

# ON THE MOVE

## DC Area Workers Paper

### Support the Miners

# MINERS STRIKE BACK AT ECONOMIC CRISIS

Over 120,000 coal miners have been on strike since Nov. 12 in their efforts to fight for a decent contract.

All indications point to a return to the negotiating table with the Bituminous Coal Operators Assn. (BCOA) which would drive the strike into December. A majority of the 120,000 rank and file miners must approve the contract before a final settlement can be reached.

#### BCOA CONTRACT OFFER

Let's see what the contract offers so we know what the problems are. Pay raises include a wage increase of 9% the first year and 3%

in each of the next two years plus a small quarterly cost-of-living increase. Pensions for retired miners would go from \$150 a month to \$250

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a month at the contract's end.

There would be five days paid sick leave. Two weeks vacation remains, but it has been split, one

week in summer and one at Christmas so the mines could keep producing year round. The Bargaining Council has said they want these two weeks together.

Missing are some essentials which make safety provisions meaningless. The right to strike is nowhere to be found in this contract offer. What was Arnold Miller, UMW president, thinking when he recommended this offer? He says, "While we sat and talked these past nine weeks, 39 coal miners were killed in the mines. A man died everyday we met." Yet there's no right to strike to support local grievances over safety conditions.

--cont. on page 8

## US threatening new Mideast war

Caught in a squeeze between the increasing resistance to exploitation by people abroad and the growing struggles from working people at home, the U.S. monopoly capitalists are increasingly threatening war to extract themselves from their profit crisis.

President Ford warned a month ago at the United Nations that, "Nations have gone to war throughout history over such vital national issues as water and food." The warning was repeated by Kissinger and was in response to an announcement by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) that the price of oil was going up 12%.

Since then Jack Anderson revealed Defense Department documents in a Washington Post column that stated that two Marine divisions could be deployed to seize Libyan oil wells--to grasp control over oil and to act as a warning to other oil exporting countries.

And the Wall Street Journal said that coal miners should go back to work because, "The nation will lose production of a vital fuel at a time when it is seeking to protect itself against the possibility of another Mideast war..."

#### BIG POLITICAL VICTORY AT UN

Besides the OPEC actions, a big political victory was won by Third World people when the Arab countries

and the United Nations recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the representative of the Palestinian people.

--cont. on page 2



Nearly 150 people demonstrated against the appearance of former Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan Nov. 11 at American University. Story page



# PLO calls for democratic, secular state in UN speech

--cont. from page 1

With this political victory, the U.S. client state in the region, Israel, began immediate preparations for war, mobilizing its reserves and deploying more troops along the Syrian border.

Any attempts by the U.S. ruling class to encourage or participate in an imperialist war in the Mideast must be firmly opposed, by working and other progressive people in this country. We have the same common enemy as the Third World people. Let's take a look at the situation in the Mideast.

## HISTORY OF STRUGGLE

The PLO speech at the UN November 13, placed the Palestine question squarely in the context of oppressed peoples' common struggle against colonialism and imperialism--in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Korea, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. Arafat suggested that the UN extend the same kind of invitation to other liberation movements.

The speech dwelt at length on the history of the Palestinian question, in order to dispel the myth that "we are disembodied spirits...without traditions or future...because some people have regarded...ours as merely a problem of refugees."

He described how Zionist colonialism began in Palestine in the 19th century, as part of a generalized wave of European imperialist expansion. This was followed by direct British colonial control in the guise of a League of Nations mandate after World War I, and continuing British encouragement of Zionist designs on Palestine.

Partly because of consistent Palestinian resistance to British rule and Zionist colonialism in the form of both political and armed struggle, the British agreed to withdraw in 1947.

Zionist control was sanctioned by a newly-created and U.S.-dominated United Nations in the form of a partition plan for Palestine which allotted the Zionists the greater share of land and resources for their lesser population. This was followed by the systematic expulsion of the Palestinian Arabs from their homeland.

## ISRAEL: RACIST & IMPERIALIST

Israel is a racist, imperialist implant. Israel not only discriminates against Arab Palestinians by appropriating their land and using

oppression against those who remain, but it also exercises discrimination against Jews of Asiatic and North African origin. It exploits anti-Semitism to maintain Israeli chauvinism.

Israel's establishment was supported by the imperialist powers. It reciprocates, the PLO pointed out, by aligning itself with every reactionary cause on the international scene from South Africa to South Vietnam. And it plays its assigned role in the Mideast by periodically threatening and aggressing against Arab countries who dare to assert their political and economic independence.

## PALESTINE: RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

Palestine had a thousand year history of achievement in the development of culture and religion, especially in religious tolerance and peaceful cooperation of different ethnic groups. The real terrorists are those who sought to destroy this and not those who want to rebuild it in a modern form.

The PLO speech pointed out that Palestinians have already begun to construct the new society in exile, no small part of which is the pursuit of armed struggle.

That Palestinians have reconstructed their national institutions for education, science, agriculture, social welfare, art and culture--all in exile--testifies to the strength of their history and desire to return to their homeland.

The PLO carefully pointed out that they distinguish between Zionism and Judaism. Zionism is an unacceptable political ideology which must be eradicated. Judaism is a perfectly acceptable religion like any other.

The UN speech presented the official PLO position that all Jews presently living in Israel join with all Palestinian Arabs in the formation of a democratic secular state. This is the only solution to the Palestine problem.

## ROLE OF UNITED STATES

The position of the U.S. has always been one of unmitigated support for the Zionists. Zionism has always been quite useful in supporting U.S. imperialist objectives in the Mideast, for example in 1956 the Suez War was fought to teach the Nasserite nationalists a lesson. As the Zionist Organization of America



Yassir Arafat, speaking for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), at the United Nations November 13.

points out in a paid advertisement in the N.Y. Times of Nov. 20 (p. 12): (Regarding the Mid East) "The United States cannot remain indifferent. Israel is the only reliable ally of the United States in the Middle East, an outpost of the free world effectively serving American national interests."

The U.S. is critically interested in protecting its oil interests in the Arab World. But, as the PLO points out, the Palestinians fully support the entire Third World's efforts to "develop and control their own wealth."

Increased oil prices are more than justified by the needs of non-industrial, producing nations to develop their own economies and even just to keep up with inflation. Besides that, any weapon that oppressed people have to struggle with against imperialism should be used to its utmost.

That the struggle over the control of resources and development in general is a critical one, and that the isolation of Zionism in the world community signifies the growing strength of the Third World, bodes ill for U.S. imperialism. These will be the ultimate causes of the next war in the Mideast. The struggle for Palestine has come to symbolize the broader struggle between imperialist reaction and progressive nations in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

# Militant demonstration in DC hits Dayan

On November 11 General Moshe Dayan, former Defense Minister of Israel, appeared here for a speech at American University.

In response to Dayan's appearance in the D.C. area, the D.C. Anti-Imperialist Committee rallied its membership organizations (Eritreans for Liberation, Ethiopian Students Association, Free Palestine Committee, On The Move, Iranian Students Association, Ethiopian Women's Study Group, Revolutionary Union and Youth Against War and

Fascism) and other PLO supporters to a militant demonstration outside the lecture hall where Dayan was to speak.

A spirited and enthusiastic picket line was set up with 150 Palestinian supporters participating.

Slogans such as "Palestine Lives," "Palestine to Vietnam, One Struggle--Many Fronts," and "Victory to the Palestinian People" were shouted loud and clear.

As Dayan went to leave, several

members of the demonstration met him at the outside door. One woman grabbed his hand and shouted, "Palestine lives!" She was hit by a policeman and fell to the ground.

Others verbally attacked him as he rushed to his waiting limousine. The Zionist was given a thumping send off as seen in the dents in the body of his car. By this time most of the demonstrators had dispersed after what was considered a militant show of force against the Zionist war lord.



# FIGHT POLICE REPRESSION

On November 1, a group of men were having an argument near the Washington Heights Apartments in Landover.

Someone called the Prince Georges County police. When the cops arrived, there were about 30 people standing around watching what witnesses called a fight between several men.

According to one witness, when the cops arrived, the first thing they did was wade into the crowd, aimed a shotgun at Francis Marshall, 42, and blew his head off.

The police story is that Marshall had a knife and made a move toward them. At least two witnesses said they saw no knife in Marshall's hands and that Marshall made "no move whatsoever."

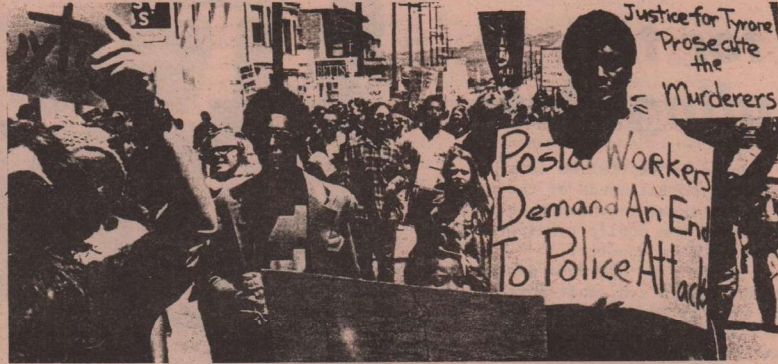
## AN ISOLATED INCIDENT?

In Chicago recently, a young black man named Antowyn Cauley went out to buy a pack of cigarettes. He joined a crowd which had gathered because police had just arrested a number of people and clubbed a pregnant woman.

He made a comment of how the police only act tough in groups. He was chased by police for four blocks, thrown up against a car, and in front of a number of people, shot right through the back.

In recent months there's been numerous examples of the force of the state launching attacks on the people as they've risen up in struggle.

Wildcatting Detroit autoworkers battle against the courts and police who try to stop the striking workers from picketing and rallying en masse. Striking miners, in Harlan County, Kentucky, face cops and scabs with guns in hand--as they are attacked with sniper shots from mine owners and police. Literally thousands of workers have been arrested through the course of the strike wave which has raged throughout the country in the



last year.

## MINORITY NATIONALITIES HIT HARDEST

Many of the sharpest attacks that the state launches is the police terror against Black, Latin, Asian and Native American people. In Atlanta, Georgia, 23 black people have been murdered by the barrels of police guns in the last year.

