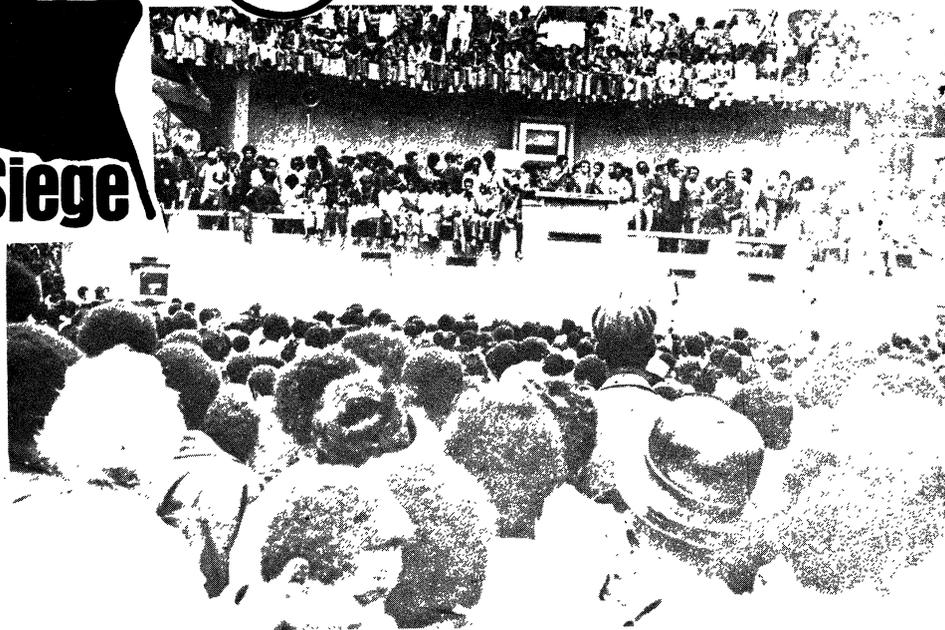


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Siege



10,000 Black workers, students, housewives, professionals and others turned out Thursday, Sept 23rd in Detroit to protest the outrageous slaughter of Black people occurring in plants, prisons, and our communities across the country.

ORGANIZE THE REVOLUTION DISORGANIZE THE STATE!

300 ATTEND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The first national conference of the Black Workers Congress was convened in Gary, Indiana over the Labor Day weekend. Approximately three hundred Black and other Third World workers and students participated in this conference, an historic first. The thrust of this conference was to pull together the efforts of Black and other Third World Workers in a unified struggle against U.S. imperialism and its lackeys.

The conference began on Saturday morning with opening remarks by Michael Hamlin, Chairman of the Black Workers Congress. Following these remarks came a speech by John Watson on the Objective Conditions of Black and other Third World Workers Today (text herein). The speech gives an analysis of the crisis that capitalism

is in today, of how Nixon's wage-price freeze is used as a tool of economic sanction to capitalist business and how this new economic policy further exploits working people, Black and other Third World workers in particular. Watson's speech ended with a call for workers to organize and struggle against economic repression.

Other delegates to the conference gave brief speeches of solidarity to the concept of Black Workers and other Third World people moving against Imperialism and industrial repression. Representatives from the Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Asiatic oppressed communities spoke to the need to escalate struggles against imperialism.

Workshops were convened on organizing workers youth, and

women. A cross section of workers shared their experiences in struggling against imperialism. The workshops focused on how to build struggle around the concrete issues which workers face, and how to mobilize and involve workers in day to day issues of struggle. Another important topic was building working class unity, through actions against plant atrocities especially when workers are murdered due to unsafe conditions in plants.

The Black Workers Congress Women Commission is organizing to fight imperialism as it exploits Black and other Third World women on the job or excluded from the job; to fight imperialism as it controls Black and other Third World women on welfare rolls; to fight imperialism as it keeps the

wives of Black and other Third World workers locked economically and socially into their households so that they don't recognize and move against the common enemy; to fight imperialism as it uses capitalism, racism and anti-woman propaganda and practices to oppress Black and other Third World people, the rest of the working class, and oppressed people around the world.

A highlight of the conference was a film "The Red Detachment of Women" made in China released in 1970 over three years after their Cultural Revolution. This precedent-setting film depicts the role of women in revolutionary struggle. This detachment of women was given the task of struggling politically and militarily

continued on page 10

LABOR TODAY

News Briefs

Some auto plants are working on a week by week layoff policy to avoid payment of unemployment compensation. Workers in these situations are laid off by shifts. The unions could put seniority workers on one shift and demand that the company lay these workers off first for more than one week periods, and they would receive compensation as well as unemployment compensation. But so far the company has been free to lay workers off, at one week intervals, hire new employees while others are still laid off. Moreover, Chrysler is still continuing with its \$2.00/hr training programs. Under these programs 'students' are 'trained' (work) for 6 weeks and are supposed to get a job. In reality they are laid off with no rights to compensation. During their 'training' period the 'students' work on assembly lines, producing profit making goods for Chrysler, at low wages with no rights under a program subsidized by the U.S. government.

The United States Chamber of Commerce is currently lobbying to see the Wage-Price Freeze expanded to include the outlawing of multiple union bargaining and secret strike votes, removing unfair charges from NLRB, and limiting NLRB appeals to Circuit Court

a recent executive council meeting of the AFL-CIO, the council called on the administration to 'consider anew' the question of Chinese Communist membership in the U.N. and demanded that the Berlin Wall be torn down. They also urged their affiliates to deposit funds in Black banks, and voted donations to the Joint Council on Economic Education, the Jewish Labor Committee, the League for Industrial Democracy, and the United Negro College Fund

From 1965 to 1971 the Gross National product rose 52%. During the same period wages and salaries were up 60% while profits declined 4%. The rise in wages was mainly accounted for by the expansion of the working class, and increasing numbers of families where both husband and wife work to keep up with the cost of living, as well as strikes.

The decline in profits is accounted for by the squandering of resources in the war, the continuing international monetary crisis, and the predictable decline of markets which capitalists periodically face

North Carolina has the lowest % organized labor in the country and is also 50th in the level of hourly wages.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. has the second largest number of days lost through strikes in the world. Italy is first and Britain third. England's profit has fallen drastically in the last few years. Between 1950-54 the profits were 25.2% of the national income. During that period the British working class was relatively calm, and Britain was effectively still a colonial master. In 1969 profits had dropped to 3.2% of national income and the British workers were continually on strike.

Eight more of the nation's 150 major labor areas were added to the 'substantial' unemployment list in August, boosting the number of areas so classified to 62, according to the Labor Department. The latest figure compares with 54 in July, 1971 and 31 in August last year

Latin America was exempted from the 10% reduction in foreign aid that is part of Nixon's new economic policy. Many days of strike caused idleness totaled 7.9 million in July and amounted to 52% of total estimated working time. The total compares with 3.9 million in July 1970. The 0.52% idleness ratio - man days lost as a percentage of estimated working time was sharply above the 0.25% and 0.28% for June 1971 and July 1970 respectively.

The first court challenge to Nixon's wage freeze was a suit filed by four Catholic universities, which had school professors who were scheduled for pay increases for the 1971-72 academic year. They contend that the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970 is unconstitutional and request that the President's Executive Order issued under it be declared null and void.

Teachers' workloads are increasing in the face of rising unemployment in the educational field. In Southfield, Mich., classes started with 22 fewer teachers than last year, resulting in a climb in the student-teacher ratio from 22.1 to 22.5.

Unions representing 65,000 postal workers have also filed suit to lift the freeze in application to them. They note that the Postal Service Act directs the Postmaster General to carry out the terms of the contract negotiated under it, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law.

FOR THE PEOPLES HEALTH

The first national convention speaking concretely to the health needs of working people took place in Lexington, Kentucky, Oct. 29-31. The daily struggle of coal and strip miners in Appalachia against the mining industry in who collaborate with union officials against miners, was dramatically presented to 800 delegates at a Medical Committee for Human Rights (MCHR) Semi-Annual Convention. MCHR is a coalition of mainly white liberals and some radical medical and health professionals willing to agitate around the issue of health care as a human right. There are now 59 MCHR chapters.

Black Lung Association, a group of coal miners and retired mine workers waging daily struggle against the mining companies, unions, and related government agencies, made major input and an important contribution to the success of the convention. BIA struggles mainly against policies that lead to violent explosions and cave-ins, the two major occupational hazards that miners face.

Local strip-miners' associations presented a slide and cultural show depicting the brutal destruction of the land surface and sub-surface from strip mining. In addition to raising the level of militancy among Kentuckians opposing land destruction, the miners expressed a strong feeling for the land and against

surface mining with frequent and familiar cries of white and Black Appalachians of "Free the land."

From a medical point of view, the focus centered on Black Lung or occupational pneumoconiosis. Black Lung is a disabling and frequently fatal pulmonary (lung) condition caused by uncontrolled inhalation of coal dust by coal miners.

Many struggles have ensued around the issue of Black Lung by miners afflicted with the disease as they try to gain compensation. Though the U.S. Congress made Compensation for Black Lung a law more than two years ago, people have had to wage bitter struggles to obtain what is supposed to be lawfully theirs.

