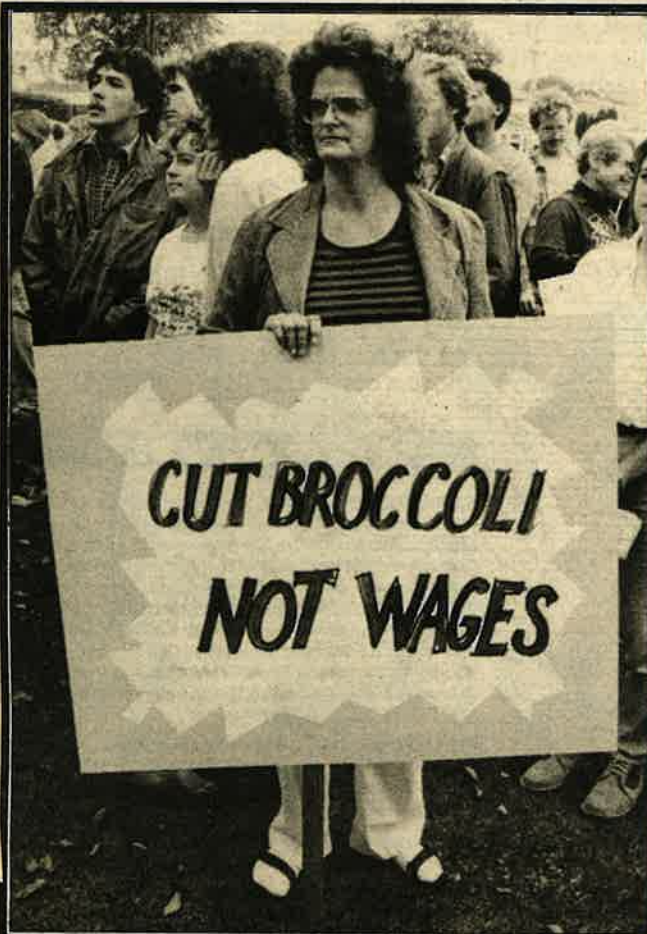
Cannery strikers hold the line in California

—p. 5

Oct. 6 Watsonville rally.
WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

Racist policies reduce Black and Latin college enrollment

—p. 12



NYC forum challenges bigoted approach to AIDS

By Saul Kanowitz
NEW YORK, Oct. 21—A militant and angry audience of over 500 packed the auditorium of P.S. 41 here this evening to listen to a public forum on the AIDS epidemic. Because of fire regulations over 100 more people were turned away at the door. Citizens United for Research and Education (CURE) presented a panel discussion accompanied by questions and answers providing factual and scientific information about the truths on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

CURE describes itself in a news release as a broad-based citizens group concerned about the lack of treatment, research and reliable, coherent information regarding the health crisis. The group calls on the community at large—tenant committees, PTAs, block associations, unions, and professional, religious and philanthropic organizations—to assume responsibility in addressing the AIDS crisis.

The fight against AIDS is being conducted in a bigoted atmosphere. This was reflected when CURE informed those attending that the school, which has a long record of being used to hold many progressive events, had initially refused them use of the auditorium when it was told of tonight's subject. Even though the meeting did take place, the school refused use of any classroom for a press conference.

An impressive panel from the religious community, the medical profession and the AIDS movement condemned the government at the federal, state, and local level and the media for spreading misinformation on AIDS

Artists raise funds for AIDS research

By Jelayne Miles
"THAT'S WHAT friends are for" is the title for a new single released last Friday as a fund raiser for AIDS research. Stevie Wonder's lyrics inspired this project and he is a featured artist on the record together with Dionne Warwick, Gladys Knight and Elton John (this song will be on Dionne Warwick's new album called Friends). Other contributing artists/composers are Burt Bachrach and Caryl Bayer-Sager.

In cooperation with the musicians' unions and Arista records, all profits and royalties from Friends will go to the American Foundation for AIDS Research which is a merger of AIDS Medical Foundation of New York and National AIDS Research Foundation in Los Angeles.

and obstructing the fight against the disease. The meeting was chaired by Ann Giudici Fettner, an author and science editor of the New York Native, a leading New York gay newspaper published weekly.

The panel included Rev. Paul Moore, Jr., Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of New York; Dr. Mathilde Krim, a leading researcher on AIDS and co-chairperson of the American Foundation for AIDS Research; Dr. Joyce Wallace, a physician at St. Vincent's Hospital and professor at Mount Sinai Medical School; Dr. Stephen Caiazza, a physician who provides diagnosis and management of AIDS and AIDS-related disorders; Darrell Yates Rist, journalist, author and contributing editor to The New York Native; Mindy Domb, a representative of Congressman Ted Weiss; and Mel Rosen, representing the New York State Health Department and former Executive Director of the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

Linked to attacks on homeless, hungry

Bishop Moore addressed the meeting and condemned the religious community for its views on homosexuality and AIDS. He linked the attacks on gays to the attacks on the homeless and the hungry. Stating that more dangerous than the epidemic itself is the epidemic of fear, Bishop Moore said, "I believe all of us need to summon everything in us against this leperphobia." He went on to say the use of the HTLV-III test by the armed forces represented a gross violation of basic civil rights.

Darrell Yates Rist strongly denounced the Food and Drug Administration for keeping out drugs that might help in treatment that aren't produced by U.S. drug companies. Expressing the audience's hatred and anger, Rist received a prolonged applause when he called for a campaign against the New York Post for its vile, anti-gay coverage of the AIDS crisis. All the panelists agreed that quarantine was not a medical answer to the crisis, but a call by anti-gay bigots to further discrimination and fear.

The audience was multinational, composed of women and men, lesbians, gays and straights, and many working class people, showing that people are looking for answers and ways to understand the AIDS crisis. The feelings of despair and isolation that have gripped the movement fighting AIDS and the gay community for so long changed tonight to impatience and anger as everyone left the meeting feeling strengthened and hopeful.



WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

The struggle against the AIDS hysteria is part of the fight of all working and oppressed people for adequate health care and living standards.

The end of Dan White

By Shane Summer
SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 21—Dan White, the ex-cop, ex-city supervisor who murdered openly gay San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and liberal San Francisco Mayor George Moscone seven years ago committed suicide yesterday.

He had never publicly expressed any remorse for the murders and, according to the prison chaplain and his parole officer, he had no private re-

grets either. Police reports of his suicide notes state that neither Milk nor Moscone were mentioned.

Now that he is dead some of the media are portraying him as some kind of working class hero. Nothing can be farther from the truth. Dan White was a bigot and former San Francisco cop who based his 1977 supervisory campaign on "eradicating radicals and social deviates" from

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FREE PUERTO RICO!

A New York rally in support of 13 unjustly jailed Puerto Rican activists took place on the eve of the Jayuya uprising 35 years ago, the second time the Republic of Puerto Rico was declared. (Page 11.)

SOUTH AFRICA

While the Botha regime has extended the iron heel of the emergency laws to Cape Town, this week the struggle there escalated to new heights with reports that some Black people fought back with guns and grenades. (Page 3.)

HOMEPORT

Clearly fronting for the military, a New York City court has thrown a referendum off the ballot which would give people an opportunity to vote against using this populous city as a homeport of nuclear-armed ships. (Page 10.)

PHILIPPINES

The Philippine people have a thousand and one reasons to hate the U.S. government and its puppet, President Ferdinand Marcos. Yet another example of U.S. exploitation and repression came to light this week. Filipinos who build bamboo models of airplanes for the U.S. Clark Airfield's target range are paid in rice! (Page 9.)

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South Africa uprising spreads into Cape Town

By Zenzile

OCTOBER 28—The popular masses of South Africa have shown in no uncertain terms that the struggle for the revolutionary overthrow of the Botha regime and the destruction of the system of apartheid will not be detained at the phony fascist ballot box. Nor will it in any way be deterred by the hangman's noose nor the imposition of frantic emergency military measures implemented by chief of the armed forces Malan or police chief Coetzee.

This week, in open defiance of the Botha-Malan-Coetzee reign of terror, the Cape Peninsula and surrounding districts were rendered out of control as the revolutionary masses of Cape Town, South Africa, engaged in heavy confrontations with the fascist police and the army.

Running battles took place in various parts of the Cape Flats, including Belgravia, Athlone, Hanover Park and Wynberg. In Gugulethu, one of the largest African townships in the Cape area, there were reports of police confronting groups of youths with tear gas and firing into gatherings of people who were at the service commemorating the death of a fellow activist in the recent struggle.

'It's like war out there'

The confrontations in the various townships were so intense and the attacks by the police so brutal that an elderly resident of the Athlone area stated, "It's like a war out there. The police and army trucks are going up and down the street. They become more vicious by the day."

She also stated that ever since the state's cowardly killing of three youths and one 28-year-old man in the Athlone area, there seems to be no end in sight to this confrontation. Last week, at memorial services on the Cape Flats, people vowed to avenge the deaths of those who were murdered.

On Thursday, Oct. 24, cars, police vehicles and army trucks were stoned in the townships immediately adjacent to the main freeway leading to D.F. Malan airport. The struggle inevitably spilled over and soon petrol bombs and rocks were being hurled directly onto the freeway.

The fighting intensified to such a pitch that the freeway was eventually closed to traffic. This is a very strategic freeway for it leads into Dutits Kloof and Sir Lowry's Kloof (passes). As the Cape is a peninsula, the only way north is via these passes.

Struggle spreads to commercial district

In addition to significant and heroic struggles that have taken place in the townships, the regime has recently had a taste of popular mass anger in an area which is also very sensitive. Hundreds of protesters were locked in intense battles with the police right in

the heart of the central business district.

The unrestrained and unbridled manner in which the protesters were attacked by police was extended also to journalists who were trying to cover this protest. The regime wants to suppress by any means reporting on the full measure of its acts of brutality, of its cold-blooded shooting of children and of its filthy, vicious arms of repression, the storm-trooping nazi police and army.

Not only were the people exploding with uncontrollable anger and fighting with rudimentary homemade devices like petrol bombs and stones, this time there were also reports of exchanges of gunfire and of grenades being thrown at the convoys of army trucks and at the armed personnel of the fascist army. Like all the other battles, this is just the tip of the iceberg that is headed straight for the central nervous system of the apartheid state.

Regime extends emergency

With the regime being pushed up against the wall by the revolutionary actions of the oppressed, it has responded like a cornered rat. As it has done before in 36 other magisterial

districts, this week Pretoria gave all power in the Cape to the bloodthirsty thugs in the police and the army.