And the list is literally endless of Black and other minority nationalities shot in cold blood throughout the country. Just in the last few months, there's been Tony Wilkins in Los Angeles, Charles Sutton in Newark, Clifford Glover in New York, Alberto Terrones in Union City, Calif., and that's just to name a very, very few.

## PART OF NATIONAL OPPRESSION

The terrorism that the police wage in Third World communities is part of the overall oppression that the capitalists promote and foster against Black and other minority people: the ghetto conditions with deteriorated housing and rotten social conditions, the worst jobs in industry and other sectors of the economy, and incredibly high unemployment.

The capitalists make great profits from these horrible jobs, housing, etc., as well as using this oppression they

promote to create divisions among all working people along national lines--to prevent them from uniting against the common enemy.

## RESISTANCE ON THE RISE

But throughout this fall, thousands of people have united like an iron fist and direct their blows at the imperialist class. Thousands of people in Newark, infuriated by the beating of a young Puerto Rican girl, fought violently against continuous police brutality and repression.

In the Bay Area, marches of thousands of people of all nationalities have protested the murder of Black youth, Tyrone Guyton. Atlanta has seen thousands fighting against the continued police murders of Black people.

As the fight against police terror moves massively forward, we will be taking important steps in intimidating the police and state from launching future attacks at the people. But the fight against police brutality and repression will never fully be over until capitalism is finally defeated. For the capitalists will always use their armed guardians to protect their system of profit and death whenever they can to hold us back from building mass struggle against them. Thus the fight against these attacks is a crucial part of the overall fight against the system.

## Justice? Just-us rich folks!

A Washington taxicab driver was sentenced to three years in a federal penitentiary Nov. 8 for "intentionally hitting a National Airport policeman" during a dispute over the drivers' place in the airport's taxi waiting line.

The cab driver, Joseph Akinruli, was a pre-med student at the U. of Md. and a Nigerian national. The cop claimed Akinruli broke into the line of cabs waiting to pick up passengers. He said he motioned to Akinruli to move his cab from the line, but instead Akinruli accelerated and hit him.

Akinruli said he inadvertently struck the policeman and then accidentally hit the accelerator instead of the brake. A spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said that deportation proceedings would be initiated against Akinruli upon his release from prison.

Last December, an airport policeman, Richard Prince, charged that U.S. Rep William Alexander (D-Ark.) had intentionally struck him with his car

at the airport. Prince's charges were dismissed last March by the U.S. attorney's office. Alexander claimed

that he had inadvertently struck the policeman and then accidentally hit the accelerator instead of the brake.





## Buses run for the ruling class

Monopoly capitalism does not serve the social needs of the people. One of the areas in which this fact is obvious is the public transportation system in this country.

There is no adequate public transportation available anywhere in this country because it is not a very profitable operation. The system we live under produces what brings in the most profit. This is why the auto manufacturers like GM killed off whatever public transportation existed (by buying public transportation companies and closing them down) in order to boost their sales of cars.

### BUSSES RUN FOR RULING CLASS

Of course all the working people cannot afford to have a car. That is why some bus and train service exist around the country. The main purpose of operations like D.C. Metrobus is to make sure that workers get to and from work and that shoppers who do not own cars get to shopping places.

This is because if the workers cannot get to work, the capitalists cannot make any profit, and if the shoppers don't get to shopping areas, the products made by workers cannot be sold and the profits realized.

A glance at the schedule of the buses and their routes shows that the above point is true. There is a relatively large number of buses running between 6 and 9 a.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. This is to make sure that workers get to work places.

Very few buses run during the day or later in the evening and on weekends. Many routes are closed altogether on Sundays and during the night. There are no or very few stores open at these times.

So the existence of a bus service on Sundays or at night does not serve the monopoly capitalists as a class. That's why such services do not exist.

### WHO PAYS FOR THE BUS SYSTEM?

A part of the cost of running the operation is covered by the bus fare paid by those who ride the buses. Now, if you were a businessman the cost of your transportation would be considered a cost to you, a cost of running a business. So your net profit would not include that cost.



Police protect Metro during May 1974 strike by bus drivers.

But when you are a worker the transportation cost and the time spent getting to and from work is not considered a cost to you which should be paid to you above wages. Consequently a part of your wages has to go to pay the bus fare.

Furthermore, because the bus service is lousy, it often takes three hours a day to get to and from work. This means that you only get paid for the eight hours that you are actually on the job, and not compensated for the three hours that is spent on the road. This of course is part of the system we live under—where a worker is paid only for the time they actually spend on producing goods and services that are the source of profits.

Another part of the cost of running Metrobus is paid by the government. The government is operating Metrobus because it is not a profitable operation for an individual capitalist, but it is a necessity for the capitalist class as a whole.

It is projected that Metrobus will have a deficit of \$40 million this year, and it will increase in the future. This deficit is paid out of the tax revenue of state and local governments in the D.C. area.

Who pays these taxes? The system of state and local taxes mainly consists of sales and property taxes which hit the people with lower income (the working class) harder than people with higher

income (the monopoly capitalists). This fact again shows that it is the working class people rather than the capitalists who pay a larger percentage of their income to support such a lousy bus service.

### NEW PROPOSALS

Recently a proposal has been put forth by a team of consultants to improve Metrobus. This proposal asks for the purchase of 205 new buses, replacement of old buses, and more and better maintenance facilities among other things. In response to the proposal, Cleatus Barnett, the chairman of the Metro board, commented that "probably this area (now) has all the bus service it can afford." Does Barnett mean that all Metrobus can afford is unsafe, overcrowded, and infrequent bus service? In addition there's talk of another fare increase. Can the people afford such service?

### DEMANDS

We believe that the working people, especially the riders, drivers and mechanics of Metro should demand: 1) that buses not leave the depots if they are unsafe 2) that there be strict enforcement of maximum capacity regulations 3) that routes and hours of service be expanded and more buses assigned to each route 4) that fares not be increased 5) that there be no layoffs for drivers or mechanics.

## Boycott Greyhound & Trailways!

As we go to press, it has been reported that some 16,000 Greyhound drivers, mechanics and other workers have gone on strike.

According to Amalgamated Transit Union officials, the workers are demanding higher wages.

Trailways drivers in five states between here and New York have been on strike for over two years. Please support both strikes and don't ride either Trailways or Greyhound in this area.

## What is On The Move?

ON THE MOVE is a new newspaper in the DC area. Unlike the Post or the Star-News, we will not print what the businessmen, bankers, landlords or politicians want to hear. We are a page by a for working people. The staff of ON THE MOVE is made up of workers, housewives, vets and students. Some of us belong to the Revolutionary Union, a national communist organization. Communists have always been active in the working class struggle—building unions, leading strikes, fighting racism. But they also believe that our problems will not end until workers, who keep this country going with our labor, overthrow the large capitalists and build a government controlled by the working class.

All of us, communists and non-

communists, unite and fight around these points:

- \* Full employment, a living wage and decent benefits.
- \* Decent housing, food, medical care and education.
- \* Defense of our democratic rights (to organize, to freedom of speech, to vote) against growing attacks by the corporations, government and police.
- \* Full social, economic and political equality for Blacks and other minority nationalities.
- \* Real equality for women in all aspects of life.
- \* An end to U.S. interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

The few on top try to divide us: men from women, Black from white, skilled from non-skilled and native from foreign born. But we all have a common enemy—the system of imperialism where working and oppressed people are ripped off by big corporations and banks.

We must begin to link our struggles each with the other and with those of our brothers and sisters around the world.

We need you. You can help by reporting struggles on-the-job and in the community, distributing the paper, building support for strikes and demonstrations. We need your comments, suggestions and criticisms.

WRITE: ON THE MOVE, P.O. Box 4256 Takoma Park, Md. 20012

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# Bus drivers hit phony legal plan

Over 300 Metrobus drivers and mechanics packed their union meeting Nov. 5 to put an end to a plan to bilk the drivers of more money through a rip-off "legal plan" being pushed by the union leadership.

When confronted with the size of the meeting (usually only 50-75 attend), George Davis, president of ATU Local 689, immediately backed off and said that the plan was only a proposal, which of course, would have to be voted on by the rank-and-file.

Several drivers spoke and made it clear that the plan was seen by the drivers as nothing but a rip-off (union members would have been assessed over \$100 a year, meaning the law firm would net nearly \$400,000 each year). After a petition with 800 signatures against the plan was presented, a motion was introduced to kill the proposal. There was only one vote in favor of the plan.

## SAFETY

Many other issues have been bugging the drivers at Metrobus. The

safety question probably being the most important one.

As reported in the Washington Post, the drivers are forced "to take buses with faulty brakes or engines onto the streets, and are threatened with reprisals if they refuse."

This fact reflects the outlook of the Metrobus management which is only interested in providing the minimum facilities to transport the workers from one side of town to the other. They are not concerned about the safety and convenience of the drivers or passengers.

Furthermore, not only are the drivers forced to take the faulty buses on the road, but they are held responsible for the outcomes. In one case a driver who was stopped by police because of a faulty exhaust had to spend a day in court without pay. His boss even tried to make him pay the fine of \$54 out of his own pocket. And there have been innumerable accidents charged to drivers whose buses had bad brakes and steering or faulty tires.

One other grievance of the drivers concerns the promise of the

management to pay the Alexandria drivers their back pay which has not yet been fulfilled. And there are frequent complaints by drivers that they are shorted in their paychecks.

Another way the workers are ripped off is the cost of the new uniforms. The present contract says that Metro will pay part of the new uniform cost but drivers have gotten nothing yet.

Other oppressive working conditions are that drivers are not allowed to take time off for emergencies or even to swap shifts with their co-workers to take care of personal problems. Also at hearings on Metro. Jerry Moore, the chairman of the D.C. City Council's transportation committee stated that drivers are "summarily fired for frivolous reasons."

In response to all the grievances of the drivers, the bosses are speaking openly of busting the union. Jackson Graham, the general manager has been reported to say that the Metro workers enjoy good pay and "benevolent" management. Then he concludes that there is no reason for the existence of the union under such favorable conditions.

## Bosses ignore workers safety conditions

Written By  
A Western Electric Worker

With big businesses controlling the industries workers are constantly being oppressed on the job: as the companies try to save money at the expense of the workers' welfare for their own profit.

