In Defense Of Striking Teachers--

Philadelphia Labor Calls General Strike

United Auto Worker Rudy Solienta addresses the Emergency Conference of Trade Unions in St. Louis.

St. Louis Conference Founds Trade Union Alliance For A Labor Party

BY A BULLETIN REPORTING TEAM

ST. LOUIS—More than 275 trade unionists and youth met here Sunday and voted unanimously to establish the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party (TUALP) to lead the struggle of millions of workers against Phase Three and for the building of a labor party.

Also approved unanimously was a resolution calling for the transformation of the Bulletin into a twice-weekly and the program for the upcoming auto struggle that was submitted three weeks ago by the Continuations Committee.

The Conference worked out detailed programs for the critical contract struggles facing major unions this year which will be published in the upcoming issues of the Bulletin.

With many delegates having traveled as far as 2000 miles to be in St. Louis, the Emergency Conference was a decisive step forward in the fight for a Congress of Labor began last October at the National Conference for a Labor Party Now in Chicago.

Bringing the greetings of the Workers League to the delegates, National Secretary Tim Wohlfirth declared: "As George Meany meets with Nixon in Miami, we meet in St. Louis to construct a leadership in the working class that will throw out the Nixons."

He said that the development of a Marxist leadership takes on the greatest urgency in the light of the latest devaluation of the dollar, which has brought the world capitalist system to the brink of collapse.

"All workers confront a common situation," stated Wohlfirth. "It is no longer a question of reform and negotiation. The very rights of the trade unions are threatened and they can't be defended in the old trade union militant way. We must begin to construct in the labor movement a leadership that will fight all the way for an alternative to capitalism."

Behind Nixon's attacks on the trade unions, Wohlfirth explained, is the economic crisis brought on by the inflationary policies pursued by the capitalists since World War Two to avoid a head-on collision with the working class.

"For 25 years the United States has been printing paper dollars and claiming that these dollars are as good as gold," Wohlfirth declared. "But now the world is taking America to the bank and finding out that there is nothing there."

This means that the very basis of all industrial production in the advanced countries—credit in the form of billions of dollars—has been destroyed.

Wohlfirth stated that in order to restore value to the dollar, Nixon must attack the source of value—the working class. At the same time, Nixon seeks to begin a trade war which will force Japanese and European capitalists to prepare for fascism against the working class in their countries.

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(Continued On Page 3)
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Labor Pageant Builds Campaign Against Tories

BY MELODY FARROW

The trade pageant launched by Nixon against Europe now means that the Tory government in Britain will open new attacks to slash workers' living standards, create massive unemployment and seek to remove every gain the working class has made over the last 20 years.

Prime Minister Heath and the Tories are taking steps toward dictatorship, through all democratic rights and preparing for massive repression against the working class. The defense of these rights and gains now requires the unity of the working class in a general strike to force the Tory government out.

It is this struggle which is at the center of the campaign launched by the TUC, the TSSU, the Labour League and the Young Socialists to build the Pageant of Labor. The "Revolution May Be Expected" campaign will culminate in a massive rally to be held at Em- peor Palace, Wembly, in London, March 11. A record attendance of 10,000 is expected.

STUGGLLES

Hundreds of workers are being involved in mounting their own history, the struggle for democratic rights, for unions, and for a Labour Party, and linking their past with their present struggles.

The pageant is being built around the theme Defend Democratic Rights and Build for Life, in a series of theatrical sketches and songs the bitter struggle of the British working class in the past to win their basic rights.

The fight for the rally and main pageant in London has already received local support, including support and participation from young, housewives and trade unions in the local areas. The pageant is being built by sending teams of professional actors into South Wales, the Northeast and London areas to give preliminary readings and performances, directly involving the workers in the areas as players, and establishing pageant committees to carry out the campaign.

In South Wales, the pageant shows how the Taff Vale judges helped workers to win rights such as the railroad union for taking strike action, forced the unions to build the Labour Party.

THEME

In London, the theme is the struggle of Karl Marx during the period that he spent in exile there and his fight for the First Interna- tional.

In the town of Jarrow, in the Northeast, miners, steel workers, shipyard workers and the unemployed joined in the rally against the struggle to organize the first mill workers in the world, whose leader was brutally hung. The Middlesbrough recall the Peterloo massacre of 1819 which led to a general strike and armed insurrection.

Trade union branches have made donations and are making plans to send delegations to Wembly Palace. Support has been won from the Jarrow, Merseyside and Labour Party.

The success of these pageants lies in their direct connection with the struggles workers face today and in their past. Through understanding and re-creating their past struggles in which all their basic rights were won, they are preparing for the biggest general strike in the British history.

When Heath announced Phase Two of his anti-labor offensive, he effectively declared these rights should not be a part of history. The new living standards are now a crime punishable by fines and jail sentences.

Histadrut Calls For Israeli Withdrawal

BY A REPORTER

Izhak Ben-Aharon, head of Israel's Histadrut, last week called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Egypt under the Camp David accords. The ruling Labor Party, of which Ben-Aharon is a member, formally issued a statement disassociating itself from his proposal.

It is the Histadrut's position that the agreement, which was established by a majority vote in the Knesset, is the only way to achieve peace. The Histadrut supports the peace process and believes that a lasting peace can only be achieved through massive international assistance.

The Histadrut has been working closely with the government and other organizations to ensure that the peace process is carried out in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Sadat 'War' Budget Masks Peace Talks

BY A FOREIGN REPORTER

President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has announced stringent austerity measures and will present the National Assembly with a war budget for "battle with Israel."

Sadat declared it would be necessary to eliminate certain industrial and agricultural projects to free funds for this battle. Airport construction, which he said would be frozen, taxes raised and consumer imports reduced.

In presenting the measures, Premier Anirz Sidkyi said: "The government believes this step makes it imperative for us to start the immediate mobiliza-

tion of our entire economy to finance the growing needs of the armed forces."

These measures are aimed not for war against the Zionist regime of Israel but against the Arab workers and youth at home. The call for mobilization, Sadat loudly is a preparation for tight- ening Sadat's rule in anticipation of a peace deal in the Middle East that will be fiercely re- sisted by the Egyptian workers and students.

At the same time, these measures will place the burden of the economic crisis, which hits particularly hard in under- developed countries like Egypt, on the already impoverished workers and poor peasants. The cuts in industry are certain to create more unemployment.

Sadat's brutal attacks on students in Cairo last week ex- poses all his demagogy about war plans. On February 12, police us- ing tear gas led a bloodbath to disperse 300 students who were blocking Al-Giza square. The next day fighting and stones throwing erupted when police tried to break up another march into the center of Cairo. Students chanted slogans calling for political freedom and democracy. They are de- manding an end to political suppression and press censorship, the release of 200 students ar- rested in January and the translation of Sadat's threats against Israel into action.

PURGE

The same week Sadat began a purge within the Arab Socialists Union, the only political party al- lowed to exist, against profes- sionals and intellectuals. He accused them of "meeting" the students and claimed that "Marrists" were planning a na- tionwide rebellion next month.

While Sadat seeks to strangle all opposition, other Arab rulers have been con- ducting fierce diplomatic maneuvers to make a deal with Israel over the Palestinian lands seized by Israel.

Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev said, shortly after Sadat's speech, that the Middle East would be the next area where he hoped to achieve "peace." This will be a major point of discussion at the up- coming meeting between Brezhnev and Nixon in Washing- ton.

What Brezhnev means by peace is a pledge to imperialism that the US's Zionist puppets in Israel will recognize Soviet domination as a base of counterrevolution against the Arab people. It means that Israel will retain hold of the lands it robbed in order for the Soviets to gain "peaceful co-existence" with Nixon.

The student demonstrations are only the beginning of the massive workers struggles against the Sadat government which will occur in the coming year. Sadat, Nixon and the Stalins may put all that east but imposing it on the Arab people will be a different matter.

'Save Money, Eat Cheese'

BY A REPORTER

With the height of arrogance, Arthur Burns, head of the Federal Reserve Board, said that American workers should pay for rising food costs by not eating meat once a week.

"The American public would be just as well off from a nutritional standpoint if they spend less on meat and more on cheese. I think it would be a good idea if we had a meatless day once a week."

"Taking his lines from Marie Antoinette who told the French masses, "Let them eat cake. Burn" s remarks followed Nixon's recommendation the other day that it would be "patriotic to eat fish."

VOLUNTARY

As Burns was suggesting his "voluntary meatless day," the Department of Agriculture an- nounced a record increase in January in sales of meat to three percent. This is the highest increase in 20 to 25 years. This is just the beginning as the devalue- ment of the dollar and Phase Three food price skyrocketing. At the same time as prices are allowed to soar, workers wages are being held to 5.5 percent.
Unionists Form Labor Party Alliance

(Continued From Page 1)

Wohlforth went on to say that the devaluation will mean that the rate of inflation will be at least five to 10 percent higher than the current rate of 12 percent at which it has been running over the past few months.

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This is why it is no longer a question of negotiation. The government is saying: 'Go ahead and bargain but we will not write your contract and you can't bargain with us.'

Concluding his report on perspectives, Wohlforth said that everyone is in agreement with runaway inflation, unemployment, speedup, budget cuts and attacks on democratic rights and that the future of a labor party will partly-and particularly the crucial question of wages—involved a political struggle that must be led by Marxists.

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"Therefore we can't fight any tendency that suggests there is a reform way out. We must warn particularly of the Consumerist Party which opposes any strike action in defense Phase Three and which lines up with the bureaucracy against the building of a labor party that will particularly fight Nixon.

More than 50 trade unionists participated in the two and one half hour discussion that followed the presentation. Wohlforth's report, describing work conditions and calling for a labor party, were well received.

Jim Lawrence, a member of IUAW Local 606 in Dayton, stated that "No one is immune from Nixon's attacks." Having attended last October's National Labor Party Conference in Chicago, he said: "I left convinced that a labor party was the only answer for workers. But we had trouble getting a caucus started in our plant until we discovered this was a Stalinist in our midst. We removed him and since that time we have begun to make progress."

RUDE

Oscar Thomas of IUAW Local 25 in St. Louis told the delegation that "as a unionist, when I think of the $85 billion we have to spend on our troubles, I sometimes wonder if we can ever win."

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Tom Stubbs

Tom Stubbs, a steelworker from the Kaiser plant in Fontana, denounced Abel's productivity talks with management, stating that "Productivity does two things: it makes a man old very quick and it makes a man lose his job." He added that Abel's productivity deals show how "the trade union bureaucracy is solidarizing itself with Nixon.

A great deal of the discussion centered on the need to take up a fight against the attacks on jobs.

Dick Holody, a member of SSEE Local 257, explained that a freeze on hiring and attrition had cost thousands of jobs and a tremendous increase in the work load.

"There is no way of negotiating in this crisis," he said. "We have to take up a fight for our jobs, for our existence."

A longshoreman, Ed Jones, from Port Newark said that it was necessary to build a labor party to resist the attacks in the ILA that will fight the attempt by the shippers to use containerization to destroy the jobs on the docks.

The job conditions facing all sections of the working class were described by Irvin Talbert, a member of ILO Local 29 in Chicago. "Where I work it is filthy there are rats, and terrible facilities. Recently, a worker was killed and he lay on the ground for 60 minutes. We had to use wildcat to force the shippers to agree to get a permanent air balance.

