Workers Battle GE Despite 'Settlement'

by Earl Owens

No tourists come to Hunters Point. In the row after row of block houses owned by the San Francisco Housing Authority live 7,000 people, nearly all of them Negroes. The Housing Authority has other projects but somehow only Negroes are sent to Hunters Point. There is not a single movie theatre, swimming pool, or even school for adults in the area.

The War On Poverty called for elections for the poor in Hunters Point 323 people voted.

"When I apply for a job they put my application in file #5 ... the waste basket," a Negro told me. "The kids steal cars but not to sell them. They intend to return them. But when the cops start chasing these kids, they run and then they smash up the cars and are shot down."

riots

On Sept. 27th the riots started. A white policeman shot in the back a 16 year old Negro boy who had stolen a car. On one side it was mostly stone and a few 22 rifles, on the other it was automatic rifles and even several cannon - not used but held ready.

The police used the "shooting gallery" method. They made no attempt to aim, but instead would fire several hundred rounds in the general direction of where the rock came from. The police did the shooting and the Negroes threw the stones and got shot.

Dr. Carlston Goodlett, wealthy Negro peace candidate in the Democratic primary who was supported by many radicals, showed up at the riots. For the T.V. cameramen, he was the officially approved Negro spokesman. But his position was to put all the blame on the Negro kids for starting the riots but not a word as to the cops.

elsewhere

Progressive Labor called a demonstration during the riots in front of the National Guard Armory. The Armory however, is someplace near where the riots were. Moreover there were almost no soldiers inside the Armory and the demonstration was almost all-white. Several PI leaders made speeches.

BRITAIN NOW; U.S. NEXT

On October 5th the British Chancellor of the Exchequer James Callaghan spoke supporting mandatory wage controls and even suggesting such controls would be a permanent feature of British capitalism. On October 6th Gardner Ackley, chairman of President Johnson's Council of Economic Advisers, called once again for wage and price "self-restraint." Britain today, where workers can be fined over $1000 and jailed for going out on strike for a wage increase, can be the United States tomorrow unless American workers learn from the British experience and prepare to struggle as British workers are now beginning to struggle.

(Continued on page 2)

Notes:
1. In black power advocates expressing the thought that this is the slave-masters war, etc.
2. Through all of this, the
by Dan Fried

LABOR SCOPE

The industry's 125,000 skilled workers.

The radical, progressive, and unifying for the company of the "quickie" auto strikes. The Lock-Mil plant in the Twin City. The Ohio stamping plant of Chrysler when Local 122 was closed by the United Auto Workers. The Walker Union is 1,000 AW-UAW members.

UNIONS AND POLITICS

The local chapter of the National Labor Relations Board and the United Auto Workers. The strike was over the issue of the "progressive" labor union -- the Democratic or the Republican party. The union is demanding a Fair Labor Standards Act, which guarantees the workers' right to a living wage and the right to organize.

STEEL CONVENTION

Underlying the apparent openness and flexibility of the contract is the threat of another strike. The basic issues are wages, working conditions, and the protection of the workers. The union has the right to negotiate and to strike if the company does not meet their demands.

UNREST IN AUTO

This same "strike-friendliness" is part of the broader picture. If it's just that more and more workers are getting fed-up and ready to strike, then it's also that rising prices are making it difficult. Workers are facing the pressures of inflation and the need to maintain their purchasing power.

In the context of the broader social and economic situation, the situation in the auto industry is just one example of the widespread unrest among workers across the country. The labor movement is facing a new challenge, and the companies are responding with new strategies to contain the growing strength of the union movement.

BRITAIN NOW; U.S. NEXT?

Let there be no doubt about it -- the Wilson Government has completely sold out to the banks and big business interests and is seeking to maintain capitalist rule in England at the expense of the workers, and the workers alone. "Although the Government program called for a freeze now on both wages and prices, and restraint later," The New York Times reports, "in fact it is only wages that are really being cut in a massive way. And so it will be in the United States."

