Victory

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

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

Vietnam: what's behind Nixon's moves? p.3

Black Students Defy Murder, Build Struggle

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

On November 10, 1972, police gunned down Douglas Brown and Denver Smith, Black students at Southern University in Baton Rouge. Another in the long list of cold-blooded murders of Black people in this country and the blood-debt crimes of the U.S. ruling class. Even the governor's hand-picked committee had to admit that the police did it—who else—after the authorities first tried to claim that the students themselves were responsible!

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on back page

Farah, p.5 Miners, p.6 "Superfly," p.12
The courageous struggle of the American people against imperialist exploitation and oppression and for liberation is rapidly widening and deepening. The U.S. imperialists, their once-mighty throne splintering and cracking beneath them, are trying desperately to stem the tide of revolutionary struggle here and around the world, but their efforts will certainly fail.

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

"The main task of communists now is to build the struggle, consciousness and revolutionary unity of the working class and develop its leadership in the anti-imperialist struggle. At the same time, communists must also work in all the other struggles, among all oppressed strata, merge together the people's struggles and build the broadest possible united front against imperialism.

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

Analyzing Events & Struggles

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

We also plan to write articles summing up our own political work, especially our efforts to organize workers. These articles will deal with what we believe are the strengths and weaknesses of our work, and what we feel is its significance for building the revolutionary movement and its working class leadership.

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

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

Learning from Others

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

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

The Tasks Ahead

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

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

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

More Resistance

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

The main task of communists now is to build the struggle, consciousness and revolutionary unity of the working class and develop its leadership in the anti-imperialist struggle. At the same time, communists must also work in all the people's movements, among all oppressed strata, merge together the people's struggles and build the broadest possible united front against imperialism.

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

The Revolution is the monthly publication of the Revolutionary Union (RU), a national communist organization. We would appreciate any comments or criticisms you have of REVOLUTION, and also any articles, letters, photos, cartoons, poetry, etc. you would like to e-mail. Please send to: RU, 3846 Merchandise Mart, Chicago 60654.

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For further information about the RU, please write the Revolutionary Union at the following addresses:

In California: P.O. Box 9294, Los Angeles, 90009
In New York: P.O. Box 200, 1230 Grant Ave., San Francisco 94131
In Illinois: P.O. Box 3486, Merchandise Mart, Chicago 60654
In Maryland: P.O. Box 1992, Baltimore, 21203
In Michigan: P.O. Box 3486, New York: P.O. Box 741, Dover 03820
In New Hampshire: P.O. Box 2722, Trenton 08690
In New Jersey: P.O. Box 3323, Reading, 19603
In New York: P.O. Box 2345, Cincinnati 45297
In Pennsylvania: P.O. Box 9294, Philadelphia 19105
In Washington: P.O. Box 3203, Reading, 19603
In Wisconsin: P.O. Box 2993, Madison 53703
P.O. Box 754, Milwaukee, 53201

For the National Central Committee of the Revolutionary Union, 1425 S. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill. 60605.

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

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

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

Now with the crunch of political and military defeat in Vietnam, the growing people's movements in the U.S. and around the world, and the worsening economic crisis, Nixon is attempting to manipulate the peace negotiations to salvage what he can from the rout of U.S. aggression.

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

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

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

The present U.S. policy is not new, but a step backward from direct intervention. The last act of direct control will be to try and secure a place for the puppet Thieu to do his lackey dance. With the gutlessness of the puppet Saigon troops, and the demoralization and then the withdraw- al of U.S. combat units, the viability of the Saigon government can be counted in days, perhaps hours.

To avoid this disaster, the U.S. must find a way to prop up Thieu, and at the same time lay the ground work for re-intervention.