The ink on this fascist decree had not even dried when the police had rounded up close to 85 leaders of the mass democratic movement. These include lawyers, religious leaders, students, workers, civic and community leaders. The regime, as it has done before in South Africa's history, has also tried to intimidate and crush the revolutionary movement by detaining all the Western Cape executive members of the United Democratic Front.

The UDF, on its part, stated in a news release, "By detaining the activists, the government is proclaiming an open state of war upon the people of Cape Town." The statement went on to say, "The arrests further prove that the government is no longer capable of ruling the country and also confirmed that it was afraid of democratic opposition." Days later, the regime outlawed all meetings of the UDF.

The fact is that just in the last two weeks more than 30 people have died under the brutal gun of apartheid. The imposition of these emergency measures by the fascist trinity of Botha, Malan and Coetzee will make



Cape Town children in rebellion.

the present contradictions even sharper. This is bound to intensify the popular struggle of the masses as they vow with the passing of every compatriot to continue this struggle to the last drop of blood.

The writing is already on the wall. The time is up for the forces of racist apartheid rule and colonial domination. The people will win. Forward to a people's government in South Africa! Victory to the ANC(SA) and SWAPO!

The author of this article is a South African exile from the Cape Town area.

Mich. trade unionists: 'Free South Africa!'

By Catherine Wells

DETROIT, Oct. 26—Over 1,000 Michigan trade unionists rallied here today under the banner "Free South Africa!" They resolved to continue their solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa until apartheid is dismantled and white minority rule abolished.

It was a significant gathering that attracted the support of many of Michigan's top labor leaders, and just as important, the active participation of hundreds of rank-and-file union members.

The United Auto Workers' largest local, UAW Local 600, hosted the gathering at its hall, which sits in the shadow of the billowing smokestacks of Ford Motor Company's mammoth Rouge plant. A key theme of many of the rally speakers was the link between workers in this country and the oppressed majority in South Africa. Ford and other U.S. multinational corporations and banks have made billions of dollars in investments in South Africa which help to prop up the racist regime's economy.

Horace Sheffield of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists chaired the program on behalf of Michigan Labor to Free South Africa, the committee which organized the event. Sheffield pointed out that Ford and General Motors are two of the biggest investors in South Africa.

Exiled Black South African journalist Dumisani Kumalo told the crowd, "Get GM and Ford out of South Africa and tell them to reinvest in Michigan!"

Standing ovation for ANC

African National Congress (ANC) representative Jeannette Mothobi received an enthusiastic standing ovation when she was introduced. Many of the speakers, including U.S. Representative John Conyers, endorsed the ANC, which is the vanguard revolutionary organization leading the struggle against the apartheid regime. Mothobi inspired the crowd when she told them that the current state of emergency imposed by the regime is "a declaration of war by the regime against the people. But the people have declared war against apartheid."

The gathering exploded with applause when Mothobi explained, "There is a common struggle between

the workers here in the U.S. and in South Africa. We are all fighting against exploitation of man by man."

Traveling from San Francisco, Leo Robinson, representing International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union Local 10, told of his local's views of Southern Africa solidarity work. Last year, for 10 days, members of Local 10 refused to unload South African cargo and just last month they voted to donate \$2,000 per year to the ANC.

A resolution, presented to the body by AFSCME Local President Anita Hicks, was unanimously approved. It was sent as a telegram to Ronald Reagan, demanding that the administration break all military, political and economic ties both public and private to South Africa. It also urged trade unions and their membership to continue and expand their work in the fight against apartheid.

Newark, N.J., rally on Nov. 9 to demand: 'Stop U.S. support to apartheid!'

Special to Workers World

JERSEY CITY, Oct. 28—Thousands of people from cities throughout New Jersey will march in Newark on Saturday, Nov. 9, to support the struggling Black majority in South Africa and to say "U.S. out of Southern Africa!" In addition, Nov. 9 has been declared Anti-Apartheid Day by the cities of Newark and Montclair and a similar resolution is to be considered in Jersey City.

The anti-apartheid march and rally has the potential to be the largest held in this state. In Newark, organizing against apartheid has also targeted racism at home. Unemployment, poverty, hunger and homelessness have been at a crisis level for years in Newark, the largest city in the state where the majority of the population are Black and other oppressed people.

The demonstration is being organized by the New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition composed of many unions and organizations statewide. District 65-UAW in Woodbridge, N.J., initiated the call.

Other union locals represented in the coalition include UAW Region 9, Mail Handlers Union Local 300, ILGWU, CWA, IUE and AFSCME at Rutgers. Organizations from Newark include Peoples Organization for Progress, Mayor Gibson's office and the Rainbow Coalition. The U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network of the All-Peoples Congress is endorsing and building for the march.

The first rally will assemble at 11 a.m. at Essex County College and will march at 12 noon to Military Park at Park Place and Broad St., downtown Newark. Here, the major rally will take place. It will be chaired by District 65-UAW and will feature speakers from the ANC and SWAPO. Labor, religious and community leaders will also address the crowd.

Scores of buses have been donated by unions for community transportation use on the day of the march in cities around the state. For more information please phone District 65-UAW (201) 636-9200 or APC at (201) 433-2332.



Progressive trade unionists are playing a key role in the anti-apartheid struggle. Here, a protest in New York City on Aug. 13 of 35,000 initiated by District 65-UAW.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

Bankers assault Wheeling-Pitt steel workers

Union accepts concession contract, ends walkout

By Milt Neidenberg

OCTOBER 28—Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp. workers have returned to work after 98 days of a magnificent show of strength and solidarity on the picket lines. Unfortunately the settlement that was recommended by United Steel Workers of America (USWA) District Director Paul Rusen and other top officials was loaded with concessions, the fourth round of concessions granted to management since 1982.

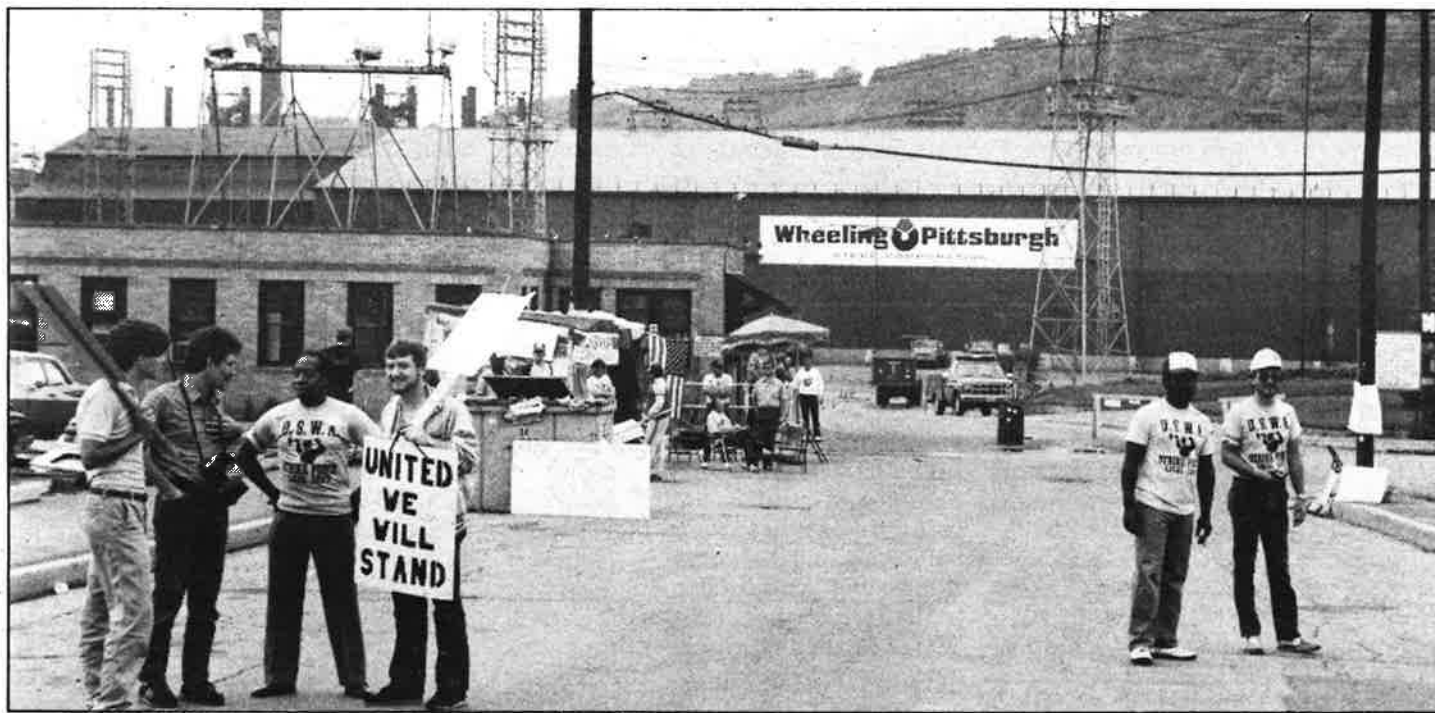
On Oct. 15, the negotiating committee, made up of the 19 local union presidents, voted 13-to-6 to accept the recommendation. Following this, Rusen hastily assembled a delegates' meeting of around 200 local union executive board members from the 19 locals.

When many questions were raised about the concessions, the meeting was abruptly adjourned by top union officials after only 30 minutes and while dozens of hands were still raised. Delegates left the meeting confused and angry over the manner in which it had been conducted.

The agreement contains cuts of more than 16% in wages and benefits, a reduction from a total wage and benefit package of \$21.40 an hour before the walkout to \$18. Eliminated was a federally backed pension plan which was substituted by a cheaper plan that will cost the workers over \$1 a week with no guarantee that the fund will be solvent when the workers reach retirement. Wheeling-Pitt has not paid over \$400 million to the current pension plan, which the government will now have to make up.

In addition, consolidation of job classifications under the new agreement will immediately eliminate 600 jobs. And the Monessen, Pa., facility is to be closed with a loss of 1,400 jobs. Health and hospital insurance coverage will be reduced with an increase in premiums and higher deductibles.

The purpose of the indecent speed



Under attack by the courts, the big banks and the company, the Wheeling-Pittsburgh workers held out in a 98-day show of strength. The final outcome, however, did not reflect this strength.

WW PHOTO: ALAN ROTH

with which the USWA officials arranged the balloting on the contract was very clear to activists who opposed the givebacks. Workers received their ballots in the mail with barely enough time to return them by the Oct. 23 postmark deadline (the tally took place on Oct. 26), leaving no time to organize opposition. The final vote was about 5,000 to 800 to accept the pact, with some 2,000 not registering a vote.

Only a few weeks earlier, a delegation from USWA Local 1190 presented nearly 5,000 petitions to District Director Rusen's office, opposing any givebacks and demanding that the current contract remain in effect until its expiration in July 1986.