Johnson's real program

Let us take a look at the real economic program of Johnson and the big business interests he serves. Ackley, Johnson's economic advisor, and his colleagues have been the architects of this program. Their experience: "Future wage increases in the industrial sectors should reflect as little as possible and surely not all of the increase in production and rising prices should be used to cover higher living costs."

The talk of price restraint is not to be taken seriously. Any attempts in this direction will elicit screams from big business about an "unfavorable climate for investment." It is unfair and exploitative for the people to bear the brunt of the economic crisis. It is wage restraint which is so serious. It is no longer wage restraint that is the issue; it is the weight of the federal government every time the workers seek to protect their wages and the collective bargaining rights.

In the steel industry, the strategy of the labor movement is to forestall a strike against General Electric. During the lockout, the airlines strike Congress almost passed special anti-strike legislation. It will not be long before Johnson will follow Wilson's steps and make plans to attack the labor movement, including the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Every trade union must be on guard against this policy of Johnson's. The unions must fight tooth and nail for the principle of the night watchman state. The trade unions must allow high prices to increase our wages. Unionists must not allow high prices to take away our wages. Unionists must fight to maintain their union strength and their forces, for these are "friends of labor" but our enemies.

It is the Johnson Administration which urges workers to hold their wages back and to accept the sacrifices. It is the Johnson Administration which intervenes to prevent workers from striking and maintaining their rights. It is the Johnson Administration which is planning to raise our taxes to finance this foreign war.

Trade unionists must fight within their unions for:

- IMMEDIATE PAY raises for workers!
- NO SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-LABOR JOHNSON ADMINISTRATION!
- A NEW PART IN THE UNITED STATES BASED ON THE TRADE UNIONS!
a scoundrel named Apheker

Hungarian Revolution Ten Years After: Lessons for Today

by Tim Wohlforth

Ten years ago, on October 23, 1956, a mass demonstration of Hungarian students and workers took place on the front of the parliament building in Budapest. Inspired by the actions of the workers and students in Poland, which brought Gomulka to power, the masses were demanding a return of Nagy, an ending of the oppression in the secret police, a real accounting for the terror, and the death of the leaders. The demonstration was met with armed repression. The occupations were dispersed, the demonstrators were arrested and imprisoned. The Hungarian workers and students were united.

What I have described next is an eyewitness story told on the TV program "Regular authorities," a Hungarian television program. It was the year 1984 and the people were telling their stories. "I was a student at the University of Budapest," a young man said. "I was part of the student movement. We wanted change, we wanted democracy." The story of the revolution is a story of the people who were involved in it. It is a story of the heroes who stood up for their beliefs and fought for their country.

In 1989, the Soviet Union collapsed. The Cold War ended. The Berlin Wall came down. The Hungarian Revolution was a turning point in history. It was a time of change and transformation. It was a time of hope and promise.

The revolution was not just a political event. It was a cultural event as well. The revolution brought about a new sense of identity. It was a time of renewal and revival. It was a time of artistic and intellectual expression. It was a time of social and economic change.

The revolution was also a time of violence and repression. The Hungarian government was brutal and repressive. The people were arrested, tortured, and killed. The revolution was not just a political event. It was a time of suffering and loss.

In conclusion, the Hungarian Revolution was a turning point in history. It was a time of change and transformation. It was a time of hope and promise. It was a time of renewal and revival. It was a time of artistic and intellectual expression. It was a time of social and economic change. It was also a time of violence and repression. The Hungarian government was brutal and repressive. The people were arrested, tortured, and killed.

Apheker's thesis was simple enough: the Hungarian Revolution was actually a fascist counter-revolution and Soviet intervention was necessary to prevent capitalist restoration, imperialist domination, anti-Semetic pogroms, etc.

In order to assemble some sort of proof for this thesis, Apheker contended the press of the world, in particular the rightist press, seeking for any, any mention at all of fascist, reactionar, anti-Semitic activity during the Hungarian Revolution. Each incident thus found is list- in detail and scholarly footnotes abound.

