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## Regional Autonomy for the Southwest and Indian Peoples!

# HANDS OFF PORTUGAL

The revolutionary process in Portugal is proceeding very rapidly. Recent events show that the polarity of revolution and counter-revolution is being developed. The world revolution, the national revolutions in Africa, indeed, the question of war and peace, are all joined in the historic struggle being waged in Portugal. The reactionary forces of the world are zeroing in on Portugal while the revolutionary forces are sadly split on the question of how to approach this historic struggle.

The Communist Labor Party has supported from the beginning and now supports the Portuguese revolution and joins with millions of revolutionaries in the demand that the CIA as well as all international reaction keep their hands off!

We want to restate our position in detail in the following issue of the *People's Tribune*. However, considering the rapid growth of the counter-revolution and the particular way that the so-called "left" is objectively uniting with the right in that counter-revolution, we want to make it clear to all where we stand.

Firstly, we reject categorically the nonsense that it is the Soviet Union and not USNA imperialism that is the main danger to the revolution. It is precisely this type of thinking that has led the so-called "left" to support the anti-communist National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA). This group, led by the admitted CIA agent Holden Roberto (who, incidentally is the brother-in-law of the butcher Mobuto) is presently conducting a slaughter of Angolan revolutionaries.

The twisted kind of thinking that led to the support of the FNLA is now being applied to Portugal, and the use of the letters "ML" in no way justifies counter-revolutionary activities. It should be clear to all that the main danger to the revolution is the counter-revolution. The counter-revolution in Portugal is headed by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, the fascist military clique, the extreme right wing of the Portuguese imperialists headed up by the Jorge de Melo combines, and through them, the Rockefeller interests in Africa. The counter-revolution includes the subversion of the Spanish Falange. The main standard-bearer of the counter-revolution is the Social Democratic Party. This party which enjoys the all-out support of the Second International, is the principal vehicle of the CIA. It should be noted that among the supporters of the Social Democrats and opponents of the Portuguese Communist Party are the Spanish Communist Party and the Communist Party of Italy.

The attempt of the Portuguese reactionaries to "monitor" the inevitable revolution is clearly failing. The counter-revolution is their only chance. The people of Portugal, supported by revolutionary humanity, will surely be victorious.

The POLITICAL PAPER of the COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY of the UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA

# PEOPLE'S TRIBUNE

"The Communist's ideal should not be a trade-union secretary, but a tribune of the people, able to react to every manifestation of tyranny and oppression." Lenin

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SOUTHWEST

# LAND AND EQUALITY

"Viva Atzlan!" "Our fight is here, not in Vietnam!" "Workers and Oppressed People of the World Unite!"

These were some of the cries of the Mexican national minority, supported by Negro and Anglo-American workers, at the Chicano Moratorium, five years ago. The Mexican national minority community condemned the imperialist war and their brutal oppression. Fresh in the memories of the workers who attended that demonstration were the murders of Beltran and Guillermo Sanchez. Fresh in our memories today are the brutal shootings of Texas farmworkers, exercising their right to organize into unions.

Since the Chicano Moratorium, the struggle of the Mexican national minority worker has been elevated to a new level. Openly attacked by the brutal arm of the USNA state and extra-legal groupings, the struggle of the Mexican for his land rings throughout the Southwest. No longer does the Mexican worker accept the passive non-violent tactics of a Cesar Chavez; nor will the Mexican worker submit to the brutality of the Texas Rangers and melon growers.

The recent attacks on the farmworkers in Texas and their response to them bare testimony to the rising political consciousness of the Mexican worker. For the importance of the Texas farmworkers' struggle goes far beyond the drive for unionization. It is tied to and a part of the struggle to free the Southwest from the bloody grasp of USNA imperialism. It is the struggle for regional autonomy.

Since the expansionist drive by the USNA into the Southwest, the development of virtually every major industry in the Southwest has been based on the exploitation of the Mexican national minority worker. The growth of agriculture in Texas (with the third largest population of agricultural workers in the USNA) and in the rest of the Southwest would have been impossible without the reserves of cheap labor that the Mexican represented.

Today, the Mexican national minority labors at the heart of the industrial proletariat in the Southwest, in mining, railroads, refineries, canneries, cotton mills and garment factories. They make up the bulk of the workers exploited in the small, unorganized shops of the Southwest, doing the dirtiest and lowest paid work with the least security.

The USNA imperialists have tried to deny the Mexican national minority workers their cultural heritage and language. Schools, hospitals, governmental agencies, all function in English. Mexican children are punished for using their own language in the schools.

The Mexican national minority averages 4 to 5 years less schooling than Anglo-Americans in the region. Their functional illiteracy rate (0-4 years of schooling) was seven times that of Anglo-Americans in 1960, and twice that of other minorities.

In 1960, the life expectancy of a Mexican national minority worker was 56.7 years, as compared to 67.5 years for an Anglo-American. In 1967,

the life expectancy of a Mexican national minority migratory worker was only 49 years!