On Sept. 14, some 28 Appalachian miners led by a militant Black miner, Bill Worthington, an original founder of BLA, went to an "international scientific" conference on Black Lung disease. All of these Appalachian miners were disabled by Black Lung disease, but unable to receive federal benefits. They disrupted the conference which was composed of "international scientists" by denouncing the collaboration of science, with the government and unions, to deprive Appalachian rank and file mine workers of their right to earn enough to survive.

In Lexington, these miners gave statistics

showing ways to cut down coal dust at the expense of the company, which the companies do not use. These methods included better ventilation, vacuuming, watering down walls to eliminate coal dust and are being used in some parts of the world. These would also serve to cut down explosions which is also caused by coal dust. The miners say whenever inspection time comes the company fixes up selected spots to be checked to make sure it gets a "no violation" report.

According to Paul J. Nyden, writing in The Nation (Sept. 20, 1971), the percentage of Black miners increases the farther south you go. Between 15 and 20% of miners in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky are Black. These Black miners hold many local union offices and have formed principled coalitions with the white miners according to Bill Worthington with whom I talked. Miners also once made up 1/2 of UMWS membership and held 50% of all local offices. Today they comprise about 25%.

Racism is generally instigated by district or international union officials. While white workers and Black workers struggle against each other, the company and the union have been known to lower wages and raise production. Or as Bill Worthington said in Kentucky, "They have it all planned to keep poor workers fighting each other." In the last 15 years some companies in eastern Kentucky

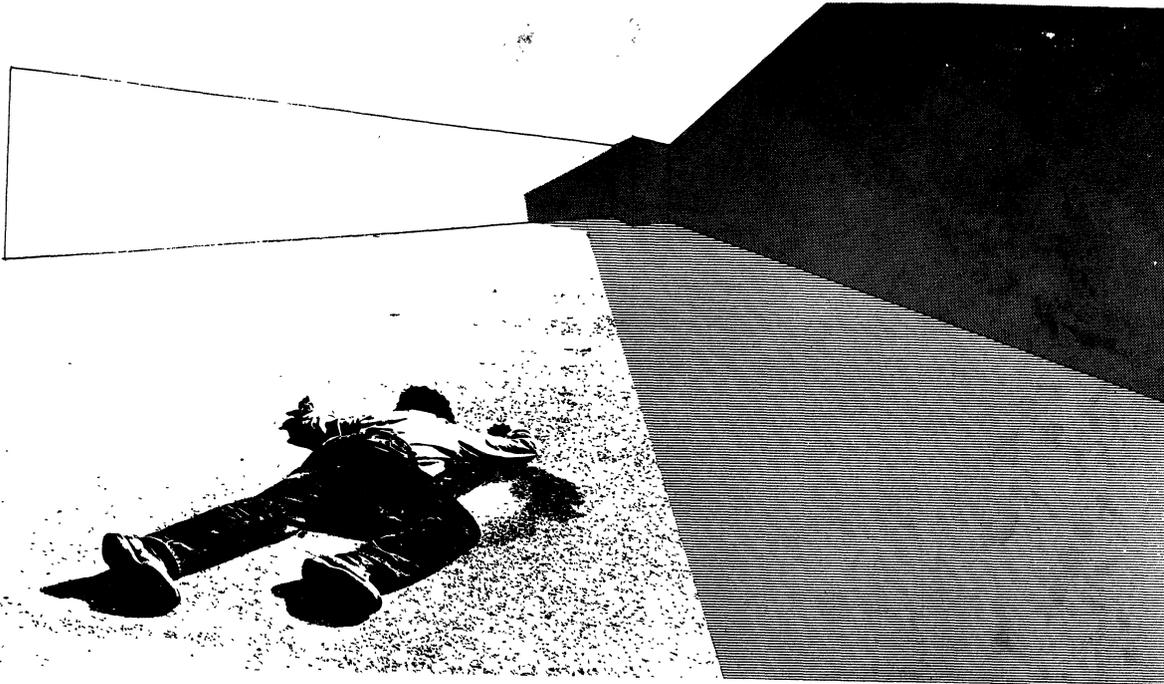
have destroyed unions and subsequently pay as little as \$15 a day with no benefits.

One thing noted in Kentucky and very frequently stated was that most of the Black Working people there from the North felt more class solidarity with the Appalachian white working men and women than they'd ever felt with the white left.

Among the delegates were people from Health Revolutionary Union Movement, Health-PAC, Antioch Newsreel, the Black Panther Party, Red Family Collective, at least 40 representatives of the 59 MCHR Chapters, the Motor City Labor League, NWRO, and the Young Lords Party.

by Edna Watson





state of emergency

by Carolyn Ramsey

In the weeks that followed the Massacre at Attica Prison and the murder of George Jackson at San Quentin, Black and Third World folk throughout the country turned out in mass in the streets of their cities to demonstrate to this country and to the world their determination to fight against repression and murder of their people. Schools and places of work were brought to a near standstill in some cities.

In the city of Detroit, Black workers, students, mothers, and community spokesmen with other groups of the Black Workers Congress declared to the world that a State of Emergency Exists in the Black Community and that an on-going State of Emergency Committee would be formed in Detroit to address itself actively to any and all aspects of official war against Black people.

The first priority of the State of Emergency Committee became the task of mobilizing the masses of Blacks in Detroit for a silent march of protest of the Attica Massacre held on the 23rd of September 1971. In the midst of the activities prior to the scheduled march, the war of repression struck still another tragic blow.

On the 19th of September 1971, two Black youths, Craig Mitchell, age 14, and Ricardo Buck, age 15, were murdered by a policeman of the eight month-old STRESS unit of the Detroit Police Department.

The two slain boys were both unarmed, and were shot in the back by police officer Richard Worobec who later accused them of attempting to rob him. This insane, brutal and very tragic act made the State of Emergency an even more awesome reality for Black people in this country.

On the 23rd of September 1971, over 10,000 Black and Third World folk took to the streets of Detroit to show to the country and to the world their determination to struggle for the final defeat of the State's crimes against the people.

What follows is the complete text of the Declaration of the State of Emergency.

We the Black and oppressed people of the city of Detroit hereby declare that there exists in this community and throughout the country a STATE OF EMERGENCY because of:

1. The brutal killings of two Black juveniles near the North End Family Center by members of the so-called "STRESS" unit of the basically racist Detroit Police Department. Patrolman Richard Worobec, the officer who pulled the trigger, was exonerated of all guilt by the prosecutor's office even though the two dead boys, Ricardo Buck and Craig Mitchell were both unarmed and shot in the back.
2. The brutal cold-blooded slaughter of prisoners at the Attica State Penitentiary by New York State police and other correctional officers under the direction of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller.
3. The continuing brutality practiced by guards and officials in jails and prisons throughout the U.S. including vicious jail raids in New Orleans, Detroit, Baltimore and other prison centers.

4. The murder of George Jackson at San Quentin, and the continuing inhuman incarceration and legal frameup of Angela Davis in California.

5. The illegal, unconstitutional and brutal conditions at the Wayne County Jail, including inadequate sanitation, extreme overcrowding, inhumane treatment, harassment of prisoners, poor food, use of solitary confinement ("the hole") for both male and female prisoners, inadequate health facilities, and the continued confinement of citizens convicted of no crime, but too impoverished to pay ransom in the form of bail.

6. The frameup of President Imari and other citizens of the Republic of New Africa, in Mississippi and Detroit, on false murder and other charges.

7. The intensification of economic deprivation and exploitation of Black and poor people through the mechanism of the Wage-Price Freeze, the establishment of Pay Boards and Productivity Boards.

8. The total lack of Black political control over land policy in this country. Resultant from this policy, millions of Black and poor people live in substandard and deteriorated houses, and are increasingly exploited by land speculators, unscrupulous real estate agencies, and slum landlords, all working in collusion with local, state and federal agencies. Taxes on land continually increase without adequate representation for the people, and there is gross neglect of public housing.

9. Current economic labor policies have led to astronomical unemployment rates for Black and poor communities. Training programs to provide new jobs are nearly nonexistent, and there is virtually no

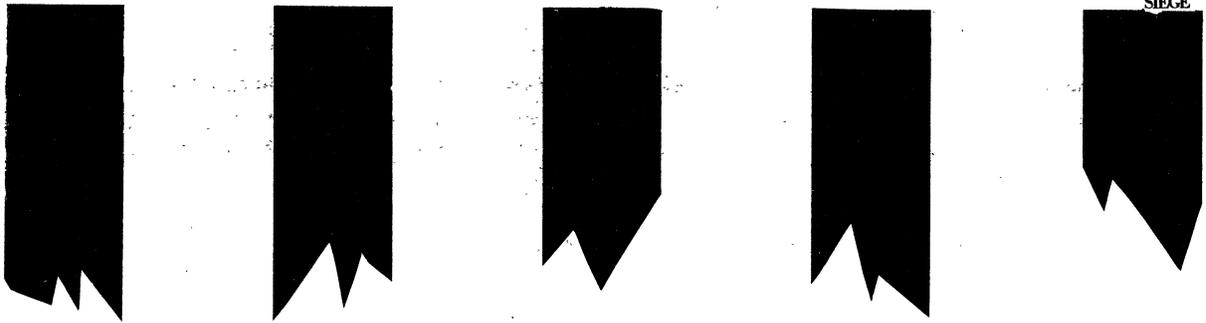
capital base for ongoing economic development.