Chemicals are being used for large scale production without any one law or governmental unit having the authority to first pre-screen them, or to require standardize testing on the human and environmental effects of the new substances.

In the meantime workers that have to work with these untested chemicals are becoming diseased and in some cases have died. This year, 15 vinyl chloride workers died from a rare chemically induced liver cancer. It has now been found that a host of plastics components are toxic, even in small concentrations. This is just one example of the widespread job hazards which exist.

### OTHER HAZARDS

Other hazards include industrial cleaners which the workers have to use in many industries. Low concentrations of the cleaners are harmful enough to the atmosphere as pollutants, but to make workers breath these fumes in poorly ventilated shops so the companies can save money is disasterous to the workers' health!

Many companies now hire less cleaning help and are using large concentrations of ammonia in their cleaners to cut down on people power and save money. (At the University of Maryland they got rid of many cleaning people and started using heavy amounts of ammonia.)

### WESTERN ELECTRIC

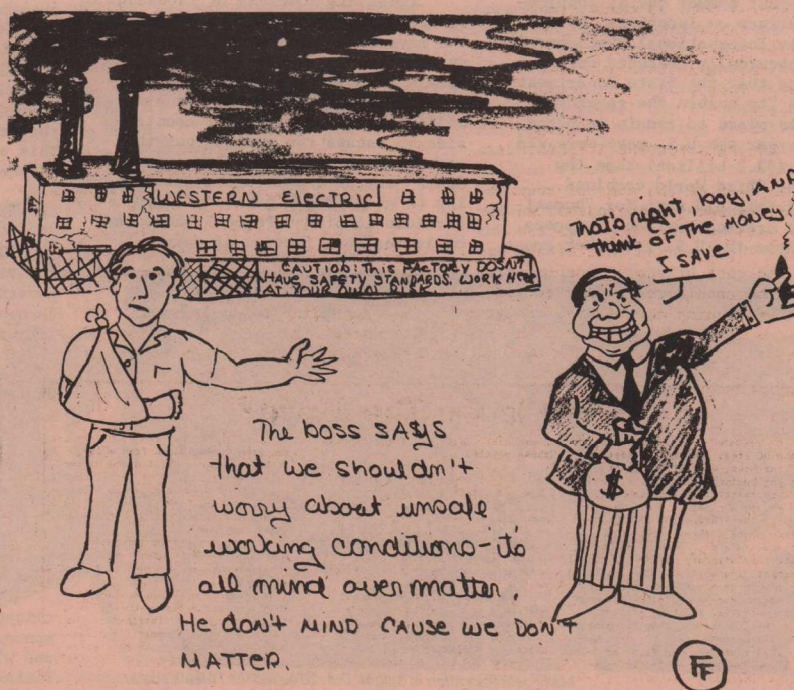
Workers at Western Electric, local 2395, now have to breath these ammonia fumes daily as large amounts of ammonia are being used as a wax stripper in their poorly ventilated work areas. The only thing being done to help the workers is

a fan set up for them, but this only blows the fumes into the cleaning people's faces. (High concentrations of ammonia vapor are injurious to the lungs, and death may result from pulmonary edema. Long exposure to low concentrations of ammonia may lead to chronic pulmonary irritation).

A request for investigation of the working conditions has been filed with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) two weeks ago, so maybe they will help.

Unsafe work conditions can be corrected only if enough people take the initiative to do something about

them. The problem here is the bureaucratic set up of supervisors. Their bosses figure out quotas for the workers to do and give the supervisors hell if they don't push the workers to get out their quota of phones. Perhaps if enough workers would stop work under the above conditions the company would stop the use of so much ammonia in the building. But even then the poor ventilation makes the work conditions hard for many people due to all the industrial cleaners used by the workers themselves.





# Mass demonstrations rock Thieu regime in S. Vietnam

Since September protests and demonstrations have been growing throughout South Vietnam. On Sept. 15, 5000 Roman Catholics rallied in Hue; on Oct. 20, 10000 people gathered in Con Tho in the Mekong Delta, while thousands gathered in Saigon on the same day.

What are the factors that are causing all these protests?

## ECONOMY IN CHAOS

Clearly the simplest answer is that the economy of South Vietnam is in chaos. The unemployment rate is near 50%. Corruption and food shortages are rampant, with the poor living at the starvation level. Taxes, prices and the cost of living are soaring. President Thieu has been singled out as the cause of all the problems that are plaguing the country, but is this the source of the problem?

## POLITICAL REPRESSION

The Saigon government is yoked with a police force numbering 126,000 men, one officer for every 100 people. There are 1.1 million military personnel, one soldier for every 17 citizens. There are 350,000 civil servants and 200,000 prisoners in the jails of Saigon.

But "security from the enemy" goes beyond the military role. Press censorship is total, political opposition has been suppressed and demonstrations have been outlawed, and when they have occurred they have been broken up as quickly as possible.

The 200,000 prisoners are almost universally considered to be political prisoners. If the Saigon government does not have a popular base, and its economy is in chaos, where does it have a power base?

## US INVOLVEMENT: IMPERIALISM

This past summer during congressional hearings on Indochina, an AID (Agency for International Development) official eventually conceded during questioning that the State Department policy was "to enable the government that was in place to remain in place."

This year the U.S. gave more aid to Saigon (\$3.2 billion) than the rest of the Third World combined. Only 3% of this aid went for "humanitarian" or "reconstruction" purposes. But what have the U.S. and other coun-

tries like Japan to lose or gain by keeping the Thieu regime (or any similar regime) in power?

An important factor is that oil has been discovered off the coast of South Vietnam. Reports indicate that the U.S. and the oil companies have known of these deposits since the late '60s.

Multinational oil corporations such as Shell Oil, Cities Service, and Exxon have already paid hundreds of millions of dollars to the Thieu regime for exploration and drilling rights.

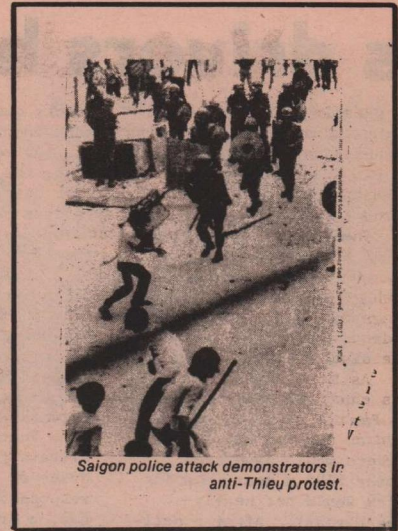
With the American people more and more in favor of cutting off aid to Thieu, Thieu needs new sources of revenues to stay in power. Thieu needs: the oil revenues to continue to maintain his political power, and the oil companies need the oil to "satisfy demands" and to increase their profit potential.

This type of collaboration has recently been in effect in Angola. Here the Portuguese needed the oil revenues to finance their colonial wars, while the oil companies, particularly Gulf, sought to make juicy profits off of Angola's off shore oil deposits. These are classic examples of U.S. imperialism in the flesh.

## ATTEMPTS TO CONTROL THE PEOPLE

Besides the press censorship and the suppression of political opposition, Saigon has become a virtual police state. According to the U.S. embassy publication, Saigon Press Review, "the capital has been organized into thousands of security blocks, each covering 20 to 30 blocks under the control of a war chief, with policemen and covert agents. The public and private acts of each citizen, their personal activities, and the language they use is to be recorded to a special committee."

There are hundreds of thousands of refugee peasants in Saigon suffering the ravages of mass unemployment and starvation, while increasing the city's crowding and sanitation problems. Many of these peasants are willing to return to their countryside to escape the misery, but the government has moved to "shoot to death" any of the refugees attempting to go to their native villages. (Article 11 of the Peace Agreements calls for the "freedom of movement



Saigon police attack demonstrators in anti-Thieu protest.

between the two zones of South Vietnam.")

The CIA is enforcing its ranks in South Vietnam since the riots began in September. A Nov. 2 Washington Post report states that "a significant number of CIA agents has come to Saigon during the past two months of protests. Sources say that many of them are old Vietnam hands and some of them are high ranking."

While the CIA is still backing the Thieu regime, in the face of the popular demonstrations against the president, the CIA is infiltrating the "legal opposition." Thieu, like Nixon, has been singled out to be the cause of Saigon's troubles, and his downfall is being called the cure-all. One president or another, the CIA will try to put their man in office.

Along with the demands of the Saigon people are the legitimate demands of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. It called for the political, social and religious organizations in the Saigon zone to unite and act in common to demand the cessation of U.S. intervention, the overthrow of Thieu and his clan and the formation of a new administration in Saigon which will seriously carry out the Paris accord. The PRG has called for a new government to be formed to restore peace and to meet the pressing needs of the people. This program is agreed with by most of the protestors.

## REAL SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM

The chaotic economy has forced the Vietnamese to demand a change in government. The demonstrators have thought that the downfall of Thieu, like the downfall of Nixon, will erase their problems.

But this is not necessarily so. Whatever replaces Thieu must see to it that the U.S. imperialists are thrown out, if there is to be any peace in Vietnam. Otherwise the top-heavy government bureaucracy along with its army and police force will continue to preserve the status quo and protect the ruling class, all the while draining away the badly needed resources from the Vietnamese people.

The collaboration of the ruling cliques in Indochina with the U.S. monopoly capitalists must be attacked and wiped out before the people of Vietnam will have self-determination.



Mass demonstration in Saigon Oct. 20 called for Thieu's ouster.



# Vets declare war on VA

Nearly 50 Vietnam vets and their supporters held a march through Northeast Oct. 28 declaring "war on the VA" in a demonstration sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization.

The demonstrators rallied at 13 & I NE and then marched to the Veterans Administration at 25 K St. NE where they burned the discharge papers mailed to them by several hundred vets, demanding a single-type discharge for all veterans.

As they marched & rallied, the vets chanted, "VA Says Cut Back, We Say Fight Back," "People in Indochina, Fighting to be Free. People back home want Amnesty," "Kangaroo Court, Kangaroo Judge, Single-type Discharge, We Won't Budge."

## DISCHARGE SYSTEM

At the VA speakers (including Ray Henderson from the African Liberation Support Committee; Jim Tyson, a vet with a bad discharge; and Steve B, an active duty GI) focused in on the discharge system.