What happened to opposition?

What happened between the time when 5,000 workers petitioned for no

givebacks and the final concession agreement? The workers were all subjected to a media blitz over the issue of liquidation of the company and the chorus was orchestrated by top company executives, Wall Street bankers and politicians like West Virginia Senator Jay Rockefeller and Governor Archie Moore.

The newspapers and TV were flooded with stories of how failure to ratify would mean liquidation and loss of thousands of jobs and the destruction of the Mon and Ohio valleys.

The greatest impact on the steel workers was from a letter Rusen attached to the ballot sent to every worker recommending a "yes" vote. Rusen admitted he had been privately meeting with Judge Cossetti, Chief of the Western Pennsylvania District bankruptcy court.

Rusen said Cossetti was sympathetic to the workers and obviously an expert on the Wheeling-Pitt bankruptcy proceedings. The judge was quoted in the letter to the members as saying, "When I think about liquidation in this case I don't think just about 8,200 jobs. I think about 8,200 mortgages, 8,200 car payments, 3,000 kids in college. I think about grocery stores, the gas stations, the restaurants and the people who work there and depend on your wages for survival. I think about places like Aliquippa where they just wiped out 1,200 steel workers' jobs and the workers there didn't have a choice. You do have a choice. The Wheeling-Pittsburgh creditors (the bankers) are watching this very carefully. If they think this contract won't be approved there is no doubt they will be filing papers to liquidate this company."

This threat from the chief judge of the bankruptcy court reached the home of every Wheeling-Pitt worker in the Ohio and Mon valleys. In effect he said, "Vote for ratification or you will be responsible for the havoc and destruction that will be heaped upon you, your family, your community."

The role of the bankers

The rank and file voted to ratify the concession-laden contract under the threat of liquidation brandished by the media, the company and the bankers as well as the union leadership. During the short 72 hours that the workers had to ponder the provisions of the contract before voting on it, the media was reporting that the bankers would reject the agreement even if the workers voted for it, stating that it was too expensive and claiming the right under the provisions of the bankruptcy proceedings to force the union and company to return to the table for more concessions.

This was yet another trick to put pressure on the workers to agree to the pact. But at the same time it proved that the contract was not bona fide—it was binding on the union but not on the bankers.

Even after the vote was in, Manufacturers Hanover Trust wrung out more concessions. They received assurances from Judge Warren Bentz who has been presiding over the Wheeling-Pittsburgh case that the company would have the right, without further bargaining with the union, to close any operation, combine more jobs and terminate others as part of the reorganization. A ceiling was also put on the cash bonuses that management had agreed to pay to laid off workers. Only after these concessions had been granted did the bankers consent to go along with the settlement and put no further legal blocks in its way.

How real was liquidation threat?

How real was the threat of liquidation? Would the banks physically dismantle and destroy the Wheeling-Pitt plants, which are among the most modern and efficient in the industry?

The threat was a bluff, a ruse, a gun placed at the heart of the workers to force them into a monstrous agreement. At worst liquidation would have meant nothing more than a possible change of ownership. Liquidation would have weakened the bankers' efforts to get full return on their loans.

In addition, liquidation would have automatically terminated the company's pension plan, allowing the union to make a claim for approximately \$300 million against the Wheeling-Pitt property for pensions and the union had other outstanding claims for millions of more dollars. That would have put them first in line as the principal creditor before the banks in liquidation.

This position had been clearly stated by the union's lawyers last May in briefs filed before the court where they scoffed at the threat of liquidation since the union would clearly be at the front of any line of creditors. The bankers were most aware of this and it's unlikely they would have taken a move that could have ended up with the company's assets being turned over to the workers.

The court has now extended the date on which the final bankruptcy reorganization of Wheeling-Pitt will be completed to December 1987 at the earliest. Extending the period of reorganization is another trick to deceive and defraud the workers. The union is unilaterally bound by the agreement until the court decides to end the reor-

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Chrysler strike wins wage parity with Ford and GM

By Terri Kay

DETROIT, Oct. 28—Marc Steppe, United Auto Workers Vice President in charge of Chrysler, announced last night that 87% of Chrysler UAW members have voted to ratify a new three year agreement. As the 70,000 U.S. Chrysler workers returned to their jobs today, Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca announced that the company's third quarter profits were up 20% from last year.

The contract offered some economic gains for Chrysler workers, who won pay parity with GM and Ford. It even reestablishes the 3% annual improvement factor (AIF) in the contract's third year. The AIF had been lost to concessions back in 1979. The \$2,120 equity recovery payment, which is to be paid immediately, is obviously the most eagerly anticipated by the workers, even if it is overdue and proportionately much smaller than the over \$4 million bonus Iacocca gave himself last year.

As for the issues of outsourcing and job security, for the most part Chrysler still has a free rein in these matters. According to industry analyst Arthur G. Davis of Prescott, Ball, and Turben, "This contract tells me that Lee Iacocca has decided to outsource small cars and move upscale." The only thing that Chrysler was willing to say about Detroit's Jefferson Assembly plant, for which Chrysler has no new product plans after the 1987 model year, was a letter of intent stating that the com-

pany will make its "best effort" to keep Jefferson open. (The compact K car is now built at Jefferson.)

'Job bank' plan is weak

The \$187 million "job bank" that would retrain workers laid off due to outsourcing and find them jobs within the corporation is weak with a lack of job security guarantees. The implications of available skilled work are dangerously misleading, as the relatively small number of technical jobs within the corporation are also being hit hard by outsourcing and automation.

There is some weak language allowing the union to make proposals to management for cost-cutting measures in areas where outsourcing is being considered. These kinds of proposals will simply open up the national contract to be whittled away, giving up work rules and economic benefits, potentially creating competition between Chrysler workers at different locations, like contractors underbidding each other.

Chrysler workers have taken a step forward from concessions contracts, pulling themselves back up to parity with GM and Ford. In order to prepare ourselves for the job-cutting onslaught yet to come, however, we must develop a new leadership which can unite us with not only GM, Ford, and other auto workers, but with the oppressed and unemployed as well. The struggle has just begun.

Dedicated cannery strikers hold the line in Calif.

Virtually all 2,000 workers have been arrested

By Gloria La Riva

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 27—Now in the 7th week of a strike against Richard A. Shaw and Watsonville plants in Watsonville, Calif., the courageous fight of 2,000 Teamster Local 912 cannery workers is gaining much-needed support from regional and Bay Area unions and the community. Watsonville and Shaw forced the workers out after imposing a two-tier wage system, cutting wages 30% to 60%, and completely eliminating their benefits.

Despite stepped-up attacks by the companies, police and local government, these Latino strikers remain firm in defense of their jobs and union. In an interview with Workers World today, Gloria Betancourt, a leader of the elected strike committee, described both the difficulties that the strikers are experiencing and the sources of their strength.

The courts, working hand-in-hand with the police, are persecuting leading strikers and supporters with a vengeance. The police issued so many citations against strikers and anyone who even spoke to the workers, Betancourt said, that virtually all strikers have at least one. Now the police have escalated their abuse, slapping many strikers with felony charges.

Strikers held on ransom bail

Betancourt's husband, Amador, is in jail with a shocking bail of \$250,000. The judge, John Marlo, is demanding a \$10,000 nonrefundable bond for his pretrial release. Betancourt explained the incident leading to her husband's arrest.

"On Oct. 11, my husband was in a park with a group of strikers to talk to 50 scabs who were heading to one of the plants. People began throwing rocks at each other, and then suddenly someone threw a gasoline bomb. No one knows who threw it. The police chased the strikers. My husband was running with three women, when one of them fell. When he stopped to help her up, the police arrested him, and charged him just because he was the one they were able to catch."

The strikers took immediate action to free their brother. Gloria Betancourt emphasized, "I want people to know that all the strikers are donating \$10 from their \$45 weekly strike benefits, to help raise the bond." They collected \$2,500 so far, and a fund has been established to raise the balance.

Betancourt herself was released this week on \$5,000 bail, after being charged with "malicious mischief"—a felony—for trying to convince scabs not to go to work at Watsonville plant.

Directing the companies' offensive is the anti-union firm, Littler, Mendel-



"All cannery workers with a single contract," reads this sign carried in an Oct. 6 demonstration of strikers and supporters.

WW PHOTO: BILL HACKWELL

son, Fastiff, and Tichy. But their well-known tactics have not yielded the results that the cannery owners hoped would break the strike. Production is only 25% of pre-strike levels, down from a high of nearly 1 million pounds a day.

Shaw and Watsonville thought the workers would be isolated in this agricultural town 80 miles south of San Francisco where the city government, courts, police and media are all bought agents of agribusiness. The city threatened the first solidarity march with arrests, but 1,000 Teamsters defiantly marched down the main street in September. On Oct. 6, over 2,500 workers, their families and supporters held a militant march to both plants. The bosses at Watsonville plant cowered on top of the plant facilities, watching the marchers approach. Betancourt said, "They were so afraid, they didn't know what we were going to do. They watched us from the top of their freezers. The rally raised our

morale because we showed them we're not alone."

Trade union solidarity

Every day more unions and community groups recognize that this vital struggle must be defended as their own, and are giving concrete aid. United Transportation Union 1741, Atomic and Chemical Workers Local 105, Bay Area Typographical Union 21, Executive Board of Hotel and Restaurant Workers Local 2, Walter Johnson, secretary-treasurer of San Francisco County Labor Council, George Wong, president, Asian-American Federation of Union Members, Reeva Olson, president, Office and Professional Employees Local 3, are just a fraction of unionists pledging funds and food.

The state of California denied these seasonal workers the unemployment benefits that they customarily receive at the close of the winter packing season, from November to March, be-

cause of their strike. The 51-local Teamsters Joint Council 7 responded by pledging to continue strike benefits through the duration of the strike.

Latino organizations have fully backed the strike, from dozens of MEChA (Chicano student university groups) chapters, Mexican-American Political Association, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Latino Democratic Club, and others. The workforce is overwhelmingly Latina—85% are women and 95% are Mexican and Chicano.

The United Farm Workers have had representatives in all of the strikers' public gatherings. The 5,000 members of cannery workers Local 912 voted to donate \$5 each per week for the strike fund.

Send much-needed contributions to: Strikers Committee, Bank of America, acct. 0034-04633, #34—567 Main St., Watsonville, Calif. 95076; for food donations, Teamsters Local 912, 163 Westlake, Watsonville, Calif. 95076.

