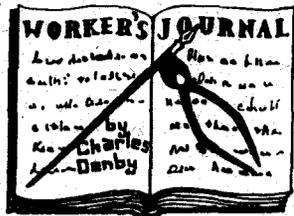


ON THE INSIDE

Lenin's Philosophic Notebooks and the State-Capitalist Tendency by Raya Dunayevskaya	p. 5
Latino Youth Struggles	p. 7
OAU Long on Rhetoric	p. 6



Mayor Young, Black leaders betray workers

by Charles Denby, Editor

The sanitation workers here in Detroit were forced to strike, and they brought the city to a standstill with the support of workers from other City jobs, such as in the Transportation Department, where the bus drivers refused to cross the picket lines set up by the mechanics.

One thing the strike proves to Black people is that you can have a Black man as head of the city, but as long as he represents the interests of the capitalists, he is no different from the man with a white face, and in many instances worse.

FORCED OVERTIME

The issue in Detroit was as clear as day. The contract says the City can force these workers to work overtime, for as long as they are needed. Many of the workers are older men, but they are forced to work 10 and 12 hours a day, six and seven days a week. Many of the workers are saying they did not vote for that in their contract. Some of the older workers cannot keep up that pace, and union leaders let the supervisors give them time off. When they return there are heart attacks, and some even pass away.

I have known Coleman Young for many long years, and also James Watts, head of the Sanitation Department, and Conrad Mallett, head of the Transportation Department. When I first knew them, they were yelling about workers in the class struggle and disenfranchisement against Blacks in the South. When the Kefauver Committee came here to investigate Communists, Young was the leading spokesman against the committee.

He was organizing postal workers on the basis of eight hours a day. If you had mentioned forced overtime to any of them in those days, they would have said you were crazy. But since they all have turned into their opposite, now it is Carter Young tries to stay close to, and Henry Ford he is running the city for.

Young always says, "Look at downtown and what we are doing, look at the Renaissance Center — this is Detroit." But he never says look at the sanitation workers, who are at the bottom of this struggle.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

Just listen to what a sanitation worker said when asked if he agreed with Ambassador Young, that we have political prisoners here. He answered, "Yes, he was correct. There are political prisoners that work for the sanitation department here, as long as you do not have the right to say when you can go home. To me it is more like slavery." (See article, p. 3).

Contrast the difference between the way in which the late Martin Luther King, Jr., trying to respond to the need to unite Black and labor, marched with sanitation workers on the eve of his assassination in 1968, and the disgusting way in which Maynard Jackson, Black Mayor of Atlanta, broke the sanitation workers' strike in his city in April, 1977, on the anniversary of Dr. King's murder.

It was the 1960s before a Black could vote in Georgia. (Continued on Page 8)

Worldwide demonstrations mark Hiroshima Day

Over 100,000 Japanese marched in Hiroshima demanding an end to nuclear madness August 6 in commemoration of the 33rd anniversary of that city's destruction by an atomic bomb.

At the moment they gathered at Hiroshima's Peace Park to offer a minute of silence to the 200,000 murdered in the atomic blast, demonstrators across the U.S., from the 10,000 at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in California, to a thousand-strong rally in New York, insisted on a halt to the spiraling arms race and nuclear fuel economies of the contending state powers.

WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENT

Hundreds of Hiroshima Day activities were reported from all around the world, from West Germany to Denmark, Japan to Canada, and from Atlanta, Ga. to Vermont, displaying the added dimension this year's spring protests acquired as they became a focal point for the growing international movement against nuclear power that came into national prominence with the occupation of the Seabrook nuclear power facility last spring.

The following is a participant's report from the protests in Diablo Canyon:

Avila Beach, Cal. — "No Nukes!" was the battle cry Sunday, Aug. 6 as over 10,000, gathered at an alternative energy fair, cheered on 200 to 300 occupiers who entered the site of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. In groups of 20 to 30, they scaled the fences

10¢ NEWS LETTERS

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Bonn summit gives no relief for capitalists' ills — crises, revolt

by Peter Mallory

The seven "Western" powers who control the world held their annual meeting in Bonn, West Germany during the third week of July, only to announce to a waiting world that their mutual admiration society would do nothing to upset each other's applecarts.

They share in common both the necessity to face electorates that can terminate their shaky regimes, and



New York postal workers reflect growing spirit of rebellion. See Editorial, p. 4.

their dependency on a healthy U.S. economy, which does not exist, for their own survival.

THE MOUNTING CRISIS

They met during a period of labor unrest and widespread strikes. In Italy, politics and the economy are in chaos; England faces widespread unemployment and strikes; France and West Germany have rebelling farmers to satisfy, and in Germany, Korean hospital workers refuse to be treated like imported slaves; Trudeau of Canada faces major strikes over his wage and price policies and a fall election; while back home, Carter faces the disintegration of his political base, to which now is added Ted Kennedy, who is challenging him on the watered-down, meaningless National Health Insurance Bill.

It was Helmut Schmidt who was in the driver's seat, rather than Carter who came with requests that West Germany expand its economy to absorb more imports. But no one listened, least of all Schmidt who had, two weeks before the summit, reached agreement with the leaders of the Common Market countries on a plan for "a zone of monetary stability" which would bind the currencies of those countries into a bloc against the speculative U.S. dollar.

This gave West Europe and Japan the illusion that they could achieve, in this very period of their own myriad crises, what they did in the lush mid-1950s when their economies definitely grew at a faster pace than did the U.S. economy. In this case Carter knew better, and withheld approval of any such "zone of monetary stability" which would substitute itself for the U.S. dollar in international exchange.

Instead, Carter promised to cut foreign oil consumption by adding more taxes to gasoline consumption while raising prices for domestically-produced oil to Arab price levels. This would add billions to oil company profits and not produce a single drop of new oil. Oil consumption is up 18 percent since Nixon first announced the crisis, and no less than three U.S. Presidents since then have done nothing about it. The U.S. has no oil policy and is not likely to have one until the oil companies are assured vast new profits.