Under the present military system of multiple discharges, a less-than-honorable discharge means a mark for life. Jobs are almost impossible to get, promotions are jeopardized, and rightful benefits owed to the veteran are usually denied.

The discharge system includes special separation numbers which are used to force GI's to fight in imperialist wars and to punish those GI's who resist those wars, or who resist the racism and repression of the military.

## OTHER DEMANDS OF THE VETERANS

**\* UNIVERSAL & UNCONDITIONAL AMNESTY:** The war in Indochina was wrong—not just a mistaken policy, but an act necessary to maintain the system of U.S. imperialism. This is why the vets are demanding amnesty for all war resisters. They are opposed to alternative service to this imperialist system, and to case



Ray Henderson, speaking for the African Liberation Support Committee, focused in on the importance of demanding a single-type discharge and how the present multiple discharge system especially oppresses black and other minority nationality vets.

by case review which allows the same class of people who have perpetuated the war in Indochina to pick and choose among resisters thereby denying amnesty to Third World people and political activists. In short, Ford's program is a hoax.

**\* IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS/END AID TO THIEU & LON NOL:** Despite signing the Paris Peace Agreements in January 1973, the U.S. continues to wage war on the people of Indochina. Billions of dollars each year are used by the U.S. to prop up the corrupt dictatorships of Thieu & Lon Nol. Thieu uses much of this aid to keep over 200,000 political prisoners in his tiger cages. The billions used to continue the war mean higher taxes, higher inflation, and less assistance

for working class people in this country.

**\* DECENT BENEFITS FOR ALL VETS:** The VA is the second largest federal agency with a budget of over 13 billion dollars. Yet only 20% of this goes to veterans benefits while over 40% goes to bureaucratic crap.

The doctor-patient ratio in VA hospitals is one of the worst of any hospital system in the country. In addition the VA uses vets as guinea pigs for new behavior modification drugs, like prolixin.

With the pennies that the VA hands for educational assistance most vets cannot afford to go to school and those in school must wait several months to get their checks. The VA lacks adequate programs to help vets with disabilities, drug and alcohol addiction, and psychological problems resulting from Post-Vietnam Struggle.

Even worse, the VA denies almost all benefits, including disability assistance, for most of the half-million vets with bad discharges and for vets who are incarcerated in prison (currently, over one-third of the U.S. prison population are Vietnam era vets). Furthermore, veterans, especially Third World vets and vets with bad discharges, have one of the highest unemployment rates in the country.

## MULTI-NATIONAL VETS MOVEMENT

The speakers also stressed the need to build a multi-national, anti-imperialist veterans movement which directs the struggle for the just demands of the veterans against the imperialist system as a whole, uniting Black, white, Latin and other veterans in the process. The speaker from ALSC & the regional coordinator of VVAW/WSO especially brought this out.

To contact VVAW/WSO call the Washington, DC chapter at 422-7670 or the College Park chapter at 552-3430.



Vets and supporters outside Veterans Administration in NE October 28.





--cont. from page 1

The proposed contract does say that an individual miner can refuse to work at a place he considers unsafe, but he won't get paid for it.

The old contract doesn't have a no-strike clause but court rulings have required the miners to submit to binding arbitration, a slow and unfair process favoring the mine owners. While arbitration goes on miners are forced to continue working under murderous safety conditions.

Rather than be killed or injured, miners have gone to wildcats (1050 in the last year alone).

But wildcats lead to court injunctions and heavy fines on the union. Basic safety gains will have no effect without the right to strike to back it up.

Miners are angry over this issue (see letter page ). In West Virginia, 2,000 signatures were collected within three days of the proposed contract's announcement against ratifying the contract without the right to strike.

## Dialectics key miners struggle to understanding

by the Revolutionary Union

The prospect of a lengthy coal strike has shaken the monopoly capitalists down to their boots. On the other hand it has won broad support from working people (see article page ). Yet many people are unclear on how to analyze the strike and what the effect will be on U.S. society.

In order to firmly grasp the nature of the strike, we must employ the science of the working class, Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung Thought. At the heart of this science is dialectical and historical materialism.

Dialectics holds that internal contradictions are inherent in all things. The struggle between these opposites, between what's rising and developing and what decaying and falling apart, constitutes the internal content of the process of development.

Development is based on the struggle between these opposites. A contradiction consists of a pair of interconnected opposites that are related through struggle. The world is very complex, so there are many contradictions which exist within it. Only one of these contradictions, however, is the principal one (the one that determines or influences all others).

### THIRD WORLD VS. SUPERPOWERS

In the world today there is tremendous struggle between the two superpowers on the one hand (U.S. & Soviet Union) and the Third World countries (in alliance with the peoples of the

As far as the \$250 pension is concerned, how much does this mean when many pensioners are permanently disabled by black lung disease. What will \$250 buy as inflation bites a bigger chunk out of our dollars every day?

### GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION?

With the delay in the bargaining council's approval of the new coal contract, government intervention becomes a real possibility. Ford could put the Taft-Hartly Act into effect which forces miners back to work for 80 days for a so-called "cooling off" period. This injunction is a direct, fascist-like attack from the rulers of this "democracy."

This tactic may not be needed because the administration through it's arm the Federal Energy Administration (FEA) has been making plans to break the coal strike.

The UMW Journal of Oct. 15 shows evidence through internal memorandums of FEA officials. FEA is strongly considering forcing major electric companies with large coal stockpiles to sell their coal to industrial users such as steel, pulp & paper mills and cement plants.

Also possible is an embargo on coal exports, leaving this coal for industry here. Both plans would lessen the strike's impact on the steel industry, putting the miners in a weaker bargaining position.

FEA, like other government agencies, is dominated by capitalists. One

world) on the other. (The Third World countries consist of the developing countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America).

Wherever there is oppression there is it's opposite--resistance. There are national liberation struggles aimed at securing democratic rights: self-determination and freedom from exploitation of the Third World's resources by the imperialists. There are also Third World countries, pushed by the revolutionary motion of their peoples and encouraged by China's foreign policy, getting together and demanding a better deal from the imperialists. For example the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has collectively set the price of oil rather than let the imperialists do it.

But why is the Third World's struggle for liberation, independence, and revolution so important? What does it have to do with the coal strike? The struggle between the Third World countries and the superpowers is and has been determining and influencing the development of the internal contradictions in the U.S. economy (which in turn leads to activities like the coal strike). To grasp this fully we have to understand the basic contradictions which push forward the development of monopoly capitalism.

### DECLINING RATE OF PROFIT

Since profit can only come from labor, each capitalist must constantly step up his exploitation of labor, both by trying to lengthen the work day and impose speed-up, job combination and so on, and by installing new machinery to get more "productivity," that is, to have the worker produce more for the same wage and therefore produce more profit for the capitalist. If the capitalist doesn't do this, his

hundred "former" oil industry officials hold jobs at FEA. Today the oil industry owns almost 70% of the nation's coal reserves and 15 of the top 20 coal producers are wholly owned subsidiaries of the oil, steel, railroad, or metal industries. Many like those owned by oil and steel are controlled by the country's largest financial groups--the Morgans and the Rockefellers.

The current director of FEA's office of economic impact, Marmaduke Ligon, was an executive for Continental Oil, owner of Consolidation COAL Co. Another FEA official represented the coal industry on the National Coal Police Conference. Is there any question who FEA and the government work for?

The ruling class wants to settle the strike quickly not because they care about workers in other industries being laid off, but because it's cutting into profits and because plans are brewing for war. The November 13 edition of the Wall Street Journal says that the miners should go back to work because, "The nation will lose production of a vital fuel at a time when it is seeking to protect itself against the possibility of another Mideast war..."

### MINERS NOT THE CAUSE OF INFLATION

Media too has been coming out against the miners. Another example is a Washington Post editorial which read "miners must realize that an inordinately large settlement would

competitors will and they'll drive him out of business because they'll be able to undersell him. The capitalist ends up having invested a lot just in order to stay in the race.

Since they have to put more and more money into machinery on the one hand, while they can get profit only from labor on the other, their rate of profit they get for every dollar invested, constantly tends to fall for the capitalists as a class.

So the capitalists are driven to invest more and compete harder, and each capitalist hopes that by knocking out his competition he can escape the fate of the class as a whole.

This drive for more productivity creates a contradiction between the capitalists paying workers less and less in relation to what they produce: and producing more and more on the other. This leads to a situation where the capitalists can't sell their products and realize the profit on their investment. Why? Because the workers have less money to buy more products.

If left alone this leads the economy into depression. The capitalists "solution" is to conquer new markets. In the era of imperialism (monopoly capitalism)--where world markets (excluding the socialist countries) are already divided up among the imperialists, the only way it can be redivided is by war. Both World War I and World War II were the results of this kind of imperialist rivalry.

### US IMPERIALISM ON DECLINE

After WW2 the U.S. emerged as the strongest imperialist power. The cost of staying on top soared with the increasingly strong resistance of the world's peoples to U.S. oppression. And after it's loss in Vietnam it became clear that U.S.'s top dog position was turning into its opposite--U.S. imperialism was on the



only add to the inflation spiral." Walter Wallace, president of BCOA, made close to the same statement by asking the UMWA to support "the president's fight against inflation."

But it is not the miners who cause inflation. Coal miners make about 7.5% more than they did 12 months ago. This could have been covered with a 2% increase in the price of coal. Coal delivered to PEPCO of D.C. from Jan. to Sept. was up 172%.

Coal companies, hungry for profits (up 181% the first six months of this year) demand huge price increases from their buyers. They cover themselves by blaming the miners whose just demands for a decent standard of living must be met. The ruling class tries to split the workers by blaming inflation and layoffs directly on coal miners. When the real villains are the capitalist class and their state (the government).

The contract offered by BCOA is weak in a number of areas. And the ruling class is in an all out effort to stampede the miners back to work. Arnold Miller and two other top officers of the UMWA are, unfortunately, aiding them by bypassing the bargaining council and going directly to the rank and file urging them to accept the contract.

We must expose the lies the ruling class is covering its ass with and fully support the miners demands for a decent standard of living and the right to strike.

decline.