Key to this policy is an effort to permanent- ly divide Vietnam and for the U.S. to continue to dominate south Vietnam. Four factors will be an integral part of this policy: It is to force the Viet- namese to agree that there are north Vietnamese forces in the south, that they constitute an "illeg- al presence" there, and then to use this in an ef- fort to disarm the south Vietnamese liberation forces and local guerillas; 2) leave the set-up of national elections in the hands of Saigon; 3) step up the already large U.S. military buildup in Thail- and, and move U.S. command headquarters to that country; simultaneously maintain 7th fleet close patrol of Yankee station off the coast, with already constructed invasion landing zones on the Vietnamese shore; 4) continue clandestine opera- tions in Laos and Vietnam with U.S. "advisors" in substantial numbers, classified as "non-com- batants."

All this can be done in the name of "with- drawing from Vietnam and letting the Vietnames- ese settle it themselves." Puppet regimes in Thail- land, Laos, Cambodia, and Saigon, coupled with Soviet capitulations, is an attempt to enforce the revolutionary forces and stave off the inevita- ble collapse of the imperialist policy.

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

The Soviets, who send only second hand, low quality equipment to the north Vietnamese, are already doing everything they can to abso- lute the liberation forces of the Cambodian people. They refuse to support the revolution- ary government that controls 90% of the coun- try and recognize instead the reactionary govern- ment of Lon Nol, made in the USA by the CIA. But Soviet backstabbing can't save imperialism from defeat.

China Won't Play

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

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

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

Even his "peace is just around the corner" act just before the elections failed to have credi- bility as thousands of people, many of them working people—Black, white, Puerto Rican, and Soviets—marched through the streets of NY shouting, "Nixon you liar, sign the ceasefire!" These protests occurred in NY and around the country because these demands are deeply felt by the great majority of the American peo- ple. We must expand and step up our struggle until U.S. imperialism is forced out of Southeast Asia and around the world.

Workers Act Worldwide Against War

In the final days of December, Mad Dog Nixon was forced to stop the barbaric bombing of Han- oi and Haiphong. Of course, he and his milkily-mouthed nemesis of Washington pawns squawked that it was the Vietnamese liberation forces who gave in by offering to go back to the Paris negoti- ating table.

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

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

In Australia, for example, the Australian Seamen's Union started a boycott against U.S. shipping on Dec. 28 in protest of the bombing, a boycott that spread throughout the country. And the stewards of Genoa, Italy, also started a boycott of U.S. shipping—even without official authoriy from their union. Danish dock workers were getting ready to engage in a similar boycott when the bombing was halted, and U.S. newspapers reported just before the bombing halt that work- ers throughout all Europe were preparing plans for a joint boycott across national boundaries.

All these actions serve as shining and inspir- ing reminders of the just demands of the world's working class and of the tremendous spirit of internationalist unity that exists between the workers of all nations and the heroic working masses of Vietnam.

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

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

"Women's Amendment," No!

Ever since 1824 women workers in the U.S. have been battling for better working conditions. That was the year that women factory workers first walked off their jobs to demand higher wages, a shorter work day, and decent working conditions. Now, nearly 150 years later, the gains won by working class men and women through generations of struggle are being grabbed back by the ruling class from whom we won these gains in the first place. And it's no surprise that today some of these gains are being eroded in all kinds of fake courtrooms.

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

Enter ERA

A big push for this same last March 22 when Congress passed the so-called Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Within four months 30 state legislatures had passed it, followed by Pennsylvania last September. That leaves, as of latest count, 17 states to go before the ERA is added to the U.S. Constitution. (U.S. amendments must be ratified by 3/4 of the state legislatures.) It will then go into effect two years after ratification to give states time to bring state laws into line.

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

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

Bosses Respond

This is what it has already meant for thousands of working women in states where employers have pressed to get protective labor laws revoked, in their great, big-hearted concern for the "rights of women." They cite Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1864 as justification. Title VII prohibits discrimination in private employment based on sex, as well as on race, color, religion, or national origin.

In November 1869, Fibreboard Corporation, which has at least four large mills in California, petitioned the state Division of Industrial Welfare for a blanket waiver of all state protective laws for women and minors, saying that the federal law voided all state laws. Before the Division got around to ruling on the request, Fibreboard "offered" women all kinds of jobs and working conditions they had previously been excluded from.