10. The education system operative in the Black community serves only to prepare blacks for prison, factory labor, or as cannon fodder in the army. The crisis in education is being further exacerbated by the rise of bussing to ostensibly bring about "integration" of the school system, rather than providing quality education for our children.

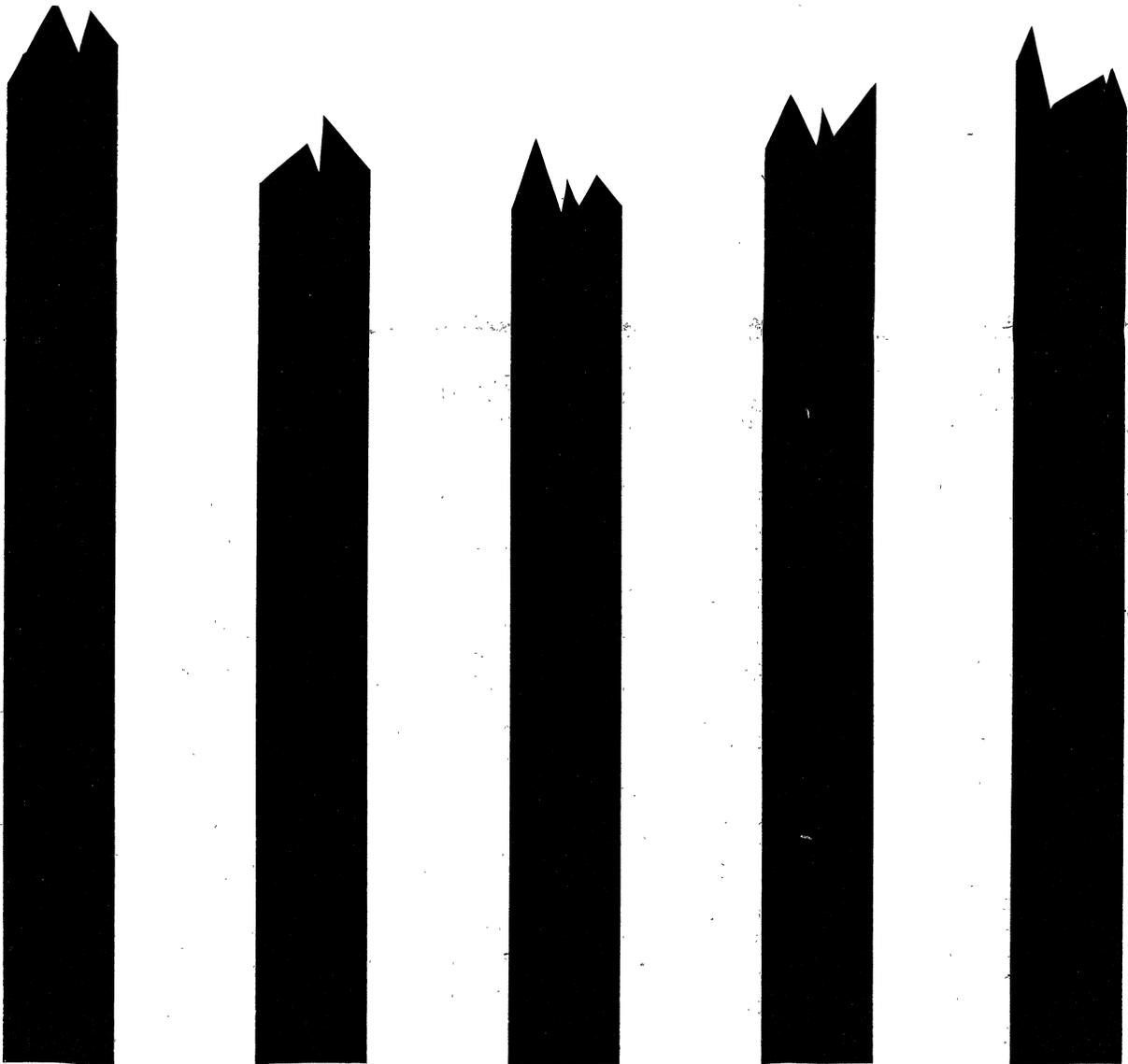
The current State of Emergency has taken the form of violent repression in the jails, prisons, courts, community schools and work places wherever Black folk are found. The economic situation is disastrous and getting worse. Brutal killings, the spread of dope, beatings, illegal jailings, imprisonment for political activities, and ransom demanded of Black and other oppressed people through the bail bond system, are all manifestations of the dangerous cancer spreading throughout our communities.

The time to act is NOW.

The State of Emergency Committee is a united front that includes a wide spectra of organizations and individuals who are committed to fighting repression. The principle of the State of Emergency Committee represents the United Black community. You are called upon to join and work with the State of Emergency Committee to rid the Black community of the reign of terror unleashed upon us by the forces of exploitation, oppression and repression, and to build a community in which Black people can live and work in safety and security. State of Emergency Committee, 8824 Fenkell, Detroit, Mich. 48238, phone: 342-8355.



ATTICA!



WAYNE COUNTY INMATES FILE SUIT

Six present or former inmates at Wayne County Jail in Detroit took the Sheriff of Wayne County and others to court Oct. 5 for maintaining inhuman practices and unhealthy conditions in the jail. The hearing was the next step in the inmates' class action suit against the officials who are responsible for the conditions in the jail. The jail administrators were advised to show cause at this hearing why they should not be charged with contempt of court for not making the prescribed changes in the conditions and practices in the jail according to an accepted plan for making these changes. The named plaintiffs in this class suit representing the inmates' interests are Michael Harris, James Johnson, Lawrence Robert Plamondon, Norman Richardson, Carolyn Traylor and Nora Ware.

On January 25, 1971 a complaint was filed in the Wayne County Circuit Court by these named plaintiffs who represent

the interests of approximately 1,100 persons who at any given time are incarcerated at the Wayne County jail and deprived of their liberty solely because they, unlike wealthier persons accused of crime, cannot afford the price of bail or ransom.

The thrust of the complaint was to describe in detail the depraved, inhuman and barbaric conditions of the jail, and to request the court to bring a halt to the inhumane treatment of persons who have not been convicted of any crime, but who only are being held to insure their presence at trial.

A hearing on the inmates' charges began on February 23, 1971. Plaintiffs represented by counsel of the Labor Defense Coalition, introduced 27 witnesses who witnessed or experienced ill-treatment and poor conditions. Twelve of the witnesses presented by plaintiffs

were either present or former inmates and, through them, the intolerable conditions at the jail were described. They testified to the grossly inadequate medical care, the sardine-packed cells, the total lack of exercise facilities, the contaminated food, the disregard for sanitation needs, the arbitrary, punitive and unlawful summary discipline, and the unlawful restrictions on visitation, communication, association and privacy.

Following these testimonies the 3-judge panel declared the conditions at the jail constituted cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the 8th Amendment and violated numerous statutory building standards. Even though the court has issued two orders directing the Sheriff of Wayne County, the administrator of the jail and other public officials responsible for the maintenance of the jail to correct the deplorable situation at the jail, most of the inhumane conditions present at the

time the suit was brought, still exist.

As a result the plaintiffs went back to court on October 5, 1971 seeking a hearing on why the defendants should not be held in civil contempt for failure to follow the court's order to materially change the unconstitutional operation of the jail.

Recognizing the need for the community to hear about and support the inmates' suit, the Labor Defense Coalition office asked the Black community (since 85% of the pre-trial detainees are black) to show their support by attending the hearing.

by Charles Rutledge

PARISH PRISON REBELLION

Orleans Parish Prison in New Orleans, known for its horrible conditions witnessed what officials called "the noisiest protest" in Parish Prison's history. On Monday evening, September 20, 1971, at 6:30PM, some inmates, tagged "Black militants" refused to be moved to another part of the prison to facilitate their separation. From this the inmates in certain areas staged a protest around the bad conditions. The brothers burned mattresses, chanted loudly and a few waved liberation flags from the cell windows. The smoke and noise drew a great deal of attention from the cell windows. The smoke and noise drew a great deal of attention from the surrounding communities where a large concentration of blacks live.

Because many people in the community have close relatives and friends in that prison, they rushed toward the gates as the news of the actions spread. All approaches to the prison were sealed off and all traffic going past the prison was redirected to keep the community from getting close enough to lend support and encouragement. The streets were blocked with firemen who would act if "something serious" developed, and by the police who stood ready if any escape attempts were made or if the observers became too unruly. At times the police even agitated, deliberately bumping into and pushing people.

It appeared that the rebellion was not put down shortly after midnight but it

was not until the next day that the community discovered that there had been 54 brothers who had held out in an isolated area of the prison through the night and until 12:30PM the next day.