Poverty and the denial of their civil rights is the lot of the Mexican national minority workers. The Texas Rangers, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS or Migra), the Border Patrol and various vigilantes wield the club and the gun for the imperialist oppressors. Whole town massacred in their beds, strikers left to die in the hot desert sun, militant labor leaders and strikers deported by the hundreds and thousands - this is how the imperialists have dealt with the workers' struggles in this oppressed region.

Facing hardship and death, the Mexican national minority toilers have always been staunch fighters against imperialism. From the outset, the Southwest was not conquered easily. Mexican workers and farmers fought alongside freed and runaway slaves against the expansion of slavery into their territory. And the chauvinist myth of the Mexican "bandito" remains today, as a result of and obscuring the true history of Mexican fighters who would not give up the battle to recapture their land.

As industrialization began, so did

the trade union movement; the first attempt to organize agricultural workers was in 1883. The movement of Mexican national minority miners, railroad workers, and cannery workers reached a peak in the 1920's and 30's, when tens of thousands of workers, struck and battled police, especially in New Mexico and California. Today the Farah strikers, the miners of Silver City, Santa Rita and Gallup, New Mexico and Magma, Arizona, the steelworkers of Corpus Christi who have taken up the fight for busing, the California farmworkers, the Texas melon strikers, and many more carry on this militant tradition. It is a testimony to the bravery and spirit of the vanguard of the proletariat in the Southwest.

One of the most important aspects of the struggle of the Mexican national minority is the division that the imperialists have sown, and the labor misleaders have played on, between the Mexican and Negro workers. If we are to talk seriously of winning the battle against USNA imperialism, we must address ourselves to the crucial question of unity of the working class - and more specifically the

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## THE REAL ENEMY

Violence is nothing new to the inner city slums of the large northern cities, especially during the summer when the ranks of the unemployed are swelled with youth unable to find jobs; beginning with Watts, and later in Detroit and in Newark, major rebellions were fought on the streets.

In almost every case these spontaneous uprisings were the result of police violence against national minorities, and in every case the outbreaks offered the bourgeoisie a chance to turn Anglo-Americans against Negroes to further aggravate the divisions in our class. Once again the bourgeoisie has turned worker against worker. On the evening of July 18, on the Northwest side of Detroit, Obie Wynn, an 18 year old Negro youth was fatally shot in the head by an Anglo-American bar owner, who claimed the youth was trying to steal a customer's car, but the facts of the case belie the accusations. This incident triggered off two days of demonstrations, of violent confrontations with the police. The core of this struggle was the youth. That was made dramatically clear when hundreds of working class youths stood on the corner of Livernois and Chalfonte, toe to toe with riot-clad police, throwing stones and bottles at them.

Clearly, the bourgeoisie was well prepared for this upsurge. Police with riot equipment and tear gas immediately moved into the area, literally occupying it. Police used tear gas in surrounding communities in order to break up the demonstrators. Over 100 arrests were made. But the main efforts of the bourgeoisie were aimed at presenting this spontaneous outburst as a struggle between Negro and Anglo-American workers. Further, the shooting of Obie Young is only one

of many incidents of working class people being shot down and otherwise harassed by the police. For example, last month a 21 year old Anglo-American was viciously shot down point blank, by an undercover policeman, who deliberately provoked an argument with his victim. On the second night of the recent street demonstrations another Negro was shot and wounded by an Anglo-American while fixing his car, for no apparent reason.

These events do not happen in isolation, but come at a time when fascist gangs such as the KKK and Nazi Party are moving to the surface in Detroit, when Negro families are being openly harassed by these fascists.

We must ask why this is happening at this time! Unemployment in Detroit is presently 14.7% in the metropolitan area, which means close to 30% in the city. But unemployment among national minority youth is the highest of any section of the working class. For all the bragging of the capitalists that the recession has ended, unemployment remains high, and is predicted to rise even higher. Thus, it is absolutely necessary that the capitalists prevent the workers from uniting around their common plight; in order to safeguard themselves, the capitalists have crippled the workers by dividing and thus weakening them.

Thus, the fascist gangs surface, peddling the most vile and blatant chauvinism; this alone explains the attacks on Negro school children being bused to integrated schools; this alone explains the mounting and increasingly vicious attacks upon our class. Using the time tested tool of white chauvinism, the bourgeoisie turns the spontaneous outrage of the

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## What Is Regional Autonomy?

Regional autonomy is the exercise of the right of the people of a specific territorial region with a distinct history and national composition to govern their own regional affairs. It also includes the right of that people to secede from the larger state.

Stalin explained the advantages of the program of regional autonomy:

The advantage of regional autonomy consists, first of all, in the fact that it does not deal with a fiction bereft of territory, but with a definite population inhabiting a definite territory. Next, it does not divide people according to nations, it does not strengthen national barriers; on the contrary, it breaks down these barriers and unites the population in such a manner as to open the way for division of a different kind, division according to classes. Finally, it makes it possible to utilize the natural wealth of the region and to develop its productive forces in the best possible way without awaiting the decisions of a common centre... Thus, **regional autonomy is an essential element** in the solution of the national question.