Clee Willis, a postal worker asked how it was possible to have a leadership in the unions that would not sell out like the bureaucracy does now. "I join a union for protection, but what protection is there?"

She said that the leaders in her local only want to get elected and then refuse to listen to the rank and file. "What I would like to see is to get someone in here to do something." Throughout the discussion workers raised the need to tur to Marxism in order to build the leadership that will fight Nixon all the way.

Joel Garcia

has refused to face head-on for 25 years." Clarifying the remarks of a number of speakers who called for the establishment of "Marxist" caucuses in the trade unions, Wohlforth declared that: "We do not fight for Marxist caucuses but for caucuses open to all workers who fight to lead as Marxists. We must fight to build that leadership out of the struggle.

The afternoon session was devoted to different workshops where specific action programs were hammered out in meetings that lasted nearly three hours.

In the final plenary session, the delegates greeted editor Lucy St. John's report on the plans for the publication of the twice-weekly Bulletin with tremendous enthusiasm. Following the presentation of Three Years of the Workers Press, a film produced by the British Socialist Labour League on the first daily Trefilik newspaper, the delegates contributed $100 to the Bulletin fund drive within 30 minutes. During the Conference, $200 in Marxist literature was sold.

Workers League National Secretary Tim Wohlforth presenting a perspectives report at the opening session.

Conference that he had been laid off and lost his seniority following an illness. "I think the management was very rude. It was wrong that I didn't receive any severance benefits and it was wrong that the union leadership didn't do anything. I believe that we must fight to remove Woodcock from the presidency of the UAW."

Many trade unionists condemned the brutal speedups that are being brought into the plants around the country.

"We were pushed until we brought production up until it matched what we were producing in the boom before layoffs," declared a steelworker from San Bernardino. "This is being encouraged by Nixon. We're no longer just up against the company. We're up against the government. There cannot be any complacency. We can't fight individually. We have to stand united."

Clee Willis

tom stubbs

At first I didn't understand the Bulletin," said a Teamster from Berkeley, "but now I do and I'm happy to be here. For so many years I've been looking for an organization like this, and now I'm going to fight for it."

Joe Garcia, a Teamster from Portland, admitted that he had never used to be interested in Marxism, but I'm getting awfully interested now because we have to change. It has begun to show the why we have to fight for a labor party in this country."

Kathleen Fuller, a member of the American Federation of Teachers in Portland, spoke on the decoy in education and the attacks on the teachers unions. She pointed out the critical importance of the Young Socialists - she said it was through the lobbying of the AFL-CIO convention, Minneapolis last fall, organized by the YS which demanded a fight for a labor party, that enabled the teachers to get support for this fight from the delegates within the convention. She said: "The youth were teaching the teachers for a change. The Young Socialists will play a critical role in the struggles of the working class today.

Stu Salenta of IUAW Local 216, who works in the GMAD plant in Southgate, said that he had been telling fellow workers that they must take time to study Marxist theory.

Youth and tenants made important contributions to the discussion, posing the need for the trade union movement to lead the struggle of all sections of the working class. A difficulty that was expressed in the Conference was the tendency of trade union speakers to describe conditions as they exist now and not see that these current conditions were determined by developments before the devaluation. Therefore, it was necessary to fight in the Conference for the understanding that the latest outbreak of the economic crisis will quickly sharpen relations between the capitalists and the working class.

WAGES

Also, there was a tendency not to realize the central importance of the fight over wages in 1973, particularly in the light of the breakdown of all controls on inflation.

There was also a fight over the statement of one speaker who expressed both panic and no confidence in the strength of the working class by declaring that Nixon will call off national elections if the labor party is established.

The American working class will not be a push over," Wohlforth stated in his summary of the discussion. "There are no grounds for panic. Nixon faces a labor movement that his class shows have refused to face head-on for 25 years."
Call General Strike To Free Philly Teachers

BY FRANK ELLIOTT

PHILADELPHIA—The United Labor Committee, representing the AFL-CIO Philadelphia Council, the Teamsters, United Auto Workers and the United Electrical Workers has called for a one day general strike on Wednesday, February 21 to strike the teachers union.

Every city worker must demand that this strike threat be lifted up to and further that this one day stoppage be extended until all arrests, lines and jailings are ended and all teacher demands are met.

Seven hundred and ninety striking teachers have been arrested in three days of mass arrests in the seven week old strike. The President and the chief negotiator of the union, Mr. Rizzo, was sentenced to six months to four years in jail, and jailed two weeks ago, are still held captive.

All doubts as to the absolute determination of the AFL-CIO and the School Board to break the teachers union was dispelled in a speech given by Rizzo following the first two days of the arrests. He called the strike "an attempt at hunger strike power—hungry as a mother," and said he would refuse to go to court in the case.

On the following school day, 373 teachers were arrested and with no protest, today. They face the same sentences as the jailed leaders for violating a court order to keep the school open.

These attacks have steered determined thousands of teachers. After each day of arrests, picket lines strengthened and grew in number.

Strike coordinator James Garceotta issued the following instructions to the union members:

Keep the pickets as tight as possible to keep the roads out. We want to keep the roads out and we're willing to get arrested to do it. We're going to maintain our pickets despite the arrests.

A mass picket of several hundred pickets has forced the re-signation of William Ross as president of the School Board. Ross is also a vice-president of the Joint Council of the ILGWU and was forced to resign from the Philadelphia AFL-CIO Council recently under the threat of censure.

SUPPORT

On Tuesday of last week, a mass picket line was organized by the United Labor Committee outside the Board of Education, virtually shutting down the operation. Fifteen hundred pickets of unions of unionists participated.

George Meany, just returned from his meeting with Nixon in Florida, has prevailed upon Nixon to send his chief labor negotiator, William Ury, to intervene in the situation. It is clear that Meany fears the general strike action.

The Young Socialists are organizing a massive picket of Philadelphia labor and youth at the AFL-CIO headquarters to demand that the Council call an immediate general strike and build a labor organization to take forward this struggle.

SSEU Agreement Accepts Job Cut

NEW YORK—Bringing to bear the greatest campaign of arm twisting and open misrepresentation of workers by the SEIU-71 leadership, the management last Friday to railroad through acceptance of its phony "blueprint" for reorganization. A membership referendum was voted 3211 to 1423 to accept the agreement.

Sensing that this rackets agreement would be overwhelmingly rejected by the rank and file of the union if they had the slightest chance to either read or discuss the plan, the leadership forced its referendum on the ranks 24 hours after they received copies of it. The leaflet given out by the leadership was only a vague outline of the agreement reached in order to create confusion among the ranks.

The referendum, in which the leadership met big opposition from the ranks, followed the mandate given by the massive membership meeting on January 30. This meeting voted down the Cohen leadership and demanded that there be no move of social service staff and no cooperation by the union with the New York City government in which the City Council may be run under a city-wide blueprint detailing all the City's planned changes with respect to workload, manning, job content etc. These changes were negotiated with the union and voted on by the ranks in such a referendum.

MOCKERY

The so-called "blueprint" on which the Cohen leadership has accepted makes a mockery of this motion. Under the terms of this agreement, no protection whatsoever has been given to the membership from Nixon's proposed multi-million dollar cuts in social service funds. One thousand and two hundred seventy-five workers slated into the division of services are being pushed into a program for which there is no guarantee of funding after June, 1974.

Sixteen hundred workers slated into the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Labor Editor: David North

éditor: Lucy St. John Labor Editor: David North

Art Director: Jeanne Cooper


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The Truth About the Dollar and Labor

BY DAVID NORTH

The great political dangers facing the workers must be examined in the light of the development of a leadership in the trade unions and among the youth that understands the depth of the economic crisis.

It is precisely this crisis, which reached a new stage last week with the devaluation of the dollar, that is forcing Nixon to press ahead with his plans to destroy the rights and living conditions of the working class.

During the past week, hundreds of workers have discussed the present dollar collapse with blue-collar salesmen and have raised extremely important questions. No one should evade them (6) to deal with some of the questions that have come up.

1) Will the devaluation of the dollar help solve the crisis?

It is precisely this crisis, Nixon's decision to devalue sets the other face of the price. The collapse of the dollar is the final blow to the world of monetary system. This action does nothing to help the United States solve the problem confronting the capital of the world. This demonstrates that there exists billions of paper dollars in the world that are totally worthless. As of April 15, 1971, the US has refused to exchange the dollar.

In spite of the devaluation, foreign banks are still unable to exchange their massive holdings of paper dollars for gold even at the new price, $42.22 per ounce. Nixon is actually attempting to use the new price to make the dollar a club against those who oppose the dollar.

By devaluing the dollar and forcing other currencies to fall upwards, Nixon is carrying out a policy of trade war. He is determined to drive Japan and Germany, in particular, out of world trade by making its exports too expensive. Over the past year, the currency fluctuations have made Japan's exports to this country about 20 percent more expensive.

2) What does "floating" mean?

From the time the Bretton Woods agreement was established in 1944 until it collapsed on August 15, 1971 the dollar was the world trade currency. Because it was backed by gold, all the major nations determined their value through a definite exchange rate with the dollar. But when Nixon cut the dollar off from gold, he created a situation in which national governments are now free to determine what current value is actually worth.

On December 18, 1971, the capitalists made a new arrangement with the Smithsoni Accords—where currency exchange rate with the dollar. However, this arrangement began to break down within six months when the British government began to devalue the pound. Then the Canadian government, which is at that time is the largest country outside of the United States, united with the United States to devalue the Canadian dollar.

While the heavy purchase of pounds and yen last week reflected the attempt by the big speculators—who are the heads of the major corporations holding millions of dollars abroad—to find a stronger currency, the underlying movement is now coming to the surface. It is a total lack of faith in all paper currency: mark, yen or dollar. This is why the price of gold is fast approaching $75 per ounce. Two weeks ago, it stood at $85.

Under these conditions, a total breakdown of world trade is on the agenda. It is impossible for capitalists to exchange their commodities if they have no idea what the current exchange rate with the country purchasing the goods will be worth upon payment.

Is the dollar an important commodity?

Gold is a measure of value produced by human labor. It embodies a certain amount of labor required in its production. Gold is also a measure of the amount of commodities produced by labor. This was expressed by the fact that Fort Knox held only $31. (Continued On Page 18)
BY A YOUNG SOCIALIST REPORTING TEAM

ST. LOUIS—Over one hundred youth met with the National Steering Committee of the Young Socialists and voted unanimous approval to lead the campaign against the budget cuts and launch the Young Socialist as an independent monthly paper this April.

This meeting was held in conjunction with the Conventions Committee for a Labor Party Now.

Abby Rodriguez, editor of the Young Socialist, opened the meeting with a report on the new situation which youth are now facing and the changes required of its leadership. He stated:

"This meeting is one of the most important ever held by the Young Socialists because it takes place at a time when the most severe attacks are being brought upon the youth.

"The 10 percent devaluation of the dollar along with Nixon's budget cuts now thrust basic rights and programs which the working class has won for its youth. The elimination of hospitals, schools, housing and the stepping up of unemployment are directed by Nixon at the younger sections of the working class.