NYU workers demand pay equity

By Trudy Rudnick, Shop Steward Local 3882, American Federation of Teachers

NEW YORK, Oct. 28—Nearly 300 clerical workers at New York University (NYU), the largest private university in the country, held a militant demonstration on Oct. 24 to demand that NYU negotiate with the union for a contract which expires on Oct. 31, 1985.

The 1,500 clerical and technical workers at NYU, represented by Local 3882, AFT, are focusing their demands on equal pay for comparable worth, or pay equity—a demand particularly important to the make-up of the staff—75% women and 50% Black, Latin and Asian.

Because clerical work is considered "women's" work it is grossly underpaid, both at NYU, as well as around the country. For example, the median salary for the mostly female clerical workers at NYU is \$284 a week, while the mostly male elevator operators, guards and maintenance workers average at least \$50 a week more. The union points out that these workers deserve every penny they make—and

more—but the clerical workers also deserve as much!

To make up for this inequity the union's demands include: 11% wage increase the first year and 10% the second of a two-year contract, additional longevity increases for long term staff, upgrading of the lowest paid workers, improvements in pension and other benefits including childcare provisions. NYU's response has been to ignore all of these issues

which are vital to the clerical workers—offering a small wage increase and threatening givebacks on health benefits.

The clerical workers, inspired by the recent victory at Columbia University, were militant and spirited as they chanted at this very important rally "NYU workers demand pay equity now!" and "Big bucks for Brademas (NYU President) . . . nothing for the staff!"



A key issue for NYU clerical workers is pay equity.

WW PHOTO: SUSAN ROTGARD

FLOC wins union elections in Ohio, Mich.

DETROIT, Oct. 26—The Ohio-based Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), after a seven-year strike and a lengthy boycott of all Campbell Soup Company products, has finally won the battle to get agriculture growers and Campbell to the bargaining table.

According to FLOC President Baldeemar Velasquez, the results of an election conducted in the fields this past summer by an independent commission show that the majority of farm workers in the tomato and cucumber fields of northern Ohio and southern Michigan want FLOC as their union.

"It's a big step forward," Velasquez told Workers World. Negotiations were scheduled to begin Oct. 28.

Before the Geneva Summit— An Urgent Call for National Initiatives to

STOP STAR WARS

Reagan's STAR WARS program must be stopped! The so-called Strategic Defense Initiative is both a massive escalation of the arms race and an obstacle to any significant arms reduction treaty. STAR WARS is diverting billions and billions more dollars from jobs, human needs and social services. Let us say NO to this terrible and dangerous waste.

As the Geneva Summit Meeting approaches, the Soviet Union has offered to cut strategic arms by 50% if the arms race in space is abandoned. Reagan, however, has declared STAR WARS research, development and testing to be non-negotiable. Reagan's STAR WARS plan sabotages the possibility of a nuclear arms limitation agreement at Geneva.

Many scientists consider the STAR WARS weapons system unworkable. And even if it did "work" it would only work to militarize space and increase the danger of nuclear war. Also, research and development cannot be separated from deployment since every major weapons system that the Pentagon has developed has sooner or later been deployed. We must stop the STAR WARS system now—once and for all!

The whole world will be watching the November 19-20 Summit Meeting in Geneva and the preparations for it. Let all who oppose STAR WARS take an initiative against nuclear war in the days before the Summit starts.

From November 15 through November 19, let there be demonstrations, rallies, meetings and activities of all kinds in cities and communities all over the country. Let us tell Reagan: STOP STAR WARS! The whole world will hear!

INITIAL ENDORSERS:

Eqbal Ahmed, Inst. for Policy Studies
Hon. John Conyers, U.S. Congress, MI
Marilyn Clement, Dir. Ctr. for Const. Rights
Rev. John Collins, Co-dir. Clergy & Laity Concerned
Detroit City Council
Andrea Eagan, Pres. Nat'l Writers Union
Peter Galley, Pres. D.C. 26, AFSCME
Stephen Jay Gould, Prof., Harvard U.
Cecilia Ham, Chr. Bd. of Dir., U.S. Student Assn.
Gerald Horn, Dir. Nat'l Conf. of Black Lawyers
Michio Kaku, Physics Prof., CCNY
John Kogut, Physics Prof., U. of IL Urbana;
Nat'l Spokesperson Scientists' Anti-Star War Pledge

Salvador E. Luria, Nobel Laureate, M.I.T.
Dr. David Marder, Pres. Nat'l Fed. House Staff Orgs.
C. Vernon Mason, Attorney
Lella McDowell-Head, Nat'l Co-Coord. Nat'l Assoc. of 3rd World Journalists
National Lawyers Guild, NYC
Linus Pauling, Nobel Laureate
Peoples Anti-War Mobilization
Science for the People, Nat'l Office
Kay Shaw, 3rd World Liaison, Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign
Danu Smith, Legis. Dir. Wash. Office on Africa
U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network
George Wald, Nobel Laureate, Harvard U.
(organizations listed for identification only)

I Want to Help STOP STAR WARS!

Funds urgently needed—Send a donation today.

**For information on local events in your area:
CALL THE NATIONAL OFFICE: 212-741-0633**

- ☐ Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____
☐ I want to endorse this effort. ☐ I want to take action in my area.
☐ I'd like more information.

NAME _____ PHONE () _____

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CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

SCHOOL/UNION/ORG. (if any) _____

STOP STAR WARS INITIATIVE

National Office: 19 West 21 Street, Suite 703, New York, NY 10010 (212) 741-0633
West Coast: (415) 821-6545 New England: (617) 424-1176 Midwest: (313) 965-0074 DC/South: (202) 332-5041

Isaac Asimov backs anti-Star Wars protests

By Marsha Goldberg

OCTOBER 29—Isaac Asimov, the well-known scientist and author, has endorsed the call for a national Stop Star Wars Initiative. This call is urging protests across the United States against Star Wars from Nov. 15 to 19 while the world will be watching the Geneva Summit.

The call, which has been mailed to activists around the country and placed in several national publications, has been signed by a growing list of scientists, trade unionists, anti-war activists and representatives from the oppressed communities. Among those who have recently added their names are physics professor Michio Kaku; Margarita Aguila, the President of Local 3882 AFT at NYU; and Rev. John Collins, the co-director of Clergy & Laity Concerned.

Already a number of actions have been planned which hit directly at some of the major research centers where Star Wars is supposed to be developed like MIT in Boston and NYU in New York City. While physi-

cists in many universities have signed pledges not to participate in Star Wars research, NYU has aroused anger by going out of its way to solicit Pentagon Star Wars funds. Major actions are also being planned in Washington, D.C., Detroit, and Baltimore, among other cities.

"Star Wars is a danger to the whole world," stated Sara Flounders from the People's Anti-War Mobilization, one of the groups helping to organize the anti-Star Wars actions. "It is in no way a defensive system. The Pentagon is trying to develop this so-called protective shield in space in order to try to stop any retaliation, so they would be free to use the Pershing, cruise or MX missiles to make a first strike against the Soviet Union, or wherever. And the research to develop this system, which hundreds of physicists have said could never work, will drain billions and billions of dollars from money that should be going to provide services for the people."

To work on an activity in your area, call the national office of the Stop Star Wars Initiative at (212) 741-0633.



Huge anti-nuke protests in London, the Hague. Chanting "Ronnie! Ronnie! Ronnie! Out! Out!" between 100,000 and 120,000 people marched through the streets of London on Oct. 26 in an anti-nuke protest called by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This demonstration was held at the same time as another mass rally in the Hague, where protesters presented the Dutch government with petitions against deployment of U.S. cruise missiles.

—Military budget

Continued from page 1

voted down one major weapons program that the Pentagon wanted. But these elected officials have perfected their ritual of opposition, the charade they put on for the public. It begins every spring when the Secretary of Defense, flanked by a few generals and admirals, appears on Capitol Hill intoning a doomsday liturgy and asking for the keys to the national treasury.

The press then writes about "fierce opposition from Democratic liberals" who vow not to give in "this time." A few months go by, and the press starts running stories about complicated deals, House and Senate conferences, "appropriations measures" as differentiated from "authorized funding levels," followed by boring articles about what constitutes "a fair compromise," and then one day everyone wakes up to find the Pentagon got 98% of what it demanded.

The liberals assure everyone that "out-of-control Pentagon spending will be dealt with" in the next fiscal year,

and the whole process begins again.

That's how the military budget grew from \$13 billion in 1946 to \$302.5 billion today.

The decision to speed up the Star Wars process, while not unexpected, is nevertheless an act which can only be viewed as an effort to torpedo any possibility of moderating the arms race. Reagan himself is totally in favor of the most untrammelled military growth, and has declared Star Wars "non-negotiable." Congress, which claims to be for arms control and even a nuclear freeze, could reverse Reagan's "non-negotiable" position with the stroke of a pen. They could just cut off the money. But they don't.

A new ABC News poll this week shows 74% of the people in this country oppose Star Wars. In the face of Congress's cave-in to the Pentagon, the only option left is to take the kind of independent action that the workers, the oppressed, the students and the middle class utilized to stop the Viet Nam war. They did it without Congress then, and they can do it again.

Reagan offers world veiled gun in UN speech

By Andy Stapp

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 24—Forget about arms talks with the Soviet Union. Instead there will be an all-out drive to crush the newly emerging anti-imperialist nations in southern Africa, Latin America and Asia.

This was the message President Rea-

gan delivered to the world today in his UN speech. There was no proposal to stop the arms race, nothing about South Africa, no relief for the countries crushed under bank debt.

His imperialist allies in Great Britain and West Germany called it a hardline stand geared for domestic

public relations here in the U.S. That's a diplomatic way of describing a reactionary provocation pandering to the bosses of the military-industrial complex and the far-right of the U.S. political spectrum.

In responding to the Soviet proposal for a mutual reduction of strategic nuclear weapons by half, Reagan again countered with Star Wars, claiming that once it is deployed, "The world will sleep more secure."

The centerpiece of his address was a wholesale political assault on the poor struggling nations of Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Kampuchea, Angola and Nicaragua, coupled with a demand that the USSR must cease aiding them. All five of these countries are under armed attack from counter-revolutionary forces instigated by the CIA and its allied regimes in Somalia, Pakistan, Thailand, South Africa and Honduras. Reagan called this CIA sponsorship of terror, "America's support for struggling democratic resistance forces."

Reagan said he looked forward to "welcoming each country back into the world economy," by which he meant the imperialist world economy. He held up the sweatshop economies of Singapore and Taiwan as models for development "where we see economies striding forward."

South Korea is another "striding" economy which found favor in the President's speech, even if it doesn't find much favor with the south Korean people who are \$50 billion in debt to the imperialist banks. Koreans must have had a good laugh when Reagan came to the part about, "We occupy no foreign country. The only land abroad we occupy is beneath the graves where our heroes rest." Who then are those

40,000 U.S. soldiers walking around in south Korea above ground?