(Stalin, *Marxism and the National Colonial Question*, Proletarian Publishers, p. 90)

The CLP has always demanded regional autonomy as the correct solution for the oppression of the Southwest and Indian peoples. This must be the demand of the Anglo-American working class.

The Southwest was seized from Mexico in 1848. This region has a distinct history and a different national make-up. The 130 year oppression of the Mexican national minority is a bloody page in the history of the USNA that cannot be simply wiped clean.

One of the first acts of the colonists arriving from Europe and England in the 1600's was to set a bounty worth a year's wages on the head of the Indians, man, woman and child. This was the beginning of the unbroken genocidal attack on the Indian peoples that continues today. The just struggles of the Indian peoples today, which have been met with jailings, repression and assassination by the USNA state, are the concrete struggle for regional autonomy.

The demand of the oppressed peoples for the return of their land is a direct attack on the power of the state. When they demand the return of their land, the lackeys of the ruling class must use the force of the imperialist state to suppress them.

Thus, we can see that as long as the imperialists occupy the Southwest, with their police and army, their courts and government, the Mexican national minority can never have equality.

That is why the CLP raises the demand of regional autonomy for the Southwest and Indian peoples. Lenin and Stalin first put forward the concept of regional autonomy for those regions in Russia where national minorities were concentrated. Stalin outlines some of the rights of a national minority under regional autonomy:

"...to organize their own courts, administrative bodies, economic organs and government organs functioning in the native language and recruited from among local people acquainted with the customs and psychology of the local population, and to develop a

press, schools, theaters, clubs and cultural and educational institutions generally, functioning in the native language," and "finally, it provides the opportunity of utilizing the natural wealth of the region and of developing its productive forces in the best possible way..."

Of course, the exact boundaries of such a region, and the specifics of regional autonomy in the Southwest will have to be worked out by the oppressed peoples themselves.

At the same time, the CLP realizes that the USNA imperialists are not about to grant regional autonomy. It can only be achieved by a revolutionary struggle of the whole working class to wipe out imperialist rule completely.

That struggle can only be successful by uniting all the struggles of the working and oppressed people into one gigantic thrust against imperialist rule. The concrete fight for the independence of the Negro Nation, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and regional autonomy for the Southwest, is the only way to unite the working class and fight for socialism. Concretely this means struggling for busing, to stop deportations, for open borders, and for equal and quality education for all children, through the struggles to smash the Klan and all fascist gangs—fighting for jobs with peace!

## WELFARE CONVENTION

The welfare rolls daily are growing. Recent figures show that 3,365,812 families are on A.D.C. (Aid to Dependent Children) and 4,124,703 families on S.S.I. (Supplemental Security Income). These families who are forced to live at subsistence levels because our government is unwilling and unable to provide them with jobs, are also forced to submit to the most degrading and humiliating procedures in order to get their meager money. Lately, in an effort to throw thousands of families off the welfare rolls, attacks upon these families have been stepped up. For example, a program called Face to Face Recertification has been instituted where every month or every six months a recipient has to have a face to face interview to prove that he is eligible to be on welfare. In addition, welfare mothers are forced to cooperate with the Welfare Department in finding the fathers of their children for an extra measley \$20.00 in their relief check, or be dropped from the rolls. If the fathers are found with the help of the mother, the mothers can be sent to prison.

In the midst of the rising attacks on welfare recipients, the old National Welfare Rights Organization held its annual convention in Los Angeles. The convention was opened with representatives from the government who praised the work of the Los Angeles Welfare Rights Organization and gave them awards. Then one of the speakers proposed a Family Planning Program which would do away with welfare altogether. No one addressed themselves to the problems of the welfare recipients which are firstly jobs and secondly an end to the attacks that the recipients are faced with. The session of the convention continued, but the majority of participants who attended became angry, as their reasons for being there were not addressed. During the first break, representatives from various welfare organizations across the country came together to formulate a concrete program which would synthesize the needs and goals of the welfare recipient:

## OPPORTUNISM EXPOSED

June 30 through July 4 marked the 66th Annual Convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Attended by 5,000 delegates and alternates from all parts of the country, the convention immediately became a platform for the imperialists.

With the active support of the reactionary, anti-communist NAACP national leadership, a cabal of representatives of the imperialists occupied center stage. They included, among others, President Ford, Secretary of the Treasury Simon, Secretary of Transportation Coleman, Secretary of HUD Mills, EEOC Commissioner Lowell Perry, and Congressman Andrew Young from Georgia. In a disgusting display of white chauvinism and anti-working class sentiment, the politicians made their intentions clear. President Ford said that his administration "planned no immediate action on jobs for unemployed Blacks." With arrogance that outraged convention participants, Simon stated that "the Federal government will not undertake any new large-scale programs to end Black unemployment." He also said that the "gains" of Negroes in the 60's was a prime source of the current economic crisis and that because of this period of "fiscal

irresponsibility" it was expected that high unemployment would continue into the 1980's!