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

This is "Equality"?

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

In another California factory, the plant owner even tried to lower men's wages to the level of the women's—naturally because he didn't want to discriminate between men and women any longer. (This low-down act was successfully fought and defeated by the workers.)

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

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

What Do We Do?

The "equality" promised by the ERA is nothing but phony equality for the great majority of women, and we will have none of it! At the same time, we must fight for equal pay for equal work for women and equal opportunities for jobs, education, and military training, and the right to participate equally in all aspects of society. We must fight against the special oppression and exploitation of women wherever it occurs.

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

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

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

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

Farah: key southwest strike

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

For over eight months, shouts of "FAULGER!" have been heard in front of the factories of Farah Manufacturing Company in Texas and New Mexico. Farah, a family-controlled textile company with nine plants in the southwest and two overseas, has a 50 year record of sweatshop exploitation. Starting wages—top pay for many—is $1.70 an hour. In the whole history of Farah, not one worker has been retired—instead, to eliminate any retirement benefits, they're fired when they get near retirement age.

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

Faced with these and other oppressive conditions, the workers in the largest of Farah's plants, the huge Gateway plant in El Paso, began a union drive in 1989. Despite the firing of several organizers and other frantic company attacks, the workers in a key department—cutting—voted in October 1989 to affiliate with the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union.

Suppression Intensified

The company refused to recognize the election and stopped up its union-busting. More workers are hired, personal conversations were restricted, people with union badges were kept under constant surveillance, and the ID badges were color-coded to keep union supporters in each department from talking up the union in other departments. Despite this repression, the union drive gained strength. Finally, on May 9, 1992, after hearing that workers in the San Antonio plant had walked out, the workers at El Paso struck.

They knew they were up against a powerful enemy—Farah at El Paso employs 14% of the labor force, almost all Chicano, 1989 women.

But as one Chicano on the picket line told us: "I didn't go out on strike at first; I have a daughter to raise, it's me! But when I saw the picket line outside, I knew where I should be—and because my daughter, I went out."

Farah has responded to the strike with one attack after another. Plant guards were issued guns and dogs to deal with "boozed up Latin kids," as owner Willie Farah called the strikers. The plant was surrounded with barbed wire and telescopic cameras, the courts issued an injunction against mass picketing, and 1000 arrest warrants were issued—some for people who were out of town or even sailing on the strike—shut down the local Justice of the Peace pocketing $4 for each warrant issued.

National Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Message Gets Around

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

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

These struggles exposed the operators and union hacks under a glaring light, Public opinion was shocked and outraged by the Manningston disaster (Boyle publicly praised the operators on their safety record after 78 men died in an explosion). Added to this was a long list of outrages:

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

Government Suddenly Moves

So, after years of faithfully serving the capitalists' interests, the Boyle machine could no longer function effectively and had to go. Suddenly, after two years of ignoring complaints of vote fraud and intimidation connected with the 1969 Boyle-Yablonski election, the federal courts ordered a new election supervised by a federal judge.

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

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

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

The MFD has also failed to expose the fact

Continued on page 7

MFD Platform Highlights

1. Salaries of international officers to be reduced substantially; reduce the number of payrollers and end nepotism in the union hierarchy.
2. Same pension for payrollers as miners, with mandatory retirement for officers at 65.
3. Headquarters of the international to be moved to coal fields.
4. Continuation of the struggle for full autonomy in every district.
5. Pensions to be raised to $300-a-month, $15-a-month more for each year in the mines over 30, with pension eligibility after 25 years or after 30 years if 55 years-old.
6. Same pension for all union members, whether bituminous, anthracite, or Canadian.
7. Employers should pay into the Welfare Fund for ABC workers, whose contracts stipulate.
8. 14 days per year, immediate pension for disabled miners, and dental benefits under the Welfare Fund.
9. Establish a black lung assistance program and expanded clinics, and insist on dust control enforcement and research.
10. Increased injuries and safety with 5 six-hour shifts, one a safety maintenance shift.
11. Delineated safety requirements in the contract including paid work stoppage when mine is unsafe.
12. Expanded international safety division and total support for safety committees, including full-time local safety committee members chosen by local and paid by company.
13. Create additional jobs and union revenues by organizing 44,000 non-union bituminous miners, many in strip mines, and by insisting that reclamation be done by UMW members.
14. Protect the land by requiring strict enforcement of strip mine operators' responsibility for reclamation.
15. Support for local efforts to stop land destruction by operator such as the broad-base deed and acid pollution of streams.
that the government only intervened in the election to try to clean up a messy situation for the operators and keep production going smoothly. The MFD, while it correctly took advantage of the contradictions and cracks in the operators-government-Boyle camp to win the election, left the field open to Boyle to sound off hypocritically against government interference in union affairs. Many rank and file miners, including many who strongly support Miller, have no illusions about the government's role in fronting for the capitalists.

