which had arisen on the unoccupied government land during the past decade.

Most of the families who moved to Sand Island were part or full-blooded Hawaiians who sought an escape from the skyrocketing housing costs of housing in Hawaii and a return to the traditional Hawaiian lifestyle near the sea. Many had been forced to leave their homes in other working class communities as a conse-

Pro-Moscow candidates queried on Afghanistan

It seems that the election campaign of Gus Hall and Angela Davis of the pro-Soviet Communist Party U.S.A. is running into some unexpected snags.

CP writer Si Gerson, covering the campaign for the Daily World, points out in his April 10 column that when the Hall campaign tries to make its appeal on bread-and-butter issues such as unemployment and inflation, “most don’t argue.”

“But,” complains Gerson, “there’s always some guy who wants to shift the argument. I found that a couple of months ago up in Portland, Me. “Afghanistan was the thing that month,” Gerson continues. “The people got it on the air, in print and, above all, from Jimmy Carter. Radio, TV and print reporters all wanted to know where we stood on Afghanistan. Forgotten were out-of-sight prices at the supermarket, unemployment lines and plant closings. What about Afghanistan?”

Gerson is right of course. People are getting their news of Afghanistan from the news media and from Carter and his government spokesmen who present their side of the story from their own class point of view. Some would justifiably argue, however, that this is far better than the situation in the Soviet Union, which the CPUSA claims is a great “socialist democracy.” The fascist-like control of the press is so extreme there that the Soviet people have no idea of their country’s full-scale occupation of little Afghanistan.

As far as “shifting the argument” is concerned, Gerson is also off base. It’s not that working people of this country have “forgotten” the skyrocketing prices or the plant closings and unemployment. Their daily existence won’t let them forget.

But as long as the party that ties itself totally to Soviet policy runs a presidential candidate in this country, people will continue to raise questions like the ones about Afghanistan. Good for them!

And by the way, Mr. Gerson. What about Afghanistan?

Behind the walls

Longest Marion strike ends

Prisoners at Marion Federal Penitentiary in southern Illinois were forced back to work by guards in riot-gear April 8, putting an end to a militant nonviolent, 3-week work stoppage.

The total prison population of 412 went out on strike March 17, prompted by the reduction of food allowances and the reopening of the prison’s notorious “boxcar” segregation units. The cells, which are said to be smaller than a dog kennel, were supposedly outlawed by a 1978 court decision.

Other issues in the strike included better food and medical treatment, an end to brutality from the guards and more liberal visitation rights. In addition, prisoners were demanding that the Marion’s maximum security unit be immediately closed.

Built to house the most “incorrigible and escape-minded” prisoners, the unit has become a dumping ground for prisoners from all over the federal system, as far as the Virgin Islands. The unit is especially notorious for its combining of good old-fashioned brutality and beatings with more “modern” methods such as behavior modification and forced drug “therapy.”

The rebellion was the longest in U.S. prison history, and heavy reprisals are expected. More than 60 prisoners have been placed in solitary and more are expected to be. Supporters plan to hold support rallies in cities like St. Louis, Mo., home of the Marion Brothers Support Committee and are urging a congressional investigation of conditions at Marion.

Prisoners aid refugees

“We say it—We’re going to do it.”

This slogan, along with $200, is what we used to start up our fundraising drive. The goal of our campaign is to send $1,000 to the Kampuchean/Cambodian refugees, victims of starvation, poisonous gases, bombings, and genocide by the Vietnamese. Some say that, due to the economic crisis and our starvation salaries of $35 an hour, we will not reach our goal by the end of April. But we are confident of making our goal into a reality.

We have already gathered $300. Here are some of the ways we did it:

We spoke to a Puerto Rican compañero who was on his way to the store. After hearing our story, he pledged to contribute $50.

Afterwards a white compaéré who knows magic did a couple of tricks with cards and sticks and from that we got $85. Following this we went to a group of Afro-Americans and there we raised $100.

On Wednesday, we went to the Hispanic Church and there the fellow prisoners filled out 50 pledges for a dollar each.

The level of anti-imperialism here in Auburn is deep and true. It is with this sentiment that we continue the drive, saying, “U.S. out of Puerto Rico! Down with the Vietnamese aggression on Cambodia and USSR out of Afghanistan”!

Friends at Auburn Prison