MASS OF PROFITS RISE, RATES DECLINE

As if any further proof were needed that profits are all the capitalists are interested in, an ironic note was struck by Wall Street after the summit. The week of July 23-28, in face of all the bad news from the summit, in face of double-digit inflation, high unemployment, and a rising deficit, the American Stock Exchange's market value index moved to new highs, and the New York Stock Exchange's volume totaled 152.8 million shares, compared to the previous week's 142.3 million.

All this was due to what the *New York Times* (7-30-78) called "sparkling profit reports and dividend increases." But they, too, are deluding themselves. Just as the global heads of state must face the immutable relationship between capital and labor that cannot be changed under capitalism, so each country has to face the fact, analyzed by Marx and still holding true, that no matter how great the mass of profit, the declining rate of profit is pushing all these sick economies to stagnation. Thus, in Italy, the combined losses of its four largest industries — Alfa Romeo (autos), ENI (oil), Montedison (chemical) and Italsider (steel) — was no less than \$1.3 billion last year.

(Continued on Page 8)

and steep hillsides with the intent of making it to the plant, seven miles away, or being arrested trying.

Police rounded them up a few miles inside and charged them with trespassing. More blockaded the main entrance early the next morning, and they too were arrested, making 490 in all.

But whether planning to be arrested or not, people came from all over California to express their opposition to nuclear power, nuclear war, damage to the environment, and damage to industrial workers' health.

ANTI-BOMB, ANTI-NUKE

Many spent the day on the beach looking at solar, wind, and methane energy exhibits and listening to speeches tying together all the damage to human life and the planet that the corporations and government are perpetrating. Although very few were over 33 years old, no one could forget that horrible day when the U.S. unleashed the first atomic bomb on a populated area.

News and Letters Committees had the only table there that was stressing the abolition of capitalism and releasing human ideas and energies as the total alternative to nuclear power. We were very well received by many people who felt that although the anti-nuclear movement was growing, it wasn't posing a real answer, since the power companies would continue to produce equipment and energy only for profit even under a solar economy. The ideas of human freedom, feminism and civil rights must be closely linked to creating totally alternative methods of living in a new society.

Radical views gain support at mass ERA rally



—N&L photo

Thousands from across the country march in Washington D.C. to demand passage of the ERA.

New York, N.Y. — One hundred thousand women and men marched through Washington, D.C. on July 9 in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and to pressure Congress to extend the time needed for three more states to ratify the Amendment.

A joyous feeling pervaded the march and rally, especially as we began to realize how many people were there. Neither the National Organization for Women, which organized the demonstration, nor anyone else expected such a huge turn-out. Every state was represented, including the ones where the ERA has not passed. Although most of the southern delegations were white, the Alabama delegation was all Black.

Many unions were there, including women auto-workers, steelworkers, shipworkers, miners, and J.P. Stevens employees. Latina groups included *Hispanos Unidos*, the Mexican National Feminist Commission, Cuban-Americans and the National Committee of Puerto Rican Women. There were hundreds of other groups, from Catholic Men for ERA to Housewives for ERA. Many of the men who marched were Black.

Unfortunately, it was hard to know what all the participants were concerned with, because everyone was told to wear white (in honor of the suffrage movement)

'For Colored Girls . . .'

Everywhere I go now, there is so much discussion about Ntozake Shange's play *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*. Even before it played in Detroit, I was surprised at all the letters that poured into the *Chicago Defender*.

There was a lot of controversy between men and women, with some of the Black men saying that the play was based on the "white man's mentality," and that it just wanted to put the Black man down. Women wrote in saying that it told some truth that needed to be told. As a Black feminist, I was very anxious to see the play when it came to Detroit. The theater was filled, and most of the audience was Black.

The center of the play is about relations between Black men and Black women. It is a hard thing. The *Lady in Blue* lies up on a table, steel rods in her for an abortion, "and nobody came/ cuz nobody knew/ once I was pregnant and shamed of myself."

Near the end of the play, the *Lady in Red* tells her story—a horrifying and moving story of Crystal and the Vietnam vet she lives with named Beau. It is a story of rape and beating; threatening to kill her if she had a baby—and kill her if he couldn't see the baby. Of terrorizing her for asking to marry him—and for refusing to marry him. He is a crazy man—a gypsy cab driver, Vietnam vet dope man.

It is his story too. Ntozake Shange shows the truth of how the Black man has lived in white society where they hold him down and he can't pull himself out of debt. Out of my own high school, they were taken to fight in the war for a country that didn't recognize them as men or human beings.

The play is not just the misery. There is also the joy, or at least the strength, and at the end—the solidarity. After the *Lady in Red* finishes there is a round of voices: "I waz missin somethin/somethin so important/ somethin promised . . . not my mama/ holding me tight/ not a man."

She is asking: what is missing that is going to make me whole and free? And the *Lady in Red*, who has considered suicide, says: "I found god in myself and i loved her/ i loved her fiercely." It became a song of joined hands together.

To me, the ending was so powerful and true because Black women are finding themselves—not with God as in churches—but our own self-consciousness through our struggle to find our own way, free from the white capitalist society, and from sexist men within our own people too.

I am talking about the new minds of hospital workers and domestic workers starting their own unions and about welfare rights organizations beginning all over. For them, finding their own self-consciousness means starting on the road to freedom. That is our movement today.

—Tommie Hope

and to have only their organization's name and place on their signs. Groups who did not comply were told to march in the back, where there was an enormous variety of lesbian and gay groups, campus women's organizations, socialist groups, and many more.

Twenty women, declaring themselves to be socialist feminists, from the University of Illinois, Chicago Circle Campus wore red T-shirts at the front of the march and refused to move to the back, explaining to NOW that red is for revolution and that they would not be limited to any single issue.

The rally at the Capitol was dominated by politicians and actresses, who assured us that the ERA is as American as apple pie, ignoring both the counter-revolution against the women's movement and the turn-out it produced. A Latina speaker addressed us in Spanish, and a Black union leader advised us not to forget that racism is still very much with us. Only the Black and Latin speakers, and Gloria Steinem, spoke in broader terms of the international, multi-faceted nature of the women's movement.

