 Workers of All Countries, Unite!

The Workers' Advocate

Vol. 19, No. 7

VOICE OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY OF THE USA

July 1, 1976

42,000 coal miners wildcat

As we go to press, the miners' wildcat continues to rock the coal fields. Roving pickets spread the strike to 10 states and brought out up to 42,000 miners. Outraged at the government's repression of the Pittston coal miners' strike, and fed up with the monopolies offensive of takeovers and union busting throughout the coal fields, the coal miners are continuing their struggle in defiance of vicious court orders, police repression, and the back-to-work orders of their top union bureaucrats.

Solidarity With the Pittston Miners

One of the targets of the miners wildcat is the repression against the Pittston coal miners. Pittston Coal, with the help of the government, is out to smash the union. It not only refused to sign the Industrywide contract in 1988, but it has refused any agreement that bars it from extending nonunion contracting. And it also hired scab-herding "security" police frequently armed with M-16s and AK-47s to break the strike. Recently, Pittston unilaterally imposed a new takeback contract on the miners it still has open. The contract slashes wages by at least $2 an hour, cuts job classifications and combines most jobs, subjects miners to eight hours overtime a day (a 16-hour day) and seven days a week. The new contract on 12 vacation days (there are only two left). Cuts pensions and other benefits, and opens the mines to nonunion contract work. These are the conditions that Pittston wants to impose on all the coal miners. In fact, this is the trend of takeovers that has been developing for years. Take the Virginia coal fields for example. Last year it reached a record 50 million tons of coal mined, compared to about 37 million tons in 1979. But in 1979, there was a peak employment of 19,900 miners. Last year's record production was done by only 11,800 miners. That's an increase in annual tonnage per miner of 128%. An increase from job elimination, job combination, and long hours. Although production has not had such a boom in other states, the increase in exploitation has boomed. This is one of the key reasons that miners throughout the coal fields have joined the wildcat wave.

Deadly Repression and the UMW Leaders' Sellout Tactics

The rank-and-file miners have been determined to fight all along. But the leaders of the United Mine Workers (UMW) were very timid about striking against Pittston.

They kept the Pittston miners on the job for 14 months without a contract. Then they finally called a strike on April 5, they limited it to a "selective strike" that kept union miners producing coal at all of Pittston's mines in Kentucky and some in Virginia. And they tried to convert the "selective" strike into a "corporate campaign" of "civil disobedience" tactics aimed at convincing the National Labor Relations Board (NLAB) and Democratic Party politicians to help out the miners. Despite the timidity of the UMW leaders, the government came down with an iron fist against the strike. First the number of pickets was limited by injunction. The Democratic Party Government in Virginia and West Virginia backed up the court orders by sending hundreds of state police to protect scabs and escort them into the mines.

Then, the use of road-blockading sit-ins was banned by the courts. Over 2,000 miners and supporters were arrested. And a Virginia judge inexplicably jailed three union officials, imposed a $2.94 million fine on the UMW for violation of his injunctions, and declared each new violation would bring another fine of at least $650,000. Recently, after miners used "rolling roadblocks" — conveyors of slow-moving vehicles to clog coal roads — a judge barred this too with a $740,000 fine and threats of future fines.

Miners point out that a few years ago

Continued on page 4

Chinese working people will rise again!

Condemn the brutal capitalist rulers of China!

The Deng Xiaoping regime is continuing its bloody crackdown on the mass upsurge which swept across China this spring. On June 3-4, the Chinese rulers murdered hundreds of people in the streets of Beijing. Since then they have circulated 27 workers, and nearly 2000 people have been jailed. More are being hunted down every day.

Meanwhile the Chinese revisionists — who are already infamous for revising Marxism by glorifying capitalist profit-making and methods — are now unashamedly revising the record of what happened the last few weeks. They claim that there was no massacre by their troops, that instead it was the troops who were the real victims. And they make the absurd claim that they have saved socialism in China from the threat of a counterrevolution.