"In this context, we must recognize the difference between the December 18, 1971 launching of the Young Socialists and now. At that conference, we stated that the future of the youth was at stake. Today, we say that our present survival is on the line—that it is no longer a question of finding a job when we get out of school, but finding a way to stay in school and live decently.

"Our disagreement with the Stalinists and revolutionists centers around this: we say there cannot be capitalism without budget cuts and unemployment. They seek to preserve capitalism but maintain the attacks. It cannot be done and only youth is unable to withstand the attacks with liberal politicians.

"This poses to all youth the need to immediately take forward the program of the Young Socialists against the budget cuts, and in the spring to bring in more sharply our campaign against unemployment.

"Special meetings in the high schools and colleges are to be called right away to unite the teachers, students and the parents in the fight for the budget cuts. This action, in turn, must be done in concert with the labor movement to not only strike against Nixon, but to construct a labor party as the political alternative to the control of workers and youth.

"The report ended with a move for launching the Young Socialist this April as a monthly paper so that it can lead the struggles of youth all across the county against each and every new situation it faces. This paper will now be in the hands of the Young Socialist branches and branches of the National Conference. May 24 and 27.

"When the floor was opened to discussion, many YS members spoke on the work in their areas to build for the Conference. New youth came forward with questions, disagreements and contributions to the discussion. It is through all of this struggle that the revolutionary youth movement can develop as it takes on its independent responsibilities to confront the problems which youth face, and build a fighting leadership.

"David Ost, a student at Stony Brook University, spoke on the situation there: "Last week, a student in an open manhole on campus and was scalded by steam. They retaliated by setting a fire in the dormitory of the YS at the University.

"Abby Rodriguez, speaking for the Young Socialist, said that the Young Socialists had not been able to develop a fighting leadership, but that it is now time for the Young Socialists to take the lead in the fight.

"The Young Socialists, through the Young Socialist, will be the main weapon for organizing new branches by leading the fight to defend the right to jobs and education for the youth.

"Young people for the Young Socialist will launch this new branch by going to all the high schools and colleges and get busy in those offices and in the labor movement, but only we can mobilize the youth. The trade unions cannot do it. We must do it by committing ourselves to the mass construction of the YS with its own paper that must be independent of the problems in order to develop.

"The question of an independent vote for the Young Socialist is the question of an independent youth movement and its relationship to the revolutionary party. We are not against a YS vote for the Young Socialist as a mass movement in opposition to the right and against the problems in order to develop.

"We are now preparing to take the Young Socialist to the people, and this paper will be a weapon in the fight. We are ready to take the Young Socialist to the people. This is the challenge to the YS, to the Young Socialist, to the youth movement in the United States to take this challenge.
Bklyn College YS Opens Campaign Against Cutbacks

BY NANCY VASQUEZ

BROOKLYN COLLEGE—On Wednesday, February 14, the Brooklyn College Young Socialists launched its campaign against the budget cuts with the first special meeting of the semester. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to carry this fight through among all teachers, staff and students.

Adelé Plateau, National Steering Committee member opened the meeting:

"The murder of students is the extent to which capitalism must go in order to preserve its profits. Since education is now a burden upon the economic system in this period of crisis, Nixon seeks to throw it off his back, and youth onto the streets."

Under these conditions, every fight for reforms today takes on a revolutionary character precisely because these reforms cannot be won without threatening the power of the capitalist system. Grants, student loans and programs like SEEK have already been frozen or slashed. Every excuse is being used by the administration to block youth from registering this semester.

UNEMPLOYMENT

While education is being taken away, unemployment continues to rise. A clear example of the dwindling jobs is in the Financial Aid office, where jobs offered to Brooklyn College students have sharply decreased. Every day their bulletin board is surrounded with young people desperate for employment. Very few jobs are available.

It is in this political situation where the really dangerous character of the Young Socialist Alliance comes forward.

At the YSA special meeting a YSA member said: "We’re not here to argue ideology. We have to reach the broadest mass of people possible, no matter what their politics are. Therefore, I propose we have an open-ended steering committee."

Once again the Young Socialist Alliance is in the vanguard in the fight to the movement of the youth, posing bankruptcy policies of mere 'Therapeutic.' They are determined to keep this fight on a minimum level of protest politics, opening the door for the liberal politicians who are responsible for the attacks. They have no perspective to fight the budget cuts or to build a revolutionary movement.

There was a sharp discussion around questions of strategy and the problems of mobilizing both professors and staff and students in defense of their rights.

In this period of most vicious and relentless attacks from Nixon, the fight must be conducted against the budget, the right to education, and the right to work.

This fight requires the mobilization of the entire labor movement in defense of the students’ education and against every other policy put forward by this government against workers and youth.

We will be calling for the support of students, staff, counselors and professors in our fight.

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Where We Stand

Program Of The Young Socialists

Young workers and students launched the East Coast Young Socialists in NY on December 18, 1971, above. The YS rallied 500 youth against unemployment, right, last March. Right, YS fought to unite Black and white youth against racism at Canarsie High School.

This is the seventh part of a series on perspectives proposed for discussion at the YS National Founding Conference in May. We encourage everyone to send their opinions and suggestions to the Young Socialist.

Young people throughout the United States are faced with no jobs, the destruction of education and deplorable living conditions.

Capitalism is in the deepest crisis in its history. Nixon's decision on August 15, 1971, to remove the gold backing from the dollar is a declaration by the capitalist class internationally that it is preparing to unleash the most vicious attacks on the working class.

The removal of the gold backing from the dollar means that billions of dollars throughout the world are simply worth the paper they are printed on. Gold represented the value behind the dollar so that by removing the gold backing from the dollar, the capitalists actually took the value away from it.

The reason behind this move is that the artificial inflation created after World War Two has now come to a head. There are many, many more times paper dollars floating around than there is actual gold to back them up.

It is clear that for this system to continue, it must restore the value to the dollar. In order for the capitalists to do this, they must attack the source of value itself: the working class.

VALUE

The working class creates value through its labor. In order for value to be restored to the dollar, the workers must work more and in less time. That is why the capitalists must destroy all the gains and rights won in the past period and drive the working class into poverty.

This move by the capitalists marked a turning point between classes. All the old class relations have been ripped apart, making a collision unavoidable between workers and youth and the government.

Nixon's new budget for education will destroy all the gains in education made by the working class. This government has made it clear that they do not need or want millions of educated youth. Colleges and universities, running millions of dollars in deficits, are closing up, denying youth the right to a higher education. Meanwhile, conditions and facilities in the high schools and elementary schools continue to deteriorate.

As young people are forced to leave school, they confront the rapidly increasing unemployment among youth. Youth are forced to work under the worst conditions with the lowest pay and with no job security. These conditions are created by the capitalists in order to make the greatest amount of profit.

SURVIVAL

These attacks launched on the youth mean that the very survival of youth is at stake. These attacks stem from the capitalist system itself which, in order to continue, must take away everything youth have today.

In education, the lack of jobs, the rotten living conditions and the cost required to live is just a taste of what Nixon and the capitalist class is planning to launch on all workers and youth.

In every country in the world, the working class is under attack. Capitalism's only interest is in profits, not lives. That is why youth and workers all over the world are taking forward a struggle against these attacks launched by their government.

Historically, the working class has fought to defend itself. Today the American working class, the most powerful in the world, comes forward to fight Nixon with tremendous strength in order to defend their basic rights.

ALTERNATIVE

The survival of youth today is bound up in the struggle to construct a political alternative to both the Democrats and Republicans.

Simple protest and mere reforms will not stop Nixon's attacks. Nixon will not give any concessions because the needs of this system force him to take the measures he has taken.

There cannot be an end to the brutal attacks launched on the workers and youth unless capitalism is destroyed. It is only through the working class taking power that Nixon and his measures can be defeated.

The youth play a critical role in changing the way older workers think. Youth cannot build a socialist society by themselves, but their fight for socialism is the struggle to develop a Marxist leadership within the working class.

A revolutionary strategy must be hammered out to turn the youth towards the trade unions and bring an understanding of the crisis into the working class. Only in this way can mankind go forward.

This is the task posed to the Young Socialists. We know that the working class and youth will fight Nixon, but we must build a Marxist leadership to take forward a conscious struggle that will bring the working class to power.

We call on all youth to take up this struggle around this program and to build the revolutionary youth movement.

Young Socialist Meeting

Stop the budget cuts!
 • No slashes in education, no layoffs or cuts in loan and work-study programs!
 • Defend the right to an education!

Fight unemployment!
 • No cuts in job programs!
 • Jobs for all! 30 hrs. work for 40 hrs. pay!
 • Call a Congress of Labor to build a labor party!

Film Showing:
 • Right to Work March

Speaker: Abby Rodriguez

Build the National Conference of the Young Socialists!
May 26—27 at Hunter College

Brooklyn Meeting: University Lounge, 4th Floor SUBO, Brooklyn College Sat. March 17 7:30PM

Admission: $1.50, includes dance
Meany And Nixon
Unite On Phase Three

The meeting at Bal Harbour is a warning to every worker that the preservation of the trade union movement is determined to strangle any struggle against the Nixon government. At a time when the working class must be mobilized in defense of its organizations, living conditions and basic rights, not only one member of the Executive Council—including those so-called “progressives” who endorsed McGovern last fall—raised even the vaguest opposition to Phase Three.

The role which the bureaucracy plans to play in the coming months was revealed most clearly when the AFL-CIO acted to head off a threatened general strike in Philadelphia by appealing to Richard Nixon to act as mediator in the city’s teacher strike—even though his favorite mayor, Frank Rizzo, is the man who is throwing the teachers into jail by the hundreds.

Nixon went to Bal Harbour because his government and the class it represents is in deep crisis and realizes that it cannot survive unless the trade union bureaucracy carries out a betrayal of historic dimensions.

Bal Harbour proves that the decisive task before the working class is the construction of a new leadership that will rally and unite the working class in struggle against Nixon.

The founding of the Trade Union Alliance for a Labor Party last Sunday is a giant step forward in the fight against Phase Three and the bureaucracy’s deliberate policy of betrayal. We call on all trade unionists to join TUALP and take forward the fight in their locals for a Congress of Labor that will prepare general strike action to defeat Phase Three and construct a labor party pledged to socialist programs.

Nixon’s appearance at the AFL-CIO Executive Council last Sunday made it clear that the trade union bureaucracy led by George Meany is up to its neck in collaboration with the government’s Phase Three attack on the working class.

This is the only interpretation that can be given to the hero’s welcome accorded to Nixon by the 35 members of the Executive Council and 35 other trade unionists with whom he met.

With two standing ovations for Nixon as he entered and left the meeting in Bal Harbour, these bureaucrat-traitors all but pledged their support for Phase Three’s 5.5 percent guidelines, massive budget cuts, attacks on jobs and speedups.

Even after Nixon told the Council point-blank that food prices would rise sharply during the foreseeable future, Meany publicly stated that: “We had a very pleasant meeting with the President of the United States.”