While losing potential sources of "cheap labor" and raw materials, the U.S. has also been losing markets to Germany, Japan and the Soviet Union (which is now also a capitalist power). So without the safety valve of third world super-profits, the U.S. capitalist system is being ground up again in the contradictions which lead it towards destruction.

#### INFLATION: THORNS IN CAPITALISTS SIDE

How did the capitalists deal with the inflationary pressures? They exported the cost of inflation. As long as it didn't have to worry about competitors, the U.S. could raise its prices of exported goods at whatever it took to cover the rate of inflation. But now the situation has changed. The U.S. is losing markets to its competitors and the result is that cost of inflation is coming back home.

Trying to get back on top the imperialists are seek desperately to squeeze more "productivity" out of U.S. workers. But this won't work. Why? Because the imperialists of other countries are running the same game on their workers and off-setting the U.S. "gain". So the crisis deepens and here is where the coal strike comes in.

#### ISSUES OF THE STRIKE

The miners want a wage increase and a cost-of-living clause. They want benefits such as sick leave, higher pensions (especially for disabled miners and widows). Also they are fighting for elimination of loopholes in the expired contract. For instance, job bidding on straight seniority; an end to shift rotation; and the right not to work under unsafe conditions.

Fighting for these demands runs

# Miners' Group Punctures Lies

## TO THE EDITORS:

The Right to Strike Committee is a group of rank-and-file coal miners united to organize and fight for a STRONG CONTRACT which includes the RIGHT-TO-STRIKE written clearly into the grievance procedure.

We have walked off the job over and over to defend our brothers, our rights and our lives. We struck and won Black Lung compensation and sent gas flowing back into the coalfields.

The companies know as well as we do that striking has been our best defense against their attacks. They have tried to break the wildcats with injunctions, fines against locals and local members and jail sentences. We are not about to bend under their increasing attacks. The wildcats continue—we will not work unsafe, we will not let the companies get away with blatant contract violations. With the power of the right-to-strike we will be in a better position to enforce the contract.

For over a year the coal industry has spent millions of dollars in advertising to mislead the public about the national coal contract. They're saying:

"A miners' strike for a strong contract will cause urban black-outs and deprive the public of its much-needed energy source during the winter months."

To this we say, during the winter months of 1973 and early '74, the ownership class caused a major fuel shortage through their promotion of the phony "energy crisis." This energy-shortage was not the result of strikes or the mis-use of fuel by working people, but the result of the world-wide plunder and profiteering of these owners and rulers.

"A miners' strike is against the national interest, especially where the economy is concerned."

counter to the monopoly capitalists desire to increase the exploitation of workers in the U.S. so as to make up for their losses abroad.

And the bosses are especially focusing in on taking away the miners right to strike. Why? The miners have effectively used wildcat strikes to force the coal companies to live up to the existing contract. In addition, it was a wildcat that got the Black Lung law passed in 1969, and it was a 2 week wildcat last winter that got needed gasoline to the miners (and all the people of West Virginia) during the "energy shortage."

#### CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN MINERS AND CAPITALISTS ARE ANTAGONISTIC

In trying to take away the right to strike the bourgeoisie is trying to run the line that the workers should be "reasoned" and "restrained." It's to their advantage for the workers to "forget" that the workers and the bosses interests are antagonistic and can only be resolved through force (ultimately armed insurrection leading to the workers becoming the ruling class). Thus miners cannot and should not "go easy" on the capitalists!

#### CONTRADICTIONS AMONG THE MINERS: RESOLVE THEM DEMOCRATICALLY

The contradictions among the miners are different (qualitatively) than the differences between the miners and their bosses. The monopoly capitalists are fond of pointing out that the strike will bring "hardship" to other workers. But we have seen that the imperialists only really care about the hardship it will bring to them.

In fact, the temporary difficulties that other workers (as well as the miners) face, are more than offset

To this we say, it wasn't the working class of people who got this country into the present economic crisis. The same class of people which controls interest rates, promotes inflationary military spending to protect their overseas investments and spreads racism to split the unity of the working class is responsible for the rising unemployment, inflation and the rest of the economic crisis.

"A miners' strike will cause massive layoffs in other industries, particularly steel and auto." To this we say, the miners want to unite with all workers and other sections of the people to fight back against these attacks on our living standards. In short, it is the ownership class that has laid the basis for massive layoffs. In their search for super-profits, the owners of industry have promoted speed-up and runaway shops (moving their factories to other areas of the country or to other countries to avoid unions, taxes, paying a living wage, etc.)—only two of the reasons for massive layoffs.

We hope this letter helps clear up some of the lies being put out about the miners' contract struggle and helps build understanding and strengthens the unity of our class. We ask all workers and progressive people to support our struggle.

For information or letters of support (contributions are welcome) write:

Miners' Committee to Defend the Right-to-Strike  
Box 807  
Beckley, W. Va. 25801

\*\*\*UNITE TO FIGHT\*\*\*DEFEND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE\*\*\*

Yours in struggle,  
The Miners' Committee to  
Defend the Right-to-Strike

by the effect the strike will have on the bourgeoisie's ability to increase the exploitation of workers in this period. What's more, as the Wall Street Journal has noted (11/13 editorial), the strike will cripple the U.S.'s war-making potential in the Mid East if it goes on for any length of time. This would be a good thing for it would aid the struggle of the Palestinians and Arab Countries against U.S. imperialism and could prevent the slaughter of workers serving in the army sacrificed for the capitalists' profits.

The capitalists are trying to split the workers within the UMW as well. They say now that the pensioners are only interested in increasing their pensions and that the younger miners are only interested in increasing wages. It is crucial that the UMW members stand behind the demands of all the miners, and that the imperialists do not succeed in dividing the miners, as they try to do to workers everywhere (setting Black against white, men against women, etc.)

Finally we have the contradiction between UMW president Arnold Miller and the interests of the rank-and-file. The union leadership will only be as militant as the rank-and-file forces it to be.

The miners should continue to jam the union but also realize that trade unionism has limits—it seeks only better terms for the sale of the workers' labor power, and therefore leaves intact the exploitive relationship between the capitalists and the workers. In the end the capitalist system must be overthrown. That's the maximum goal. We can move in that direction by supporting the miners in their current struggle for a contract that includes the right to strike.



# Economic crisis deepens; massive layoffs in process

The economy is in its second recession of the 70's. Unemployment reached 6% in October, according to government figures. The actual unemployment rate is closer to 12%. (In Detroit the rate is up to a whopping 28%). Already, 5.5 million workers are unemployed.

Layoffs in the automotive industry are soaring. As of Nov. 20 Chrysler plans to lay off 35,000 in "temporary" closing from Thanksgiving to New Years.

American Motors said 10,000 will be laid off for 3 days before Thanksgiving. GM and Ford are laying off large numbers too.

Still prices continue to rise. Whatever cost \$1 in Sept. 73, cost \$1.12 a year later.

The cost of living in DC is higher than for the U.S. city average and has been climbing at the rate of 12%.

## UNEMPLOYMENT HITS BLACKS HARDEST

Since Oct. 73, 1.8 million workers have lost their jobs. Of these, 400,000 were non-white, or 22% of the total although non-whites make up only 11% of the total employed. In Oct. 74, 1/2 of the newly unemployed were non-white. These figures are for the U.S. as a whole.

## STRIKES INCREASE

Workers are fighting back with their best weapon--the strike. In July of 74, there were 1,130 strikes, involving 769,000 workers. These strikes are now lasting 10 weeks on the average.

July strikes amounted to 4.6 man-days lost to the capitalists by strikes out of every 1000 man-days worked. This represented a three fold increase over

recent years and double the rate during the Vietnam low unemployment years of 67-70.

Recent contract gains have reflected this renewed militancy.

Wage and benefit gains in the first year of major collective bargaining averaged 10.9% in 69, and 13.1% in 70 and 71.

When wage controls were imposed in Aug. 71, contract gains fell to 8.5% in 72 and 7.1% in 73. But workers realized that they were the only ones sacrificing under wage and price controls and said "enough". After that wages went up because the workers fought for them, not because the controls were lifted.

In fact the controls were lifted because the workers were fighting them.

## REAL INCOME FALLS

Real income for workers has fallen despite the fact that from April to June of 74, wage and benefit gains were back up to 9%, (over 10% now). The monopoly capitalists are worried about their profits, they don't give a damn about our standard of living.

Their profits are being threatened by higher unit labor costs. Corporations have been raising their prices to try to maintain profits.

Time is running out on this ploy however.

## WHAT'S COMING

There is no doubt that given the way capitalism works, that unemployment is going to have to increase to get inflation down. In 1958, in an easier situation for the bosses, unemployment reached 6.8%. Back in 1921, in a similar situation of post war inflation, unemployment went to 11.1% before things got "better".



Capitalism means increasing impoverishment and misery for working people. As the capitalist crisis intensifies, unemployment increases, and the demand for "Jobs or Income!" is a crucial fight for the entire working class. Above: Jobless construction workers demonstrate in New Jersey.

(Government estimates exclude people who have given up looking for work and people who are involuntary part time workers.)

In DC, unemployment is estimated at 8%; compare this to 4.5% rate for the entire metropolitan area in Sept 74.

A possible short term measure to ease the crisis is wage and price controls.

Meanwhile the imperialists will try to prolong their system by imposing controls which hold wages down, slow price increases, and allow profits to continue to grow.

George Meany, who had previously said labor wouldn't participate in any controls is now saying that labor would participate in "equitable" controls. (With Meany our "friend" who needs enemies?)

With unemployment or price & wage controls--labor loses either way.

## WHAT TO DEMAND

There is a recession but it doesn't have to hit labor the hardest. There are policies which we should support.