The response of the NAACP national leadership to the insults and overt treachery of the politicians was conciliation. Margaret Bush Wildon, Chairperson of the NAACP National Board of Directors said, "We are extremely appreciative of this expression of interest in our cause." Executive Secretary, Roy Wilkins, thanked Ford for his "kind and informative remarks." Later in a ROTC workshop, Wilkins issued a call for Negroes to join the police and military. It became obvious to all who attended the convention, that the leadership of the NAACP was not about to take decisive action to struggle against the economic crisis which has hit the Negro workers so drastically.

But there was more in store for the delegates at the convention. In the workshops on Jobs and Employment, the NAACP leadership launched an offensive against the organized labor movement. Membert Mill, labor secretary of the NAACP, asserted that the heart of the Negro workers' problem was the seniority system. He proposed that only through the reduction of seniority from a vested right, as erroneously claimed by organized labor, can Negroes, women and young workers be sure of their jobs. This tactic was clearly intended to split the working class.

However, the delegates at the convention had enough. Their ferocious opposition to this attack on organized labor, left Mill seething with anger and making personal attacks on individuals; this angered the participants even more and produced a mass walk-out by the enraged delegates.

For the remaining days of the convention, the majority of delegates maintained a spirited and militant defense of the unity and organization of the working class. Caucuses were formed and a resolution censuring Mill and calling for his ouster was drafted. However with the unity of the national leadership and the varied representatives of organized labor, the resolution never made it to the floor. However the outcome of the resolution on the seniority system was a watered-down resolution on affirmative action which contained a veiled attack on seniority.

One thing became clear to the majority of the delegates who attended this convention—the Negro people can no longer depend upon the charismatic "black misleaders" and the liberal social fascists in Congress. The mass walk-out bore testimony to the profound political frustration of the delegates. Clearly, what is needed is a new perspective; what is needed is the leadership of a different class. No further progress of the Negro people is possible, and consequently no further progress for the whole working class is possible, without rejecting the vacillating, compromising leadership of the petty bourgeoisie and looking toward the proletariat for new leadership. Only with workers at the helm can the course be steered for conscious and united struggle of the working class against the fascist danger and for peace, jobs and equality.

*Lean el*  
**TRIBUNO  
POPULAR**

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1. Because of the crisis of overproduction, which has caused high unemployment, the workers on welfare must unite with the over-all struggles of the working class against unemployment and struggle for jobs with peace. Also, more struggle is needed against the attacks on workers as a whole and in particular the fascist programs designed to cut workers off of welfare and put more money into the military budget.

2. That a steering committee be set up out of the convention with one representative from each of the 26 states represented, with the special duty of bringing back to their state organizations resolutions that would begin to rebuild the Welfare Rights Organization.

3. This same steering committee, after this convention, would be given the duties to plan and call a National Convention in four months, where the recipients could have a larger convention to unite on a national, political, fighting program, new structure and officers.

The leadership of the convention was furious when the proposal was put before the convention. The majority of participants hailed the proposal as the beginning of a real organization which could fight in the interests of the welfare recipient. Despite physical harassment and slanderous statements about the leaders of the militant caucus, the resolution passed. Although the contents of the resolution will be temporary until a new convention can be called, the people who attended had begun the process.

The welfare recipients who attended this convention have vowed to change the nature of their organization. No longer will the National Welfare Rights Organization be a service organization which deals only with individual cases and renders services to them, but it will become a powerful fighting organization which will link up the struggle of the welfare recipient with the struggle of the unemployed and employed worker, for jobs, peace and a decent life.

## UMWA LETTER AGAINST KLAN

We are reprinting the following letter issued by United Mine Workers' President, Arnold Miller, to the members of Local Union 1974, District 19. This letter briefly states the UMW's position on the Klan, which is one of complete opposition to the Klan and their tactics of union-busting, scabbing and anti-Negro activity.

We are in complete agreement with this statement by the UMW leadership and lend our support to the UMW in their struggle against the coal operators and KKK's attempts to destroy the miners' union in Appalachia. We also lend our complete support to their organizing drives in the coal fields of Appalachia and the Southwest.

### TO THE MEMBERS OF LOCAL UNION 1974, DISTRICT 19, UMWA

Dear Brothers,

It has come to my attention recently that the Ku Klux Klan has been trying to organize in the Harlan County area. I think that it is important for every UMWA member to know that the United Mine Workers of America is totally opposed to what the KKK stands for. The Ku Klux Klan is an un-American, anti-union organization that has always opposed the rights of working men and women. During the 1930's, in the South and elsewhere, KKK members acted as strikebreakers and armed thugs for non-union companies which unions were trying to organize. And, today, the KKK is opposed to the labor movement.