Most criminal of all was the AFL-CIO’s enthusiastic reception for Nixon’s trade war proposals which will mean brutal attacks on foreign workers, the destruction of millions of jobs in the US, and the preparation for a new shooting war which the working class would have to fight. Admitting that he found the outlines of Nixon’s upcoming trade bill “attractive.” Meany stated that if “any nation closes the door on us under your products—then we should turn around and close the door on them: just as simple as that.”

Woodcock And The Communist Party

Leonard Woodcock, president of the United Auto Workers, whose contract expired in September of this year, told the Columbia School of Business Administration on Tuesday that he saw a “peaceful, happy” future in the UAW, just as he thought it would have in 1964 and he had hoped it would have in 1968.

Woodcock’s remarks followed a day the meeting in Bal Harbour by the AFL-CIO Council that gave Nixon a standing ovation and pledged labor programs.

On the eve of the greatest battles now before the American labor movement, the labor bureaucracy laments the so-called “progressives” such as Woodcock and Nixon to knock it from a confrontation with the government. Bureaucratic “peace at any price” forces in the labor movement who are trying their best to disarm the workers in a surreptitious conspiracy led by the American Communist Party.

The CP has refrained from attacking Woodcock or to pose any strategy for the UAW struggle against the tractor and coalition with Nixon’s wage concessions. Writing in his column last Thursday in the Daily Worker, George Woodcock credits Nixon for “developing an open opposition to Phase Three understanding the American group’s posture in relation to Nixon.”

Meanwhile Woodcock has made it clear that as far as he is concerned, the UAW stands for no further than the 5.5 percent guidelines which he has already established. He reiterated his intention to use the “strength of the workers” of the recent production workers councils to defeat the American Communists’ plan to impose their agenda on the UAW.

According to Woodcock that section of the bureaucracy which supported McGovern is advancing towards a split with the tactics of Nixon’s break with Nixon cooperation.

However, these labor leaders were as “informed” as Meany’s group to protect the peace of face the Phase Three policies at Bal Harbour. The political position taken by this section of the labor bureaucracy as well as that taken by the CP in the elections is to try to prevent a break from the phony program of the formation of a labor party which has urgently needed to defend the unions against Nixon. Above all these leaders are hostile to the defense of the system that is now ripening at the gates of the unions and the wages agreements that all workers.

While the CP covers for Woodcock, it is trying to block the formation of the labor movement that developed at the production workers councils. At the same time Woodcock’s refusal to fight speedup in the plants in a giant march and in a feature article on auto entitled “Rank and File Must Mobilize,” the CP leaders state their perspective for auto:

“What is most important is the involvement of the rank and file in the struggle against speedup. There should be meetings and councils and conferences at all levels of the unions. Speed up should be the main issue in the coming contract negotiations. With a full mobilization of a united rank and file of auto workers, gains can be won that will have tremendous effect on the auto industry, the auto workers and the entire labor movement.”

The Stalinists in the whole post-war period were virtually silent about the fight against productivity and 3MAO. They supported Woodcock’s min-skirt strike whose purpose was to disrupt the struggle against 3MAO. Now as the whole confrontation with the auto workers of the UAW and Nixon was used over this contract, and particularly over the question of wages, he CP talked about the fight against speedup in general. This is to cover Woodcock’s acceptance of the 5.5 percent guidelines and Phase Three.

The question of productivity cannot be separated from the wages question. It is precisely the issue of wages that Nixon and his Cost of Living Council has imposed the right to write the contracts of the unions. The “CP’s” avoidance of the wages question and the vague talk about “involvement of the rank and file in the struggle against speedup” is Woodcock’s approach to the up-
ENGLAND:

DRAFT RESOLUTION:
PERSPECTIVES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF
THE SLL INTO A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

PART ONE

Two thousand two hundred delegates at the All Trades Union Alliance Conference in Birmingham on October 22 last year voted unanimously to proceed with the transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary party. Today Workers Press publishes the draft political perspectives and programme for the party, submitted by the Central Committee of the S.L.L. In every area the Socialist Labour League will proceed to organize meetings and conferences to discuss, amend and improve this resolution, and our columns are open for the same discussion. All amendments will be discussed and voted on at a special national conference to plan the founding of the party in May of this year. We urgently ask all our readers to study and distribute this resolution on the widest possible basis. Every day makes more pressing the task of building the alternative revolutionary leadership.

Resolution on Perspectives for the Transformation of the Socialist Labour League into a Revolutionary Party.

INTRODUCTION

1973 is a year of historic decision for the British working class.

January has seen the Tory government legislate a three-year state dictatorship over wages. Already they have paved the way with their Industrial Relations Act. The so-called 'Phase II' and 'Phase III' are the inevitable consequence of entry into the European Common Market. These dictatorial measures, carried through with rough contempt for the electorate or for parliamentary debate, prove beyond doubt that the Common Market is an alliance of British and West European big banks and monopolies to oppress and exploit the working class.

Far from 'controlling inflation' the Tories are out to use it as the big stick; to frighten and stampede the middle class, and to weaken and divide the working class. Already Labour Party leaders have said that they will not hinder the implementation of the new measures, and have advised the working class to obey the new laws. They are willing assistants in the steps to the police state.

Trade union leaders have collaborated at every step, and are even now looking for ways of resuming their collaboration with the Heath government. The working class urgently needs a programme to defend all its basic democratic rights, to unite the whole working class in action to remove the Tory government. For this it is essential that a new leadership be built in the working-class movement.

Just as the employing class and the Tories cannot any longer rule in the old way, with compromise, reform, and the 'swing of the electoral pendulum', so the working class cannot go on with the old leadership and the old betrayals.

The three-year state control of wages is no temporary measure. If the Tories are permitted to go through with this, it is intended as permanent destruction of all basic democratic rights. Every Labour and trade union leader who acts in any way to prevent the working class from using all its strength to defeat the government now is as historically guilty as were the leaders who betrayed the German workers to Hitler. Every single basic right of the working class, won in centuries of struggle, is in immediate and extreme danger.

The British capitalist class, gripped by insoluble world economic crisis, and mortally afraid of the organized strength of the undefeated working class of today, has resolved to destroy these rights.

Already, after less than three years of this government, millions of working men and women are realizing that their whole existence is threatened. State control of wages, rocketing prices and rent increases, loss of democratic rights and legislation to destroy the trade unions—all these attacks are designed to destroy the working class as a class which fights to defend itself and change the social system.

All Trades Union Alliance Conference in Birmingham, 1973. The vote was unanimous to proceed with transformation of the SLL into a revolutionary party.

The Tory government aims to reduce every worker to the level of an isolated citizen obeying the authority of the state and the employer.

It is not just a matter of changes over three years of one government, which can be reversed simply by replacing that government at the end of its term. Nor is it even only a matter of the Tories destroying the gains in living standards made by the organized working-class movement since World War II. What is happening is that the whole pattern of social and political relations between the classes in Britain is now forced to change.

Within the framework of Britain being the first and strongest capitalist country (since the 17th century), it has been possible for the British working class to force definite economic concessions and basic democratic rights and to make the ruling class extend to it
the method of compromise which was first developed between the old, landed aristocracy and the capitalists themselves.

Every one of these rights had to be won by bitter struggle against people who claimed the allegiance of the working class but proclaimed that such concessions and rights could be won and maintained without a fight.

Today, British capitalism, like world capitalism, is at the end of all 'compromise' solutions to the class struggle. The ruling class senses that it cannot impose new solutions. Having relied until now on the reformist leaders of the working class to sell compromises - to restrict the organized strength of the class purely to the role of 'pressure' for small reforms - they must now put an end to reforms and take back what has been won by the working class in the past. They therefore prepare energetically to defeat the working class in struggle.

The British working class, facing the very real threat of losing everything it has gained through its trade unions and its political struggle, must now find the men and women, the theory, the discipline and the fighting capacity, to resist this attack, to turn back the clock of history.

That means that a new party must be built, a party that can defeat and replace the bankrupt Labour and Stalinist leaders and unite the working class around a programme to defeat the Tory attack.

Defence of basic democratic rights, led by such a revolutionary party, will be turned into attack, attack on the Tory government, the common enemy.

Such a task can certainly be accomplished. The working class, throughout the period of this Tory government, has shown its ability to fight back. Despite the cowardly retreats of the trade union leaders, millions of workers have entered the battle not only against their employers but against the government, from postmen and local council workers, to miners, car workers, shipyard workers, builders and dockers.

These betrayals of leadership culminated in the collaboration of the TUC General Council in talks with the Heath Cabinet on 'control of inflation' on the eve of Common Market entry. Such betrayal means that the old ways of fighting have come to a contradiction which must be resolved.

The trade unions preserve the strength of the working class. But the reformist, class-collaborationist politics and leadership of these unions has now become one of the wheels in the capitalist machine being constructed to destroy that same strength.

The gains of all past struggles are at stake, and new ways of struggle must be found. This is not something merely invented by Marxists; it is the inescapable lesson of history as it works out, to this very moment. Either a change to revolutionary policies, programme and organization, or else the working class will be smashed.

The forces for a new revolutionary party with this task definitely exist, as the struggles of the working class have shown since 1970. But these forces are going into action separately, one after the other, instead of as a concerted body. They are scattered and divided because of the policies and tactics of the trade union leaders.

This is the situation which must be overcome, a situation which gets more intolerable every day. Unless every socialist and class-conscious worker takes up his responsibility for the construction of a revolutionary Marxist party, then the situation can only deteriorate rapidly.

The crisis faced by capitalism is worse than 1929-1933, which led to fascism in Germany and World War II. Just as Hitler set out to destroy the working class's traditional organizations, so the Tories today set out to destroy 'collective bargaining' as the method for regulating class relations in the day-to-day struggle. This is what is meant by the end of reformism and the need for a revolutionary party.

What is vitally necessary is the unity of the working class to defeat the main enemy, the common enemy, the Tory government. Millions of workers' families are saddled with rent increases and impossible increases in food prices. Millions of trade unions are suddenly and brutally told that to press their justified wage demands will be to break the law.

Unemployed workers are reduced to the poverty line. Youth and students face a future of economic decline, unemployment, education cuts and cuts in real wages. The rights of every one of these sections to resist have been legislated away. A socialist programme to unite all these sections is the need of the hour. The building of the alternative revolutionary party with such a programme, far from conflicting with the unity of the working-class movement, is the only way to assure that unity. The great obstacle to unity is the present reformist leadership.

The Tory government's attack

The Tory government has taken Britain into the European Common Market. Behind the propaganda about a 'great adventure' and a 'better tomorrow' lies the stark reality: the Common Market is a financial, industrial and political alliance of big business and capitalist governments against the common people of every country in the Market. Its true nature was revealed by the statement by Thomas, one of the two 'European Commissioners' appointed by the Heath government. On the day before entry, he said: 'What did our consultants tell us?' was the question that 'democratic means' were used. 'The government deliberately broke its pledge to consult the electorate before entry.'
trary of the Labour Party right wing in supporting entry. (Thomson himself is an ex-Labour Minister!) The essence of the Tory programme is to destroy trade unions as we know them, destroy the standard of living built up over generations, destroy the democratic rights of individual citizens as well as trade unions — in short, to destroy all basic rights.