The facts remain the regim came down with tanks and machine guns against unarmed protesters. Even discounting exaggerations of the death toll that took place in the heat of events, it is clear that hundreds of protesters and bystanders were killed. It is true that some soldiers were killed, but this was the justified resistance of angry students and workers against a brutal assault upon them.

The Workers' Advocate condemns the brutal repression by the Deng Xiaoping regime. We have always opposed the revisionist Deng group in China as an enemy of socialism and revolution. The crimes today of the Deng group, in power for over a decade, confirm its counterrevolutionary character. This is not the result of communism but of abandoning it. The terror against the masses is another sign that China has become a capitalist tyranny similar to such regimes as South Korea and Indonesia.

Deng Represents Capitalism, Not Communism

Deng Xiaoping claims today that he has saved socialism from counterrevolution.

"Build socialism with capitalist methods..." and "To get rich is glorious." These are not Marxist-Leninist ideas, but unashamed capitalist...Continued on page 5

Keep up the fight

for abortion rights!

As we go to press, the Supreme Court has not yet come out with its expected ruling on the Missouri abortion case. A decision is said to be right around the corner. The anti-abortion movement hopes to win a ruling that will encourage it to carry forward its crusade to Joan Wann's right to choose abortion altogether. Even if it doesn't win such a favorable ruling, it plans to keep up its campaign.

Over the last year, the anti-abortion movement has unleashed its shrewd troops in the form of Operation Rescue to blockade women's clinics across the country. They have received solid support from the Bush government and the capitalist establishment. And they have received sympathetic promotions from the news media.

This reflects that the anti-abortion campaign is part of the offensive of the rich rulers against the rights of women...Continued on page 3

See PRO-CHOICE

Support the workers' press!

see page 13

No to flag-waving crusade!

see page 6

Workers reject National Steel contract

see page 4

Keep up the fight for abortion rights!
Condemn the brutal capitalist rulers of China!

Continued from page 1

Today the media news may be reeling about "communist tyranny" in China, but don't be fooled. Deng was their darling. Over and over again, they would report with glee that this leader and those of the Chinese regime who reached the summit and that the rulers of China, despite their communist labels, really didn't believe in those old-fashioned ideas any more. And true enough, under Deng, it is a capitalist system which is being consolidated.

The Chinese revolution of 1949 brought a new day for the long-oppressed working people of this huge country. The peasants were freed from cruel landlord oppression, China was liberated from imperialist domination, and the working class won the rights in China. There were many reforms in favor of the toilers. Unfortunately, progress towards working class rule has now caused the Chinese leaders to fret about a revolutionary socialist class. Instead they seem to be into a program of state-capitalism and the petty-bourgeoisie socialism of the Maoist left.

In the mid-70's the Maoist platform ran its course and the left lost out to the right-wing capitalist leaders headed by Deng. By 1980, China was facing the clock back by embracing a "market socialist" road which is in reality the capitalist model of "mixed economy." He has privatized agriculture, encouraged the growth of a class of cut-throat private capitalists, opened the door wide to the profits of the workers, Chinese labor by foreign multinationals, and joined hands with U.S. imperialism in the flagging reactionary capitalist world. The results of all this "glorious" capitalism? While some industrial growth has taken place between rich and poor has grown big and the poor are groaning under a new oppressor. Deng has brought back child labor and atrocious working conditions. He has brought Chinese agricultural to its knees. He has destroyed the system of mass medical care, causing infant mortality to rise and life expectancy to fall.

After all this, we are to believe that Deng is a communist? No, let the facts speak for themselves. Deng Xiaoping may still maintain the communist label, but he is nothing but the chieftain of a rotten capitalist regime.