The inmates protested the conditions in the prison—the crowded living conditions, poor medical facilities, and the inhuman guards. Parish Prison was built forty-two years ago to accommodate 460 inmates and now accommodates about 940 human beings, many of whom sleep on the floor. Ventilation is nonexistent because the windows were boarded up to keep prisoners from hollering at passers-by below. Plumbing was not repaired because the doors to the pipe lockers were an escape route for 21 inmates a

year ago; consequently all doors were welded closed.

No consideration is given to the conditions under which the inmates have to rehabilitate. The budget decides the accommodations and services. The allocations give as little as possible to meet the needs of the inmates, and as much as possible to meet the salary needs of "servants of the public." It appears that because these people and others in prison are not in the mainstream of society they are denied human needs and are expected to rehabilitate themselves to enter a society which has not and will never be able to accept.

by Francine Brown

BROTHER RAINEY FIGHTS DRAFT CHARGES



Joseph Rainey, twenty-two year old former merchant seaman and activist in the Black liberation movement was arrested on April 27, 1971, at his home in New Orleans and charged with two counts of failure to perform a duty at an armed forces physical examination. He faces ten years in prison.

The issues involved in Rainey's case are whether the United States Selective Service, has the right to select who shall die in foreign imperialist wars for a rich rul-

ing class and government that discriminates and exploits us at home; and who through the process of induction expect us to accept and say nothing about the harassment and discrimination that Black men are subjected to at induction centers. So, in this case the government is attempting to prosecute Joe Rainey for questioning their rights over his life plus resisting the inhuman treatment of a racist draft system.



Joe Rainey led handcuffed into Federal Court Building.

The resistance to the war and the United States military has been far reaching, extending throughout the country to all segments of the population, from Muhammad Ali to the working and unemployed youth of every community, be it urban or rural. Particularly in New Orleans there has been a very strong draft resistance community. One recent draft case of national importance has been the fight of Walter Collins.

The case of Walter Collins was also a case against the movement. Walter, an activist in the movement for a number of years has organized in the deep south with the Southern Conference Educational Fund (SCEF), was co-founder of the National Black Draft Counselors (NBDC), and he was formerly with the National Association of Black Students (NABS). He refused induction, and was convicted on five counts of draft evasion and sentenced to five, five year terms to run concurrently. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit upheld his conviction in a recent decision. The case went on to the Supreme Court which refused to hear it and who immediately arrested him to start a five year term in the Federal Penitentiary (Texarkana).

Joe Rainey is now waiting for the filing of the actual charges where they (the government) will be attempting to illegally prosecute Joe and other poor and working class youth to follow.

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SIEGE is the official organ of the Black Workers Congress, and is published under the direct supervision of its Central Committee. Address all criticisms, articles, and letters to:

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GUIDELINES

What is Siege?

Siege is the official voice of the Black Workers Congress and its publication represents a new stage in the revolutionary struggle in the United States. The Black Workers Congress is dedicated to waging the anti-imperialist fight in the United States and to prepare the broad masses of people in the United States to build a socialist society, under the control of workers.

The pages of Siege will represent an effort to give leadership and direction to the revolutionary forces and the broad masses in the United States, reflecting the objectives and concrete work of the workers and revolutionary organizers in the Black Workers Congress who are dedicated to building a new world.

The Black Workers Congress is fully aware that at this moment in history black workers, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, native Americans and Asians are the vanguard force of the working class in the United States. It is our responsibility to struggle to give leadership to all workers and anti-imperialist forces, to unite with all sincere international workers and to constantly root ourselves in the black masses who are fighting both class and racial oppression.

Siege welcomes all suggestions for improving our work, criticisms and stories about the conditions of workers in the United States and around the world. We are especially interested in stories about black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, native American and Asian workers!

Anti-War Activities

The anti-war movement on the surface suffered a setback recently with the arrest of twenty-eight people in Camden, New Jersey, and Buffalo, New York, who were moved to action against the Selective Service Board. Without a doubt someone informed on the plans of the group.

Informers and spies are running wild throughout the United States making a profitable living from revealing the secrets of anti-war and revolutionary forces and even promoting activities that will lead to arrests.

The political lesson is clear. Anti-war forces must re-group, tighten security and map future mass actions against the war in Vietnam. Experiences must be summed up and new forms of struggle devised. Black workers, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, native Americans and Asians must assume more leadership in the anti-war

movement.

We must all realize that the anti-war movement is an important form of struggle against United States imperialism. It is extremely important to the Vietnamese and to our own struggle that increased pressure be directed at the Nixon war machine.

Recently the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam issued a seven-point peace proposal that is receiving wide support in South Vietnam and throughout the world. The Nixon government has refused to accept these seven points and efforts in the anti-war movement must be made to popularize these demands. Not long ago many people in the United States refused to recognize the existence of the National Liberation Front or the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam. But the vigorous and consistent armed struggle of the people of Vietnam coupled with the anti-war activities around the world and in the United States have changed this situation.

Two comparisons might be helpful to all anti-war forces: 1) During the Vietnamese war against French colonialism, the French people were never able to mount a successful draft resisters program. Inside the United States many people for various reasons are refusing to fight in the armies of the United States and third world communities are filled with people who refuse to register. Draft resistance and refusal to register must be stepped up.

2) Never before in the history of warfare has a country had its military secrets revealed as was done in the release of the Pentagon Papers. This action is testimony to the growing dissension in the United States against the war. That dissension must be accelerated.

The publication of the Pentagon Papers is also clear proof that the monopoly capitalists are fighting among themselves, making the job of revolutionaries much easier.

Within the anti-war movement, stress must be placed on the fight against imperialism. Many African revolutionaries are also fighting United States imperialism. The Portuguese government for instance is supplied with arms from the United States through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Every effort will be made by the liberals to soft pedal the anti-war struggle as more troops pull out of Vietnam, but the Nixon doctrine is to get Asians to fight Asians and to change the color of the corpses. Hence we cannot relax our vigilance but must increase anti-war activities and support of liberation movements that are fighting imperialism.

To Black G.I.'s

The Black Workers Congress calls upon all black soldiers and Vietnam veterans to join the Black Workers Congress in its fight to destroy United States imperialism and to end the slavery that our people have been subjected to for over three hundred and fifty years.



The Vietnamese people always stress that the black soldier is oppressed by the same enemy as the Vietnamese people and they make a distinction between the black soldier and the white racist soldier.

The letter of Carl Smith which we have printed indicates that change is always possible. Smith fought in Vietnam, but now he is fighting imperialism in the ranks of the Black Workers Congress.

Inside the Black Workers Congress black soldiers and Vietnam veterans will find sincere brothers and sisters who are always striving to make a scientific analysis of how to make a revolution in the United States. We must learn and profit from your experiences. Together we can figure out ways to advance the cause of our people and all the struggling masses of the world.

We suggest that all black soldiers and Vietnam veterans begin an intensive study of the Selected Works of Mao Tse Tung, especially his essay On Protracted War. One of the first requirements of warfare is the political mobilization of the masses and a firm belief that people are decisive in warfare and not weapons.

The United States cannot defeat the people of Indo-China because it is waging an unjust war and the Vietnamese have politically mobilized the masses in Vietnam to wage relentless struggle against United States imperialism and white racists.

Unite to end the economic oppression and racism we face daily as black people!

Join the Black Workers Congress!

The United Front

The people of Cairo, Illinois, under the leadership of Charles Koen and many other sincere sisters and brothers have been waging active self-defense for more than two years. That struggle has caused many ramifications inside the United States. It is a heroic testimony that Black people can unite to defend themselves in this racist, imperialist land and will go down in history as a spark that lit a prairie fire.

Black workers must struggle to unite with the broad masses of people who are waging an anti-imperialist fight. The Black United Front has consistently taken an anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist position.

Within the Black United Front sincere people must realize that there will not be agreement upon every point, but we must unite to defeat the common enemy—United States imperialism. None of the racial or national problems that we

face can be solved until United States imperialism is thoroughly defeated.

Volumes two and three of the Selected Works of Mao Tse Tung are filled with many words of wisdom on how revolutionaries should function within a United Front. We must maintain our initiative and independence within a United Front. And when we wage struggle with other members of the United Front we must make sure that our positions are correct, that it is advantageous to wage struggle, and our struggle within the United Front must be restrained. We cannot confuse work in the United Front with work in our own ranks.

Ultimately, there must be a United Front against imperialism in some form across racial and organizational lines, but at this stage of our struggle the most pressing problem is to unite as many forces in the Black community who are against imperialism as possible.

Build the Black United Front!

Unity-Struggle-unity!

Down with United States imperialism!

Telegrams, letters of support, donations should be sent to: United Front of Cairo, P. O. Box 544, Cairo, Ill. 62914.

Nixon's Visit to China

By going to China with hat in hand seeking a visit, Nixon reveals the trouble he is having in Indo-China and with the economy of the United States. He is looking for some relief. Caught in this position, the Chinese will further tighten the screws on him. Before the UN vote on the American proposal for "two Chinas," many puppet governments that supported the United States rushed headlong to recognize the People's Republic of China, afraid that they may be sold out once again by the United States. Now since China's acceptance by the world into the UN, despite U.S. threats and maneuvers to keep China out, Nixon will be making his visit to the People's Republic of China with this embarrassing defeat in his record. The Chinese are not giving Nixon the relief he is looking for.