As you know, the United Mine Workers was the first industrial union to allow membership of all races, colors, and nationalities. The UMWA is strong because we are united regardless of a member's color or religion or country of birth. The Klan preaches racial hatred and division and sets brother against brother.

Our UMWA Constitution is clear. Article II says that the purpose of the UMWA is to "unite in one organization, regardless of creed, color, nationality, or sex, all workers eligible for membership." And our constitution makes it clear that one cannot be a UMWA member and a Klan member too. I have no doubt that the scab coal operators would like to see the Klan grow strong in Harlan County as a first step in breaking our union. This we can never allow to happen.

I urge each and every one of you to oppose with all your power and to the fullest extent of the law the efforts of the Klan to gain a foothold in Harlan. Those of us who love America and believe in the American constitution owe it to our great country to oppose the Klan. Those of us who are UMWA members owe it to our great union to oppose this labor-hating organization.

Fraternally yours,  
Arnold Miller

### Bessie Re-arrested

As we were going to press, it was reported to us, that the Harlan County authorities, obviously in collusion with the Klan, had re-arrested Bessie Lou Cornett on an old indictment, charging her and fourteen other people with assaulting a police officer, by holding a picket line in Pikeville, Kentucky. This arrest squarely puts the Harlan authorities in the camp of the Ku Klux Klan in their harassment of progressive workers. This second arrest signals that the Klan is not going to take the campaign against them lightly. We must redouble our efforts to defend Bessie, the Harlan Labor News and fight against this fascist group.

# SMASH THE KLAN

Since the arrest of Bessie Lou Cornett on July 14, for the alleged kidnapping of Kathy Ball and her two children, both sides of this struggle have accelerated their campaign. The anti-Klan forces have developed a nation-wide campaign to defend Bessie, the Harlan Labor News and to fight the Klan. From coast to coast, money, signatures, demonstrations and meetings are being held to spread the news of Bessie's case and expose the Ku Klux Klan. In Harlan County, a Labor Day Rally is planned to protest the Klan's presence in this area of the country. In Detroit, August 16; in Washington D.C., in New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia, the anti-Klan forces are gathering to express anger and outrage at Bessie's arrest and pledge their support in the struggle against the KKK. When Bessie was first arrested, the anti-Klan forces sought help from everyone possible. Pleas for help ranged from local Harlan officials to the Federal government. Representative John Connors, a well-known anti-Klan fighter, was approached and he was very helpful in getting Bessie released from jail. Senator W. Huddleston from Kentucky was also approached and he

like Connors was helpful in Bessie's release. And, just the other day Cathy Ball was arrested by the FBI for "knowingly and willingly making false and fictitious statements to a material fact regarding kidnapping which is a federal crime under the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation." She is out on bail now, but her arrest seriously hurts the state's case against Bessie Lou. It was obvious to all from the beginning that Bessie's arrest was based on lies, but Mrs. Ball's arrest makes it even more conclusive.

As the anti-Klan forces wage their campaign, so is the Klan. As reported in the last People's Tribune, the Klan had a rally in Harlan County at which it has been reported they brought automatic weapons and plenty of ammunition. No violence erupted at their rally, but the message from the Klan is clear: We are on the move! We will persist in our anti-union, anti-Negro, anti-working class campaign by any means possible, and that means violence!

As it stands now, the situation in Harlan County is very explosive. The Chief of Police of Evarts, Martin Ledford, nicknamed Gunsmoke and a

member of the KKK, told his son Johnny to get out of town! His son who has many Negro friends, was warned by his father that the Klan was going to clean up the town, and that when this started he couldn't protect him. Johnny left town. But there are many workers who won't leave town, many people who hate the Klan and are ready to fight them. We have printed a letter by Arnold Miller, UMWA President, which openly and completely supports the struggle against the Klan. The UMWA knows well the bloody history of the KKK, and they have thrown their support to this important struggle.

Every worker must see the struggle against the Klan as a beginning step in the battle against the rise of fascism. The Klan appeals to "white Americans" to save this country from all that is foreign to it. But our working class knows better. We know what the Klan stands for, and it is they who are foreign! We say if you love your country, you must fight against the Klan. We built this country—it is ours! Don't let the Klan and fascists take it away from us!

**DEFEND BESSIE LOU CORNETT!  
SMASH THE KLAN!**

## SUPPORT BUSING NOT FASCISM

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals recently ordered Jefferson County (Louisville and surrounding suburbs) to desegregate its schools, beginning this fall. After four years of legal battles that have seen the case taken twice to the Supreme Court, Louisville will now be required to bus approximately 25,000 students in order to achieve integrated classes that are 26-50% Negro national minority.

Though Louisville prides itself for its liberal image of previously peaceful desegregation of its schools after the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, the courts have found that the city and county school boards simply redrew the attendance area boundaries in such a way as to guarantee continued segregation. It was HEW (Department of Health, Education and Welfare) itself that initiated the current round of desegregation court battles by denying matching funds to two all Anglo-American elementary schools that were blatantly and purposefully segregated. Statistics from the Louisville Board of Education indicate that while the schools in the predominantly Negro national minority West end are 96-98% Negro, the schools in the suburban districts are 98-100% Anglo-American.