The ERA is too general to cause any changes by itself, but it has become a symbol of women's rights. One Black government official at the rally put it, "We need a climate of liberation only a Constitutional Amendment can give us." The feeling at the demonstration was that if the government isn't giving, we are strong enough to create it ourselves.

—New York WL-N&L Committee participants

Latinas win welfare fight

Detroit, Mich. — We have just heard on Aug. 8 from the Wayne County Welfare Rights Organization and the Citizens for Welfare Reform that the Department of Social Services is finally going to print aid application forms in Spanish as well as English. We have been picketing a Southwest Detroit office, in an area where many people speak Spanish, demanding this change.

This is not the end of our struggle. We will continue to demand that there be case-workers who speak Spanish. And we know that we have to keep demonstrating until the government recognizes that we are total human beings and not statistics.

Support Cassandra Peten!

Oakland, Cal.—Cassandra Peten is a young Black shipyard worker and mother who is facing ten years in jail for having shot at her husband after taking years of abuse from him.

At first, Cassandra was surprised at the response to her case when co-workers from the shipyard came to visit her in jail and spontaneously formed a defense committee. Bay Area Women's Liberation-N&L, along with many other groups and individuals — women and men, Black and white—have joined the committee.

After so many rallied to support her, Cassandra became active in the issues and ideas of Women's Liberation. Below, Cassandra speaks for herself.

Before I was arrested, I didn't think I had any friends at work. But everyone knew both me and my husband, and when I was sitting in jail, many came to visit me and offered me money and support. I was surprised at how supportive people were. Some friends knew women who had worked on Inez Garcia's defense. We all just came together for a meeting and decided to call it the Cassandra Peten Defense Committee.

The idea of publishing the case is to bring to light the problem of abuse of women. Revolutionary Feminism is women trying to change conditions for all people. The Left looks at the women's movement as a separate movement, but that's wrong. It should be all together.

Even now when I go before women's groups to speak on my case, I see all white women. The spokeswomen are usually always white; the white women have the time and money to get involved more, and the Black woman doesn't feel a part of the movement because she's not involved. I plan with my case to make the Black woman's presence felt in the movement. My committee is mostly women, but men are encouraged to participate. We're trying to free all men and women.

We need money and bodies, and ideas. We need more people to do the work of raising \$10,000 before the end of September. We need people to show up at the courtroom in Oakland in August and September for the trial. We need endorsements from organizations and individuals. We need groups to invite me to speak in front of them. And above all, any contributions will help.

Send inquiries and checks to: Cassandra Peten Defense Committee, 1600 Woolsey St., Berkeley, Ca. 94703.

Join our perspectives discussion — read
Women's Liberation —
N&L Pre-Convention Bulletin
35c plus 15c postage
Order from: WL-N&L, 1900 E. Jefferson,
Detroit, Mich. 28207



women-worldwide

A feminist bookshop in Paris, run by the "politics and psychoanalysis" collective, publishers of *des femmes en mouvement*, was trashed and tear-gassed on May 12 by eight hooded women who denounced all feminist actions that exclude men and who left with a group of men who had waited outside during the attack. The bookshop was also riddled with bullets several days later.

Feminist groups in many areas of Italy have taken the place of nurses who have refused to care for patients having abortions. In spite of the high percentage of Catholic doctors and hospitals who refuse to perform abortions, thousands of Italian women have had free, legal abortions in hospitals since the passage of the new law in June and feminists are working to establish private abortion clinics.

On July 4, 150 demonstrators marched through Plains, Ga., denouncing President Carter's human rights policy and demanding freedom for Dessie Woods, a Black woman now in prison for killing a white man (with his own gun), who had tried to rape her and a friend who were hitch-hiking.

A coalition of Appalachian women's groups called the Women's Coal Employment Project has pressured the Labor Dept. into investigating discrimination against women and minorities by 153 coal companies. In spite of an Executive Order forbidding discrimination, 99.8 percent of coal miners are men. Women want jobs in the mines to support their families—the pay is three times that of the only other jobs open to women there.

WOMAN AS REASON

Study of women's suffrage not linked with Abolitionism

Feminism and Suffrage by Ellen Carol DuBois, Cornell U. Press, 1978, \$12.50.

This slim book by Ellen Carol DuBois, who calls herself a feminist and radical, is about a critical period of American history, 1848-1869, and brings together stories of anti-slavery, feminist and early labor struggles.

I was eager to find out why women, who had been so important in the Abolitionist movement, were so forgotten during the post-Civil War flowering of radicalism, that it took them an extra 50 years to get the vote. Why did it take even six years for the supposedly "freedmen" to get it? Why did so many early labor unions exclude women and Blacks? One can see painfully sharp parallels between the post-Civil War period and our post-Civil Rights Movement period. But these questions are not answered adequately in this book.

The problem is that DuBois analyzes history as if it were a series of strategies and tactics, rather than the self-development of mass movements. This view enables her to forgive Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, leaders of women's suffrage, for playing racist politics with the Democratic Party and for being on the wrong side in a strike of working women — as if these were only mistakes in tactics and not in what she calls their "ideological framework."

DuBois' fundamental mistake is to minimize the influence of the anti-slavery movement on feminism. She insists that the early white feminists who arose out of the Abolition movement had already had their consciousness raised before they entered it, and only needed to learn organizational and political skills there. She ignores the philosophy of liberation they experienced in action, especially as it was lived by Black women like Sojourner Truth (whom she mentions once in passing), and Harriet Tubman (whom she mentions not at all).

After the Civil War, DuBois shows, the women's movement burst forth; everyone was so elated at finally abolishing slavery that "all seemed possible." But the leading feminists soon became mired in bourgeois politics, and they turned to white middle-class women for their sole constituency.

The author's conclusion is that this narrowing and isolation of the women's movement was a necessary step to its becoming "independent." She actually concludes the book by saying that the political conflicts of the late 1860s "significantly advanced the movement, liberated it from its subservience to abolitionism, and propelled it into political independence." (p. 200-201). In addition to distorting the relationship between Abolitionism and feminism, it is ridiculous to pretend that the missed moment when women might have won the vote was a beginning and not an ending.