In diplomatic struggle there are certain issues that only can be struggled for with heads of states, including those from capitalist states. While the Chinese people are planning on how they will receive Nixon, at the same time they are intensifying their preparation for a conventional and nuclear attack from any quarter in the world. Moreover, the Chinese government has made it clear that there can be no normalization of relations with the United States until the United States gets out of Indo-China, and support for the Vietnamese people still continues.

Workers in the United States have been filled with anti-China propaganda from the United States government and many bankrupt, sterile, phony parties whose officials shout slogans against Chairman Mao Tse Tung and the government of China.

Unable to chart independent courses of

actions, these people do not realize that Nixon's visit is a sign of bankruptcy of the American strategy to isolate China from the rest of the world.

These racists brand the government of China as everything from revisionist to a petty bourgeois dictatorship. Some of these same voices were heard to say that the great Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese people were revisionists because they entered into diplomatic struggle in Paris. The Vietnamese have not relented on their armed struggle against United States imperialism and there is every reason to support China and to attack these arrogant white racist leftists who think they are the only true genuine revolutionaries in the world.

Support the Chinese Revolution!
We are not Alone!

RNA

Eleven members of the Republic of New Africa are facing murder charges in Jackson, Mississippi. The terror and intimidation against black people mounts with each new day, but this repression will breed new resistance and new forms of struggle in the United States. Political and more support must be rendered to those eleven victims who are suffering at the hands of white racists and agents of imperialism in Jackson, Mississippi.

Telegrams, letters of support and donations should be sent to:
Ministry of State and Foreign Affairs
Republic of New Africa
9130 Fig Street
New Orleans, La.

Wage Price Freeze

The criminal war in Indo-China has forced many contradictions in the United States to become sharper and sharper and the wage-price freeze is only the latest indication of the mounting crisis of the United States economy.

Richard Nixon wants to wage war in Indo-China and to make the workers of the United States pay for it. But his plan will not work. We predict that there will be a new wave of strikes against monopoly capitalism after ninety days and if the wage-price freeze or the labor controls of the new phases of Nixon's plan are not lifted new antagonism will arise within the United States.

Many workers were on strikes when Nixon pumped money into the monopoly capitalists and struck a blow at workers. It is our duty to struggle to make these workers and all workers understand that the economic system of capitalism must be replaced and workers have the power to destroy the monopoly capitalists and their political representatives such as Richard Nixon. If this is not done, there will be new and more vicious attacks upon the workers and Black, Chicano, Puerto Rican, native Americans and Asian workers will be hardest hit, but all workers will suffer.

Defy the monopoly capitalists!
Power to the workers!
STRIKE!

ATTICA



The repression and brutalization of Black and other Third World people mounts as the other controls that the Nixon administration and other government forces have on us collapse. The murder of 42 Black and Puerto Rican inmates plus hostages at Attica prison in New York is the response that Gov. Rockefeller had to the inmates' effort to make changes in the lives of their fellow prisoners inside Attica as well as Third World political prisoners in other prisons where the conditions are the same. Justice, human rights and decent living conditions had been denied to them and others in prisons across the country.

The U.S. government's aggressive wars, particularly the present war in Indo-China, are the ways that imperialism plunders and exploits with military force and then holds with military force. The killings at Attica prison demonstrated again the kind of military force that Nixon's government forces too often use. In the large scale aggressive actions as in the siege of Attica where eight prison guard-hostages were killed we see that U.S. imperialism cares not even for loyal servants.

Black and other Third World people came out in demonstrations by the thousands in Atlanta, Los Angeles, Detroit, New Orleans, New York and cities across the country in the days following the Attica murders. News of the demonstrations in other areas of the country was blacked out or censored from television, radio, and newspapers so that the people who participated in and supported these demonstrations would not know the impact they had had nor that their feelings were shared by Black and other Third World people in other cities.

The people in oppressed communities mobilized to act against this repression. Blacks, Chicano, Puerto Ricans, native Americans, and Asians have and will continue to mobilize and resist these attacks on their communities.

STOP REPRESSION!
Resist!
Unity-Struggle-Unity!

OPEN LETTER TO THE VIETNAMESE people AND Black G. I.'s OVERSEAS

The present situation in the United States is characterized by a profound and deepening crisis. On one hand, the divisions within the ruling circles are becoming sharper as we can see from recent "news stories." On the other hand, the masses themselves are becoming increasingly restless and intolerant of existing conditions, and especially those conditions related to the genocidal war in Southeast Asia.

Most of us had not heard of Vietnam before the war - only French Indochina. It was always French or English or Portuguese something. The service was the only alternative for many of us...many of my friends were being drafted and many were volunteering...

"The Vietnam war changed the racial profile of the armed forces dramatically. By mid-1968, Negroes made up 20% of American troops in the war zone, including those in Thailand and on Naval vessels off Vietnam. The Negro has been warmly welcomed into the armed forces during the war. General Westmoreland singled out Negro troops for commendation for valor in a speech to the South Carolina Legislature, a posture he consistently maintained throughout his command."

Nothing can be more satisfying at this time for me and other revolutionaries inside Imperialism's belly, than to exploit this opportunity to communicate and share experiences with our Vietnamese comrades-in-arms. And I take special pleasure in writing this letter.

The revolutionary struggle of the Vietnamese people has a rich and heroic history. From the pre-Marxist period, to the August revolution to the present, a tremendous contribution - both in terms of revolutionary theory and practice, and the building of communist man, has been forged and re-forged by the constant, continuous self sacrifice of millions of Vietnamese people. Hai!

Vietnamese sisters and brothers, we in the United States have learned a great deal from you and we are continuing to synthesize your experiences and apply them to our own concrete conditions here. Your greatest victory has been for man over technology and is a leap forward in the long road to socialism. Further, you have taught us a lesson we will never forget: **REACTION ALWAYS CREATES MORE REVOLUTIONARIES THAN IT DESTROYS**

I am a Vietnam Veteran...A former tool in the hands of Imperialism. I entered the marines in 1965, when the war was really being escalated.

I did not enter for patriotic reasons (very few people did even then), but because I was 18 and black and could not get a job, or into college. But most of all, because I did not have any political consciousness.

I did not understand then, as I do now, that most of the problems I faced as a black teenager were not wholly my own, but were consciously designed by a racist-capitalist system. We were not taught that in school.

What we were taught, however, was that even though America had its faults, negroes here were better off than any place in the world and in time, we, too, could one day rise in this "great society", if we continued to behave like happy slaves. The only thing we had to fear, they said, was "God and COMMUNISM."

The competition for entering college became increasingly sharper as we progressed in school. By the eleventh grade we could tell who would make it. College was the be-all and end-all. "Without college," my teacher said, "you are nothing." After I heard that, I had a hard time relating to my parents who had been workers all their lives. It didn't take me very long to discover that the marine corps was a very racist institution. The internal and external realities of being stationed in South Carolina, that is, on the base as well as off, had the effect of leaving a definite impression that was intensified as my time in the service passed. We knew that being in the service, even in the Marine Corps, changed nothing. But we still didn't see then how Vietnam was connected with that. So we are off to Vietnam. Vietnam.

August 24, 1966, my birthday...Arriving in Da Nang. It was very hot. I was attracted and repulsed at the same time by the beauty of the countryside and knowing that a war was going on. I was afraid. We all stood motionless as the officers greeted us and began assigning different areas where we would serve in the Corps: Dong Ha, Quang Nai, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Hue. I was to serve in an ammunition company outside of Da Nang.

My real education had begun. What was very noticeable, was the fact that so many of the Black troops were not above the rank of corporal, when we were told that rank was not easy in "Nam". All the officers and most of the higher NCO's were white just like at home. Most of the Black pfc's had the dirt jobs. The guys in the infantry told us it wasn't much different there either.

Then I heard the word: "Gook". I never heard that word before but it sounded familiar. From that time on, I couldn't help but think that we and the Vietnamese had something in common: We were committing the same acts of violence and racism against the Vietnamese people that the white racists were perpetrating against our people at home. I had to spread the word.

We formed the Black Servicemen's Awareness Committee after we heard of the rebellions in the streets back home: Detroit, Newark, Harlem, Watts. Somehow, 'Black Power' and the National Liberation Front became only different expressions of the same principle - self-determination. Though our level of political consciousness was still not very high, we were cognizant enough to know we shouldn't be killing any Vietnamese.

One of the harsh realities that contributed to our enlightenment was the unbelievable fact that in the POW compound across from our base, there were more Black troops than the "supposed" enemy. When Martin L. King was assassinated, the brothers rebelled and burned half of the compound to the ground. And then we started being friendly to the Vietnamese prisoners which drew a sharp reaction from our commanders.

From then on it became increasingly difficult to remain in Vietnam. The contradictions were too great. Many of the brothers were turning to dope as a way of forgetting about our presence there. I personally started stealing goods and supplies from the base and giving them to some of the villagers I had been friends with. Others deserted. Some were imprisoned. Others went home wounded. Others died. I had to get out.