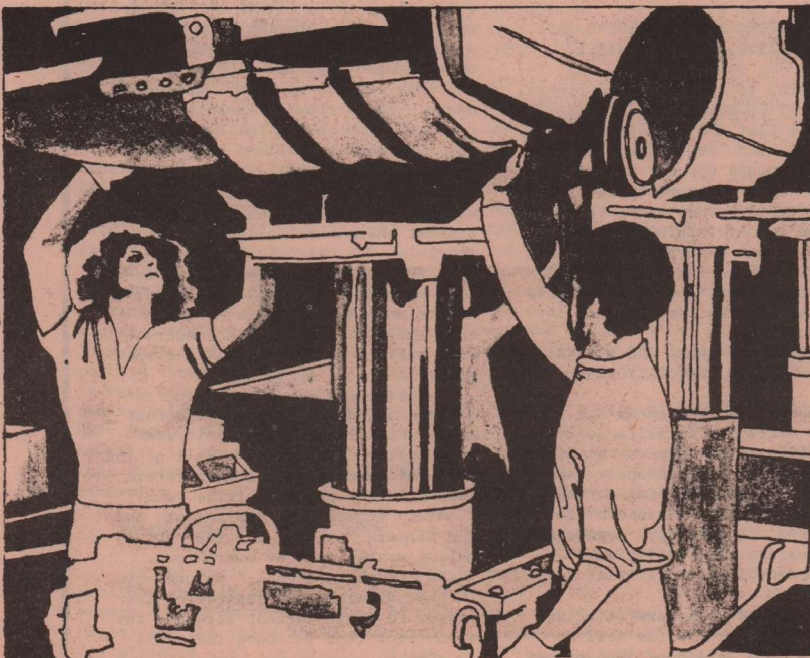
Push for all the wage gains we can get.

Also, fight against cut backs in social services and fight for full employment.

Demand price rollbacks in food and oil.

The recession should be fought by stimulating consumption. We need control of prices, not wages. (This policy will not be won easy--it will cut profits and will be fought by the capitalists and their government.)

And all our demands should be viewed in the context of building a worker's movement that will be revolutionary and not reformist, and which develops within a united front (of various classes and strata) to overthrow the imperialist system!





# China's economy serves the people

China, as well as several other countries building towards socialism, is not plagued by either unemployment or inflation, let alone by both at the same time. The well-ordered, smoothly running Chinese economy is in sharp contrast to the chaos which has characterized the so called free world economies. It is, in fact, the "free" enterprise (private property) nature of the U.S. economy which has brought us rising prices, falling employment, and lower standards of living. The problem is the lack of coordination among production units (firms) and between production and consumption in an environment of competition and getting all one can, no matter at whose expense.

Every economy must somehow decide on what to produce and who should get what is produced. If production outruns consumption, we get recession. If consumption outruns production we get inflation. Balance between consumption and production is the key to a smoothly running economy. Although much poorer in accumulated capital wealth (because of being exploited by the imperialists), China and other socialist-planned economies have avoided the problems of unemployment and inflation. The reason is that the Chinese production and distribution is rationally planned and coordinated, rather than subject to the irrationality of profit and market criteria.

## POLITICS IN COMMAND

In China, decisions are made by a planning authority with lots of input from the different firms, the most important being agricultural communes and factories. Decisions are made on the basis of the political goal of building socialism: building. The economy goes on simultaneously.

The most important decision was that everyone must grow together, not as in the U.S. where growth is encouraged in wealthy sectors and is supposed to trickle down to the poorer sectors. This meant agriculture was encouraged. Accordingly, quotas and prices were set to accomplish this. The communes and factories had a big role in determining these quotas, work hard to fulfill their requirements. Also, rural production has benefited particularly from the policy

(consistently followed for many years) of reducing the difference between the prices of agricultural produce sold by the communes and the industrial items which they purchase.

Distribution of output is determined by incomes and prices as in the U.S., but in China, there is only an 8 step scale for labor. All workers including managers and professionals fall in these classifications. Income is much more equally distributed as a result. Furthermore, prices on necessities are kept very low while prices on luxuries are very high. This policy is important in increasing the purchasing power of the masses of people in China.

Furthermore, in an economy where medical and other basic needs are practically free and where everyone is guaranteed work, there is job and survival security. Job security is something that only a very few union members, those with the most seniority, really enjoy in the U.S., as the recent layoffs remind us.

## FLEXIBLE PLANNING

Since all production and distribution is coordinated through the central planning authority, (thru quotas and prices), the balance between production and consumption is directly determined. Of course all planning comes under the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party which represents the interests of the working class.

There is no unemployment since consumption can be limited to what is actually produced, or, alternatively, production can be increased.

The key to the smooth functioning of the Chinese planning is flexibility. This is how it works. From 1959-62 there were droughts and floods and typhoons which drastically reduced output of food-stuffs. Where-as in the U.S. high food prices are blamed on droughts and other accidents, the Chinese overcame these obstacles by a determined policy of self-reliance and equitable distribution, starvation was averted and inflation kept at bay. Another example follows.

In the U.S. today, workers are being asked to forego catch-up wage increases, to "sacrifice", to "fight inflation". In China, in 1971, a decision was made to increase the wages of the lowest three grades of workers - a situation with inflationary potential. But the problem had been for-

seen and supplies of consumer goods were increased to meet additional demand.

Prices can be fixed, but if the economy is not balanced in all ways, other problems will appear. Most important, if there is not sufficient production, shortages will appear and black markets and/or long waiting lines might develop. All societies must find ways of rationing relative scarcities. In the U.S., the only criteria is if one can afford to pay. Those who can not afford it, are excluded from consuming. In a planned economy, goods can be distributed more by need than by ability to pay.

But even more important, increased production can be promoted in the face of shortages. Unlike the U.S., where we find such absurdities as ranchers (doing what they had to do) shooting cattle, in a planned socialist economy production can be increased.

## SOCIALISM SERVES THE PEOPLE

The image of many Americans, carefully pushed by the TV and other media is that the consumer is "king" while in China the consumer has no say. This is false! In the U.S. we get a variety of goods but how many satisfy real needs rather than artificially created ones? Rather than our dollars being votes for what we want, (not that that myth could or should be fulfilled), our dollars pay for the advertising which in the first place, convinces us we "need" the commodity.

The Chinese, on the other hand, have developed a plain but remarkably efficient system for the distribution of consumer goods. The markets and stores we examined were handling a dense traffic at mark-ups that are most miniscule by our standards--4.4% on fresh produce and meats, 13% in a big Pekine Department Store. The department store is helped by having no packaging, no high-cost, slow-moving items, no advertising, no style-goods, no fitting, few returns, no shop-lifting, so even the establishment economist Galbraith has had to admit.

Moreover, Chinese factories producing goods for public consumption employ a variety of methods to obtain the consumer's criticisms and suggestions. Such practices but teeth into the principle of production for use, not profit.



Politics is put in command of production in China



## Workers unite to fight deportations

The U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service (La Migra) is finding out that they can't get away with their massive deportations. In the Midwest and Southwest in particular, thousands of people have marched in protest against the INS's repressive measures.

The deportation of so-called illegal aliens is just another brick the system is throwing at workers all over the world.

In countries (mostly Third World) where U.S. imperialism has bargained with the wealthy rulers to exploit the native workers--pay them almost nothing--of course many cannot survive.

So they come here to the U.S., supposedly the land of plenty. Here they get jobs like dishwashing, cab driving, maid, hotel work, or farm laborer--the worst jobs. At the worst pay. But it's often more than they made at home, and they send it home to their families.

CREATED BY UNITED STATES

Now, all of a sudden, the U.S. system, exploiters of the world, see they have created a "monster." Because of the poverty maintained around the world by the U.S., there are now 8 to 12 million "illegal aliens" in this country.

As usual, the imperialists are trying to take the blame off themselves (where it belongs of course). They are trying to turn the rest of the U.S. workers against "illegal aliens."

They claim that these "foreigners" are taking jobs from U.S. workers. Of course they didn't say that in the '60s when they encouraged immigration in order to bring in

"cheap labor." When the economy was doing all right, then relatively few people got deported.

Now things are increasingly getting worse, so they shove the blame on the "foreigners." All of a sudden it's urgent to get them all deported. They are trying to distract U.S. workers from seeing who the real enemy is.

### FARMWORKERS

In the Southwest U.S., it's very clear what's happening. Migrant farmworkers out there are among the lowest paid, most exploited workers in the country.

Still, the pay and living conditions are better than in Mexico, so for years the U.S. closed its eyes to the majority of Mexicans who came illegally looking for work. But now the economy (and the whole system) is failing. Many people are out of work. Suddenly the Mexican workers are to blame for massive unemployment!

Unfortunately, the leader of the United Farmworkers Union, Cesar Chavez, has even fallen for this divide-and-conquer tactic. After all these years of farmworkers struggling together and winning victories over the huge corporate farmers--Chavez wants to

split the "citizens" from the non-citizens" and thereby weaken the whole struggle. But many of the farmworkers see what is happening and defend the Mexicans against "La Migra."

### UNITE TO FIGHT THE REAL ENEMY

"Illegal aliens" in this country aren't only from Mexico. They are from Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. However, the repression is the same, and so is the excuse. Supposedly they are taking U.S. workers' jobs, and not only that but grabbing welfare checks too.

The truth about the welfare checks is that many people who are in this country illegally don't go near the welfare office or any other "official" place because the risk of getting caught and deported is too great.

And the overall truth is that U.S. workers are uniting with workers who face deportation and fighting back against our common enemy: U.S. imperialism

All across the country, in Chicago, California, Detroit and the East Coast, demonstrations and other support efforts are letting the enemy know that we see through their desperate lies and we are unified and will not be defeated.



Demonstration against deportations August 24 in San Jose, California

## Puerto Rican independence rally

Twenty-four years ago in a small town on the island of Puerto Rico, a nation which was then and continues to be one of America's oldest imperial subjects, a militant uprising for independence was violently crushed by U.S. Army (colonialist) troops. The date of the defeat of the Nationalist movement at Jayuya, October 27, renewed its historical importance when one of the largest and strongest political rallies since the days of the anti-war movement, took place in Madison Square Garden in N.Y., where 17,000 people, (mostly people of oppressed nationalities), demonstrated their support for a free Puerto Rico.

Among those who spoke and performed were activists and artist from many different struggles, groups, backgrounds, yet a fundamental unity dominated the gathering. Angela Davis, Russell Means, Dennis Banks, Jane Fonda, Juan Mari Bras of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and Afro-American Marxist Owusu Sodaukai all contributed their efforts as did many others.

### SENSE OF UNITY

The overriding sense of unity,

particularly among the oppressed people in the audience) was apparent by the amount of applause heard when Black activists spoke and performed in defense of a free Puerto Rico. Virginia Collins, a longtime worker in the civil rights struggle in the south, was loudly applauded, and so was Black actor Ossie Davis's dramatic portrait of the great Black leader Frederick Douglass. (The exception was Angela Davis whose association with the revisionist American communist party was not received favorably by the audience). An Asian brother was also boo'd when he brought up the subject of Soviet Social-Imperialism outside the context of the subject of Independence for Puerto Rico.