I agree with DuBois that only women can free women, but she goes completely astray by stopping there. Independent political activity as an end in itself, no matter how great, cannot make the leap into new human relations until it unites with a philosophy of liberation.

—Anne Molly Jackson

Detroit city workers strike against overtime

(Detroit city workers walked out on strike Aug. 1-3 to protest forced overtime and management refusal to process thousands of grievances. The following story was told to N&L a week after the strike by a sanitation worker—Ed.)

Detroit, Mich.—Since we went back to work after the three-day strike, things have not changed one bit. The Free Press said that the City would not make us work any forced overtime while negotiations continued, but the truth is that there is forced overtime every day. At our yard, you go in and see the overtime list posted up. It goes by inverse seniority and usually half the people are working overtime every day—12 hours a day, and some Saturdays too.

Yesterday it poured rain all day. We came back soaking wet at 3 p.m. and the supervisor said we had to work over. He said you can refuse, but it will be 30 days suspension. After that, they recommend discharge. The steward watched the whole thing happen and said nothing.

The City has no care for whether you are sick or tired or what you have to do that evening. You are so tired you can't do anything but take a bath and sleep. Even in prison they only work you 8 hours—but here it's 10, 11 or 12.

The reason there is so much overtime is that there are just not enough workers. They haven't brought in anyone new here in over a year. Every time someone dies or retires, they are not replaced. Yet we have people unemployed throughout the city, and Mayor Young says unemployment is Detroit's number one problem.

It was crazy for the union to send everyone back to work for the same situation we had before we went out. I feel like the union leadership is just too close to management and does not know our problems. When we were out on strike, everyone was listening, but the min-

ute we went back, it is business as usual and no one cares.

They keep talking and getting nowhere. I am ready to go out on strike again, if we are really going to stay out until things are settled.

—Sanitation worker, Central yard

Uniroyal pressroom walkout

Detroit, Mich. — On Thursday, Aug. 3, all three shifts of the seventh floor press-room walked out, starting with the day shift. All of these employees got suspended for three days, and since this is where they cure the medium-service and a lot of radial tires, the builders for a lot of these got sent home too.

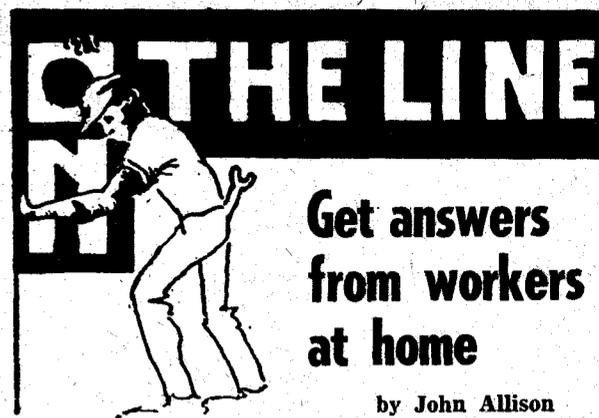
What happened in the press-room was that the press operators were being forced to work 13 presses instead of 10. Working 10 presses is just about too much to handle, and 13 of them is impossible.

Everywhere in the plant the company has been illegally juggling with the standards on a lot of tires and other jobs too, and trying to keep people on their machines longer. And there have been no results from the union. One company tactic is to ride one particular employee ragged to make an example of him or her to kick the others in line.

The tension is so high that when the large breaker-calender for radial steel belts broke down the same day, the rumor went out that they'd close the whole plant for a while and then claim it was because of a labor dispute, so we couldn't get unemployment benefits. It was just a rumor, but it shows how tense things are.

I asked one guy how they had the guts to do it, since the company really tries to come down hard on walkouts. He said they'd "had enough," and if the city employees could say no to Mayor Young, then we could sure say no to Uniroyal!

—Uniroyal worker



Get answers from workers at home

by John Allison

The UAW is now making ready to gain all "the facts" before next year when it will go to the Big Table to negotiate a new contract with the Big Three. I'll predict right now that "runaway plants" will be the BIG issue.

A team of UAW board members just returned from studying the "runaway plants" in Europe. Rank-and-file union members think it odd that their leaders have to go so far — especially since the South is so much closer, and is where the "runaway plants" in the U.S. are going.

The fact is that anti-union Right-to-Work laws are still in effect in most southern states. There is no campaign by labor to organize the unorganized.

The UAW strike fund is at an all-time high — with over \$225 million expected to be in it when the contract expires next year. However, there is no real safety in this big strike fund where it comes to the needs of individual workers in times of a strike. Since health and hospital insurance is paid by the companies, this is cut off when there's a strike, and if there is just one serious hospital expense during a strike, it can wipe a worker completely out economically.

It is surprising that with unemployment, inflation and the cost of living now at a crisis stage that the labor leaders' voices are hushed and silent. Production speed-up keeps going up; automation has reached the robot stage; and cheap labor from abroad has eaten up 70,000 jobs in the radio and TV industry. Steel workers are suffering because the industry did not keep up with modern techniques that have been put into effect in other countries which can undercut U.S. prices, and laid off steel workers can go to hell in a hand-basket.

These things, and a whole lot more, the UAW knows. The answers to these problems at home are not going to be found by studying the effects of "runaway shops" in Europe, but by listening to what workers are thinking and saying right here.

French women strike Moulinex

This summer, thousands of French working women went on strike and, in some cases, occupied seven factories owned by Moulinex, an electronics company. The following statements by women workers at Moulinex were printed in the July issue of *des femmes en mouvement*, the French feminist magazine.

"At Moulinex, the worst thing is the speed-up. They invest in modern machinery, and they say people will have less work, but that's not true."

The women complained of demands from their bosses for sexual favors: "If you let them do what they want to, they promise you an easy job."

The women also pointed bitterly to lack of support for their struggle from their husbands: "I was picketing and my husband came by with my kids to make a scene. He wants me at home. I told him I'd leave him if he came back like that. I'm on strike, this is my freedom."

Another striker wrote in a letter: "In our factory in the suburbs of Lyon, almost 40 women work in production, with male bosses over them... For 40 women there are two toilets, no facilities for getting a drink, no proper locker-room, no cafeteria, and no way of arranging work-rates or vacation time with the management..."