They do this in the name of "fair play," and pose as the defenders of the people's rights against the so-called "monopoly" of the organized working class in the factories, mines and building sites. The real driving force behind them is not their sense of "fairness" but the economic crisis which forces them to take measures to secure their privileged class interests whatever the consequences. When they say they attack the "monopoly" of the trade unions over labour supply and costs, they are really defending their own monopoly of all the wealth, their own monopoly which enables them to condemn millions to unemployment.

When they pass the "fair rents" Housing Finance Act, the word "fair" is used to conceal in its opposite: the monopoly control of the big banks, building societies, building and materials manufacture, and landlords and real estate speculators over all housing and planning. This monopoly they use to extort massive rent increases and interest payments from ordinary tenants and householders.

When they list "unfair industrial practices" as legal offences in the Industrial Relations Act, they are actually making it illegal for workers to defend their basic rights and standards through strikes and other forms of industrial action. Every trade union knows that without these rights within his union he and his family would be completely at the mercy of the exploiting capitalist class.

In the name of a "Fair Trading Act" the Tory government is building up laws and legal penalties against "restrictive practices" by workers in the factories. They mean by a restrictive practice any means by which the workers have organized to restrict the power of the employer to dictate terms of work and payment. The Act will be used to destroy these rights, built up in years of struggle, to reduce the workers on the shop floor to the status of a mere instrument of the capitalist's will.

What is behind the appeal to "fairness"? Is it this: the Tory government is setting itself up as the representative of the "consumers" or "individual citizen" who wants "fair play" undisturbed by strong, organized groups. Thus the power of the unions must be curtailed to stop inflation, for example, and a strong government must be given middle-class support to do this.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who drafted the Industrial Relations Act, is brought into the Cabinet as "Minister for the Consumer." Just as uncontrollable inflation heralded Nazi dictatorship in Germany, so today it provides the basis for the "British" variety. The Tory and Liberal propa-

ganda idea of the independent citizen-consumer, standing up for fair play against monopoly, does not exist. Tory ideas of "rights" are based on property ownership, which has always been confined to the privileged minority. The 19th century myth is being used to stand in the way of the only forces that can challenge monopoly capitalists: the organised working class and the socialist revolution.

THE ATTACK ON BASIC RIGHTS

Britain of the 1960s and 1970s has been plundered by profiteers of every sort. Never have such massive business margins taken place. Chemicals, electronic products, building materials, food, clothing, electronics, cars—each of these is now controlled by a mere handful of big companies. The millions paid as taxes by workers and middle-class people have been used by Tory and Labour governments to swell even bigger the profits of these monopolies. With these funds they have rationalized and speeded up industry and cut down the labour force, all with the direct help of the trade union leaders, in the name of "productivity". The reward for the ordinary workers has been mass unemployment and unprecedented cost-of-living increases. The state machine and government are being made over into the kind of dictatorship which is ruling these monopolies and their control over wages.

The Cabinet is manned, more and more, by men like Peter Walker and Anthony Barber, products of the great finance capital bonanza of the 1960s. Reginald Maudling, dropped because of the Profumo scandal, ranked as top thinker and representative of this political and business elite, and rightly so. For the protection of the profits of these men and the class they serve, state control of prices and increases has been decreed, again in the name of "fairness" and equality of sacrifice.

Once again this is a fraud. Wages are actually cut by state decree, and even negotiations for future increases are banned. The government intends permanent state control of wages. This means the destruction of basic rights to a decent standard of living and of the right of the working class to defend itself against the effects of capitalist profit-seeking, exploitation and unemployment.

The Tories, not content with the wide powers they already possess for states of emergency and rule by Privy Council, are attacking the whole system of democratic rights.

More and more, changes are made in the mechanism of state control without reference to parliament, let alone the electorate. Small teams of permanent civil servants, Cabinet Ministers and top lawyers, controlling businesses (and all C' leaders in order to decide their taxes) decide and determine major issues like the Industrial Relations Act and the new state control of wages. The truth is that the Tory government has already legislated the people's basic democratic rights out of existence. At the first great clash between the government and the working class the workers will realize again that their treasured rights no longer exist!

The right to strike and to organize in unions! The Industrial Relations Act is used to levy a £3,500 fine on the engineerings. The unions are deprived of their basic right to strike to implement their own rules—the right of the membership to exclude those who actively oppose trade union principles.

The House of Lords, set up after the release of the five doctors from Pentonville jail in June 1972 is a return of the 1901 Taft-Vale judgement, which made trade unions as such legally and financially responsible for all the actions by their members. The aim of this law is to destroy independent trade unions completely.

The right to a decent standard of living! Above all the British capitalists have been hit by the crisis created through their own profligacy and greed by reducing their labour costs, i.e. reducing the worker and his family to the poverty line, wiping out the wages increases won since World War II. All the result of the reformists' incomes policy is the present state control of wages backed by the new law to increase rents. In this way the Tories hope to reduce the resistance and fighting capacity of the working class.

The attack on welfare benefits—school meals, free milk, the health service, spending on education, and especially on women, on supplementary benefit and the return to the means test—are all part of the same attack on the basic right to a decent living standard.

The right to work! The capitalist class has never accepted a full employment policy for their class. They consider it their right to have an army of unemployed with no voice to speak for themselves and to employ. In response to the famous 1969 O'Connor report, 750,000 in December 1972, the House of Lords voted out of the economy to stop payments getting too "overheated". Unemployment a weapon against the Tory government. The right to work must be defended and guaranteed.

The right to decent housing! In order to ensure the thousands of billions of pounds interest and profit payable to banks and building societies on the one hand, and raw materials monopolies on the other hand, the people becomes impossibly expensive and cut down according to speculative property profiteers, which has led to the housing shortage. The "fair rents" Act is the instrument for this.

The housing shortage and the whole of the wage reasoning could be resolved in a very simple way if some of the funds and resources for an entire year's wage and interest ammune were concentrated in the hands of a few building societies, insurance companies, banks and building firms. The government would nationalize all these companies, and the whole question of housing would be settled by the workers themselves without compensation (except, of course, in compensation for monopoly profits).

The immediate problem of the thousands of homeless
The real revolutionary politics was briefly noted in July 1972 when the trade union movement was called to strike. The BLO (Bureau of Labor Union) strike was a major victory for the workers and in the long run, it contributed to the growth of the trade union movement. The strike was called in the name of the "people's right to work" and was supported by the workers, who were determined to fight for better working conditions and wages. The strike was successful, and it helped to establish the workers' movement as a significant force in the country.

The government's reaction to the strike was brutal, with police and military forces being deployed to suppress the workers. This led to a crackdown on the trade unions, and many union leaders were arrested. The government also introduced new laws to limit the power of the unions, and these laws were upheld by the courts. The government's actions were widely condemned by international human rights organizations, and they called for the release of the arrested union leaders and the repeal of the new laws. The government did not listen to these calls, and the tension between the government and the workers continued.

The workers' movement continued to grow, and in the years that followed, they were able to win several important victories. They were able to negotiate better wages and working conditions, and they were able to gain more influence in the political process. The workers' movement played a key role in the eventual overthrow of the government in 1973, and it continues to be a powerful force in the country today.
must be tackled more urgently. If a census were taken of all unoccupied houses left to the wealthy, and of estates and vacant office premises, the homeless would soon be found somewhere to live, at rents they could afford.

This is the need of the working class: the actions are at hand, but the existing privileges of the homeless have been taken for granted for so long, stand in the way. These are the obstacles which a socialist government should remove. They would have the backing of the working class to solve these. Some of the refusal of Labour governments in the past to act against these privileges has kept the capitalist class power.

The right to vote: Even this right has been taken for granted by the electors' pledge by Heath. The most vociferous of the Industrial Relations Bill discussions was the Power to dismiss order with no opportunity for parliamentary debate. Phase Two of the 'free' was implemented by Order in Council with no opportunity for parliamentary debate or even question, only that, in the implementation of the Housing Act against Labour Councils, the Tory government appoints Commissioners, and has the power to dismiss and disqualify elected representatives of the people.

The present struggle of expression: The Tories are prepared to force through a democratic right. The NIRC President, Sir John Donalson, has already warned the Press against commenting on cases before his Court. The suffocation of programmes on TV, and the campaigning right wing on 'moral purity' and 'offences against public taste' are attacks on these basic rights.

All these attacks on basic rights and changes in the form of government, reviving old things. The Tory government represents a decadent ruling class setting its face stubbornly against the necessary historical change to socialism. To do this it has to roll back all the gains made by the workers in the past. It therefore uses the Bonapartist, dictatorial forms of rule. This is vividly demonstrated at first Tory conference after coming into power - to change the course of history of the working class.

And how will they do it? Heath went on, at the National Union of Mineworkers conference he will be able to abolish trial by jury in many cases and the rights of accidents have already been slashed.

And so, a Bonapartist regime can come about and survive, given two conditions: the rottenness and weakness of the existing ruling class; and the unpreparedness of the working class.

It is the job of every socialist to immediately change this second condition, to destroy the enemy's preparations, and initiate the process of unifying the whole class for the struggle for its own power.

This was the position of the Socialist Labour League into a revolutionary leadership of the fight to throw out Heath. Let us replace it with a Labour government pledged to a socialist programme.

Between the Tories' intention of the existing trade union and Labour leaders were left in the leadership unchallenged. The most decisive question is to build the alternative to them now, in direct action against the Tory government. Those who are these dangers but do not act to prevent them, will share the invaluable responsibility for the consequences. This is what it means to say the transformation of the SLL into a revolutionary party in 1973 is a historical necessity.

The working class movement and the revolutionary party

The working class movement has been shown from the dustmen's and postmen's strikes through the dockers', miners' and building workers' strikes. Their power will not stand aside while the Tories proceed. Militancy by one section after another has checked the Tory offensive at each stage. But Toryism lies the greatest danger!

Every militant struggle which checks the class enemy forces him to retreat from his attacks. But if the militant struggle remains isolated from the political fight against the government, and fails to challenge the reformist trade union leadership, then it leaves the workers isolated and against the next stage of Tory attack and preparation for revolution.

There must be formed, now, an organization of revolutionaries, trained revolutionaries, to make, to fight the government, to take the trade union leadership, to fight for revolution.

The opportunity exists far more than ever before. One essential characteristic of the class struggle in the last two years has been that all sections of the working class have been brought into struggle against government policies. Civil servants, teachers, college servants, canteen workers, hospital workers, and many others only just being unionized have followed engineers, miners, dockers and railwaymen into the fight.

The mobilization of the whole strength of the working class will force the Tories to resign would leave the government completely isolated in a very short time. Instead, the JUC leaders have concentrated on getting back and crowding on their bellies for talks with the Tory government.

The entry on to the scene of all these sections of the working class accents all the problems of the class up for solution. It means also that the ruling class has to utilize all the weapons at its disposal to suppress the struggle.

The use of 22,000 troops, thousands of armed police, military forces, and new laws of repression without trial in Ireland, indicates what is in preparation. The old reformism of the British labour movement is completely and hopelessly inadequate for such a situation. In defending the gates of the mass organizations, the trade unions, the working class will need a revolutionary party above all else.

Taff Vale in 1901 came at the beginning of the modern imperialist, the 'epoch of wars and revolutions', before the formation of the Labour and Socialist Party, before World War I and before the first successful working-class revolution.