Finally, some of the MFD propaganda puts too much emphasis on the personal role of Miller and other reform leaders, and plays down the real heroes of the miners' struggle—the thousands of fighting miners themselves. The record does show that Miller and other reform leaders have worked and fought hard to oppose the companies and union bureaucrats. But, more importantly, the record shows that the masses of coal miners fought hard for victories like the passage of the black lung bill, and backed up their demands with a strike when Nucor made noises like he might not sign this bill. The miners' mass movement is the real muscle that has wrung concessions out of the ruling class.

The MFD victory demonstrates powerfully that, even at a time when the capitalist class is stepping up its attacks on the workers, it is possible, by relying on the mass struggle of the rank and file, to fight back and win victories. These victories, however, will be short-lived unless the movement is built in such a way that the miners become fully conscious of their own strength through mass struggle and come to see their struggle as a part of the movement of the whole working class—a struggle not just against the coal operators, but against the entire capitalist class and against the government that supports that class.

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

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

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

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

In August, 1972, 500 Chicano workers, members of the Furniture Workers Union local 500, with the help and support of the Labor Committee of La Raza Unida Party, shut down 6 plants in Los Angeles and held a "One Day Political Strike" against the Pay Board. About the same time as the Los Angeles political strike, we discovered in the Bay Area that the Pay Board was planning a visit to San Francisco, as part of a "public relations" tour. The Pay Board hoped to sneak in and out of town quietly, and later bill their appearance as a "public hearing" where all had the chance to be heard.

Workers Committee Formed

The RU recognized that this was a very important opportunity to unite workers, employed and unemployed, to demonstrate publicly the anger that many, many workers feel about the Pay Board, and to help raise the workers' solidarity and struggle against the government's attacks on working people. The RU helped to bring together active workers from various unions and rank and file organizations in the Bay Area to form the Workers Committee Against the Pay Board.

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

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

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

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

The Committee passed out thousands of leaflets at plant gates and circulated hundreds of petitions of support. Everywhere people expressed outrage at the Pay Board's policies and the government's treatment of workers who spoke out for their rights. One worker said, "If those bastards had their way, they'd have us all working for 25 cents an hour!"

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

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

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

As head of the NY Building Trades Council, Brennan has been the main voice of the construction industry, a powerful and influential force in New York City. In his previous role, Brennan has fought against organized opposition to the demands of Black and Puerto Rican workers. He has been described by some as a “blackmailer.”

“Well, we won’t stand for blackmail,” he told The New York Times. “We’ll fight it.”

In the case of the “anti-black” struggle, Brennan has been a consistent opponent of Black and Puerto Rican workers. In a speech given at the annual meeting of the Building Trades Council, Brennan said, “We won’t stand for blackmail. We’ll fight it.”

In this context, Brennan’s appointment is a significant development. It marks the first time a union official has been appointed to such a high position since the Eisenhower Administration.

Brennan’s appointment is a key part of the Nixon strategy of putting the workers’ movement in a vice. Nixon has made it clear that he intends to undermine the power of organized labor through a variety of tactics, including opposition to the demands of Black and Puerto Rican workers. The appointment of Brennan is a clear signal of this strategy.