"In winter we work in the cold, in humidity like a cave. In summer, it's the heat under the corrugated iron roof, without any way to open the windows... Paid the SMIC (minimum wage) or hardly more, working in these conditions, each of us closed into herself. It makes you so sad... Reading of the revolts of others, I began to dream, to see joy and hope on the faces of these other women on the move, united in struggle."

Local News & Letters Committees can be contacted directly in the following areas:

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Detroit, Mich. 48207 (259-0404)

SAN FRANCISCO: PO Box 77303, Station E,
San Francisco, Cal. 94107

LOS ANGELES: PO Box 29194,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90029

NEW YORK: PO Box 5463, Grand Central Sta.
New York, N.Y. 10017

CHICAGO: 343 S. Dearborn, Rm. 1618
Chicago, IL 60604 (ph: 663-0839)

FLINT: PO Box 3384
Flint, Mich. 48502

LONDON: Rising Free Bookshop (Box NL)
182 Upper Street,
London, N1, England

FROM THE AUTO SHOPS

Ford Rouge

Dearborn, Mich. — At the Stamping Plant the worker is literally a part of the machine to the employer. There's a new foreman now that won't even let you get a drink of water, sit down, or smoke a cigarette when the machine is down unless it's on your official break — even when it's over 100 degrees in the plant!

Safety is stressed publicly and on the surface, but rarely put to work on the jobs. During hot spells you witness people fainting and falling out, but the harassment to keep up speed is more prevalent than ever. On one of the hottest days we got a talk on the "whistle system" — how we have to start work right when the whistle blows and not leave the job until after it blows at the end of the shift.

The Safety Man is there to intimidate workers more than to promote safe working conditions. A worker can be written up for climbing into a cart to get stock when there's hardly any other way to keep the foreman off your back about making production.

If we look to the union for help to change things, where are they? The impression many of us have is that candidates for union offices are only trying to get themselves out of the plant and into a cushy job. So revolt against pressure is mostly up to us.

—Rouge Complex worker

Dodge Truck

Warren, Mich. — A couple of main building spray booth painters will be eliminated after changeover by a new way of spraying two-tone bodies. But it probably will mean more work somewhere on the line. It's like one area of the medium line, for instance, where four people will do the work seven did before changeover. The company claims it will slow the line speed three to five jobs an hour—but that is down from the unusually high speed of 30 plus an hour on the final lines for the past month. No one heard a peep out of Local 140 after the industrial engineers got through planning how to speed up production in compact and main buildings. Yet local president Charles Williams wrote in the Pioneer that only "probies" will get laid off, as if no one cares. Everyone cares when fewer workers are on the line — and things like the new robot welders in compact spell out speed-up for all.

—Main building workers.

Fleetwood

Detroit, Mich. — We are supposed to go back to work Aug. 28. The word is that from 500 to 700 people will not be called back. Yet the line is only going down from 72 jobs an hour to 67 jobs. So they are cutting 100 people out for every one job an hour.

The plan is to lay off many more workers than they

need to, and see if they can get away with it. The union leadership we've had lately has let them do it, so now GM thinks they have it made. They keep saying that we are losing the Eldorado to Linden, N.J., so that justifies laying off 500 or more people.

But there is also a lot of new work, like the sun roof and the two-tone operation coming in. They are ripping up the paint shop right now to build a whole new section for the two-tone operation. Practically every paint shop job will be broken up, and work added on to jobs that are already overloaded.

It is time that Joe Gaston and the rest of them that receive our dues money deal with the undermanning mess.

—Second shift worker

GM South Gate

South Gate, Cal. — The plant is tooling for model changeover right now. Because a completely different auto, the Cadillac, is being introduced, an eight-week changeover was originally proposed, which was whittled down to five weeks for most of the plant and four weeks for Body Shop.

Workers know that this shortened changeover means the company will pay fewer SUB benefits. All the while GM is taking \$30 a week out of the checks of workers who refused to pay part of their back SUB money ('75-'77) guaranteed them through the TRA federal program, which the company says is overpayment owed to them!

So anxious is GM to begin turning out new autos, it will call us back to work to help management "work the bugs out" before getting to full production. Judging from the amount of work involved in this new Cadillac and the way GM South Gate workers, particularly Body Shop, have fought against being made to pay for company screw-ups, it looks as though post-changeover will be not only a long siege but a swift confrontation.

—South Gate worker

Ford Mahwah

Mahwah, N.J. — Joe Reilly, our local President, is a company man. He got re-elected, but nobody knows how. When they fired Dave Gardener, a Black official who was better than Reilly, Reilly never said he was against Gardener.

He said, "Go to work, everything will be all right." Once everybody went in to work, then they forgot about it. Later on some guy from Detroit came from the union — he said the company was right.

People write up grievances but nobody knows what happens to them. A lot of people are complaining about that. Reilly's been in there five or six years. I only see Reilly at election time. Before Christmas he came to the plant and said "Merry Christmas," but I haven't seen him since.

—Black worker, day shift

EDITORIAL

Sweeping wildcat strikes proclaim revolt of workers

The rebellious mood of American workers is demonstrated in the wildcat strikes exploding all over the country: sanitation workers and hospital employees in Detroit, sanitation workers in New Orleans and San Antonio, firemen in Louisville, transit workers in Washington, D.C. and New York, teamsters in Michigan, Volkswagen auto workers in West Virginia . . . the list goes on and on. And when one strike is settled, two more erupt.

In Philadelphia, municipal workers walk out demanding higher pay and guarantees against layoffs. The postal workers, 750,000 strong, bitterly condemn the contract negotiated by their leaders — and even such a conservative as AFL-CIO President George Meany publicly denounces the postal contract as a bad one. It appears clear that the postal workers will reject the contract overwhelmingly.

CHOOSE MINERS' EXAMPLE

It is also clear that the postal workers contract, which called for a pitiful 19 percent wage increase over the next three years and which the Carter administration was pointing to as a model for upcoming contract negotiations involving millions of workers next year, will be anything but a pattern. Rather, the workers are choosing the example of the miners during their strike to express themselves.