It led the trade union leaders, many of them very conservative, to make the necessary pendent working-class, parliamen-
tary party, the Labour Party. But now, 70 years after, with the October Revolution, fascism, two world wars and six Labour governments in between, and capitalism back from a crisis more severe even than 1929, the attack on the working class cannot be repelled by reformism. Indeed, the Labour government of Wilson prepared the anti-union laws, and the tUC's collaboration with the governments.

This time the unions can be defended only by transforming them into the aggregate of all revolutionary struggle against capitalism, for there is no return to the old trade union slogans.

Such a transformation can only be carried out by a revolutionary party, by the mass organizations, particularly the unions. The transforming slogans of the Marxists, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky must be used to create a new party, a new body of law, which does not rest solidly on preconceived and historically-established rights and privileges.

They need to transform the large professional and middle class trade unions, and the whole of the working class, into a very concrete form. Through the working class movement, the working class can mobilize and defend itself against any attack, which the capitalist class can never do. To put it bluntly, it must turn its backs on the unions. The conditions for exposing the bankrupt Labour governments are ripe. The working-class struggle cannot be disarmed. The workers and peasants must overthrow and depose the old governments. The conditions for exposing the bankrupt Labour governments are ripe. The working-class struggle cannot be disarmed. The workers and peasants must overthrow and depose the old governments.
Bertolucci Makes His Choice


Bernardo Bertolucci's Last Tango in Paris opened this month in the United States in an East Side theater requiring reservations at $5 a seat. Tango has been proclaimed as "comparable to May 29, 1913—the night 'Le Sacre du Printemps' was first performed—in music history." Tango was banned in Italy for its "obscene content," has broken box office records in Paris and promises to do the same here.

The film's middle-aged American protagonist Paul (Brando) is down and out in Paris after the suicide of his French wife. His memory is Tanga.

In what is a parody of those "love in the afternoon" scenarios, Paul and his lover Jeanne (Maria Schneider) meet for the first time in an apartment for rent and make violent love. The doom and emptiness of their relationship begin with Paul's insistence in the first minutes of the film that the girl know nothing about him—'even his name.'

In what is probably the best performance of his career, Brando is bitter, morose, moody and vulgar. His improvisations with Schneider are fresh and a relief to the moribund character of the film. Brando, however, is a recharger of Bertolucci as to the subject matter of Tango. That is, both star and director are comparatively unenmeshed in the meaningless shallow lives they portray on the screen.

Despite the film's lack of story, Brando and Bertolucci were at work "relating" to each other off stage, exchanging experiences with their psychoanalysts, discussing sex and the meaning of life. Apparently producing Tango took very little script for Brando's monologues, but one hell of a good group therapy discussion. Brando has come a long way since his method acting days. Tango is in this sense merely a completely "personal" film—Brando and Bertolucci could care less about anything but "relating themselves" to the format of the film. At least we can credit Maria Schneider with some honesty. "This business is all blackmail," she says in an interview. "There are no stars now. They're dead.

And so it is with Tango. It is not so much that the stars are dead, but that they are caged in by their own evolution. Brando is caught in his own contradictions: In Tanga he expressed the gamut of his emotions, something he never touched in previous films. Yet he finds himself saying to Bertolucci, "we will never do something like that again. That's the last time I use up my energies."

DOSTOEVSKY

Bertolucci himself is completely ecstatic over the content of the film and exalts himself as a kind of Dostoevskyan film maker revealing his instincts toward sin and excretion through the cinema verite. He includes in Tango a scene of Brando showing his dead wife's mother the low life he used to manage, filled with junkies, prostitutes and his wife's ex-lovers. His mother-in-law is all right, but this is where his daughter has a decent Catholic funeral and he opens his heart. Afterward he breaks down sobbing in guilt over his wife's corpse.

Dostoevsky notes of his work: "All my previous films in a sense were in the past, this is the first that is most present in today's life. I also wanted to make a film about possessiveness—which brings with it the destruction of the object one loves. You possess something completely only in the moment you kill it."

This is indeed the content of Tango. Paul takes Jeanne as his lover to destroy her and torture her—to take out his past on her through his own sadism. Jeanne is not simply a victim, however, as Paul develops a desperate need for her in what becomes a sick symbiotic relationship. Jeanne throughout maintains her engagement to a film maker (Jean-Pierre Leaud) who wants to do a cinema verite of her life (an obvious parody of Bertolucci himself, as if implying that the whole film is an absurd joke). She returns to him to live in her childhood through his film of her past, something which Paul tries to eradicate.

The sex in Tango—which includes sadism and masturbation—is the only nexus between Paul and Jeanne. Their apartment becomes a womb where they speak of nothing about the content of their lives, but deal only with the immediate. Outside the apartment is foreign and hostile to Paul, perhaps bearing great similarity to Brando's existence in Hollywood. Brando has made some of the sharpest statements against the degeneration of film as an art form: his performance in Tango is really saying, "I know all that, and here I am anyway."

Despite himself Paul (and Brando) opens up to Jeanne in the apartment with rambling monologues about his childhood in the Midwest. After such honesty, he immediately uses Jeanne for some violent sex act.

Tango contains magnificent camera shots, all thought out and given lavish attention by Bertolucci. In the technique itself, there are mocking elements of romance: golden afternoon sunlight pouring into the apartment, frosted windows, long graceful rooms, etc. But all this reality comes to reflect Bertolucci's cynicism for his own film toward his art.

PASOLINI

Bertolucci began his film career under the brilliant director Pier Pasolini, and as an apprentice learned much of his masterful technique and sense of composition. But Bertolucci has fairly consistently directed all his talents in the most shallow, personal sort of films that avoid what is objective in the lives of his characters. And here we can say that he has really only gone in the direction of most modern Italian directors, who have phenomenal technical and artistic talents, but cannot seem to find appropriate subject matter. Fellini comes to mind as the sharpest example.

This does not close the matter, for Tango's cynicism and complete "personality" are a part of Bertolucci's politics—those of the Italian Communist Party. Tango from this side is a conscious political statement. As early as 1965 Bertolucci made clear his position in Before the Revolution, a study of a young man from the middle class torn between his membership in the Communist Party and his career. The young man chooses the latter, and thus Bertolucci draws his own class lines. The logic of all this is Tango. In an interview with the New York Times, he frankly states: "You cannot make political films in a commercial situation. The more revolutionary the film, the less the public would accept it." And yet Bertolucci remains around the Italian Communist Party: he is in fact only an expression of their cynicism toward the working class in Italy.

We cannot imagine what Bertolucci's next production will be.
NIXON'S

BY BRUCE McKay

AVON PARK, Fla.—Conditions in the working class districts of Southern towns like Avon Park expose the real meaning of Nixon’s cuts in federal housing programs.

One worker here put it quite accurately: "Nixon is just taking everything away: housing, schools, hospitals, jobs—just about everything we have left. Nixon talks and talks about peace, but hell, he's trying to start a war over here."

The housing conditions shown in these photographs are not at all unusual. In fact, they are typical of the situation workers—Blacks and poor whites—face throughout the South.

The only really decent housing for Black workers here is a project financed through the Federal Housing Administration "220" program. With the end to subsidies for low income housing, millions of workers have been denied any hope for decent housing.

FROWN

In Florida alone, over six million dollars in loans for housing rehabilitation appropriated by Congress have been frozen by Nixon, and this is only one small program. Many of the homes here are literally falling apart, and houses which have partially collapsed dot the bleak landscape waiting for someone desperate enough to move in.

"You have to have some place to stay," one worker told the Bulletin. "They'll patch things right up, put some doors and windows on and move right in."

Most of the homes have no heat, many have no hot water and some have no plumbing at all. Many of the workers here live in old house trailers, because the housing shortage is so critical. The trailers are in only slightly better conditions than the wooden shacks.

Nixon's cuts in housing are part of his drive to completely destroy the standard of living won by American workers in years of struggle. As he leaves workers with no jobs, low wages, decaying housing and schools, inflation and inhuman working conditions, Nixon tells them to "ask what you can do for yourself."

These conditions underscore the urgency for a fight to convene a Congress of Labor which will construct a labor party to defend the working class against these vicious attacks on the basis of a socialist program.
WAR ON HOUSING

This labor camp in Aven Park, far left, is surrounded by barbed wire to keep workers in and union organizers out. Farmworker Willie Hart, below right, lives in a small wooden shack with his wife and 10 children and pays $16.50 per week for rent. Below left, Betty McElroy, also a farmworker, lives in one of the steel trailers. Above: "They'll patch things right up, put some doors and windows on and move right in."
TOWARDS A TROTSKYIST DAILY IN THE U.S.
The Struggle For Marxism

BY DAVID NORTH

Great blows hit the Fourth International. A GPU agent murdered Trotsky in 1940. With the aid of the Communist Party, he also made his final preparations for entering World War Two by framing the leaders of the SWP and throwing them, including Cannon, in prison. In Europe, the best battle-hardened cadres of the Fourth International were murdered by the Nazis.

But while these enormous objective difficulties explain why it was impossible for the SWP to produce a daily paper during the war years, they do not explain why the SWP actually turned its perspective for such a paper.

The roots of this abandonment must be found in Cannon’s refusal to conduct the struggle against pragmatism that Trotsky had repeatedly demanded. Cannon himself became dehydrated by the pragmatic method and this meant a turn away from internationalism. In the activity of the SWP, this expressed itself in dropping the fight for the construction of a new youth movement and a daily paper.

By 1944, Cannon no longer held the position that the SWP fight for the daily. Writing from Sandstone on December 21, 1944, he expressed the following opinions:

1. The SWP does not reflect the needs of the new party in the next period which lies immediately before us. We used to think, or rather take for granted, that as we broke out of the narrow propagandistic circle and began to get a hearing from the workers, we should aim at changing the weekly into a daily. That was the motivation for the launching of the twice-a-week experiment and the later proposal, put on the shelf by the outburst of World War II, to proceed to a three-a-week issue.

2. The workers do not need leaders and manpower, and those who can reasonably be counted on in the next period of expansion, a “revolutionary” development of the SWP seems to starve the other departments of our work. Cannon concluded that the “symmetrical development of the movement...the task of distributing a daily would consume so much of the energies of our limited forces as to sacrifice volume of circulation for frequency of issue.”

Cannon concluded that “a big national weekly is ideally suited” for the expansive movement, the working class that was developing within the United States.

POSITIONS

Cannon had come a far cry from the positions he held in 1932 and 1934. That the objective world crisis, not the venerable and symmetrical institutions of the Party, was the decisive factor in determining the development of the press. His talk of the “symmetrical” development of the SWP—uncovered the most undialectical method of thinking. Cannon did not understand the revolutionary party as a unity of opposition, developing through contradiction. Actually, Cannon’s strategy amounted to accepting the old SWP as it was, and, as it was, to make the old SWP bigger. Although the objective developments—which were now very promising—did not push forward his mass—required that the old SWP be reactivated and transformed through the building of a youth movement and the fight for a daily paper, Cannon simply decided that the old SWP must not be changed.