Apheker's reliabilty

Some picture of Apheker's reliability and scholarship can be gotten from the following exa- ample. On page 228 he quotes the Hungarian pa- per "Oesterreichische Volksstimme" affirming the presence of "regular authorities" at border- areas where reactionary and foreign agents have "recently crossed the border together with Hungarian refugees to force them to join-ings". What Apheker leaves out is: 1) "Volksstimme" is not the paper of the Austrian Com- munist Party, 2) it is not a paper on which no- one independent source in Austria, like Austria was a neutral country whose status was super- vised by the four powers including the USSR, it would have been the duty of the USSR to protest such a happening, but it never did; 4) the Aus- trian government did not have a border that the Rus- sians never denied Austria's statement.

There are many, many other examples of the basic dishonesty of this work, each and every quote and clipping of Apheker's represented the gospel truth it would only prove that events existed and were active in the time of the revolution. It would not prove that they were dominant nor could it explain why it was not an active part of the struggle which was leading role in every phase of the struggle.

counter-revolution

The truth of the matter is that it is not we Trotskyists, who defended the Hungarian worker- ers against both the Stalinist bureaucracy and the imperialists, who have furthered counter- revolution over the past ten years. It is in fact Apheker, Apheker's party and his allies, the bureaucracies of Eastern Europe and the USSR, who are playing the role of counter-revolution.

Kadar, far from saving Hungary from counter- revolution, has actually heightened that danger. Capitalist penetration of Eastern Europe has in- creased many fold over the past ten years with a resultant infiltration and eating away at the so- cialist foundations of these countries. This inn- traction has led to considerable worker unrest within Hungary. The Hungarian regime re- sponds with its old methods by jailing veterans of the Hungarian Revolution.

Here in this country Apheker and the rest of the Communist Party leadership fight against the breaking of the mass movement from the Democratic Party.

The Hungarian Revolution was a struggle to complete the socialist revolution by removing the bureaucratic excrecence which had usurped control of the workers state. Today our struggle must combine this task with the struggle to over- throw capitalism wherever it exists. It is a combined struggle; it cannot be otherwise. The struggle against the gang of liars, slanderers and opportunists who make up the American Communist Party is a central part of the preparation for the overthrow of the American ruling class.
Wilson Imposes Wage Freeze on Workers on Young Socialist Demonstration.

Some of the auto workers on young socialist demonstration, calling for shorter work weeks and better safeguards. Yet Cousins, the hero of the so-called "Left" of the Labour Party, was in Wilson's Cabinet for nearly two years while the present at- tempt at "planning" and "national interest" was being prepared. He was in the Cabinet last May at the time of the strike called by the National Union of Seamen, when the Govern- ment conducted a politi- cal battle against the sea- men from the very first day of the struggle. Cousins says that he and the T&GWU will fight the laws. The question now is, does he really intend to wage a political struggle against the Government? Or are his militant speeches merely a cover for the fact that when the chips are down he will be no more prepared to break from Wilson than the right-wing union leaders?

200 strong

The most important politi- cal lead given was by the young workers during Conference week was the demonstration by the Socialist League of Service and Young Socialists. This march, 1,200 strong, was joined by auto workers from the industrial Midlands, Oxford, Liverpool, Scotland and Wales, by dockers, seamen, building workers and shop assistants and workers from almost every union. They carried banners and posters with such slogans as "NO SACKING! NATIONALIZATION AND MOTORS NOW!" Outside the plush hotel where Wilson and other Labour Party leaders were staying they roared out their demands -- socialist solu- tions for the capitalist cri- sis and an end to Wilson's betrayals.

At a massive meeting which followed, Gerry Hea- ley, national secretary of the SLL, said the Govern- ment was establishing the fascists' principle by making the state the arbiter of wages and conditions. Only the strength of the working-class was left to fight any government which did this.

The following day hundreds of car workers from Birmingham, Coventry and other industrial centres gave Wilson a grudging reception any Labour Party leader who has had from workers for a decade. As he came down the steps of his hotel he was greeted by a swelling roar of boos and shouts of "Traitor, traitor, TRAITOR!"