The reasons are not hard to find. Conditions of work continue to worsen; unemployment is still officially reported to be at 6.2 percent (it's really much more); and at the same time, inflation is eating away at workers' paychecks at the rate of at least nine percent per year. This is the official figure, but a report by the National Center for Economic Alternatives, a Washington research firm, reveals that the prices of basic necessities such as food, shelter, medical care and energy went up by 15 percent during the second quarter of 1978, and that real earnings of workers fell by three percent during the first six months of this year.

This, of course, means a decline in the standard of living of everyone, but the hardest hit are working class families, who spend about 70 percent of their income

on the basic necessities.

PROFITS SKYROCKET

But now look at the 1978 second quarter profits of corporations compared with the same period last year. As opposed to the decline in the workers' real wages, Honeywell profits were up over 48 percent, Sperry Rand up over 20 percent, United Air Lines up 223 percent, T.W.A. up 71 percent, American Airlines up 39 percent, Chase Manhattan Bank up 64 percent, BankAmerica and Citicorp up 27 percent, DuPont up 18 percent, St. Regis paper up 38 percent, Scott Paper up 25 percent, Kodak up 42 percent, Polaroid up nearly 28 percent, General Electric up 17.5 percent and Westinghouse up 16.9 percent.

These figures show what every worker knows — that inflation is not caused by the increases in their wages, and that their wages can never keep up with the rises in living costs.

The workers also have always known very well what UAW President Douglas Fraser declared last month when he resigned from the Carter administration's Labor-Management Group, set up for leaders of management and labor to discuss problems and advise the White House. He said there was a class battle being waged by business against labor. This revelation may be new to Fraser, but this war is a life-and-death struggle that workers fight every day against the economic and working conditions forced on them by management.

AIM IS TO CONTROL WORKERS

Those conditions are precisely why the workers throughout the nation are engaging in wildcat strikes — against both management and their own union leaders who have failed to fight for their demands. Fraser is smart enough to sense this spirit of revolt among the rank-and-file workers, but his resignation from the Labor-Management Group and class struggle declarations are designed not to carry the working class struggle to management, but to try to control and discipline the spontaneous spirit of revolt of the workers.

Nobody knows this better than the rank-and-file auto workers, who have been the victims of Fraser's

negotiations which, far from reflecting the demands of the workers are sell-outs to auto management resulting in progressively worse working and economic conditions.

The mood of labor will sharpen under the impact of the worsening economic and work conditions in the coming year, when many important contracts will expire. These include, in addition to the 750,000 auto workers, over 400,000 Teamsters, 750,000 construction workers, 150,000 garment workers, and 60,000 oil, chemical and atomic workers. These workers will be heard from—and their message will be quite different from that of their so-called leaders.

As the miners demonstrated earlier in the year, and the postal workers show now, they are not willing or able to settle for the same contract that their leaders are so eager to accept and force upon them. This same opposition will be repeated in the coming year, revealing the deepening split between the rank-and-file workers and their leaders, and confirming again the fact that the workers can depend on no one but themselves to win what they increasingly demand—an end to the dehumanized conditions of work through their own control of production.

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ON OUR THESIS: 'NEW BEGINNINGS THAT DETERMINE THE END'

Both the Black dimension and philosophy run throughout the whole Perspectives Thesis printed last issue. They cannot be separated—and that is the main point I also got out of the Black Thought pamphlet. It is not so much France '68, as the U.S.A. '68 and the Kerner Report where we must begin to take a look at the past decade. No other U.S. radicals do that.

Marxist-Humanist
New York

I just read an article about the youth problem in Russia and another about the youth problem in East Germany which sounded like hanging out on the streets of Chicago. Youth with nothing to do with their time, due to the lack of employment, rely on vandalism as the only way out of their economic depression. State-capitalists and democratic-capitalists are aware of this problem, but the very nature of their ideology (capitalism) fails to give them an answer to this universal problem because their system is a system full of crooks, who are only interested in their own welfare. Workers as well as intellectuals who are fighting for a true socialist society should not separate themselves from the youth but rather join them to fight together.

Chomere
Chicago

Bourgeois intellectuals' solutions to the economic crisis are weird. Galbraith advocates educating people to resist the pull of advertising. Eli Ginsburg says because we have achieved "adequate employment" only six years out of the last 25 and only through war, we should change the definition of adequate employment to 5 or 6 percent unemployed (since more women and youth are in the workforce now and presumably don't count). As "prize-fighters for capitalism" they wouldn't last the first round.

Office Worker
Chicago

Your Perspectives Thesis provides just that—an important theoretical perspec-

tive from which to view currents flowing in every part of the world. It is also without the illusions one finds among other theories on the Left. I've passed it on to others here who should become familiar with it.

Correspondent
Tokyo

I have just realized what type of organization News & Letters is. It is a voice, speaking with clarity in the Marxist movement and carrying through the rich heritage from Marx. It is a voice with action for participating in the freedom movement.

Young Construction Worker
San Francisco

Editor's Note: Copies of our Draft Perspectives Thesis are available for 25c from News & Letters.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION

The pamphlet *Revolutionary Feminism* shows how different Marxist-Humanists are from Trotskyists. The SWP women are not looking for women as reason, but for women as numbers. They are interested in the WL movement not as something new, but as something big. They are always talking about building—but all they ever do is try to take over what others have begun. If we want a revolution and are looking for women as reason, we won't be finding the answers either in NOW or in the SWP.

Revolutionary Feminist
Chicago

Suzanne Casey's review of "With Babies and Banners" was very good. The production crew did a fine job with so little "live" material to work with. I certainly believe that the drama of the demonstration in Flint gave the film added dimension and delivered a message immediately translatable for today. All those who participated in that protest should feel a measure of pride in their contribution.

Genora Johnson Dollinger
Los Angeles

LABOR'S STRUGGLES

The UFW has about 100 contracts covering 30,000 workers at peak season. But that represents only 12 percent of the total number of farm workers in California and less than one percent of those in the nation. On top of that, growers are trying to get a proposition on the November ballot to limit UFW access to talk with workers. The law now permits talking with workers an hour before work, an hour at lunch time and an hour after work. If the proposition doesn't succeed, pro-grower legislators say they will seek changes in the law itself next session. "The struggle continues"—for sure!