Needless to say, in Louisville as everywhere else, this segregation has led to poor, unequal education for all working class children. With few exceptions, new relatively well-equipped and staffed suburban schools contrast to dilapidated, inner-city schools. The City's court-mandated desegregation plan even called for the closing of some of these inner-city schools; apparently they are only good enough for Negro school children!

Kentucky on the whole, however, has an abysmally poor school system, ranking 46th among the 50 states in per-pupil expenditures. Many bourgeois politicians have been elected on a program of doing "something" about Kentucky's terrible schools. But the situation has remained the same. The "separate but equal" policy shows dramatically that such a policy leads to quality education for none and notoriously poor education for Negro children.

While the courts have been forced to recognize that "separate is not equal", the bourgeoisie and their hacks have lined up behind the many who oppose busing. The Mayor and the head of the county government have refused to support desegregation, saying only that they will uphold the law, while at the same time

labeling the recent order "unfortunate" and "irrational". The government officials are not the only anti-busing forces. Two anti-busing groups, Save Our Community Schools (SOCS) and Concerned Parents have both been active in generating and organizing anti-busing sentiment. Concerned Parents organized a school boycott last spring to show its strength and the boycott was 40% effective in some neighborhoods.

As in many cities across the country, these local anti-busing forces have been joined by the Ku Klux Klan. In Louisville, two days after the Circuit Court decision was announced, the KKK with the door guarded by two uniformed Nazis, held a meeting with 50 people to hear David Duke give the anti-busing movement in Louisville a shot in the arm. Though many people picketed the meeting in opposition to the Klan and though the head of Concerned Parents refused to speak at the meeting when she learned of the Klan involvement, the Klan's surfacing signals a new stage in the fight for desegregation. With the emergence of the Klan, violent confrontation in Louisville in September is imminent.

The pro-busing groups, the Task Force for Peaceful Desegregation, (a coalition of 33 groups, including the NAACP, ACLU, CLUW, The Louisville PTA, and various church groups) which is under the thumb of a city-county agency, has made no concrete plans of how to oppose anti-busing violence. In fact, this group is careful to distinguish between busing and desegregation, attempting to appear supportive of the latter without supporting the only possible way to achieve it, busing.

The bourgeoisie's overt abandonment of school desegregation and their simultaneous support of the

Klan (exemplified by an anti-busing editorial and a pro-"Klan right-to-speak" editorial in the local bourgeois press) is the harbinger of future attacks on desegregation of the schools in Louisville. Seizing on this issue to attack and reverse 20 years of civil rights legislation, and return the Negro people to the days of semi-slavery, the bourgeoisie has shot their opening guns in the fascist assault.

The CLP has for some time recognized that the struggle for busing is an important struggle against the fascist offensive. We are calling on all workers and workers' organizations to join the struggle to nationalize education and guarantee equal, integrated quality education for all children. We demand that the Federal and state governments make it a capital crime to willfully harm either a school child or parent involved in a busing and integration program at public schools. And we will return in kind any acts by the fascists which harm our children, our neighbors and fellow workers!

## SOUTHWEST

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unity of the vanguard of the proletariat. The national minority workers are at the heart of that vanguard, because they compose a large section of the unskilled and semi-skilled workers. Rarely a day passes without a slanderous attack by the nationalities upon one another. We noted some months ago how some Negro newspapers in Los Angeles had supported deportations and thus attacked the undocumented Mexican national workers. This division must be combated by exposing the source of all oppression, imperialism, which can only be ended with the overthrow of this system. The unity of the Mexican and Negro workers is key to the unity of the proletariat.

On this fifth anniversary of the Chicano Moratorium, we note the continued struggle of the Mexican national minority for his equality. Today, the demand for Regional Autonomy for the Southwest is integrally connected with the struggle for jobs, peace and equality for all nations and peoples. Only through the most militant fight against national oppression and for jobs with peace can our working class forge itself into one mighty army able to deal the death blow to the hangman of revolutionary movements worldwide—USNA imperialism!

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## INDIANA

## FARMERS THREATENED

A significant struggle is now being waged in rural Indiana to keep prime agricultural land from being taken out of production, particularly in a 3-county area 60 miles north of Indianapolis and five miles east of the city of Lafayette. The local bourgeoisie working hand in glove with the energy monopolies and the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to flood 12,000 acres of rich Tippecanoe and Carroll County farmland in order to build a huge reservoir, at a cost of over \$100 million. The avowed purpose of the reservoir, to be called Lafayette Lake, is to provide recreation and flood control along this section of the Wabash River.