And what about Grenada, smothered under a U.S. invasion only two years ago? Reagan did mention Grenada, talking about the pride he felt in his victory there, an emotion not shared by the UN delegates who had all voted, with the exception of Dominica, to condemn the invasion.

No applause during speech

Unlike the other heads of state who spoke here this month, mostly on South Africa, Reagan was not applauded once during his speech. After he was finished, the only unqualified praise came from Pakistan's General Zia and the Israeli delegate.

The most ludicrous part of Reagan's talk was his insistence that arms control be linked to the Soviet Union adopting what he called "an open society," the normal code phrase for a capitalist system. "Peace is inconceivable without an open society," he insisted.

What if the Soviets took a similar position and said that they would not talk about arms control but only U.S. actions in the Philippines, south Korea, its alliance with Israel and South Africa, its troops in Turkey and El Salvador, and added a final demand that Washington change its social system?

As Reagan spoke, a Secret Service agent stood behind him with a raincoat draped over his arm hiding some sort of weapon, aptly symbolizing the entire speech. Reagan cloaked his address in promises about all "the vast freedoms" the world could enjoy under U.S. leadership, but beneath these words everyone could see both the gun and the real path U.S. imperialism is treading.

Oppressed nations give thumbs down to Reagan talk

By Bill Del Vecchio

OCTOBER 28—Reagan's proposal to negotiate away the existence of revolutionary governments in Nicaragua, Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Kampuchea has been met with righteous indignation by the representatives of these struggling oppressed nations.

"It's a slap in the face to the UN on its 40th birthday," said Daniel Ortega Saavedra, the President of Nicaragua, after hearing the speech. "Let him stop his dirty war in Nicaragua," Ortega countered, referring to the mercenary army of contras the Reagan administration has funded in an attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan revolution.

Ortega countered Reagan's claim that 8,000 Soviet and Cuban military personnel were present in Nicaragua.

Similarly Ethiopian Foreign Minister Goshu Wolde called Reagan's Soviet and Cuban troop estimate in his country "baseless." The Ethiopian Foreign Minister added, "The United States President has used and abused the occasion, not only to interfere in the internal affairs of states including my own, but also to advance the self-righteous and self-serving views of his administration."

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghani-

stan said that Reagan's statement in regard to his country "was meant to further provoke and instigate acts of armed aggression perpetrated against Afghanistan from Pakistan."

He added, "The allocation of \$280 million earlier this year for financing the dirty undeclared war against the people and government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in fiscal year 1985 and recent appropriations by the United States Senate of an additional sum of \$250 million for the same purpose speak much louder than the demagogical pronouncements of peacefulness in the General Assembly."

U.S. imperialism has long been trying to portray the legitimate revolutionary aspirations of oppressed peoples to free themselves from U.S.-sponsored, pro-imperialist dictators as "communist conspiracies conceived in the Soviet Union." Unable to justify his stance against these new revolutionary governments and revolutionary movements in South Africa, El Salvador, the Philippines, South Korea, Chile and Turkey, Reagan has fallen back on this tired old anti-communist lie.

Not surprisingly, it's the same story South Africa's Botha uses to justify his defense of the apartheid system.

—Wheeling-Pitt contract

Continued from page 4

ganization period while the company and bankers are free to change or even cancel terms of the agreement.

Questions for the union

The Wheeling-Pitt settlement under these conditions raises more questions for the workers than there are answers. Questions that many activists in the union are asking include: Why didn't the USWA international intervene and petition for trusteeship in the bankruptcy proceedings when even Rusen said in the early days that the union was the principal creditor? Why did the union officials agree to concessions that were greater than the proposals they made before the walkout when even they agreed the 98-day walkout was a remarkable show of strength and solidarity? Why did they refuse to face the challenge of liquidation, telling the bankers that the union would be the first in line, as the union's lawyers had already made clear in court?

Did the steel union leaders in Pittsburgh believe that simply getting rid of Wheeling-Pitt chairman Carney would get them a better deal? He got the deal—a million dollars plus guaranteed by the very court that is putting the squeeze on the rank-and-file workers.

Did the fear of the \$15.40 package imposed by the bankruptcy court that led to the walkout in July push the union officials into this deal? All these questions will be raised by the rank and file sooner or later.

But some conclusions can be drawn. The impact of this contract will be felt far beyond the Mon and Ohio valleys.

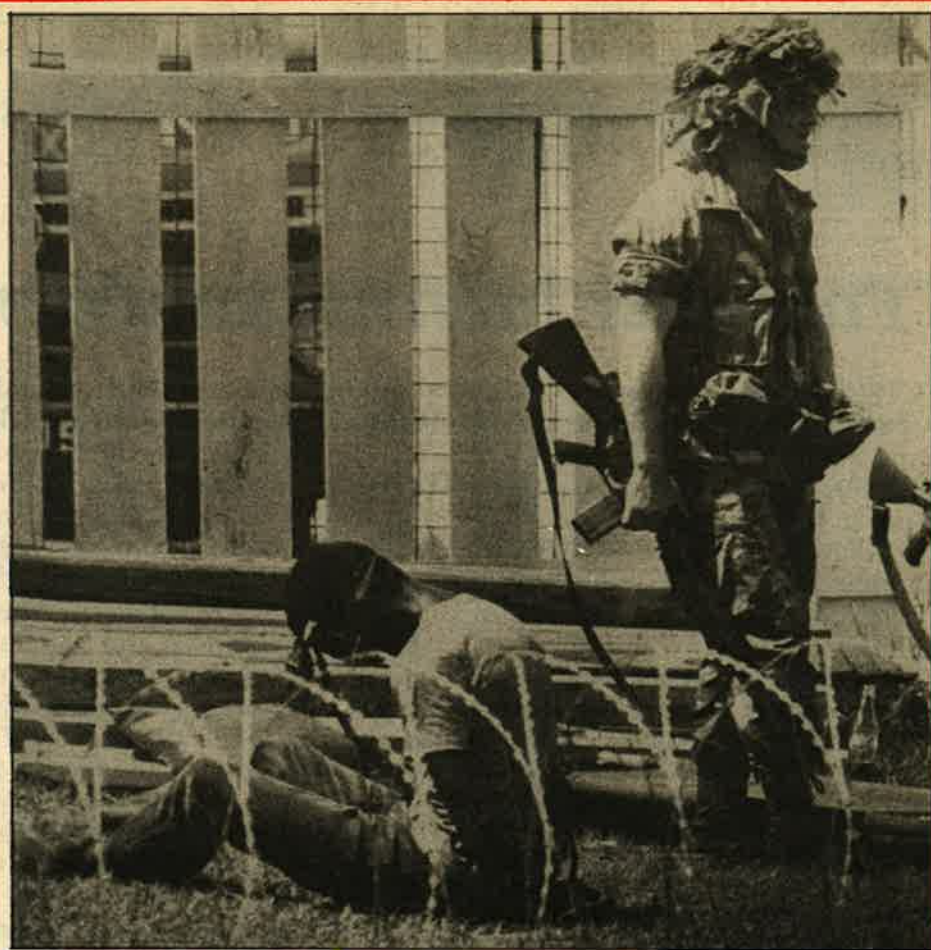
The USWA is about to begin negotiations with the other big steel corporations, this time on an individual basis.

Currently steel workers nationally are receiving a \$25 wage and benefit package, \$7 more than this pact. The Wheeling-Pitt concessions will hang over the nationwide negotiations and it is certain that it will be used as a battering ram by the steel bosses.

In truth the struggle was over the right of the Wheeling-Pitt workers to ownership of the company. This was discussed throughout the three months of the shutdown of operations. Articles and leaflets were put out by activists at Local 1190 at the Steubenville plant. But they never found a hearing in the steel union bureaucracy.

What the steel workers face down the road will make these leaders take account for their actions. The membership continues to decline and the assault of the steel bosses goes on. The rank and file showed that they were ready to meet this assault on the picket lines and in their solidarity. The backing they received from all sectors of their communities and organized labor (particularly other steel workers) reached far beyond their local region.

This is only another chapter in the Wheeling-Pitt bankruptcy struggle, a struggle that will not go away. It is certain that the steel workers will bring a higher level of consciousness into the next phase as they learn from what has happened over these months. And the issue in each succeeding phase will also revolve around the workers' right to ownership and occupation and the strategy and tactics that will bring this about.



Anniversary of Grenada invasion. It has been two years since the Pentagon committed its wanton act of aggression against the small island nation of Grenada, overwhelming the country's defenses with thousands of Marines, Army Rangers and airborne troops on Oct. 25, 1983. The picture above gives a glimpse of why the U.S. military high command was afraid to let even its own trusted media watch and cover the attack. This photo of a bound, blindfolded civilian being held in a hastily constructed concentration camp under Marine guard was taken ten days after the initial assault. There was no press on the island when U.S. fighter bombers leveled the Richmond Hill Mental Hospital, slaughtering patients and staff indiscriminately.

Nevertheless, word of such atrocities quickly got out and led to worldwide condemnation of the U.S. government. Militarily, the conquest of such a small nation did nothing to reestablish the image of invincibility so desired by the Pentagon, which a few months later was driven out of Lebanon by armed resistance and a popular uprising in Beirut.

EDITORIAL

Outsourcing Chrysler jobs

THE CHRYSLER workers have a new contract. They made some gains and six years of concessions were finally ended as the contract reaches wage parity with workers at GM and Ford.

But the contract is not all smiles and the final verdict on its pluses and minuses will be written in the coming years. However, there is one aspect to the contract that is sure to be a bigger upset than baseball's Kansas City Royals beating the St. Louis Cardinals on the same weekend this contract was ratified—outsourcing.

Outsourcing is a term that originated to describe a company buying parts from a nearby non-union plant. Outsourcing has spread over the years and the non-union sources spread from nearby to other states, many of them the Southern states where union rights have traditionally been the weakest. Now outsourcing comes from plants around the world—from Brazil to Taiwan. The Wall Street Journal describes the current level of outsourcing as "global-sourcing."

And that is what is happening. The new Chrysler contract gives the company virtually free rein on outsourcing. That's why industry analysts are saying that the new Chrysler contract means that the corporation is planning to "out-source" small car production—that is, to stop building small cars in the U.S. and instead buy the cars from plants in oppressed Third World countries.

For labor internationalism

WHAT WOULD any worker think of union leaders who finance scabs and break strikes? The leaders of the largest trade union organization in the country, the AFL-CIO, are doing just that in 83 countries around the world, including El Salvador, Nicaragua and the Philippines.