UFW Supporter
California

I thought you might like to know that Carol Frye, the woman who was shot on the picket line, has filed a \$5.5 million suit against Essex. Lord knows I hope she wins it. We are down to about 22 scabs now—out of 105. How's that? We are slowly getting rid of them. The eleven not hired back are still being put through arbitration. Essex is really fighting dirty too. I wish we could get some real publicity and backing like the Trenton Seven got.

The company is still keeping two scab inspectors. Out of all the classified jobs, only two women leaders are still on a press. They each have ten years and the two scabs have four months. It is a deliberate attempt to harass and punish them for the strike.

Essex Worker
Elwood, Ind.

The way the 7th floor pressroom walked out at Uniroyal is the only way you can get anything done. It's just like the City employees in Detroit with all that forced overtime. They're getting worked to death, and I support them 100 percent for walking off. I may be white, but Mayor Young doesn't fool me when he blames all the city's troubles on the Black kids. If he really wants to do

Reader

something about crime, why doesn't he stop all of this overtime and give these young people jobs so they'll have some kind of future to look forward to?

Uniroyal "Old timer"
Detroit

Right after I read the letter in N&L from the N.Y. telephone worker who was removed as steward in 1976 because he had criticized the union's leadership, I read in the daily press here that a judge had ruled his Local had to reinstate him. I'm withholding my best "hooray", however, pending the outcome of the appeal the union intends to file, considering that they had an earlier favorable decision overturned once before, and that we know all too well what "due deliberate speed" means in this country.

Heartened
Detroit

MORE ON PROPOSITION 13

I take exception to your article, "Workers face hardships from Proposition 13." The tax rebellion in the country has been long overdue because it is the working class who gets hit for the rising taxes. Needed programs will not be cut back if the people stand firm. What we should do is cut out high-paid bureaucrats, duplication of programs and politicians. I think we will see an increase in Proposition 13 actions rather than a decrease in the immediate future.

M.P.
Chicago

Everybody in the country should be told what we know about Proposition 13. It's destroying 100 years in the fight for human dignity, attacking education for all, minority rights, libraries, salaries, welfare, repair and cleaning of streets—but not police and firemen. Property rights will be maintained, but not human rights.

Alarmed
Bay Area

TWO WORLDS

Reflections on Notes From A Diary, by Raya Dunayevskaya (Freddie Forest)

Lenin's Philosophic Notebooks and the State-Capitalist Tendency

Editor's Note: We print below brief excerpts from a new essay by Raya Dunayevskaya which takes up in detail the Philosophic Correspondence between herself, C.L.R. James and Grace Lee (Boggs)—35 letters written between Feb. 1949 and Jan. 1951, the critical period marked, on the one hand, by the outbreak of the Korean War, and on the other hand, by the General Strike of West Virginia miners. These letters have just been added to the Raya Dunayevskaya Collection, on deposit with the Labor History Archives-Walter Reuther Library of Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan 48202. They are available on microfilm from that library. The entire essay from which these excerpts were taken is available for 50c from News & Letters, 1900 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48207.

1978 is the 25th anniversary of the first convention of the state-capitalist tendency as an independent organization in the U.S. It was also the last of a united Johnson-Forest Tendency. As I reflect upon that fact today it is not, as previously, in order "to set the record straight" . . . rather, it is that in the process of looking back at 1953, I realized that the beginnings of the division in Johnson-Forest had begun to emerge in 1949-50 with my translation of Lenin's *Philosophic Notebooks* (specifically his *Abstract of Hegel's Science of Logic*).

Both objectively and subjectively, 1953 was a great historic Turning Point. In March came the death of Stalin, and this signalled the lifting of an incubus from the head of the proletariat. In June came the first-ever revolt from under Russian Communist totalitarianism in East Germany, and with it, a new stage of cognition which, with the Hungarian Revolution, had clearly reconnected with what Marx's new continent of thought originally called itself: "a new Humanism." 1953 was also the year the Korean War ended, and it was soon followed by the Bandung Afro-Asian conference which signalled the birth of a Third World, to develop by the

end of the decade with African and Latin American dimensions.

That is precisely the point. Why didn't the united Johnson-Forest Tendency meet the challenge of the times as the decade first opened when, at one and the same time, there was the Miners' General Strike, in which I was actively involved and "happened" also to be translating, for the first time into English, Lenin's *Philosophic Notebooks*?

IN 1949, A CORRESPONDENCE began, lasting nearly two years, on my translation of Lenin's *Philosophic Notebooks*. No matter what else was tackled, which I will develop in full later, all of us stressed the fact that it was the Doctrine of the Notion where Lenin made his great breakthrough of the dialectic for his age of imperialism. Building on Lenin's concretization of the principle of transformation into opposite from the Doctrine of the Notion, we would need to go the full length, to the Absolute Idea, to work out the problems of our age.

Yet, once we had to face Trotskyism with political resolutions and present a summation of the whole decade of our work on the theory of state-capitalism — *State Capitalism and World Revolution* — we, instead, limited ourselves once again to the category of contradiction . . .

The letters began on Feb. 18, 1949, as I sent a covering note for each part of Lenin's *Abstract*, beginning of course with his notes on the Preface, Introduction, and Doctrine of Being. I called attention to the fact that what James had referred to as central in Lenin—the early recognition of "Leaps" rather than gradualism — had appeared in *Measure*, that is, at the end of the first book: "You will enjoy the notes on Being, which you practically skipped over in your hurry to get to *Essence*. It seemed to me one of the reasons was the necessity to begin with simplest categories, because both in philosophy, economics, politics and what have you, those simple categories 'contain in germ the whole' . . .