But behind the facade of "flood control" and "recreation" stands the real reason for the reservoir — a water storage basin to maintain a navigable water level for the Wabash River. Even the name of the project, Lafayette Lake, is deceptive, for it would cease to be a living body of water, having none of the ecological balances that keep a real lake alive. In a relatively short time, it would be more like an open sewer than an azure blue lake. As for summer recreation, summer is when the river level is down in normal years and large sections of the "lake" will become mud flats as it is drained to keep coal and grain barges afloat on the river. In actuality, Lafayette Lake is but one of 29 reservoirs either planned or already completed by the Army Corps of Engineers on creeks and streams which flow into the Wabash River, important links in an overall plan to build a barge canal linking the Gulf of Mexico with the Great Lakes. The Corps' plan utilizes naturally navigable rivers, such as the Ohio River and will make other rivers like the Wabash navigable by dams and dredging.

The real purpose of, and interests behind, this project became clear at a meeting held in Terre Haute, Indiana, of local and national representatives of the energy monopolies. The meeting was sponsored by the Wabash Valley Association (WVA), a "citizen's group" organized locally to lobby for the Wabash Valley Interstate Commission, an Indiana-Illinois state-funded committee to plan development of the Wabash Valley. The major speech of the evening was delivered by George Patterson, President of the American Electric Power Company of New York; other speeches were given by representatives of Ashland Oil Corp. of Washington D.C., Public Service Indiana, the Illinois Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The major theme of all the speeches was the "energy crisis", the importance of cheap water transportation for coal and oil, and navigation of the Wabash River.

But the expense of such a system is only matched by its wastefulness; the benefits can only accrue to the profit hungry monopolies. Clearly, cheap transportation for the coal/oil monopolies is the main purpose of the system—publically funded transportation to maximize private capital gains! Canal barge transportation will be much cheaper than rail transportation to the coal and oil interests; but the real cost, which falls on the backs of the working class, in terms of lost agricultural land, maintenance and continuous dredging of the canals, and the building of reservoirs will be enormous. Presently there are more than enough railroad lines to provide adequate transportation, but they are sorely in need of repair. As the price of gasoline continues to rise, railroads will be needed more and more to transport both goods and people. The canal system provides no public transportation for people, only cheap "public" transportation for the energy industry.

The effect of this one reservoir on workers and small farmers in the three-county area east of Lafayette will be to lower incomes and raise prices. The Chambers of Commerce throughout this part of Indiana are predicting a great influx of new jobs because of the new recreation industry that will be built around the lake. But any worker knows that recreation (service) jobs mean jobs such as clerks, waitresses, and motel staff. This kind of work pays minimum wage or lower with no job security and long hours. Generally, these jobs are also impossible to organize into labor unions. The small but growing trade union movement here will suffer a tremendous set-back and wages and working conditions in non-union shops that have been improving because of the pressure of growing trade unionism will deteriorate. All the major construction work to build the dam and reservoir will be done by huge construction firms from the Southwest that bring in their own labor force and hire very few local people. A temporary imported work force and future corporate-owned recreation facilities will combine to greatly aggravate an already acute housing shortage, causing real estate prices and rents to soar. Finally, 400 farm families will be forced off their land and this will

further consolidate the control of agribusiness on farming in this area.

But now a new voice is rising in opposition — progressive workers are beginning to demand that the \$100 million be spent repairing the over 10,000 rural bridges in Indiana, that hundreds of sewage plants be built and that mile after mile of railroad tracks be repaired. Since better transportation is needed, then the railroads should be nationalized and revitalized to bring low-cost public transportation to farmers for their goods and to all working people. Wildcat Creek the proposed dam site should become public property through the establishment of Wildcat Park, a place for real recreation without flooding 12,000 acres of farmland.

Above all, the workers of Indiana must rally in support of the small farmers and build a fighting alliance to block the plans of the Army Corps of Engineers and the imperialist monopolies. Under the banner of Jobs with Peace, they must form a solid front to stop the dam, block the canal, and demand instead that the railroads be restored, that sorely needed low-price housing, sewage facilities and public recreation facilities be built, providing productive jobs at the expense of the military budget!

## HELSINKI

## PRELUDE TO WAR

President Ford's recent trip to Helsinki (July 29-August 2) to attend the European Security Conference was billed by him and his supporters as a quest for "Peace." Ford's attendance at the Conference served to formalize the acceptance of the boundaries in Europe which were drawn after W.W. II by the anti-Fascist Socialist forces. In the sense that signing the document formally requires the U.S. to renounce the use of force to change boundaries in Europe, it is a victory for the Socialist camp. But the same Ford who was grinning in Helsinki and talking of world peace, last week was sitting in Washington issuing joint communiques with the Japanese Prime Minister promising to "protect" Japan from North Korea with nuclear weapons and declaring South Korea an essential

area to the defense of Japan.