As the AFL-CIO meets for its 16th national convention in Anaheim, Calif., attention is focusing on the foreign policy activities of the organization. There's an awful lot the AFL-CIO could be spending their money on. Tens of millions of workers desperately need union organization, in the fast-food chains, the high-tech sweatshops, among the new generations of youth and women workers and throughout the unorganized Sun Belt. Yet the AFL-CIO spends \$43 million a year—as much money as it spends on its U.S. budget—on foreign affairs projects that dovetail the sordid work of the Reagan administration.

Some \$900,000 in union members' dues and \$5.7 million in government money is spent in Latin America, according to the labor federation. Part of it goes to an outfit called CUS, a pro-contra

Global-sourcing is a threat for all workers, not just Chrysler workers. And the Chrysler workers alone were not in a position to stop this job-threatening practice with their otherwise successful strike.

Both GM and Ford are doing the same thing. And global-sourcing has become a common practice in many other industries, most notably the steel industry.

This is not just another "imports" issue, for almost any product could be defined as an import. Is a Ford that has U.S.-made parts assembled in Italy and then sold in the U.S. more of an import than a GM car where the parts are made in another country and assembled in the U.S.?

The fact is that this is a global economy. And the giant multinational corporations are ruthless when it comes to their pursuit of the almighty profit. They could care less about national borders.

It is one of the greatest challenges the labor movement faces and no one union can take it on alone. That is because it is more than just a struggle for economic gains of workers in one plant or industry. It is a political struggle on a global scale. Labor must take united action in support of workers in the oppressed countries and against Washington's imperialist policies abroad that serve only the greedy multinationals. That is the only road to ending the threat of global-sourcing to the job security of workers in this country.

"union" in Nicaragua. A contra union is something akin to a KKK union. It's hard to conceive of a more anti-worker organization. Here's one example of their "democratic union work": On Dec. 4, 1984, some 200 contras ambushed a truck carrying 31 coffee harvesters between Telpaneca and San Juan del Rio Coco. The attackers murdered 29 workers, burning alive and slitting the throats of 17 of them. It took days to identify the disfigured bodies. The majority of the victims had taken time off from their jobs to help bring in the harvest.

In El Salvador, AFL-CIO money backed dictator Duarte in last year's election. Now it is being used for a "land reform" program similar to the plan the U.S. government tried out during the Viet Nam war to "win" the peasants from communism.

In their "global fight against communism," some AFL-CIO leaders are backing right-wing military candidates in coming elections in Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica. Money is funneled through the AFL-CIO's Free Trade Union Institute. Four-fifths of its budget

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Is Marcos on the way out?

By Andy Stapp

OCTOBER 29—"We are not another Viet Nam. I have been making reforms ever since 1965. The IMF has given us a favorable report on our economy. The NPA is surrendering in droves. The opposition? I have a dossier on each and every one of them!"

President Ferdinand Marcos' rambling explanation on ABC News Nightline last Oct. 18 about what is happening in the Philippines had all those unmistakable signs of desperation. In the end, there is a sameness about how U.S. puppets react when the handwriting is on the wall, when the uprisings drift out of control, the Boss in Washington stops smiling and the U.S. press no longer refers to him as "an island of stability in a troubled world" or "the George Washington of his country."

Remember how the shah of Iran laughed when he told CBS 60 Minutes, "We used to torture people, but we don't do that anymore"? Ha! Ha! Or Dominican dictator Trujillo just before his assassination in 1961, telling the press, "I am a river to my people. They all have my picture in their homes"? Or Diem in South Viet Nam just before he went down, sitting beside his wife while she merrily joked about "barbecuing a few Buddhists"? How he chuckled at that one! More recently, it was Somoza, announcing "total victory" over the Sandinistas in September 1978. He had a big smile then.

Stooges are always the same when the game's up. They radiate optimism and load the national treasury onto private aircraft for a quick exit.

And now it's Marcos' turn and everybody knows it. Especially the U.S. government, which is beginning to shudder at the thought that his demise could cost them the two biggest U.S. overseas military bases in the world, along with all those lucrative investments gained in the 87 years since the Philippines became a U.S. colony.

In such a situation, the news media over here begins to lose touch with reality almost as much as Marcos, mindlessly repeating, "Despite Washington's support for President Marcos, Filipinos basically like Americans." Then again, the press muses, perhaps they don't. The communist guerrilla movement, the New People's Army, is growing at 20% a year and is operating across 80% of the countryside.

"The scenario conjures up nightmares," moans Newsweek in the cur-

rent issue. "It's all Marcos' fault and he's taking us with him down the tubes," the government officials in Washington cry. "He's not really alive in the afternoon," states one specialist, obviously wishing that Marcos would not be alive at all.

The behavior of the puppet master is just as predictable as the behavior of the puppet when things turn sour. The master demands reforms, demands an end to corruption, demands an end to economic inequality, demands a purge of do-nothing army officers. But Washington originally put the puppet in precisely to stop reforms, he was chosen because he is corrupt, the economic inequality benefits the U.S. monopolies, the army officers were trained in Hawaii.

The New York Times writes of the dictator's injustice in the same issue of the paper that notes, "Some of the Filipinos who build bamboo models of airplanes for the U.S. Clark airfield target range are paid in rice."

When Imelda Marcos stood before the UN and said "injustice and greed" are behind the world's problems, the media hinted at the hundreds of millions of dollars her family owns in Manhattan real estate.

Casting all the blame from themselves, the capitalist media and politicians hammer away at "the worst crime of all" Marcos has committed: making the idea of socialist revolution popular with millions of Filipinos!

Finally even Reagan himself gets the idea that Marcos might have to be dumped. Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ) suggests, "We should offer him and his family safe passage and sanctuary for his retirement. We must also be prepared to provide a worthy successor to Mr. Marcos."

But what if the Filipino people themselves want to provide their own government? What if they are sick of being poor, of being a U.S. neo-colony? What if they don't care that the Clark and Subic bases are "difficult to duplicate" or that U.S. sugar barons will lose money? What if they hate U.S. imperialism even more than they hate Marcos?

After all it was the U.S. Army which killed 600,000 Filipinos. Hardly anybody in the U.S. remembers that anymore, but everyone in the Philippines remembers.

In the end, there is a sameness about it all, whether the city is called Saigon or Managua or Manila.

Nicaragua's Ortega: 'History is on our side'

By Monica Moorehead

NEW YORK, Oct. 25—A crowd of several hundred friends and supporters enthusiastically greeted President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua today at a "Face the People" forum hosted by the Ethical Culture Society.

As Ortega entered the hall accompanied by his wife, Rosario, several members of his cabinet and the Nicaraguan ambassadors to the United Nations and Organization of American States, the crowd rose to their feet in thunderous applause with chants of "No Pasaran!" (They shall not pass).

Ortega had come to the U.S. on Oct. 21 for the activities commemorating the 40th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. He had planned to spend several weeks traveling to a number of U.S. cities to explain to the public the true current situation inside Nicaragua. However, the State Department restricted Ortega's visa to within New York City and for only a week. Clearly Washington concerns itself with freedom of speech only when it agrees with what is being said.

Since the triumph of the revolution by the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN) in 1979 against the U.S. backed fascist Somoza regime, U.S. imperialism has been continuing a dirty war against Nicaragua. Washington is arming a band of terrorist mercenaries simply known as contras, in attempts to overthrow the anti-imperialist government.

Due to the support of the U.S., especially the recently appropriated \$27 million in aid to the contras, this campaign of indiscriminate murder, sabotage and terror has greatly impacted on Nicaragua internally, creating an extraordinary situation to the extent that Ortega announced a week before his visit here that emergency measures had to be taken.

After several members of the audience fielded questions to the Nicaraguan delegation, which included Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman and Nora Astorga, director of International Relations for the FSLN, Ortega took the opportunity to make remarks on some issues.

Regarding why he visited the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries last May, Ortega stated, "When I took the trip there, I knew that the U.S. oil embargo would be enacted and Nicaragua has a serious oil shortage. A country without oil is a country paralyzed. What came out of my trip to the socialist countries was an important economic cooperation pact for the survival of Nicaragua. The choice facing us was either not giving the U.S. a pretext to politically attack us and let the country suffer or take this aid and take on the international repercussions. We opted for the latter." The U.S. has imposed total economic boycott against Nicaragua since 1982.

Purpose of emergency measures

Ortega went on to say that he knew very well that the Reagan administration would respond in a hostile manner towards the emergency measures and that the purpose of his visit was to explain the "correctness" of this decision. "The objective," explained Ortega, "is to eliminate or neutralize the contras. We can't contemplate the liquidation of every mercenary. The battle is won when the will to fight is eliminated. No amount of arms or money can make a difference. How is this battle being waged? With the support of the Nicaraguan people."

Commenting on the impact of the worldwide capitalist economic crisis upon developing Third World countries like Nicaragua, Ortega went on to say what the Nicaraguan revolution has meant for the people. "Our revolution has carried education, agriculture and

health care to parts of the country where it was non-existent in the past. The revolution has provided new resources and the Nicaraguan people are aware of the destruction of these resources by the mercenaries. They are aware of their backing by the U.S."

Lessons of Chile

One of the highlights of the talk centered on the lessons of Chile, where in 1971, a popular government, voted in by the overwhelming majority of the workers and peasants and led by Salvador Allende, was overthrown in a bloody coup masterminded by the CIA in 1973. Unlike the Chilean situation, the Sandinistas carried out a successful armed revolution and the workers and peasants have formed people's militias throughout the country in order to defend the gains of their revolution. Ortega explained why the mistakes made by the Allende government will not be made by the Sandinistas.

"In Chile, Allende represented a popular government which upheld a con-

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WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra (center) his wife Rosario and members of his Cabinet are greeted in New York City by supporters.

Central American unionists tour U.S.

By Paddy Colligan

NEW YORK, Oct. 25—"Please, brothers and sisters, you have enormous responsibility to us as workers. Please help stop the intervention."

"We are doing our duty over there—what are you doing here? Start working!"

It was these challenges and a picture of remarkable combativeness and determination that Salvadoran and Guatemalan trade unionists delivered to their U.S. counterparts at a public meeting here tonight.

The Central American trade unionists are part of a delegation touring the East Coast speaking directly with union members. They are proposing that trade unionists here unite with trade unionists in Central America to stop U.S. intervention in the region. The New York-based National Labor Committee in Support of Democracy and Human Rights in El Salvador organized the visit of the anti-intervention delegation. The Committee estimated that trade union leadership now actively opposing intervention represents more than 50% of organized labor. Opposing this popular sentiment, however, is AFL-CIO head Lane Kirkland. In August, Kirkland circulated a letter condemning the trade unionist delegation and ordering AFL-CIO members not to "endorse, sponsor or in any way support the Central American trade union tour" and to report any contacts tour organizers made.