I did. I couldn't shoot myself in the foot like so many others were doing, so I pretended to be psychotic and got sent home. But it wasn't over. I was on drugs for a long time afterwards mainly because of the guilt feelings I had for just being in Vietnam - even though I didn't kill any Vietnamese. Today the troops are coming home feeling worse and, consequently, more hooked on dope.

I came home hating all whites. Like many other black G.I.'s, I was reacting to the white racism we all felt in the service. We didn't know who our real friends were or who were our real enemies. We had no theory to base our experiences on nor could we explain how we went to Vietnam in the first place.

But then I got a job in a Kaiser Aluminum Plant working in the "pot-room" or where the raw bauxite is processed into aluminum - the point of production.

The first thing I noticed was that black men were again working in the 'dirt' jobs - just like in Vietnam. And the officers were white - just like Vietnam. The only difference was that there wasn't a war going on (although men were dying) and the word "gook" sounded like "nigger".

The pressure of the job was very intense and many of the guys who started work - many of whom were veterans - left after a short time. We felt we deserved better after serving "our country" in war. I decided to quit too. Some guys I had heard were talking about political education classes for workers and students, so I looked them up.

I started studying Marxism. I first thought it only applied to whites because Marx and Engels were white and they were constantly talking about the European proletariat. But as I studied more, I realized that the conditions of the workers they were so vividly describing were like those at the Kaiser Plant. And the workers had nothing for sale but their labor in a country where money meant everything. And then I remembered what one of my teachers had told me, "If you don't have an education, you are nothing." Workers were nothing.

Most Black people were workers, I thought, so most Black People are "nothing". But most white people are workers too. Even in the United States. They don't work as hard, maybe. They were never chattel slaves. But they are still exploited. Marxism explains not only the lives of workers, but the whole history of Capitalism.

So now I am in an organization called the Black Workers Congress. The Black Workers Congress is a Marxist-Leninist organization inside Imperialism. The Congress seeks to link up the every day struggle for socialism and the seizure of state power by the Black and Third World workers. The Congress knows that the principle contradiction in the world today is between Imperialism and anti-Imperialism. That is why we call ourselves the BLACK WORKERS CONGRESS.

The Black Workers Congress faces many a difficult task. Primary among these being, How do we attack Capitalism from within and simultaneously struggle for our own free development? How do we teach Marxism where the penetration of bourgeois thinking is the greatest in the world? Who are our friends and who are our enemies? How do we fight consumerism and petty-bourgeois trade unionism?

We have tremendous organizational and ideological work ahead. We are leaving the pre-Marxist phase of our struggle, therefore, we need all the guidance we can get, realizing of course, that we must depend primarily on our own resources and experiences.

Our people are looking for a way out of an increasingly intolerable situation! Now we have taken the initial steps in a struggle that promises to be extremely complex, long, arduous, bloody, and one that will require a great deal of effort on the part of the most advanced of the proletariat to lead the masses of the United States to the seizure of state power and toward the development of the socialist man.

The Black Workers Congress recognizes that the most fundamental problem facing African and Third World people at this time is the lack of political consciousness. The structure of imperialism, capitalism and racism are formidable enemies that must be attacked, but this attack will not come from a people who lack political direction or who have not been educated to the interrelationships, the historical development, the continuing ramifications of these evils that face African people and other dehumanized people.

IN THE DEEPEST REVOLUTIONARY SPIRIT,
Carl Smith

Our Slogans:

Struggle and Organize, Organize and Struggle

Unite with our friends, divide our enemies,
neutralize those in between!

Oppressed people of America unite,
defeat Imperialism and all its Uncle Toms!



Political Lesson One: Get Acquainted

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Conditions Facing Black and Third World Workers

Brothers and Sisters:

It is a great honor and pleasure to address you at the first National Conference of the Black Workers Congress.

Black and other Third World folk, who have always been available whenever American Capitalism needed victims to exploit are now being made the primary victims of Nixon's New Economic Policy.

Whenever capitalism is in a period of acute crisis and sees its vital interests threatened, the ruling class forces the working class to bear the burden and make the supreme sacrifice to overcome the crisis.

Thus, under the guise of patriotism the ruling class herded millions of working class youth into the armed forces to fight and die in the unjust imperialist war in Vietnam, and now it calls on the working class to tighten its belts and bear the lion's share of the suffering caused by the present Wage-Price Freeze. And just as the Black and other Third World workers have been forced to take a disproportionately high rate of casualties in Vietnam, today they will be forced to bear the greatest brunt of the economic austerity program of the ruling class.

Moreover, Black and other Third World people are forced to provide the prime fodder for the increased extraction of surplus capital, the accelerated rate of exploitation, which Nixon and his ruling class cronies currently plan for the American working class.

The Black worker has traditionally played the role of the most exploited, brutally oppressed, and the most profitable source of labor that was so cheap that they received no remuneration for their work, except that required for bare subsistence, minimal food, clothing and shelter. That source of cheap labor was so productive that it earned huge profits for the white overlords of the day. Basically, from the billions upon billions of dollars of profits ripped from the hides of our forbears the American capitalist class accumulated the surplus capital necessary to build the American industrial empire.

Indeed the mighty industrial fortresses of General Motors, IBM, U.S. Steel, etc., are all laid on a foundation of Black and Brown blood sweat and tears.

Since slavery, Black labor has continued to assume particular importance in the development of both domestic capital and international imperialism, primarily because the Black female and male workers are the final prop, the ultimate mainstay, onto which capitalism shifts its weight in order to survive.

Black Workers have remained a source of the cheapest most productive labor. First as agricultural labor, then as miners, merchant seamen, government, transportation and service workers, dock and warehouse workers, etc., and finally as the most exploited section of the proletariat in light and heavy industry. Today Black and other Third World workers are still solidly entrenched at the base of the proletariat.

In the building trades, for instance, only 4.3% of the operating engineers are Black and Puerto Rican, whereas they accounted for 39.3% of the laborers' union.

Blacks have always been the major source of the reserve army of labor, that vast body of men and women who find themselves unemployed semiemployed or often permanently underemployed and used by big business to suppress the general level of wages. From 1958 to 1968 the official black unemployment rate never dropped below 6.4% and for half of that period the rate was never lower than 10.2%. Today black unemployment has climbed astronomically, with unemployment rates 40% or higher for Black and other Third World workers in many large cities. With unemployment so high, Black and other Third World workers remain a prime source of cheap, highly productive labor, facing a continual suppression of wages due to increased competition for jobs, especially in the service sector, fast foods, and related industries.

This suppression of wages is expanding broadly throughout all areas of the economy.

In the past, the ruling class used the tactic of divide and conquer against the working class. First they denied jobs to blacks, then used blacks to break white strikes. They constantly pitted white against black labor through the use of racism and white skin privilege. Eventually the unions recognized they could not exist without Black workers and the accommodation of blacks into these unions was brought about under the guise of equality, but in reality we are still the victims of the virulent racism of both the companies and the unions.

Moreover the companies still attempt to use Black labor as a wedge to force wage levels down.

For instance, the capitalists are faced with a squeeze in the construction industry, where white racist unions have forced wage levels upward through the practice of restricting entry of Black and Brown workers into these crafts. The capitalists answer this practice by calling for the integration of the building trades using such schemes as the Philadelphia plan, as well as through the introduction of prefabricated and modular housing construction techniques employing low paid Black and other Third World labor in factories. They have also established a wage-price stabilization board for the construction industry.

So we see that Blacks still are:

1. The lowest paid sector of the working class.
2. Forced into the worst jobs in the labor market except when needed to suppress the wages of overpaid whites.
3. Subjected to the most hazardous working conditions, higher mortality rate (2½ times that of whites) and high rates of industrial disease.
4. Subjected to discrimination on job placement, job upgrading, and classification.
5. Subjected to harsh regimentation

and discipline on the job.

6. In a position of having little or no control of power in their union.

Of course these conditions have the subsidiary effect of maintaining such substandard conditions in Black working class communities as inadequate education and health care, inferior recreation facilities, police brutality, dilapidated housing, and so on. Being relegated to the lowest paid, dirtiest jobs (as important as these jobs are to the U.S. economy) Black and other Third World workers often are forced to struggle for survival against both the unions and the companies. This continual struggle coupled with the rise of consciousness brought about by the civil rights movement and the rapid spread of revolutionary ideas has created in Blacks the most militant, class conscious, politically advanced and volatile section of the working class.

However it has been lack of organization that has prevented the power of Black and other Third World workers from being used to the fullest extent. Yet, generally without leadership, training, or organizational experience, Black working class organizations caucuses, rank and file committees, and ad hoc groups have sprung up all over the nation in an amazingly wide variety of industries.

These groups are challenging both companies and unions on the issues of their racism, exploitation, and their generally class-collaborationist policies on health, safety, etc.

The reaction of the bourgeoisie to the rising militancy of Blacks has been the usual carrot and stick game.

On the one hand they have created a Black national bourgeoisie, new jobs as consultants on minority relations, personnel offices populated with Black tokens, minority training programs, etc. On the other hand the response has been stepped-up repression of militant organizations, caucuses and their leadership, the use of economic sanctions (firings, suspensions, etc.) the use of court actions and injunctions, blacklisting, slander and threats of violence—sometimes carried out—and the like.