Ford last week also declared that if the Soviet Union does not help bring a Middle East peace accord, it will mean a direct confrontation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Which Mr. Ford are we to believe? The seeker of World Peace in Helsinki or the nuclear sabre rattler in Washington? The policy of detente carried on by Nixon and now Ford is nothing less than a real preparation for war. Ford's signature on the document in Helsinki, the great handshake in space, the second grain deal, etc., pale before the need of U.S. capital to expand and find new markets to invest in. That expansion can only take place by war and only at the expense of the Socialist camp.

## DETROIT

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working class into a tool against itself. Thus, when the national minority turn against the vicious repression of the police, the bourgeois press pours forth outrageous lies and chauvinist propaganda, creating conflict between workers of different nationalities and diverting the struggle from the common enemy, the bourgeoisie.

One tragic aspect of the history of this country has been the use of violence and terror against the minority peoples. The Negro people have always been the most oppressed victim of this capitalist state. The Negroes have been forced to inhabit the segregated slums of the northern cities. Their children are forced to attend the worst schools; their employment opportunities are good only when there is a boom. Every ill of society is blamed on the Negro. High crime, the bourgeoisie says, is the doing of the national minority workers. When a Negro moves into the neighborhood, the real estate speculators whip up the chauvinism and tell the Anglo-American that his property value will go down. On and on, the barrage of lies are hurled against the Negro worker. And when he fights back, the bourgeoisie labels him a thug, a gangster or a criminal.

We must see that the answer of the bourgeoisie to the economic crisis is to make the working class bear the burden of their inability to make this society function. The Negro toilers represent the point of attack for the growing fascist danger in this country. But by no means is the Negro worker the real target. No the goal of the fascists is to drive the Anglo-American down to the level of the Negro and the Negro to the level of semi-slavery of the 1940's.

If we stand idly by and allow the fascists to further enslave the Negro workers, we will be unable to unite as a class to defeat them. Nor can we allow the slaughter of our working class brothers and sisters. The fight against fascism today is to support the struggle of the Negro worker for complete and full equality. Fresh in our minds must be the way Hitler used the Jews to establish the fascist dictatorship over the entire German working class. We must not allow this to happen here. We must unite as a class — for our enemy is united as one. Our slogan must be Unity! the Negro worker is not the cause of oppression and exploitation, the capitalists are.

**FREE THE NEGRO NATION  
EQUAL RIGHTS FOR NATIONAL  
MINORITIES**

KLAN  
STRIKES  
AGAIN

The Midwest is continuing to experience an increasing mobilization of the Ku Klux Klan. Recently, in the Cook County Jail (Cook County, Illinois) three accused murderers, two accused armed robbers, and one accused rapist were helped to escape by an Anglo-American Baptist minister who had openly distributed KKK literature among the prisoners; it is believed that Rev. Dale Tweety furnished the Anglo-American prisoners with hack-saws which allowed them to cut a hole in their cell wall and escape to freedom.

This outright recruitment of hard core criminals by the KKK is not an isolated incident. In Joliet, Illinois, as in New York City, efforts by prison guards to recruit Anglo-American prisoners into the Klan have been uncovered. In Detroit a few days ago, the Nazis painted Swastikas on the walls of the office of the progressive Detroit lawyer, Ron Glotta. We must not forget that it was from the same criminal substratum of society that the Brownshirts, SS, and SA of fascist Italy and Germany were clearly, the imperialists and their thugs, the Klan and other fascist gangs are on the move, and will stop at nothing, rallying everything corrupt and degenerate in society in preparation for their all-out offensive against the working class.

A week ago, in the Humboldt Park area of Chicago, a brick was thrown through the window of a Negro family, followed by a 6 ft. cross being burned in their backyard. This attack, however, was aimed primarily at an Anglo-American family living upstairs, who had been active in the Chicago Unemployed Workers' Council's Stop the Klan Committee.

The situation in Chicago has rapidly developed to the danger point. On the one hand, so-called "men of God" openly recruit for the Klan in the jails and help prisoners to escape, while on the other hand these fascist thugs terrorize national minorities as well as Anglo-Americans, smashing windows and burning crosses as a threat against any action on the part of progressive and communist workers. We cannot allow these rotten, reactionary criminals to continue to mobilize and begin a campaign of terror.

It is a fact of history that an injury to one is an injury to all; all workers and progressive people must rally in opposition to such outrageous actions. We must unite and demand that the local, state and federal governments take a stand against the Klan, just as the Chicago City Council did when the workers rallied under the Unemployed Council's Committee to Stop the Klan banners of "Smash the Klan!" and "Jobs with Peace!" Locally and nationally we must oppose every new outrage of these criminals against the working class—for each of these seemingly isolated events are links in the shackles of fascist dictatorship being forged by the imperialists. We must rally to the defense of Bessie Lou Cornett and the Harlan Labor News, demand action in the terrorist attacks in Humboldt Park and demand investigations of the situation in the Cook County Jail which permitted open mobilization by the Klan. The City Council, the Mayor, the State Legislature and Governor, as well as the Federal Government, must all be held accountable and made to know that the working class demands an end to the Klan and all fascist gangs!