Kirkland is sponsoring a tour of members of AFL-CIO-connected Central American unions calling for increased U.S. military aid to El Salvador and the contras in Nicaragua. Many locals have ignored Kirkland and thousands have heard the anti-intervention delegation speak.

State Dept. delays visas

Tonight's speakers were from Guatemala and El Salvador. The U.S. State Department delayed visas for the trade unionists from Nicaragua and Honduras almost preventing them from participating in the tour at all.

The speakers included Marta Alicia Rivera, of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES); Miguel Cifuentes, former Vice President of Guatemala's National Conference of Workers and International Representative of the National Committee for Trade Union Unity (CNUS); and



WW PHOTO: PADDY COLLIGAN

Marta Alicia Rivera, a Salvadoran trade unionist appeals to U.S. unionists to stop Reagan's war on her country.

Francisco Acosta, of the National Federation of Salvadoran Workers (FENASTRAS).

Drawing from her own union's experience, Ms. Rivera pointed out that the government had closed 2,000 schools, 333 teachers have been murdered, 70 have disappeared, 3,000 had not been paid since February, 4,000 have had to flee government repression.

Workers' wages are frozen in El Salvador, strikes are illegal, and a recent decree enables the government to penalize workers however it sees fit. In the face of this, FENASTRAS, a major federation representing 80,000 service and industrial workers, held a convention, organized demonstrations, and has conducted 88 strikes so far this year.

What you can do

Rivera urged those present to work inside their unions to force the AFL-CIO leadership to change its position on Central America, to influence Congress, to send material aid, and to do solidarity work. The goals of the Salvadoran workers, she said, are simply, "Rice, beans and tortillas for everyone, health and education without repression."

Miguel Cifuentes of Guatemala explained that in his country the repression imposed by a government receiving substantial U.S. military and economic support has meant over 100,000

dead and 28,000 disappeared (kidnapped and probably tortured and killed) by right-wing death squads operating with government support. Trade unionists are among those targeted.

He pointed out that U.S. workers' tax money used to kill innocent people in Central America would be better spent in the U.S. improving living conditions for the homeless, bringing up the standards of publicly sponsored medical care, and rebuilding U.S. cities.

Francisco Acosta spoke forcefully of the connection between Central American and North American workers. A Central American worker is paid \$3.29 a day to make Levi Strauss jeans. These low wages are used "in a tricky way," he pointed out, "to say that if you American workers ask too much, the U.S. corporations will go overseas."

He pointed out that \$2 billion in U.S. tax dollars have gone to the Salvadoran regime—" \$2 billion in aid—helicopters, bullets, planes—we don't eat helicopters, bullets and planes," he said, "we eat frijoles, tortillas, and rice." He urged that the labor movement see its common interest with Central American workers and raise the Central American debate at the November AFL-CIO convention at Anaheim, Calif., to turn the official policy around.

Court blocks right to vote on NYC nuclear port

By Kathy Durkin

NEW YORK, Oct. 27—Last week, in two New York courtrooms, the civil liberties of thousands of residents were wiped out by six judges.

In total disregard for the over 102,000 people who signed petitions calling for a referendum on the establishment of a nuclear Navy homeport in Staten Island, the judges knocked the referendum off the Nov. 5 ballot, citing "national security" concerns of the federal government.

With a few strokes of the pen, the democratic rights of the signers and the many more who planned to vote "NO" to the nuclear flotilla, were invalidated. The New York Supreme and Appellate Courts stated that the referendum would hinder the government's power to provide for national defense

and even had the nerve to cite "Constitutional rights" of the federal government!

But what about the constitutional rights of 7 million New York residents who clearly oppose the stationing of a seven-ship Navy "Surface Action Group" flotilla, which would be equipped to carry thousands of strategic nuclear warheads, in their neighborhoods?

What about their rights to be heard on this critical issue? What about their rights protected by the state and federal constitutions to freedom of speech and the right to petition the government for redress of grievances? These rights are supposed to be guaranteed against all interference, including by the courts.

And what about the right to live free

of the fear of nuclear accidents in one's locality and to publicly oppose the Pentagon's escalating war buildup and to be heard and to affect policy? These rights have all been callously disregarded and tossed aside.

102,000 signatures collected

The Campaign for a Nuclear Navy-port Referendum gathered over 102,000 names to get the referendum on the ballot giving all New Yorkers a chance to vote on whether or not they approve of the nuclear homeport. If passed, it would have amended the City Charter to bar the City from spending tax dollars or otherwise aiding in the building of the port. The referendum sought to remove the risk to health and safety of millions of New Yorkers due to a possible nuclear accident.

As the referendum gained in popularity and got the required names, Staten Island politicians and businessmen legally challenged it. They demanded a line count of the signatures which failed because nearly all of the names were valid. These Pentagon stooges also claimed the port would bring jobs, when, in fact, it would bring 500 civilian jobs at most and the rest would be for Navy personnel. In truth, the port would cost New York \$35 million that should go for medical care, education and housing.

The courts became the forum for the political struggle over the homeport. The result is that they have removed the public's opportunity to be heard before the vote has taken place. There is still one more court to go before the last ruling is made.

But, regardless of the outcome, even in the petitioning work thousands have made known their opposition to the U.S. war drive and the Navy's expansionism. It is clear that the residents of New York have already said "NO" to the nuclear homeport. And, it is ultimately the forces of working and oppressed people and the anti-war movement which will stay the hand of the Pentagon's mad militarism.

Detroit meeting on Marxism and Black liberation

By Jerry Goldberg

DETROIT, Oct. 27—Bill Roundtree, National Committee Member of Workers World Party, and 1984 Michigan Senatorial Candidate, was the featured speaker tonight at a Workers World public forum on "Marxism and the Black liberation struggle—Behind the racist attacks on Farrakhan." The forum was attended by a multinational crowd including four representatives of the Nation of Islam who expressed appreciation for Workers World's defense of Farrakhan against the racist onslaught.

Roundtree explained the Marxist-Leninist position on the right of oppressed nations to self-determination. He demonstrated that this right applies equally to the oppressed nations within the borders of the U.S.—the Black, Native, Latin and Asian people.

Roundtree pointed out how the ruling class's attacks on Farrakhan stemmed from the fact that his rallies link the national liberation struggle of Black people within the U.S. to the freedom struggle of the oppressed

worldwide, from Palestine to South Africa.

He stated, "Lenin talked about how the Black nation and the oppressed would be the vanguard of all the workers in the U.S., and it's true. They cheered at Madison Square Garden when Minister Farrakhan said that the oppressed can change their situation, that we can determine our own destiny."

Roundtree continued, "The most important question to understand in this country is that all oppressed nations have the right to self-determination. Separate, amalgamate—we support whatever they choose. We defend the oppressed versus the racist police and military. This is the position of Workers World Party.

"We in Workers World Party are for socialism. We would like to see all working people overthrow the capitalist system and we are in the business of doing that. We have no difficulty recognizing who is in our class camp. We do not equate those fighting impe-

rialism with the oppressor. We do not pick apart those who are leading the struggle versus the slave master. We struggle against the slave master."

Roundtree concluded by encouraging those present to read Sam Marcy's article on Farrakhan in Workers World newspaper (Oct. 17 issue) to further understand the Party's position on the national question. He urged those present to get involved with Workers World Party and to join the struggle for a socialist transformation of society.

The forum, which was chaired by Kevin Carey, was also addressed by Terri Kay, a Jewish comrade in Workers World Party. She spoke on the hysteria being whipped up against the PLO in the light of the hijack crisis. She identified the real terrorists as U.S. imperialism and its puppets throughout the world, and expressed Workers World Party's support for the PLO and the Palestinian fight to regain their homeland.

Join us in the struggle

Workers World Party (WWP) fights on all issues that face the working class and oppressed peoples in this capitalist society. All work together in this organization—Black and white, Latin, Asian and Native peoples, women and men, young and old, lesbian and gay, disabled, working, unemployed and students.

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—Dan White

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the city. After the 1978 assassinations he was treated as a conquering hero by the police force, who wore "Free Dan White" t-shirts.

These assassinations were clearly premeditated. White went to City Hall with a pistol and extra rounds of ammunition, climbed through a basement window to avoid metal detectors, shot both men, finishing them off with shots to the head and even reloading between killings. However, on May 21, 1979, the jury returned a verdict of involuntary manslaughter and White was sentenced to seven years and then paroled in five years. This verdict was based on a defense of temporary "diminished capacity" due to White's eating too much junk food (the "Twinkies defense"). Clearly the jury and the court were sympathetic to White and not to his victims.

The lesbian and gay community exploded at this outrageous injustice. Reacting to the centuries of oppression and injustice symbolized by the light sentence given this anti-gay killer, thousands marched on City Hall. They battered the door and smashed the windows. In a rebellion lasting well into the night, they pelted police and politicians with stones and bottles, torched 14 police cars and smashed

the windows of the banks that lined Market Street.

When news of his suicide was released, Mayor Dianne Feinstein and other city officials claimed that "this chapter is now closed." But the role of the city district attorney, the court and the police in letting White off so easy must not be forgotten. The chapter is not closed for the lesbian and gay community.

This system continues to churn out all manner of fascists and scum to do its dirty work. For example, just this week, Houston's mayoral candidate Louie Welch mouthed a Dan White solution to the AIDS crisis—"shoot homosexuals."

Today Dan White is dead, but the struggle against bigotry, rightwing violence and killer cops is still very much alive. This is why the lesbian and gay community will continue to struggle in the same spirit of militancy shown in the rebellions at Stonewall in 1969 and at San Francisco City Hall in 1979.



The birth of the gay liberation movement brought the fight against gay oppression into the streets. This pamphlet explains gay oppression in a way which is relevant to all working and oppressed people.

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—Ortega in NYC

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stitution. The CIA orchestrations had not distracted the tremendous support for the Allende government. The Chilean people were not fooled and increased support for Allende. Allende, having the authority and legality to invoke emergency measures, chose not to. Therefore, the destruction of the popular government succeeded. The U.S. wants the door left open internally in order to crush the Sandinista government. Something must be learned from the Chilean experience for the people. Either we keep some friends and put the revolution in danger or keep the revolution intact and deal with the misunderstandings. There were lots of condolences worldwide following the coup in Chile but we don't want any post-mortems for Nicaragua."