By this time, Cannon was functioning as a radical American pragmatism. Ignoring international perspectives, he wrote the “American Theses” which outlined the rapid development of the socialist revolution in the United States. No account at all was taken of the economic development of the American economy, through the inflation of the dollar which was agreed upon at Bretton Woods, and the criminal betrayals of Stalinism after the collapse of Hitler’s Germany.

Cannon thought a revolution would take place in the United States on purely national terms, indifferent to the development of the international crisis. The hollowness of this perspective was exposed by the SWP’s strategy to meet the coming American revolution. On the one hand, Cannon talked about the immensity of revolution and on the other, he denied the need for a daily paper to lead the working class in such a period.

However, this nationalist outlook was the expression of his attitude toward the Fourth International after the war. By every measure, the SWP had the main responsibility for the leadership of the Fourth International. Not only did it have the strongest section, but the SWP had enjoyed the richest experience of collaboration with Trotsky.

“OPEN LETTER”

But Cannon refused to take on this responsibility. He dropped the matter in the lap of Michel Pablo, and buried himself with the activities of the SWP. Not until Pablo attempted to break up the SWP as part of his strategy to liquidate the world Trotskyist movement into Stalinism did Cannon issue the “Open Letter.”

While the “Open Letter” must be credited with having saved the Fourth International, Cannon simply saw this intervention against Pablo as being an assertion of orthodox Trotskyism. He refused to struggle for a development of Marxism through the construction of the Fourth International in a theoretical battle against revisionism.

Cannon first took up the struggle for a daily paper to meet the requirements for building a revolutionary leadership. He finally dropped the fight for a daily paper after the construction of the Fourth International was no longer the touchstone of his policies.

Never again was the SWP to lay plans for a daily paper. Today, 198 years after its break with Trotskyism, there is no perspective for publishing the Militant more than once a week. This is justified with reference to Cannon’s prison letters, which, as we pointed out, expressed his turn away from internationalism.

INTERNATIONALISM

Internationalism is a scientific term. It means the construction of a revolutionary leadership of the working class in every country based upon an assessment of the international character of capitalism and its crisis. It is only upon this theoretical foundation that it is possible to develop a strategy for the world socialist revolution: that is, the conquest of state power by the working class in each country.

The SWP proceeds upon an opposite method. It does not understand that the United States—because of its uneven and combined development of world capitalism—is the heart of the international crisis, and that if in this country that the most revolutionary upheavals are being prepared. It therefore cannot take a critical look at the future of the international working class that a Marxist leadership be built in the United States. So the SWP proceeds complacently with a weekly Militant which comments—incorrectly, of course—on developments which occurred two weeks earlier, making no attempt to lead the labor movement against Nixon.

DAILY

Today, the Workers League devotes all its energy to the development of the daily Trotskyist newspaper. In the present period, every change of great significance in the class struggle must be grasped not only within months and weeks but in days and even hours, it is necessary that American workers have their revolutionary paper every day.

The Militant will be the first revolutionary daily paper in the United States. Already, great enthusiasm has been generated by our decision to begin publishing on a twice-weekly basis this coming fall. The Militant will deepen its support in the working class through the struggle for the mobilization of the trade unions in a battle against Phase Three, demanding the calling of a Congress of Labor that will prepare general strike action and build a labor party pledged to socialist policies.

It is through the struggle for a daily paper that revolutionary forces can be developed out of the powerful movement of workers and youth against the government. Unlike Cannon, we do not forget the “symmetrical” development of the American section (which is in sympathy with the Fourth International, though formally barred from membership by the Voehls Act) of the Fourth International—with so much time allotted to developing the daily and so much time for the building of the Party. We stand with Lenin on this question. The fight for the Militant is at the heart of the building of a revolutionary leadership.

CONCLUDED
NCR Workers Reject UAW-Backed Pay Cut

BY A BULLETIN REPORTER
DAYTON, Feb. 18—Faced with the fear of more layoffs in production, Cecil Hampton, United Auto Workers International Representative, and Local 16 leaders have announced that the National Register workers are breaking their contract and accepting cuts in pay for a super-seniority agreement for workers with 10 years seniority or more.

The workers rejected the agreement by a vote of 1,100 to 1,469 and expressed anger over the secrecy surrounding the agreement.

Complicated details were not revealed to the membership until the special meeting at which the vote was taken. The rejected agreement would have cut the pay in the standard hourly2 speedup plan and eliminated the pay guarantee for learning time on a new job.

National Cash Register last month announced its plans to permanently lay off 1,900 white-collar workers. NCR has already destroyed 2,000 production workers' jobs. The New York Times gave the action and NCR President Anderson top billing.

In addition to the no-provisions made to hold the class size down, while the Board steps up severe overcrowding.

At the start of negotiations last fall, the Board refused to pay any increase at all the second year, and the union asked for more than 5.5 percent for the first year. Teachers worked six months without an agreement, and then sent a 5.5 percent was all the government was allowing.

The 4.2 percent for 1973-1974 was called a "victory" because the Board offered 0 percent in October. The devaluation of the dollar guarantees a 5 to 20 percent rate of inflation this year. As a result, teachers face having less money before the ink is dry on the contract.

LAYOUTS
With no provisions for holding class sizes at present levels, the School Board has a green light to begin laying off teachers. Superintendent Mancini said that he hopes to avoid "having to dump anyone out," but added "you never know." Thirty-four teachers reportedly were eliminated in 1972 and 150 are slated to go this coming year.

This setback has been the only responsibility of the Local 28 bargaining unit. They have been involved with government attacks on the AFT over the years and not with their brothers in Philadelphia, St. Louis and Chicago. One art teacher in Highland Park said the Bulletin that their salaries are "being held hostage."

The complaint of the AFT Council with Nixon's voluntary contract deadline was added to the national contract conference of the NEA and AFT must be convened. Only nationwide strike action can smash Phase Three.

Midwest News

Motorcade of St. Louis teachers during their strike.

Big No Vote On St. Louis Pact

BY JOHN DUNN
ST. LOUIS, Feb. 20—School resumed today after the teachers, members of the St. Louis Teachers Union Local 420 and the St. Louis Teachers Association ended their 28 day strike. At two separate meetings, both groups accepted the School Board's offer of an immediate $200 increase and a $600 increase across the board next fall.

The teachers will also receive hospitalization insurance. The Board agreed to pay the teachers for extra duty, limit the size of the classes and give no disciplinary action or penalties to still teaching teachers.

Members of the union voted 847 to 397 in favor of the proposal. The members of the SLTA voted nine to one. The School Board said it did not have the money, in spite of an impartial audit which revealed that it had almost $5 million extra. The School Board offered the proposal after the St. Louis Board of Aldermen granted an emergency appropriation of $2 million to pay the teachers immediately.

OPPOSITION
The strong opposition to the settlement came from Teachers Union members who wanted to stay out on strike for an immediate $100 increase. It was in fact the vice president of the union, Zachary Ames, who led this opposition, deeming the settlement as a sell out. Many teachers expressed these same sentiments at the meeting where the vote was taken.

Despite the settlement, content of court hearings are to be heard tomorrow for the teachers union.
INFLATION...

(Continued From Page 4)

billion in gold while more than 10 billion in paper dollars were held outside the United States. To deal with this situation, he simply refused to buy those dollars back for gold.

But those billions of paper dollars still exist, acting like an enormous debt that must be repaid. It is only through the destuction of this debt through an unplanned depression and war against the working class—which creates value for the capitalists—that Nixon and the ruling class in every part of the world can make a profit from this crisis. Nixon plans on putting value back into the dollar by destroying the class which produces value.

4) Why did Nixon let inflation get so bad? Was the Vietnam War responsible for this?

Inflation is the result of political decisions made by the capitalist class, not the result of mistakes. The crisis of the world economy is tearing capitalism apart is rooted in the decisions made in the United States by the major banks and BE by the leading imperialists.

ENGLAND...

Edward Heath (Continued From Page 2)

The freeze which Heath announced last year attacks the right of trade unions to organize, the right to a closed shop, the right of unions to picket and to exclude scabs.

Heath’s “Fair Housing Act” will double rents for working class families. Several towers have soared to 800,000, while inflation skyrockets.

This month the gas workers

(Continued From Page 4)

Services face even more immediate threats to their jobs under the threatened plans of a federal and state takeover. The leadership is pushing the illusion that the two duplicative service departments are to be maintained, when it is the clear intention of the federal government to supply money for only one.

WIPOUT

In addition, the agreement provides for a new immediate salary for the virtual wiperout of hundreds of jobs in the Community

SSEU

(Continued From Page 4)

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FIGHT

All sections of trade unions must unite to fight the Tory government but the workers who have joined the effort have been told to act and have isolated each struggle against the pay and scale cuts. This undermines the whole point of the blueprint struggle which was to reach all sections in a single agreement rather than on a piecemeal basis. While the CPM leaders have managed to force acceptance of this blueprint, a tremendous movement has begun among the ranks which will not be stopped by this agreement.

On top of this all substantive questions relating to workload and manning of the 40 Human Resources district field offices are thrown over to future negotiations. This undermines the whole point of the blueprint struggle which was to reach all sections in a single agreement rather than on a piecemeal basis. While the CPM leaders have managed to force acceptance of this blueprint, a tremendous movement has begun among the ranks which will not be stopped by this agreement.

While the Cohen leadership was able to swing the Delegates Assembly two nights before the referendum by a vote of 120 to 60, a new referendum clause was taken by the rank and file. Huge “no” votes of six, seven and eight were one recorded in Kingsmead, Meretini, Nevis and Fulton. In the vast majority of centers where there was a heavy “no” vote, this comes after a campaign by the Committee for New Leadership, whose support is the very beginning of the basis for the whole blueprint. The “no” votes of six, seven and eight were one recorded in Kingsmead, Meretini, Nevis and Fulton. In the vast majority of centers where there was a heavy “no” vote, this comes after a campaign by the Committee for New Leadership, whose support is the very beginning of the basis for the whole blueprint. The “no” votes of six, seven and eight were one recorded in Kingsmead, Meretini, Nevis and Fulton. In the vast majority of centers where there was a heavy “no” vote, this comes after a campaign by the Committee for New Leadership, whose support is the very beginning of the basis for the whole blueprint.

This fraudulent agreement of the Cohen leadership will be quickly exposed so the membership as the City proceeds with its attacks. This is why the decisive question now in the SSEU is the construction of the Committee for New Leadership to mount an opposition to this sellout. This requires the following:

• The reopening of the no movement policy until a real blueprint is negotiated.

• Strike action of District Councils on a coordinated basis.

• A campaign for a Congress of Labor for the purpose of preparing a political fight against Nixon, centering on the fight to build a labor party now.
Aerospace Firm Fires Unionists in Economy Drive

BY DENNIS BROWN

LONG BEACH, Cal.—Sixty-seven cafeteria workers, some with 24 years seniority, are among the employees laid off by McDonnell Douglas Corp., which operates Long Beach Harbor Island.

These 67 workers have all been laid off, and from 244 workers, the large firm laid off 1,019 workers at about two dollars an hour less than the former longshoremen's rates.

Long Beach Local 140 of the United Auto Workers is the largest union at the Long Beach aerospace local in the country. The local is unusual in that it is the only one that organizes production workers in the plant, including cafeteria workers.