None of this has stemmed the rise in class consciousness on the part of Black workers, however. In fact given the objective situation in the world, the steady rise of revolutionary consciousness, the African, Indo-Chinese, and Latin American anti-imperialist struggles, it is impossible to prevent the onward development of class struggle among all workers, much less among blacks.

The ruling class has thus attempted to prevent the development of conscious organization, especially, where it is under Marxist-Leninist leadership, resolutely dedicated to the anti-imperialist movement, and to deny the resources, skills and knowledge necessary to prepare and sustain organizational forms for revolutionary struggle.

While Black labor has reacted predictably to its objective conditions of

existence (that is increasing militancy, national pride and class consciousness, and increasing resistance to oppression) the American capitalist class also has been beset by its own set of contradictions and has responded predictably.

Since World War II the U.S. has assumed the role of the dominant figure in the western imperialist system. As a result, a series of phenomena have led to political, economic and military disaster for imperialism's top dog, the U.S.A. Some of these phenomena are:

1. The U.S. had consistently exported capital and currency through the use

of foreign investment, foreign aid, maintenance of armies abroad, expanded tourism, and importing foreign goods.

2. The U.S. dollar had become the foundation (reserve currency) of the western monetary system while the U.S. accepted the gold standard (the price of gold was set at \$35 per ounce). Foreign governments accumulated billions of dollars for which the U.S. did not have the gold to back them up. Consequently, the dollar became the object of regular recurring speculation by international currency dealers to force the U.S. to devalue, and giving the speculators a sizeable profit on the money markets.

3. The U.S. had expended vast sums of money on the defense of international imperialism, squandering dollars all over the world which were picked up by imperialism's allies, i.e. Japan, West Germany, Israel, South Vietnam, etc.

4. The fact that the dollar was overvalued in the world money market led to a huge deficit in the balance of payments position of the U.S. and led to the first U.S. deficit in the balance of trade since 1893. In a word U.S. imperialism had stretched itself thin.

5. With the continuation of the war in Vietnam, the general pattern of inflation developed with prices continually rising, unions pressing for higher wages, and the development of a wide range of wage levels throughout the working classes, and a general pattern of falling rates of profit for capitalist.

Caught in the contradiction of over-production, an adverse trade balance, recession, galloping inflation and falling prices, the ruling class began screaming for drastic policies to stabilize the economy. In recent months, the capitalists began to experience panic between the competitive squeeze of foreign industry, economic gains won by major unions, the pressures of the international monetary system, and the Vietnamese war.

The entire system of capitalism exists in order to maximize the production of

see next page

With the government stepping in to enforce wage restrictions on the brink of banning strikes, the role of the class collaborationist union bureaucrats could be finished. They may be forced to fight—not in the interest of the workers, but to prevent the ruling class from using its direct powers to police workers thus eliminating the functional role now played by the established union leadership. Let there be no doubt that the Wage-Price Freeze is a gigantic giveaway to business at the expense of labor—especially Black workers.

The Wage-Price Freeze puts no limit on the interest that banks charge, creates no excess profit tax (as was the case in World War II), abolishes the excise tax on autos, creates a 10% surcharge on imports, and revives the investment tax credit allowing business to deduct 10% of their investment in American made machinery and business equipment from their income tax. There is, however, no freeze on the rise of professional fees, and the freeze does not apply to the price of stocks. In fact, the stock market rose sharply immediately following Nixon's announcement, and many corporations, mutual funds, insurance companies, banks and other capitalist institutions reaped millions in an orgy of profit taking.

This policy, coupled with \$84.7 billion cut in non-military federal expenditures means long term layoffs and long term wage freezes for lower level governmental employees (Blacks). Nixon's current proposals call for a nine billion dollar tax cut for industry against a two billion dollar cut for individual tax payers (which will primarily benefit wealthy individuals).

The wage freeze will be enforced by a chorus of cheering corporate leaders while there is no real enforcement mechanism on the price freeze. Corporations plan price schedules in anticipation of deferred wage increases won by labor in contracts signed months or even years ago. As a result, workers are losing the increases they struggled for, while many companies have increased their price schedules in advance. The United Farm Workers lose their 5 cent an hour raise negotiated last year and due this October while prices were raised in advance.

There is little doubt that there will be a continuation of the freeze in one form or another after November. There will most certainly be the creation of some kind of Wage-Price stabilization board to ride herd over the economic demands of workers. Currently the capitalist press sees no return to the old economic system. In fact, the Wall Street Journal predicted that the freeze would end "sometime less than infinity," but the system would return to old ways.

Perhaps most sinister, yet least publicized, are Nixon's plans on productivity. In the final analysis, the excess profits will once again be squeezed out of the backs of workers.

The steel settlement, described by I. W. Abel U.S.W. president as, "one of the most successful, if not the most successful contract negotiation" in the union's history, won a 30% a wage increase over a three year period, as well as a renewal of the previously lost escalator clause. At the same time, an agreement was made to set up "joint committees on productivity" to tackle



the "major problem" in the industry, lagging productivity. Both Secretary of Labor James D. Hodgson and R. Health Larry, U.S. Steel Vice President (head of the management team), cited this provision as having the most potential impact of any in the agreement.

Immediately after the signing of the steel contract, Nixon slapped a freeze on wages. But there was no freeze on production rises, on increased regimentation, on the use of time or motion studies. Moreover the price freeze did not effect the steel industrial corporations. They were allowed to quietly raise the price of steel 8% after the freeze went into effect. Nixon's call for the establishment of productivity boards on a national level is a clear step to increase the exploitation of workers.

We can expect working conditions to continue to decline, safety conditions to deteriorate even more and production to speed up to an even more exploitative rate.

The number of casualties resulting from the stepped up class warfare brought on by the "New Economic Policy" will increase in coming months and years. Accidents, disease, fatalities and injuries will increase, as will the harassment of workers by foremen and other supervisors. Disciplinary actions, suspensions and firings will increase, and workers in this country will respond to this violent pressure with increasing violence (For example James Johnson of the Chrysler Eldon Plant in Detroit or Ike Jernigan at Lockheed Plant in L.S.). Federal cutbacks in domestic spending will further exacerbate the problem of inadequate housing and education, inferior health care, the pollution of the environment and the many other insidious effects of a panicky capitalist system galloping wildly in a frenzied search for more profits.

The working class will move to defend its interests because it has no choice. The burden of capitalism is becoming too heavy for the workers to carry, and we can easily predict that Black and Third World workers who are most victimized by this new capitalist offensive which escalates that class war, will be in the

vanguard leading the counterattack against imperialism.

But from where will these workers derive their leadership? Who will guide them into battle? Who will raise the slogans of class warfare? who will unmask and expose the infinite tricks and duplicity yet to be used by business to satisfy its rapacious appetite for profit? Who will clarify the issues, and expose the sell out class-collaborationist union leadership?

Who will organize, call national demonstrations which raise the clarion cry for total class solidarity, for general strikes in which the power of workers at the point of production to seize control of industry is shown?

Who will put an end to the clique of madmen who presently manipulate the political and economic resources of this country so as to bring havoc and destruction to the world's people?

Due to the years of class-collaborationist policies the established unions are hopelessly paralyzed when it comes to real class struggle.

The old left has long ago given up revolutionary practice for reformist and revisionist policies which are totally out of touch with present reality.

The new left is fragmented and demoralized and barely understands the role of the Black and Third World working class anyway.

The Black Workers Congress armed with a correct analysis and program, coupled with its projected activity being national in scope, is the only currently existing organization that promises to provide the leadership necessary in the upcoming struggle.

We must rise to this historic task. We must put forth the revolutionary slogans.

We must organize the broad masses to understand the necessity of building socialism.

We must train and educate a highly

developed cadre of workers.

We must develop broad class solidarity and prepare to lead massive demonstrations and strikes.

We must relentlessly lay blow upon blow on our vicious class enemy to end the perpetuation of racism, capitalism and imperialism. Blow upon blow to these racist murderers and ruthless oppressors, blow upon blow to their repressive state apparatus, to their court, their army, their police and other military and para-military forms, their foremen and executives, their corporations and all of their flunkies, high and low.

And we must continue to battle them until they are wholly, completely, resolutely, and utterly destroyed, and their evil influence is eradicated forever from the face of the earth.

John Watson

Speech given by John Watson at the first National Conference of the Black Workers Congress Gary, Indiana, Sept. 5, 1971

continued from cover page

National Conference

with the Chinese landlord class.

The Women's workshops were greatly inspired by this movie as well as the organizational experiences shared with them by other Black and Third World women and men.

A proposed constitution for the Black Workers Congress was presented and accepted in principle.

Black Workers Delegation in Vietnam

In 1924 a young Vietnamese journalist named Nguyen Ai Quoc wrote an angry and brilliant article condemning the common American practice of lynching Black people. He began that article with these words, "as it is commonly known, the Black people are the most oppressed people in the world."

Nguyen Ai Quoc made that statement and launched his campaign against the brutalization of black people in America on the basis of his own personal knowledge. He lived for a while in the United States where he made his home in Harlem and became the close friend of many Black people, among them Marcus Garvey, the father of modern-day Black Nationalism.