Ortega stressed the necessity for North Americans to continue to come to Nicaragua and bring the truth back to the people of the U.S. "Just causes are powerful and unbeatable. Our battle is moral, not material. History is on our side. This revolution will march forward notwithstanding all the obstacles and hardships. We will make the dream of the Nicaraguans and the American people a reality."

political prisoners

Rally raises support for Puerto Rican prisoners



Oct. 27 protest against arrest of Puerto Rican activists by police and FBI.

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL

By Rafael Ramos

NEW YORK, Oct. 27—About 150 people came out this evening and demonstrated in front of the Metropolitan Correctional Center here in New York where two Puerto Rican women, Ivonne Melendez and Luz Berrios, are being held.

Melendez and Berrios are part of the 13 Puerto Rican independence activists arrested on the Labor Day weekend by FBI agents armed with shotguns and machine-guns. The government and the media have portrayed them as being members of Los Macheteros, a clandestine organization in Puerto Rico.

The Metropolitan Correctional Center is known to hold other political prisoners and grand jury resisters.

Today's demonstration was called on the eve of Oct. 30, which marks the 35th anniversary of the Jayuya uprising in Puerto Rico. On this day the Nationalist Party, led by Blanca Canales, led an attack on the police station in Jayuya, lowered the American flag, raised the nationalist flag and proclaimed the Republic of Puerto Rico for the second time in history.

This demonstration was called by the Puerto Rican Committee Against Repression and cosponsored by the New York 8—eight

Black political activists unjustly arrested in this city's Black communities last year by huge squads of cops and FBI agents.

Carlos Feliciano, a Puerto Rican prisoner in the early 1970s, told the protesters, "The U.S. has not been able to destroy our resistance. The Puerto Rican independence movement has hit U.S. imperialism hard both here in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico. We make the distinction that our enemy is not the American people but the U.S. government and Congress."

A message from the 13 arrested stated, "This support is not for us alone. It is for our people. The U.S. talks about democracy but that's a lie. Under the name of democracy they invade Latin America, Central America and support the racists in South Africa. We must join as one in order to defeat U.S. imperialism."

Also addressing the crowd was Colette Pean, one of the New York 8, who explained that her case was separated by the court from that of the other seven defendants in an attempt to frame her up.

A solidarity message was presented by the Ohio 7. The demonstration ended with chants of, "They are not terrorists, they're freedom fighters!"

—Labor solidarity

Continued from page 8

comes from the government's National Endowment for Democracy (NED), set up by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah) and Carl Gershman, a former aide of Jeane Kirkpatrick, Reagan's ex-UN ambassador. AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland and teachers' union head Albert Shanker rub shoulders with Gershman on the NED board of directors.

The AFL-CIO's biggest foreign project is in the Philippines where it set up the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) to counter the Philippine Labor Federation (KMU). The KMU is organizing sugar workers on the island of Negros. The TUCP negotiates sweetheart contracts with the landlords and undercuts the work of the KMU. It presents itself as an "acceptable alternative" if Marcos is overthrown, acceptable, that is, to U.S. corporate interests in the Philippines.

Within the AFL-CIO there is growing and more vocal opposition

to these pro-Reagan foreign policy positions. This, of course, reflects the sentiments of millions of rank-and-file working people who hate what the Reagan administration, the CIA and the Pentagon are doing both at home and abroad.

Ironically, the AFL-CIO leaders have been waging a shrill campaign against foreign "imports," which it charges are taking away "American jobs." But the AFL-CIO leaders are supporting reactionary regimes which keep their workers enslaved, without unions and earning pitifully low wages. This is what attracts U.S. corporations! If the AFL-CIO put its money into aiding liberation struggles, such as the Salvadoran FMLN or the Filipino New People's Army or the Sandinista government, struggles aimed at improving the living standards of the people, it would make it harder for U.S. industry to run away from this country, laying off thousands here in order to super-exploit workers there.

Women forced to work for pennies

OCTOBER 24—New York State Gov. Mario Cuomo and Motor Vehicles Commissioner Patricia Adduci unveiled a plan this week for women prisoners to work at the Motor Vehicles Department.

Will they earn union scale? Not by a long shot. The women prisoners will receive 50-60 cents an hour for a four hour day—or about \$2 a day for their labor.

The women will still be jailed all day, but special telephone lines will be installed at the prison to handle the thousands of telephone calls

and letters that go unanswered every day because the state will not hire enough workers at liveable wages to handle the volume.

The telephones will only take incoming calls and a computer will randomly assign calls so that friends and loved ones can't call a specific prisoner.

This attempt to pit slave labor wages against hard won minimum and union wages poses a danger to laborers outside and in prisons alike, as bosses attempt to drive down the living standards of all.

Judge admits Tenn. jails are brutal

OCTOBER 24—Calling brutality and violence "standard fare in the Tennessee Prison system," Judge Thomas A. Higgins today ordered Tennessee officials to bar admission of even a single new prisoner until the state complies with a 1982 court order to ease the overcrowded prison conditions. These terrible conditions have long been known by Tennessee prisoners and their families.

The order was made effective within an hour and 45 minutes to preclude "unloading of prisoners by sheriffs." Fearing possible rebellions in the jails, the judge called legislators "reckless and indifferent" to the 1982 order and criticized the state for repeatedly letting court

ordered deadlines come and go.

Also cited was the "extraordinary situation of excessive populations" in three prisons used for incoming inmates. These jails exceeded their limits by some 400 prisoners and inmates are sleeping in a gymnasium, offices, storage rooms and libraries.

Currently there are 7,732 prisoners overall in the state. A separate court order calls for reducing the number to 7,019. The 1982 court ruling found state prison conditions unconstitutional and ordered the conditions assuaged. Since then, however, the state has continued to warehouse the poor and oppressed of the state in record numbers.

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Racist policies reduce Black and Latin enrollment in colleges

By Carmen Roundtree

OCTOBER 28—The effects of the drastic cuts in social services by the Reagan administration are being felt all over. Decades of struggle for Social Security, welfare, food stamps, Aid for Dependent Children, and all of the other social services and benefits that were fought for and won, are being wrenched away bit by bit and earmarked straight for the Pentagon.

The Civil Rights movement helped to bring about dramatic changes that otherwise would not have occurred so readily were there not those struggles. Affirmative action on the job and in education was a by-product of that movement for democratic rights. In the late sixties and early seventies the U.S. Government was forced to come up with legislation, programs and funds to give Black and Latin youth a "fair and equal" chance to higher education. Under pressure from the oppressed communities, and militant campus struggles, colleges and universities made substantial efforts to increase their enrollment of Black and Latin students.

In 1972 Black youth constituted 3% of the students enrolled in four year schools. In 1976 the figure rose to 10.3 percent. But that year seemed to be a peak and from then on the figures seemed to be on a steady decline. By 1982, the latest year that the figures are available, the proportion had declined to 9.6%. Black people in this country make up 13% of the college age

population (18-24 years), yet the Census Bureau shows that the percentage of Black high school graduates going to college has steadily declined from 33.5% in 1976 to 27% in 1983.

The cost of education in the last three years alone has risen by 7 to 10% a year, or twice the inflation rate shown in the consumer price index. While the rising cost of higher education poses a problem for everyone except the rich, it makes it ten times harder for Black and other oppressed people to afford a college education.

Federal student aid programs that Congress was forced to develop over the last couple of decades have not kept pace with inflation, never mind tuition increases. In 1974 the maximum Pell Grant for low income students was \$1,600. To maintain comparable purchasing power that same grant should today be \$3,000, but the maximum grant this year is \$2,100.

Prohibitive costs

The major cuts in education, the tuition hikes, along with Reagan's determination to smash affirmative action, make it close to impossible for oppressed students to afford and continue with a higher education. Instead of grants, more emphasis has been put on repayable loans, but with no secure means to repay loans, fewer will take them out. Most of those minority youth who do continue with their education, go on to vocational schools rather than academic programs. In 1981 almost



WW PHOTO: LIZ GREEN

Washington's latest attacks on the right of oppressed people to attend college will only spark more struggle. Here, Sacramento, Calif., protest against tuition hikes.

one-third of aid recipients were minorities, by 1983 only slightly more than one-quarter were.

Robert Atwell, President of the American Council on Education, the principal umbrella group for American colleges and universities in Washington, stated, "We're not meeting the educational needs of minority young people." He went on to say that "It makes me shudder to think of what this means for a country that will be one-third minority by the turn of the century."

"Higher education has always been the key to social mobility," stated

Frank Newman, executive director of the Education Commission of the States. "The danger is that we will move toward a society in which the number of good jobs will increase . . . while the rapidly growing share of Blacks and Hispanics find themselves trapped in lower-level jobs. Such a society will not work."

Oppressed people have had to fight for every gain in this society. Washington's assault on the right of Black, Latin, Asian and Native students to a college education will inevitably spark struggle against it. Education is a right, not a privilege!

Reaganites open new attack on abortion rights

By Sara Flounders

OCTOBER 30—A woman's right to choose abortion to end an unwanted pregnancy came under new attack this week. The Reagan administration has urged Congress to pass a law stopping federal funding for abortion counseling or referrals.

Any family planning or birth control clinic that even raises the option of abortion with a woman seeking help or gives the name of a doctor or other clinic would not receive federal funds. Four thousand family planning clinics nationally which now receive \$142.5 million would be drastically affected when the current federal family planning program expires on Nov. 15.

The new legislation is the Kemp-Hatch Proposal. It is part of an ongoing campaign by the right wing so-called "Right to Lifers" who have attacked, harassed and bombed abortion clinics all across the country. Reagan has openly aligned himself with these bigoted forces, even addressing their National Convention in January 1985. The well-financed right wing has used the issue of abortion to attack and push back the gains women have won over the past two decades.

The right to choose

This latest proposed assault on women's right to choose is part of a whole series of cutbacks in all essential social programs of nutrition, education,

daycare, housing and medical care that enable women to raise healthy children and provide them with a decent standard of living.

Since the 1977 Hyde Amendment, Congress has restricted the use of Federal Medicaid funds for abortion. This has put safe, affordable abortions out of the financial reach of millions of poor women. The Kemp-Hatch Proposal would make abortions far less accessible and far more expensive.

Sterilization—a racist solution

Hand-in-hand with all these attacks on women's ability to bear healthy children or to choose affordable abortion is the increased pressure especially on Black, Latin, Native and poor

women to accept sterilization for which the government continues to fund 90% of cost. This "option" in a racist society has resulted in the sterilization of very high percentages of Native, Black and Puerto Rican women.

The right of women to make the decision to continue or terminate a pregnancy is part of the basic human right to control your own body and the direction of your own life. This was a right won through years of struggle, marches and demonstrations by millions of women. It is a right which, linked to the right to raise healthy children, needs to be protected and defended by the same methods of struggle once again.

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