This demonstration was under Stalinist leadership, who instructed the car workers to take no action likely to "embarrass" the Labour Government. Stalinist leaders were ob- liged to admit, after a de- corous meeting with the Prime Minister in his ho- tel, that he had "made no commitment to them at all."

coolness

Even the Annual Conference the next day gave him a cool reception compared with the ovation which is the Party's traditional greeting for their leader. This coolness was a re- flection, which goes right through constituency parties in all parts of Britain, of the doubts and uncertainties of even the most stalwart Labour supporters. They are being asked to turn their backs on the basic principal- les of their Party which has stood for sixty years. They do not know what is coming after the coolness of the wage freeze. They have been told that it is all in the 'national interest' but the obvious question is, whether there is a class-less serv- ice of unworthy service workers who would not vote against their Party leaders, but even the most enthusiastic loyalists were too unsure of the fu- ture to stand and cheer Wil- son.

He sought to reassure them by speaking of the Labour Government's "realization of the proposition that the burdens of retraining should be placed on those least able to bear them." But no glop word-spinning could make them forget that those least able to bear such burdens - the wage- earners, the low-paid workers, the old-age pension- ers - were in fact still re- quired to go on, with the industrialists, dividend holders, judges, Members of Parliament in the section of civil servants continued to increase their profits and fat salaries.

Stop

The whole purpose of a long economic statement by Chancellor of the Exchequer James Callaghan was to in- duce the Conference to en- dorse the Treasury Part Four of the Price Rise Pro- grams. It comes in the face of the gloomy fact that the government would not interfere with the rights of trade unions to fight col- lective bargaining. This made ironic nonsense of his claim that he was going to suggest that he is more concerned than anyone else with the wage freeze. He was keen to maintain the freedom of the trade union movement.

vietnam

The Government's policy towards the war in Vietnam was the other issue on which the Conference showed fight. Here the vot- ing was conducted with a re- flexed a deep split in the Labour Party.

It is also safe to say that a large majority within it de- tested Johnson's war and feel a profound sense of guilt that a Labour Government should be going along with it. But Wilson had remind- ed them in veiled terms that they must support U.S. imperialism if they want a re- turn for the support given to them.

While, therefore, the Conference gave, a massive vote of no con- fidence in the foreign policy of Foreign Secretary George Brown, they flouted his ad- vice by carrying two resolu- tions which were in favour of a withdrawal "East of Suez", and the other which called British pressure to stop U.S. bombing in Vietnam.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS NEGROES

(Continued from page 1) practically asking the sol- diers to demonstrate and shot them, which the soldiers re- fused to do. A PLER was finially arrived at, which allowed them, which the soldiers refused to do. A PLER was finally arrived at.

san francisco negroes

(Continued from page 1) by the black community there, and this made the papers. S.D.S. called a demon- stration the next day which was of even more importance. A large group of students marched into the Fillmore area where the riots had also erupted, and systemat- ically broke the curfew. They were shooting negroes in Hunters Point, in the Civic Center, the San Francisco Arts Fes- tival opened. Exhibited were abstract paintings, land- scapes, jewelry and sandscals. And next to the fountain the municipal band played Sousa. The National Guard have left and Hunters Point is back to normal. The parents are waiting for their welfare checks, the boys are waiting on streetcorners trying to hustle a buck and their girls are getting pregnant and going on welfare. But things were not what they were before, by the black community there, and this made the papers. S.D.S. called a demon- stration the next day which was of even more importance. 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VIETNAM ESCALATION

(Continued from page 1) N.L.F. fights on, despite napalm, defoliants and whatever else L.B.J. and his clique of military gang- sters can throw at them. We can do no less for the brave Vietnamese fighters, whom we fully support, than wage the class struggle here against American capi- talism -- the common ene- my -- with everything we've got.

Meanwhile, "The Work- which is basically the pro- duct of the original gang who created the IUE in the post-war period. The IUE is organized on the basis of a hysterical witch- hunt within the CIO against unions suspected of being "Communist dominated." Let workers remember that this witchhunt was organized by the same government which to- day intervenes in behalf of N.L.F. fights on, despite napalm, defoliants and whatever else L.B.J. and his clique of military gang- sters can throw at them. We can do no less for the brave Vietnamese fighters, whom we fully support, than wage the class struggle here against American capi- talism -- the common ene- my -- with everything we've got.

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