Losing

McDonnell Douglas has been losing multimillion-dollar contracts over the past few months. A large contract with Japan Airlines for dozens of DC 10's is one of the latest ones. Under these conditions, to keep profits up, they will have to cut every possible corner.

In a meeting last month, the company offered to keep the present staff if they accepted a pay cut of $1.10 an hour. When this was turned down by the union because it was a violation of the contract, the layoffs were inevitable. The average pay for the laid off staff was $45. The new staff gets $2.10.

See

This attack comes at the same time as 200 production workers are being laid off each week. Over the last few years the size of the Long Beach workers has been cut from 36,500 in 1968 to 14,500 now. The rumor is that by next January, the membership will be cut to 6,000.

The union has organized protest picketing to get the production workers and white collar staff to support the new cafeteria service. The picketing has been successful and has been 70 percent effective. There is support among production workers for shutting the entire plant down to defend the local's contract and to defend hundreds of jobs which are disappearing each week.

The HEA narrowly won an election in 1971 over the AFT, establishing them as bargaining agents for three years. Now the HEA leadership is collaborating with the School Board in trying to destroy the threat of the AFT, which still has 1300 dues paying members in Hawaii.

Hawaii Federation of Teachers Executive Secretary Jim Crane of AFT said, "They have been told throughout the state that if they talk to us they will be suspended for insubordination. The Supervisor issued a proclamation that any union organizer who came on campus was to be arrested."

Criminals were arrested when he attempted to meet with teachers on the island of Kauai on their lunch period.

The purpose of this witch-hunt is to smash the growing dissatisfaction of rank-and-file teachers with what Crane calls "the weakest teachers contract in the US." The contract states that pay raises and preparation periods are left to management to carry out "when feasible."

The HEA leadership has been forced to issue several strike calls but has backed out every time. A strike is now scheduled for March 28. AFT members must take the lead in forcing strike action and demand a united teachers union affiliated with the rest of the labor movement against the splitting tactics of the HEA.

West Coast News

Cutbacks Doom Meager Improvements In Decaying Hunters Point

(Continued From Page 20)

moving them into still more tem- porary housing at Hunters Point.

The struggle of the youth against the terrible conditions they live in is perhaps the main fighting between the newcomers from the south and the established residents. One battle involved more than 200 youth.

In 1962 a struggle broke out between three gangs. The city picked out 12 youth whose families were to be evicted from the projects "for the safety of the occupants." These three hundred Hunters Point residents turned out to march in the streets to force the housing director to rescind this order.

Out of this struggle came the first community leadership, the Cypress Attacks Club, led by a group of older women known as the Big Five. They organized scores of committees to put pressure on the city and the big downtown companies to ask for new services like a hospital and better child care, to be run by community control. But to the 800 on the hill who still had no place to live, said Ms. Willy C. Blake said: "People who can't afford to live in San Francisco, let them go. Let them live in Oakland. Maybe they'll be happier."

On a hot September day in 1966, Matthew Johnson, a young resident of the hill, slammed a car into the curb, leaped out, and made a run for it across a vacant lot. Police, claiming the car was stolen, shot him dead.

Residents of Hunters Point demanded that Mayor Shelley appear to answer for this vicious murder, and yet they were driven off the street, and people poured into the street. As the riot or "melee in the street" as it is known because so little damage was done, it was im- mediately suppressed by an enor- mous military display.

For the past five years the poverty programs have been enriched by the help of the federal government, which has taken over the administration of the public housing. Government programs have come to dominate the relationship of the government to the poor.

In 1967, Alito ran for mayor, and put money into Young and Jeordie for Action, promoting a big package of reforms. In return they put out his campaign on the hill. YMCA leader Adam Rogers was made assistant director of EOC, the city anti-poverty agency at a salary of $14,000.

Rogers claimed to be fighting for jobs, but the only jobs were in the poverty programs for people who were willing to be agents for Alito.

PARTRATIVE

At the same time the Black Panther Party was trying to penetrate the hill. They were un- able to break down the sense of isolation and hostility to the out- side which had led the youth to see their fight as hopeless and to depend on the poverty brokers. Because the Panthears based themselves on nationalism and community control the same as Rogers, they were able to show the youth why the path to the force that could destroy the powers down town was through the Fric- ciwio working class. The Panther's work was done for Alito by his new and well paid allies like Rogers.

The deck's being cleared for dictatorial attacks on Hunters Point. Alito is moving openly to beef up the police force to prepare for the civil war which will follow the breakdown of five years of compromise. But he cannot use the police as a cannon out of strength, because his enemy is the whole San Francisco working class, not just Hunters Point.

The San Francisco labor move- ment has a rich history of revolutionary struggle, beginning in 1914 when the ILWU fought the same National Guard the youth faced in 1966 and pushed the city by leading a general strike of 125,000 workers.

NIXON

Last month Nixon's Cost of Living Council rejected a 30 cent raise for the longshoremen. Nixon can't compromise any longer with the unions any more than he can with the youth. Just as he is throwing Hunters Point back to the conditions before the riots, he must try to throw the labor movement back to the Depression. It is now the isolation of Hunters Point from the rest of the San Francisco working class can be consciously overcome by the construction of the Young Left and the Socialist movement, a revolutionary youth movement, which can lead the fight for jobs and against the budget cuts by building a new leadership in the youth to fight for political power.
Editorial
Reagan Blames Youth
For Education Crisis

The California press has launched a hysterical campaign of lies and slander against high school youth. In the last few weeks, the Oakland Tribune, the Berkeley Daily Gazette, and the San Francisco Chronicle have all taken up the cry of "violence in the schools." They claim there exists a "festeriing problem of violence" in the public schools caused by a heavy gang of Bantu students which attacks teachers and other students for racial reasons.

The Berkeley Gazette in particular has spoken of "mass expulsions" as the only solution. The Gazette has whipped up a frenzy in the Berkeley middle class over several incidents at Berkeley High School.

The top capitalist politicians have joined in this campaign. Taking a lead from Reagan's State of the State address, which urged that "violent youth" be put away for good, Secretary of State Edmond G. Brown, Jr., the Democratic front runner to succeed Reagan, chimed in last week with a demand for action against "young toughs." The purpose of this carefully orchestrated campaign is to put the blame for the destruction of California's school system on the youth, who will not only be punished, but Reagan and his Democratic allies in the state legislature.

The right to a decent, free public education, won by the working class in 100 years of bitter struggle, will be fiercely defended by youth who can see that their whole future is at stake. It is to crush this resistance that the witch-hunt atmosphere is being launched.

It will be the task of the Young Socialists to expose the vicious slanders now being poured out by the press and to rally the whole working class in defense of this basic right.

CROCKETT, Calif.—For refusing to work overtime, 10 workers at the C&H sugar plant here and their union have been fined a total of $8000.

There are 1400 employed at the plant, with the 1000 production workers organized in the Sugar Workers Union, Local 1 by the Sea, Larriars International Union (SIU). Workers have a 10 day week and then get four days off.

On January 19, C&H ordered the soft sugar boilers (known as sugar) to work through their off days. All the regular men at that station and all their relief men refused.

C&H took the men and the union to Federal District Court, basing themselves on an injunction obtained last March where the court held that the plant refused overtime. This injunction banned all work stoppages and strikes in the Crockett refinery.

In his decision, Judge Richard Schweikert fined the men for "comparing in contempt of court." One union member summed up the impact of this decision: "By way of that, you and I and all the other working people have more than one person discussing their plans, that's a gangsterism and to me if you follow it out, as far as the court's concerned the union must be one great big conspiracy. If the judge is right then unions are illegal." Judge Schweikert, in his decision, fined the union to pay $5000 in attorneys fees and damages to C&H. Each worker involved was fined $150. The union will be required to pay $250 a day plus $100 a day per man for any future refusals to work.

The sugar company is determined to put the workers completely under its control, to work them as long and as hard as the management pleases. Leaders of Local 1 have no intention of fighting the fines or the injunction. One official stated what we already knew. Hell, we didn't even know about the overtime clause until we got the injunction last year. The guys in the plant are willing to act, but no one is sure what to do. I know one thing though, no one is going to work eleven or twelve days in a row without time off."

Strike action must be taken at the C&H plant to wipe out forced overtime and defend all unionized union men. This must be backed up by the full power of the East Bay labor movement.

Cutbacks Doom Hunters Point
BY KIM HARVEY
SAN FRANCISCO—The people of Hunters Point have been for 30 years the most oppressed section of the San Francisco working class. Together with the neighboring Bayview district, the community numbers 60,000, mostly Black, with more than 15 percent unemployed. Among the youth more than 60 percent cannot find jobs.

In the giant housing projects overlooking the bay, the government has consciously created the worst living conditions in order to destroy a whole generation.

In 1942 the shipyard on Hunters Point became a vital focus for rebuilding the US Navy for World War Two. The government threw together low cost public housing units on the hill overlooking the shipyard to house defense workers. By the end of 1943 more than $10 million had been spent on this "ten-
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ICC Rail Merger Hint
Opens Attack On Jobs

BY MARTY MORAN
SAN FRANCISCO—A high Intersate Commerce Commission official last week proposed a merger of two railroads west of the Mississippi into four super roads.

Assistant in a merger case examiner Nathan Klichtic made the recommendation in a report approving the merger of the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad into the Southern Pacific.

Klichtic made Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) approval of the merger contingent on the agreement of Southern Pacific and other lines seeking smaller pieces of the Rock Island to take over a dozen regional rail carriers in the great plain.

Pieces of these carriers would be added on to Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, Santa Fe, and Burlington Northern railroads to give each line a Pacific to Mississipi network.

The overwhelming demands of the public interest require that the inefficiencies and inadequacies of the Midwestern rail carriers connecting operations and services give way to permit the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific, and Santa Fe railroads to each control lines to make direct connections with Eastern and Western districts, Klichtic said.

This unprecedented intervention by the ICC will encourage a

whirled of rationalization and reorganization in rail transport, leading to thousands of jobs being slashed.

Three years ago, the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern, and the Burlington, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy lines were merged to form the Burlington Northern, the largest railroad in the country in terms of track mileage. Thousands of jobs were lost. In 1971 alone the line cut 1500 employees off the payroll while moving the same amount of cargo as in 1970.

RULES
A fireman's union official said: "In the form of merger, they do away with rules to cut jobs. Fifteen years ago Southern Pacific had 4400 firemen. Now they have 2600. Not because they're moving less freight, but because cars are bigger: they run more cars on the same train, they make longer runs."

The ICC will serve as an organizing committee for a speedup and productivity drive on every railroad. The big industrial corporations like Ford which gave Congress orders to smash the Potters Strikers asked a streamlined rail system to cut their costs for the trade war with Japan and Europe.

The response from the labor movement was to form a labor committee pitched at the ICC, which was a hard core group which attacks teachers and other students for racial reasons.

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Most of the new workers were Blacks from the South. Their 2000 children had no schools. As far as the government was concerned, these workers were just tools to be discarded when their usefulness was over. The end of the war plunged Hunters Point into a state of permanent depression.

By 1948 there were more than 6000 families living in Hunters Point, and many of the older houses were already in need of repair. In 1953, the city decided to "revitalize" the Fillmore district, the other major ghetto. The problem of what to do with the people living there was solved by

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