### COLONIAL OPPRESSION

Recently the U.N. officially recognized the existence of Puerto Rico as a defunct colony of the U.S., a fact of course well-known already to the Puerto Ricans on the island and in this country.

It is a classic colonial situation--all major industries are owned by the U.S., the unemployment rate is public-

ly acknowledged to be over 30%, and a small number of the labor force is organized into unions--most of which are dominated by North American unions as well.

Fully 35% of all Puerto Rican women of child-bearing age have been sterilized, and millions of people have been forced by the economic conditions at home to find work in the U.S. where they are still subject to national oppression.

Forced to pay taxes to the U.S. government and subject to the draft like all "citizens" in time of war, Puerto Ricans are granted only a non-voting representative in Congress. Throughout its colonial history there have been revolts first against the Spanish and then the U.S. Imperialists; many of these fighters for liberation were either killed or imprisoned during periods of repression (such as the uprising of 1950 whose defeat temporarily set back the movement).

But now the Independence Movement is building again. The rally in N.Y. made it crystal clear that a growing number of people on and off the island recognize the need for a militant, anti-imperialist mass-based movement to bring Independence to Puerto Rico.



## Not aimed at real enemy

# Clothing workers demonstrate

Nearly 2,000 workers from clothing factories in Pennsylvania, West Virginia & Baltimore held a demonstration in D.C. Nov. 11 to demand quotas for imported clothing.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers union sponsored the demonstration because 50-60,000 people have lost jobs across the U.S. "Because American clothing production cannot meet the low-wage competition from abroad."

Clothes manufactured in Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, & South Korea account for the influx of goods that is disrupting the American market, Sam Nocella, ACW vice-president, said at the demonstration.

Demonstrators brought downtown noon crowds to a standstill as they passed out leaflets & displayed signs reading: "Stop Exporting American Jobs," "Don't Buy South Korean Clothing, and "Boycott all Imports."

The protest, outside of Woodward & Lothrop's at 11th & F NW was part of a national protest staged in 60 cities.

### BEHIND THE "CHEAP IMPORTS"

First of all, we need to check out the facts. Many "U.S. brands" are really manufactured abroad. An example with clothing is that Kayser-Roth makes its Catalina brand shirts abroad; Levi-Strauss & Van Heusen shirts have set up shop in Asia and Mexico.

Today U.S. corporations have expanded world-wide in their constant drive for lower wages and higher profits.

Workers in these countries slave up to 15 hours a day, six days a week, making between 15¢ and 50¢ an hour--producing TVs, cars, shirts, and processed foods for export--things they can't afford to buy themselves. Unions are weak or illegal, and most of the governments are corrupt dictatorships propped up by the U.S.--like South Vietnam, South Africa, Brazil and south Korea. Here military force is openly used to keep the people in line.

In plain language, here's the corporations' formula for setting up shops abroad--find a country under U.S. domination. Move your machines there, pay rock bottom wages. Sell in the U.S., under a U.S. brand name at inflated U.S. prices.

When working people of these countries rise up against their dictatorial governments, when they struggle against their rotten living conditions and low wages--call in the entire U.S. government, from dollars to guns. Examples are the Korean & Vietnam wars, the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1963 the U.S. colony, Puerto Rico.

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACW'S DEMANDS?

What's wrong with the campaign to cut off "cheap foreign imports" and promote "Buy American" is that it takes the heat off the big multinational corporations as the enemy and focuses on foreign workers. Their "cheap labor" becomes the target.

At times the propaganda efforts have a downright racist appeal, like the ACW's boycott of Hong Kong suits, "because they'll give you the Hong Kong flu." (The ACW leaflets don't say anything about supporting Hong Kong workers' struggles for unions, better wages, and working conditions.

### REAL SOLUTIONS

The obvious alternative to pitting worker against worker as a way to stop runaway shops is to base a strategy on the international solidarity of all workers.

A recent example we can look to is as follows:

In June, 1971 unions of the Michelin Rubber Corporation in 12 countries formed a permanent World Michelin Council to deal with the company's attacks.

For example, most of Michelin's tires are produced in Italy. But Michelin recently opened two highly automated plants in Nova Scotia that will produce a large number of radial tires for the U.S. & Canada. The company intended to keep these plants non-union. Meanwhile, Italian workers were being laid-off.

The reponse of the Italian workers was not to condemn "cheap Canadian labor," instead they mustered their strength to support a union drive in progress at the Canadian plants.

### WHO ARE OUR REAL ENEMIES?

Our enemies are the imperialists--the bankers and businessmen with world-wide interest and the government that



Clothing workers demonstration in D.C.

serve them. Our enemies are the men who exploit our labor, who throw us out of work to "cure" inflation, who call out the cops and courts to break our strikes. They are the men who profit from forcing black, latin and Asian working people into the worst jobs and housing. They are the men who force us into the army and send us to fight and die overseas for their interests and profits.

### WHO ARE OUR REAL FRIENDS?

Our strongest friends are working people at home and abroad--and that means there's a whole lot more of us than there are of them.

If we are trying to stop a plant from relocating, our friends are workers who are launching union drives in Alabama or New Mexico--workers who are fighting to organize a union in Taiwan or Mexico.

Our friends are South Africans and Angolans fighting for freedom and majority rule; Puerto Ricans demanding independence from U.S. monopoly capitalists; Vietnamese National Liberation Front soldiers and their families fighting for independence and self-determination.

In short--in any fight--the key is reliance on the great strength of the working class, and actively building solidarity among workers of all nations.

UNITE ALL REAL FRIENDS TO DEFEAT ALL REAL ENEMIES!

★ ★ ★  
Buy American  
Buy Union Label

AFL-CIO UL&STD

BUY AMERICAN  
UNION LABEL  
AFL-CIO UL&STD

Will a campaign to "Buy American" solve the problem of runaway shops? Does it protect American jobs to buy a Grenlin or Vega instead of a Toyota or VW?

- Does "Buy American" mean buy American brand names? It certainly doesn't protect U.S. jobs to buy a Dodge Colt rather than a Toyota, since both cars are 100% Japanese made. Zenith, RCA, Catalina and Dole are all American brand names, but the products are manufactured or processed in other countries.
- "Buy American" is the publicity campaign that goes hand in hand with legal efforts to keep foreign made products out of U.S. markets. But if we make it harder for foreign corporations to sell in the U.S. they will be forced to retaliate. They will buy fewer goods from the U.S. and workers here will be out of jobs. What would happen if workers in other countries started a "Buy British" or "Buy Japanese" campaign?
- "Buy American" means "buy products made by American labor, not 'cheap' foreign labor." The slogan paints workers in other countries as the enemy. It's like implying that workers in Alabama are the enemy of workers in the North because Wallace and business keep wages low, outlaw union shops, and give huge tax breaks to corporations moving plants to that state. The answer is not to force all industry

out of the South, a "Buy North" campaign.

- American business does not "Buy American" when it comes to labor. They buy labor for the cheapest wages they can pay. And they do all they can to keep those wages low. Billions are spent on military hardware to insure safety for U.S. investments and keep wages low in American dominated foreign countries. The inflation caused by this military spending is a major factor in raising the prices of American goods and making them less competitive on the U.S. and foreign markets.
- "Buy American" is the wrong approach to the problem of the loss of U.S. jobs. It pushes a false and self-defeating idea of patriotism that divides working people rather than unites them to solve common problems. The real problem is the competition between U.S. business and capitalists in other countries. American business would certainly like U.S. workers to buy American brand names, whether those products are manufactured here or not.
- "Buy American" does not get at the roots of the problem. As long as inflation keeps U.S. prices up and U.S. domination keeps wages in many foreign countries down, U.S. goods will be less competitive. Basic pocketbook economics will force working people to buy the less expensive product.



# Workers unity jolts Safeway

On Nov. 6 members of Warehouse Employees local 730 rejected Safeway's contract offer and walked off the job. The issues involved Safeway's attempt to take away some of the worker's holidays; getting personal leave of 3 days; and a 90\$ weekly increase to accumulate over a three year period.

## BOSSES TRICKS FAIL

Moving immediately to break the strike, Safeway brought in supervisory people to scab on the workers. When this tactic flopped the bosses tried to spread a rumor that the teamsters (local 639) were going to cross the warehouse worker's picket lines. But the workers saw thru this lie!

Then Safeway pulled the same trick with the drivers. The trucking manager told the drivers that if they walked out in support of local 730 they might lose their jobs. Safeway also showed its contempt for the drivers when they told them that if the warehouse workers won their demands they would be making more money than the drivers. One driver said that didn't matter cause when 639's contract came up they would pull out ahead of the warehouse workers again.

The teamsters stayed solid in support of the warehouse workers. "If the company divides the warehouse workers and the truckers then they might as well abolish the union", on driver said. The truckers knew that the warehouse workers had supported them the last time that they walked out. But the back-scratch theory of strike support can be use against the workers too. One trucker said that "maybe we should have supported the retail clerks when they went out--even though they didn't help us when we went out".

At 9am on the first morning of the strike the local head of the teamsters called a meeting of the truckers, across the street from the picket line.

A vote was taken on whether or not to go back to work. The truck-



Striking Safeway workers outside Landover warehouse November 7

ers said NO!, they would not go back to work! When they were told that Safeway might fire them if they didn't go back, one teamster expressed the feeling of all the rank & file when he said: "If they want to fire all 300 of us here then let them go ahead and try".

The next day Safeway got injunctions against both unions saying that their contracts specified that the unions had to give them 72 hours notice before striking. What a bunch of crap! If Safeway didn't know about a strike 72 hours before then how come they were stocking up large amounts of produce 2 weeks before the strike!

In a tactical move to avoid court fines the teamsters decided to go along with the injunction--but only for a few days when they could 'legally' walk out again.

But the warehouse workers (great majority of them) ignored their injunction. They knew that if they didn't let the injunction scare them they could beat it. They were right. As part of the settlement the company told the union's business agent that it would drop charges against workers who defied the in-

junction.