As the new Secretary of Labor, Brennan will have significant power over the lives of millions of workers. He will be responsible for enforcing labor laws, negotiating contracts, and representing the interests of employers. In this position, he will have the ability to shape the course of the labor movement in a way that is harmful to workers.

In conclusion, the appointment of Brennan as Secretary of Labor is a significant development. It marks a new chapter in the struggle between workers and their employers. The workers’ movement will need to be prepared to respond to this challenge, and to continue to fight for a better future.
Powerful NY Demo

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

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

The leaflet by the Nov. 4 Committee celebrates the great advance represented by the Nov. 4 demonstration and calls for greater unity and greater struggle against the common imperialist enemy. We reprint this leaflet to help spread the call to action and the lessons of the demonstration.
The November 4th Committee believes this to be a very important day. As we celebrate the continuing victories of the Vietnamese People against the rich and powerful belletrist of the United States—our common enemy—their victories are an inspiration to us. Their victories, including the latest peace settlement, teach us that the power of the reactionary and grasping ruling class of the U.S., though deliberate and deadly, cannot prevail over a people united in struggle, and we take this lesson to heart as we determine to unite oppressed and working people inside the United States in struggle for a better life in militant solidarity with the peoples of the world. The lesson of Vietnam is that the victory of the peoples of the world and our own struggle are double-time to greater successes as we learn to link up and unite our struggles. The world is changing—oppression and exploitation are on the run. If the Vietnamese people and their allies can defeat the power of the Rockefeller, the Nixon and their puppets, why can we? We, too, have powerful allies among the struggling peoples of the world, and united with them victory is certain.

We take a certain pride in the current victories of the Vietnamese people, in fact the growing and militantly expressed opposition to U.S. aggression here at home played a significant part in making our anti-war movement. But only a little pride—for the major credit has to go to the heroic Vietnamese who helped open our eyes—is this stripped the winner of responsibility from our “public figures” and their backers—"puppet masters"—and exposed them as death-dealers—profit hungry, racist oppressors. And our pride must be a cautious one because the enemy has not yet been completely defeated. We know from our own bitter experiences, how after our rulers are forced to make some concessions with one hand, they try to take away their gains with the other. As the Vietnamese struggle to build a new and better Vietnam, they will certainly try to placate the masses through the usual route of staging the "peace talks." The Vietnamese have now become pacific and peace-loving angels. Nor has IT&T forgotten about Chile. Wherever they can, the profit-seeking multimillionaires will use their money to buy the world to keep profits. This is a very serious and real danger, for it is the people of all countries who are in this struggle to build the new Vietnam. When the world's peoples see the success of the Vietnamese, they will understand that it is the people, not the politicians, who are in control of their own destinies. This is the lesson of Vietnam.

This rally and demonstration has been called to end U.S. aggression, to end all national and racial discrimination, and to end all attacks on working people. Just as the struggle against the war has shown how a handful of rich people held the power to force us to invade Vietnam against our own will, so, too, do we see the same thing happening here. The millions of North Americans against this same handful. What black and other oppressed peoples in the country fight for jobs and equality, it is the Rockefeller and Scaur whose hands to rake in the profit. When workers demand the right of human dignity it is the same people who want the profit. When women demand the right to control their own bodies, it is the same people who want the profit. And when people of all countries fight for peace, it is the same people who want the profit.

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

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

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

"Superfly" won't get over

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

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

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

We see the supreme individualist Sweeback ("where do you get that we shit") running 60 miles into the desert in a crushed velvet suit, but he is cool. In Black and the Preacher the enemies are unable to defend themselves from attack, and have no knowledge of survival after a 250 year history of slave revolt and struggle against oppression. Only Sidney Poitier can save the masses.

Hollywood's "Community Control"

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

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

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

Let's bring it down front: is it conceivable that the top pig in the city and he alone is involved in dope supply? That the mafia has no hand in it, that in fact you could have a mail told rolled one night and the next day have a contract from the same dude on the police commissioner? Bullshit.