Nguyen Ai Quoc later changed his name to Ho Chi Minh. By that name, Ho Chi Minh, his memory is loved and revered by the Vietnamese people as the father of the Vietnamese Revolution and the first president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

True to the memory and heritage of Ho Chi Minh, the people of North Vietnam and the revolutionary fighters in the South Vietnamese Liberation Army still maintain their understanding, support and sense of brotherhood with Afro-American people and other oppressed people inside the United States. In North Vietnam our delegation was greeted and treated like visiting relatives. Not only by Vietnamese officials, but also by farmers, factory



workers, students, women and even young children who met and played with us on the streets where we wandered at our leisure without any guides, guards or escorts.

In complete honesty we must say that we found the Vietnamese leaders to be better informed, more factually up-to-date and more sympathetic to the plight of our people than any of the rich, white politicians who are sending our brothers to Indo-China to die—any of them, from Kennedy to Agnew, from Longstreet to Rizzo!

As a Black person who has lived in the ghettos of Chester and North Philadelphia as well as in the racist wilderness of Mississippi, I must also say

that at night on the streets of Hanoi and in the country side of North Vietnam, I felt perfectly safe and unafraid for the first time in my adult life. In North Vietnam there are no street gangs, no trigger-happy nigger-hating cops, no pushers, no junkies, no unemployment, no children dying of malnutrition and deteriorating neighborhoods except in those areas where American bombs have left homes, schools, hospitals, farms, nurseries and churches in ruins.

But the Vietnamese people are rebuilding their country in the North even while defending their country in the South. Nothing less than the total nuclear destruction of Vietnam will bring the U.S. government and the U.S. military anything but defeat, defeat and more

defeat. The Vietnamese will win. Our task, as Black people and as peace-loving people of any race, are 1) to step up the movement against the war, 2) demand that Nixon withdraw all of the troops, and 3) to demand that not one solitary penny of our tax money goes to support the Uncle Tom Saigon puppet administration.

Most important, the task of Black people is to totally refuse to participate in the war in Vietnam, to stop letting Nixon make murderers and corpses out of our sons, and to encourage Black GI's (who make up 50% of the battlefield forces in Vietnam) to either put down their guns or to turn their guns on our real enemies instead of the Vietnamese.

Similarly, we would do well to learn from the experiences and determination of the People's Republic of China, the nation to which Richard Nixon sent Henry Kissinger on a beggar's errand just a few days before our own very pleasant, non-secret visit which I hope we can discuss in more detail.

by Muhammad Kenyatta

Portuguese Colonies in Armed Struggle

Like the Vietnamese, the people of the Portuguese colonies in Africa are engaged in armed struggle for liberation. The fighting began in Angola in 1961. At that time the Conference of Organizations Against Portuguese Colonialism was formed to coordinate the liberation movements of FRELIMO in Mozambique, MPLA in Angola, PAIGC in Guinea and Capo Verde, and the CLSTP in Sao Tome and Principe. Portugal now has 150,000 troops in Africa, and yet in Guinea Bissau and the Capo Verdes, they control barely one third of the territory, and in Mozambique FRELIMO controls the northern fifth of the countryside.

The success of the liberation fighters is all the more significant considering who the enemy is and the nature of the Portuguese military response.

Portugal, the most underdeveloped country in Europe, is the last old-style colonial power in the world. The Portuguese colonies in Africa include Angola, Mozambique, Guinea, the Cape Verde Islands and the Islands of Sao Tome and Principe. These are vast territories with rich agricultural lands, untapped mineral wealth including oil, and enormous economic potential. Altogether, the military dictatorship, first of Salazar, and now of Caetano, attempts to rule 14 million people occupying 800,000 square miles in Africa. Africans outnumber Europeans by 15-1.

The Portuguese first made contact with the African peoples in the 15th century, but did not actually control them until after World War I. Africa had been mainly

an outpost on the way to India up until the time Portugal lost its hold on its eastern empire and became involved in the search for gold and silver in Africa. But the Africans had never passively accepted Portuguese intervention. Uprisings were frequent on both coasts until the 20th century when other European invaders had shown great colonial strength and stability.

Portugal itself is a police state controlled through an elitist coalition of business, military and church powers, the people are extremely poor, they are kept illiterate, and their civil liberties are non-existent. Thus, the government of the colonies is an extension of the fascism in the Lisbon Government itself. Government censorship, the prohibition of trade unions, and a single-party political system aid in close control of the populace. Opposition is silenced by imprisonment or execution. Africans are required to carry a passbook which contains a tax and labor record, and names of members of their families with photographs and fingerprints. It must be shown on demand and if papers are not in order, an African may be sentenced to correctional labor (which provides a convenient labor-supply control). The social and economic conditions would seem to make liberation an impossible task.

But, nevertheless, Portugal could not carry on this war without help from other nations. The presence of South African troops has already been reported in Mozambique, and South African equipment in Angola. However, the major

support for Portugal has come from her allies in NATO, and particularly from the United States and West Germany. For the United States the use of the Portuguese Azores as a military base is considered the most significant security interest. The U.S. also maintains a permanent military mission in Portugal. The U.S. insists that military aid to Portugal is used only to strengthen mutual security interests in the Atlantic. But it is undeniable that any military aid to Portugal increases Portugal's military strength in Africa.

Beyond America's military concerns, there are growing economic interests for the U.S. interest in a stable Portugal and continued Portuguese control over African territories. The U.S. is Portugal's third largest trading partner, millions of dollars worth of loans have been made to various industries, major U.S. companies have significant investments in the African territories, and then there is the involvement of American oil corporations. For example, Angola is the fourth largest oil producer in the world, and a subsidiary of Gulf Oil has an exclusive concession which provides for a 50-50 split of the profits with Portugal.

In spite of the fascist nature of the Portuguese government, in spite of the support of NATO and in spite of the determination of the United States to prevent revolution, the liberation fighters are WINNING! Most important, they realize that revolution is not won by the military struggle alone. The real revolution must take place in the lives of the people who will build the new nation.

In the liberated territories of Mozambique schools are being improved and expanded. FRELIMP-trained teachers returned from exile to teach over 20,000 pupils, soldiers and adults included. Agriculture and trade are being reorganized. Cooperatives are being revived and encouraged. The people now grow crops to produce a surplus to feed villagers whose crops have been destroyed in the fighting and by Portuguese air raids, or who have been forced to leave their homes to escape reprisals. More land is under production than ever before. Small scale local industries are being established. These include soap-making, salt production, and the manufacture of agricultural implements both from the wrecks of ambushed Portuguese vehicles and, in some areas, from local iron ore. In all these activities the people are encouraged to participate fully, and to work together to combine familiar customs of tribal government with the new structures they are developing. The people are dealing with the changing role of young people, of women, and of peasants. Ultimately colonial powers will always be defeated when the people support a liberation struggle. The women and men of Africa are the proof that the will of the people is greater than the Man's technology.

Excerpts from the
BLACK WORKERS CONGRESS MANIFESTO

Our Objectives:

- 1) Workers' control of their places of work--the factories, mines, fields, offices, transportation services and communication facilities--so that the exploitation of labor will cease and no person or corporation will get rich off the labor of another person, but all people will work for the collective benefit of humanity.
- 2) An elimination of all forms of racism and the right of self-determination for African people, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Asians and Indians who live in the United States and Puerto Rico.
- 3) The elimination of all forms of oppression of women in all phases of society, on the job and in the home.
- 4) The right of all people to express and develop their cultural heritage throughout the United States.
- 5) The right of all people to express and develop their cultural and religious views without fear of persecution.
- 6) A halt to the growing repression and increasing fascism of the United States, the militarization of the police, the arming of right wing forces and the repeal of all repressive legislation that abolishes the right of people to assemble, to speak freely, to have privacy and to publish their political views.
- 7) The replacement of all class collaborators in the trade union movement with leadership that will fight for the international solidarity of all oppressed people, a leadership that will fight all manifestations of racism, white skin privilege, capitalism, and imperialism (the sending of money, armed forces and Christian missionaries from one country to another for the purpose of exploiting and oppressing its workers). This leadership must demand real equality for women in employment.
- 8) The creation in the labor movement of revolutionary Black caucuses, Chicano and Puerto Rican revolutionary caucuses, Third World labor alliances, independent revolutionary union movements and other forms of revolutionary labor association that will break the strangle-hold of the reactionary labor bureaucrats and the capitalist class collaborators that help to prevent the working class people from understanding their historic role in controlling the means of production.
- 9) A twenty-hour work week where all the people of the United States will be employed and have the necessary funds for food, clothing, shelter and the right to improve their standard of living and enjoy the benefits of an industrialized society.
- 10) Thirty days of paid vacation time each year for all workers including women in the home and the use of all resort areas and the creation of new ones for working class people and the elimination of special privileges at resort areas for any group of people.
- 11) An elimination of speed-up, compulsory overtime, unsafe working conditions, inadequate medical facilities on the job, brutality and terror in the mines, factories and industrial plants of the United States and Puerto Rico.

BLACK WORKERS CONGRESS