As the time passed Safeway started to get uptight. The warehouse workers had kept their support from the truckers and the word came from the retail clerks that if picket lines were put up in front of the stores 80% of the clerks would honor them.

Giant had just settled for a contract better than what Safeway was offering so the company knew it was going to have to face a long strike all alone, so they settled.

At the time of writing this article the warehouse workers had already begun to receive the wages they had struggled for. But whatever the final result of the strike in material terms, the rank & file of local 730 has a better grasp of how Safeway in the crunch really cares only about their profits.

The workers from local 639 had real unity with their brothers and sisters in local 730.

Other teamster locals should pick up on their example and build working class unity by honoring the picket lines of DC Trailways drivers and the United Farm Workers.

## Post office workers strike in France

In Paris the struggle of the French postal workers got really sharp during the second and third weeks of November.

Tens of thousands of workers marched in the rain from the Place de la Republique to the Place de la Bastille in Paris on November 15, in a demonstration called by France's major trade unions.

The demonstrators were protesting the overnight "eviction" by the police of pickets in the post offices. Postal workers have been on strike for nearly a month. The strike has dealt the french capitalists a blow and they have reacted to it by getting their helpers in the government to call in the police and to use military personnel to insure delivery of important mail and medicines.

During the demonstration marchers carried banners with such slogans

as 'Respect the right to strike' and 'NO to repression'.

The government excused itself for attacking the postal workers by saying that it had the duty to intervene to uphold the "right to work" for those willing to return to work. (Just a sneaky way of saying the government sees itself on the side of the scabs!)

The postal strike began as a wild-cat strike in those sorting centers outside of the control of the unions, but later spread to union centers.

The strikers want a minimum wage of \$340 a month and the hiring of several thousand more workers to cope with an ever-increasing volume of mail.

The postal strike is serving as the spark to other strikes by workers of the state gas and electricity agency, various civil servants groups including tax collectors and garbage collectors.

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# Waltons: phony view of Depression

The setting of the Waltons is in the hills of Virginia or West Virginia during the days of the Great Depression.

The bright, healthy Walton clan in their large white-washed farmhouse week after week consistently overcome the obstacles placed before them. But how true to life is this show?

Lets look at the family. There's the strong middle aged father who doesn't really have a job, yet on weekends can be found repairing the local church roof. The grandparents are always healthy and active, having a complete set of teeth each, and not one bad habit (like chewing tobacco or hitting the jug).

The oldest son is off attending college. (The last famous person to make it through college, hook or by crook, during a depression was tricky dick). Not only does he attend college, but he has his own car and the money to keep gas in it.

Besides all this, the Walton's house looks like a vacation home in the 70's-not a place where anyone



Unlike the Waltons, real working people fought like hell against the bosses during the depression. Pictured is Women's Emergency Brigade in auto strike.

had a hard time surviving in the depression. The children all have shoes, there isn't a patch to be seen on anyones clothes, and the table is always set with plenty of food. About the worst thing the Walton's have to deal with is the Model T pickup which never breakdown or has a flat. And of course, any time the kids need some cash they can do chores for the neighbors across the way.

If the show is about what work-

ers were about during the depression then we should see stuff about what it was like to be unemployed; how the C.I.O. organized people into unions; how the workers gave support for the struggle of the workers and peasants in Spain; and how the workers fought the facists in this country.

Sum up the Walton's by saying that its the same sort of jive crap that the capitalist-controlled media is giving to us to make us quit fighting. Later for the Waltons!

## Ali regains stolen heavyweight title

At 4:44 in the morning of October 30, Muhammad Ali finished off George Foreman with a series of combination punches to the jaw and thereby regained the Heavyweight championship of the world.

Ali's victory climaxe a long 7 year up hill struggle to regain his title (which was stolen from him in the late 1960's when an angry, chauvinistic boxing commission reacted to Ali's refusal to be drafted). Since that time Ali has symbolized rebellion to oppression in the minds of many Black (and also white) people. A lot of Black people identify with Ali because they feel he represents opposition to a system which is con-

trolled by a predominantly white capitalist ruling class.

### ZAIRE

The fight was held in Kinshasa, Zaire. Zaire is the fifth largest copper producer in the world and the largest exporter of cobalt and industrial diamonds. Business Week recently reported that "Zaire's mineral wealth makes foreign mouths water," adding "Zaire deserves a closer look and it has been getting one from U.S. investors."

In January President Mobutu's government took out a 2-page ad in the N.Y. Times announcing "Zaire is call-

ing, calling all American investors, industrialists, merchants to link up with the Zairean forces that have made their country the fastest growing in Africa; offering unprecedented opportunities to extract and process its fantastic mineral resources". The ad included a list of 38 major U.S. banks and corporations doing business in Zaire.

But, at the same time Zaire is also a member of the Council of Copper Exporting Countries which includes Chile, Peru, and Zambia. CIPEC seeks to unite the third world copper producing countries against attempts by the Superpowers to divide them and thereby more easily exploit them.

### FREE THE ATTICA BROTHERS

## IT IS RIGHT TO REBEL!



People demonstrate demanding justice for the Attica Brothers

On September 14, about 2,000 people held a militant demonstration in Buffalo, New York in support of the 61 indicted Attica Brothers, who face trial for the 1971 rebellion at Attica State Prison. The Demonstration was called by the Attica Brothers Legal Defense, and many other individuals and organizations took part--The Revolutionary Student Brigade, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Revolutionary Union, The American Indian Movement, and others. People marched by the court house where the Attica trials will be held, shouted "Attica Means Fight Back" and held signs proclaiming "It is the right of all oppressed people to rebel!"

Before the revolt, the Attica prisoners had made peaceful attempts to change the miserable conditions in the prison. When the attempts were continually ignored, 1,200 prisoners of all nationalities rose up and seized the prison. For 4 days they held strong, presenting demands for improvements and openly declaring their hatred for the capitalist system.

The rebellion ended when the New York governor, Nelson Rockefeller, sent in state troops and 41 prisoners and hostages were massacred. A reign of terror, beatings, and torture, was unleashed against the prisoners, and especially against those who had led the rebellion.

The government thought that by smashing the rebellion, they could keep this example of courageous struggle from spreading. But after Attica, similar revolts exploded in prisons all across the country. And people in many other kinds of struggles learned something from the spirit, unity, and determination of the Attica Brothers.

This is why so many people saw the importance of the Buffalo Demonstration. As a spokesman from the Revolutionary Union said in a speech, "...Attica is part of the worldwide struggle of the oppressed, united with hundreds of millions throughout the world...We're here to celebrate Attica." With the trials starting soon, the struggle to free the Brothers has moved into high gear.■



# Metro workers fight for safety

After 12 deaths and numerous injuries on the job in the last five years, Metro construction workers decided to do something to stop the slaughter. On Monday Nov. 11, 500 metro workers from Local 77 of the International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, and the laborers local union 456 walked off their jobs and gathered at the main Labor Department building. Later the workers marched to Metro headquarters at 5th and C streets NW.

The metro sites were shut down tight because of the stoppage. A lot of the workers who walked off the job and feel strongly about the safety issue couldn't make the demonstration; still they are in strong solidarity with their fellow workers in this fight.

## SAFETY ISSUE

What's the safety issue about? Listen to the words of the workers: "We're 65 feet underground coming up a ladder with mud on our boots and we can slide and fall--no protection", says one worker. "Had a cave in last week--a guy broke his back", says another. "If a person is hurt on the job, after 10 days they still lay him off", adds a third.

It's clear to the workers that they're always being rushed in their work and that the contractors won't take the time to shut down equipment so they can fix up lousy safety conditions. Why? Because the bosses are cutting safety corners in an effort to make profits against the tide of inflation. The workers didn't cause the inflation so they don't see why they should get killed to keep the bosses fat. But for the capitalists to survive they got to screw workers. That's why this crazy system has to go!

## WORKERS FIGHT BACK

Even before the work stoppage

the workers began to resist. One crane operator argued for safety at his site but was transferred for his trouble. Another guy got out of his rig and walked out. "I'm sick and tired of this garbage", he told his boss, who told him "it would be taken care of". (Of course it never was!)

One worker told us a lot about his particular struggle. There was a cave-in at his job about a month ago. The man was starting work at the time. Being a shop steward, the worker told his men to go in at that their own risk. (Until a safety man or tunnel inspector got there to check it out). The job superintendent tried to fire him for his effort. The men were furious. 2 crews (23 people) signed a petition protesting the firing. The rank and file's action moved the union to do a lot to get the worker's job back.

The charges the bosses made against this guy were absurd: 1) stopping the job; 2) unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (which had been used to take water back and forth to the hole); 3) leaving the job early (up till the firing it was accepted practice for shop stewards to be allowed to go to the union hall on job time).

There was more harassment. The bosses started shorting the guy days in pay. The worker took the case to small claims court and won.

## BOSSES REACT

After the walkout at the P&Z site at 12th and Constitution ave., the bosses told the men "we have no work for you today because we have no word from the union that we have any laborers working for us." The workers lost a days pay--but they told us they're going to fight till they get their money back.

The unions called the demonstration to commemorate "vets day". (In honor of all the workers who have been killed or hurt

while working at Metro). To us this make a lot more sense than mourning the deaths of workers who get killed fighting to keep the fat cats in dough. Also, from what we saw at the demonstration the workers weren't mourning so much as they were fighting like hell for the living!

## BLACK/WHITE UNITY

Around the safety issue the Black & white workers are sticking together. (This was also true for men & women). When workers of different nationalities fight together for decent safety conditions it's great, but we can't stop there. White workers should also fight like hell against union or company job discrimination against Black workers. And moving beyond this we should work towards the time when workers of all nationalities unite to fight against national oppression against everyone--even people who aren't workers. (Black & white workers fighting against police ripping of the Black community is a concrete goal we can work for). When this happens the fat cats that want to divide us are really going to run scared!

## NOW WHAT?

We know there's alot of meetings going on over safety. What's going to come out of them?

The key to the safety getting better seems to be getting rid of the contractor-paid safety inspectors. After all, are they going to bite the hand that feeds them? The rank and file metro workers need to get together and figure out if they want union-paid inspectors. Whatever they decide they could then propose it to the union. Everybody moves when the rank and file gets in motion.



Subway construction workers march on Metro building demanding safer working conditions Nov. 11