Music Has Different Message

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

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

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

One room shack, on the alley back, Control I'm sold from across the block, where is the mayor that makes all things for, He lives outside of polluted air."

And also:

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

These words from the Mayfield songs have to do with the oppressive conditions in the Black community, not with the rather dubious successes of one coke sniffer. These movies are designed to poison the minds of young Blacks by saying the people are nothing and by downgrading revolutionary Black consciousness, by worshipping Negro lackeys who serve capitalism and not the people.

Workers Make History

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

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

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

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

SUPER FLY! IT'S COOL!
A dude with a stick it to The Man!

8TH M.O.D. WEEKEND
RON ONEAL
SWINGING THE PREIST
THE MASSES MAKE HISTORY AND CHANGE SYSTEMS... NOT PUSHERS, PIMPS AND PETTY GANGSTERS.
Chinese Troupe

Friendship and Unity

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

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

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

Questions about Workers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nixon's visit to China last year signalled the utterly hopeless and failure of this attempt to "contain" and isolate China. The U.S. government has been forced to open the door a crack.

And with Chinese friends such as the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe now visiting the U.S., the American people will never let the door be shut again.

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

Continued from page 2

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

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

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

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

FBI Blast Shows Crisis

We see in the December 12 Wall Street Journal that the FBI, in its annual report, has labeled the Revolutionary Union a very dangerous organization "dedicated to destroying the government and creating a Communist society." We of course are honored that a criminal band of misfits such as the FBI deem it necessary to attack us in this manner. It encourages us in their work, strengthens our resolve, and reminds us of what Mao Tung-Tung said nearly 35 years ago: "To be attacked by the enemy is not a bad thing, but a good thing."

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

Real Nature of Revolution

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

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

This widespread campaign of vilification and intimidation—often accompanied by strong arm goon tactics and barbaric, violent repression, especially against Black and other third world people—is growing. And there is every reason to expect that it will become even worse as the imperialist enemy weakens and the people's revolutionary organizations grow.

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

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

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

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

But at the same time, as communists we must recognize that the system of private profit, especially in its monopoly-imperialist stage, cannot meet the people's needs and demands for a decent life. It can only exist by the greatest robbery of the working people, by worldwide plunder, especially of the colonies, by war, corruption and suppression. It is our duty as communists to help the greatest numbers of workers to learn this through their own experience in struggle, to grasp the revolutionary necessity and fulfill the historic mission of the working class to liberate the people and society from the yoke of parasitic capitalism.

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

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

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

It is vital for the development of the whole workers' movement to build powerful, fighting organizations of Black and other third world workers to lead struggles against exploitation and the suppression of the whole class. At the same time, communists must unite with the most active and advanced workers of all nationalities those most dedicated to the cause of the whole class—to build various forms and levels of multi-racial and multi-file workers' organizations.

Learning from Struggle

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

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

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

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

Leninism Exposes CP

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

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

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

The story that follows tells how Senator Frank Church was "stung by (Chilean President Salvador) Allende's expose of huge superprofite rackets in Chile by Kennerly of the New York Times." So Church "promised a full Senate investigation of the explosive growth of investment abroad by U.S. companies."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tail and Head

By struggling against an educational process that forces the students to become a part of perpetuating oppression, and by linking up with their struggle with the people in the community, the students at Southern came up against not only the college administration, but the educational system and the state government as a whole. "In dealing with the Administration," Prejean said, "we were only dealing with the tail of the snake... When we got to the State Board of Education we found the serpent's head, waiting to snap at us."

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

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

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

Ties with Workers

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

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

In San Jose, Calif., 30 telephone operators, Black, Chicano, and white—a third of the day shift in a main phone company building—wore black armbands to work and sent a letter of protest to Louisiana's governor. Workers at Owens-Corning Fiberglas in Santa Clara, Calif., sent a letter of solidarity to the students. Locals 6 (warehousemen) and 19 (longshoremen) of the ILWU, and the Alameda County Central Labor Council in the Bay Area also sent letters of solidarity.

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