And it's not out of any conviction that they still hold the communist label, it's because they have yet to devise an argument sensitive to it. But they have been repeatedly working on one. The Chinese ruling party and its think tanks have been lately discussing the idea of "neo-authoritarianism" as their official ideology. Anti-communist officials, including Deng, are reported to have endorsed this concept, which emphasizes the need for order and stability and points to the economic miracle achieved by such tyrannical and openly capitalist regimes as South Korea and Taiwan. (See New York Times Sunday Magazine, June 4)

The Popular Upsurge

What then is the "pro-democracy" movement all about? The U.S. media has tried to portray it as a movement against communism, but it defies such simplistic explanations. It had many contradictory features. On the one hand the protesters sang the communist anthem the Internationale and at the same time they rigged up a replica of the U.S. Statue of Liberty. At heart, this movement represented as awakening of the masses, with their support and accommodations after the movement had won its initial victory of capitalist reform. It was a movement of protest. It was clearer about what it was fighting - corruption, a being and jacketed press, the lack of democracy than about what system it thought could end such ideals.

This was a movement against the results of capitalist reform, although its participants were not necessarily conscious of this. Unlike what the Chinese leaders say, it was not a conspiracy of a handful but a movement that touched a chord of discontent deep in the society. That's why it drew millions into the streets; that's why it brought out not just students, but also workers and even appeared to get sympathy from sections of Chinese intelligentsia. Despite sharing common slogans for democracy and against corruption, the movement was made up of very wide range of views. There are clearly forces who only want to speed up the capitalist reforms. Others, left-wing or Western-style bourgeois orders, others towards a Gorbachev-type system. But the movement also encompassed people who have suffered from the capitalist reforms. It drew in students concerned with helping people, and even workers who were beginning to come out in force. As the movement develops, different strata and trends are becoming more sharply defined, with their own demands and trends more clearly.

Regime Fears Workers

Why such a brutal crackdown? It can't be explained, as the bourgeois media does, by such nonsense about the "Marxist tradition of tyranny" or the "betrayals from the people of a regime of "old men."

There may have been reasons connected with the leadership crisis that developed in the factional fighting in the ruling party. But a host of factors are still involved - factors that the terror in the same reason why the Chinese leaders are talking of their "authoritarian" ideology. It lies in the road of capitalist reform itself.

They perceive the road of capitalist development without giving rise to social discontent. You can't afford class struggle. And yet, Deng's capitalist reform has created the conditions for massive social unrest. The regime sits on a powderkeg. To escape capitalist exploitation, the regime is inclined to a system of rule through "authoritarianism" - i.e. the iron fist.

The scale of social unrest in China has been deliberately covered up. But one sees glimpses of it, even from afar. Just take one small fact that was recently reported: during February and March many thousands of peasants flooded into Canton. What misery must exist in the countryside for such a large number to flood into the cities? And that's just one city. (New York Times Sunday Magazine, June 4)

The regime was forced into such a brutal crackdown because it is deadly scared of rebellion by the workers and peasants. Thus, it was after the workers joined the Tiananmen demonstrators on May 17 that the regime initially changed its law. There are reports from such places as the industrial city of Wuhan claiming that the regime's forces selectively attacked workers. This is also the reason why the first 27 to be executed were either workers or ill-employed.

The Regime Will Not Last

Deng Xiaoping thinks that repression and lying to the people will ensure stability. By wounding such a bloody crackdown, the regime has let it be known that it has alienated the urban workers and youth, but it thinks repression will be enough to ensure stability. But the masses can't be swindled of peasant in the countryside with its lies about life.

While the movement may have subsided for now, it cannot however be kept bottled up. After all, the masses have a taste of mass action. They have been deeply alienated from the leadership. The heroic resistance to the military in late May and early June will be remembered.

The cities are hashes of rebellion. But no matter what the regime thinks, the countryside isn't immune either. Capitalist reforms have given rise to class differentiation and dispossession of millions.

The force that can turn China around is a combination of workers, radical students, and poor peasants. What's also needed is a mass movement of masses forward is the development of class consciousness and revolutionary consciousness, the movement of the masses forward is the development of a platform of struggle in the interests of the masses. We will chart out the path to a socialist revolution which alone can liberate the Chinese toilers. A revolution that will be the history of the toilers' struggle, but that is able to meet the challenge of the new world. It is this fight by against Deng's revisionist capitalist model, that will put an end to the petty bourgeois socialism of Mao. A revolution which will create a new proletarian society.

The times cry out for the rebirth of a new communist movement in China.