On March 12, I concluded the translation, sending Lenin's Notes on the Doctrine of the Notion, which is where Lenin concluded that none could understand Capital who had not studied the whole of the Logic. I evidently was becoming conscious of differences between Lenin's and James's "versions" of the dialectic. The covering note to the last part of Lenin's *Philosophic* (Continued on P. 7)

WHO WE ARE

News & Letters was founded in 1955, the year of the Detroit wildcats against Automation and the Montgomery, Ala. Bus Boycott against segregation — activities which signalled new movements from practice, which were themselves a form of theory. *News & Letters* was created so that the voices from below could be heard, and the unity of worker and intellectual, philosophy and revolution, could be worked-out for our age. A Black production worker, **Charles Denby**, is the editor.

The paper is the monthly publication of *News and Letters Committees*, an organization of Marxist-Humanists that stands for the abolition of capitalism, whether in its private form as in the U.S., or in its state form calling itself Communist, as in Russia and China. The National Chairwoman, **Raya Dunayevskaya**, is the author of *Philosophy and Revolution and Marxism and Freedom* which spell out the philosophic ground of Marx's Humanism for our age internationally, as *American Civilization on Trial* concretizes it on the American scene. In opposing this capitalistic, exploitative, racist, sexist society, we participate in all freedom struggles and do not separate the mass activities of workers, Blacks, women and youth from the activity of thinking. We invite you to join with us both in the freedom struggles and in working out a theory of liberation for our age.

Views

THE BRITISH SCENE

The export of arms is preventing an even greater increase in the number of unemployed here in Britain. Published figures show that almost two-thirds of British shipyard workers are producing warships of various kinds. Iran is Britain's biggest customer. It now looks as if China will be the second biggest customer. Many other workers are producing weapons of war.

As I write, the statesmen are making for Bonn in order to make world capitalism work. What will be concealed is the growing antagonism between Europe and America. America's special plea on concessions for her exports and her heavy imports of oil are only part of the problem. Were it not for their concern over Russia, the true picture would be revealed. They are really alarmed over the situation in Africa. The meeting at Bonn will solve nothing, that is certain.

Harry McShane
Glasgow

I've just returned from Ireland. Conditions in "H Block" of Long Kesh are horrible. Weekly demonstrations have begun in protest in the cities and you may expect a major prison revolt in the near future. All radical publications in England have not faced up to the seriousness of this matter. The continuing torture at Castlereagh is another time bomb.

Though things seem "quiet" it is a very important moment for ideas. Many people have just come out of the IRA, both "Provs" and "Stickies" and are now thinking what to do.

Seamas
Minnesota

Following a decision by the government to end the ban on engines for Chile, the workers in a Scottish factory are taking a stand against delivery. The engines have lain out in the open at the East Kilbride factory since 1975 when they were "blacked" after the bombing of Allende. Releasing them now when resistance within Chile to the junta is on

the increase would spur other Western countries to resume trade relations with Chile and boost Pinochet's regime. That won't happen if the Scottish workers have their way.

Correspondent
Britain

FIGHTING ANITA BRYANT

Anita Bryant spoke here during Gay Pride Week. Between 2,000 and 4,000 people showed up to protest. . . . We were corraled into a barricaded area, surrounded by cops and about 10,000 people who showed up to hear her speak. The march back to the original gathering area was marvelous as we filled about two city blocks with people and energy. That is pretty good for a city that hosts the Ku Klux Klan headquarters.

Feminist
Atlanta, Ga.

NEO-FASCISM

I was pleasantly surprised when I heard that "Holocaust" had been purchased by their largest TV network to show in West Germany—and not so surprised to learn that the idea was greeted with so much opposition (in the press especially) that it is being shunted to a group of small regional stations, which means it will be very effectively buried.

Disgusted
Detroit

All the while the authorities were protecting the Nazis and keeping people from throwing them out of their storefront office, I kept thinking about how fast the same people ran the Black Panthers out of their storefront, when all they were doing was helping poor Black families by supplying a breakfast program for the kids. It tells you a lot about whose "freedom" gets protection in this country.

Black Welfare Activist
Detroit

I had been worried about how many would show up to the anti-Nazi demon-

stration at Marquette Park, and felt wonderful when I saw all those groups there ready to march to the Park. There were many independent Jews, as well as the grey panthers and all the Chicago Left, and it was Black, white and Latin. But Chicago had over 1,500 police ready for the day, too.

Chicago made it very clear who is going to get police protection. Not the countless Blacks who have been harassed, beaten and bombed. Not the King group that almost got killed when they marched through Marquette Park last year. The press is acting as if the police are heroes who kept violence from happening. But what became clear to me was that without the Chicago police there would be no Chicago Nazis. I learned in a new way that if anything is to change, everything must change.

Anti-Nazi Activist
Chicago

UNIMATION

When I first read Charles Denby's column on Unimation, I liked it, but I said this won't really happen for another 20 years. Then I read in the *New York Times* that a factory in Japan will be fully unimated next year. In Great Britain 20 percent of office jobs will be done by computer in 1980. This week the NYT also went full cold-type—everything is being computerized today. Haven't the capitalists learned yet about the decline in the rate of profit? Even if the economy does pick up, all the extra value will go into dead labor, unimation, and this will make it even worse.

Supporter
New York

ANTI-NUKE/ANTI-WAR

It would be easy to give a list of criticisms of the disappointing anti-nuclear rally held Aug. 6, Hiroshima Day, in Detroit, but several very positive aspects should not be overlooked. The fact that our protest was held at all is important and that it occurred on Belle Isle, crowded with plenty of workers, women, Blacks and youth was also significant. The organizers had one especially striking idea. Onto a 200 yard long rope, rep-

resenting the length of a Trident submarine, were tied over 400 short strips of black cloth, one for each warhead carried on the Trident sub. It was very effective especially when one realized that each warhead is several times as destructive as the Hiroshima bomb.

Unfortunately, even though the rally was held in the midst of thousands of people, the location was not taken advantage of, except by those who exploited the protest to campaign for a local politician with dozens of posters and literature. Nor did it attract many Blacks. One of the two Black participants told us the rally contained nothing new and did not relate well to present day problems. He was right.

Science Student
Detroit

The anti-nuke and peace movements are very important because of what is happening in the world today. But they badly need that link to labor. People in those struggles have to see that, every day, workers experience the worst environment of all in what is done to them on the job, and until that changes, nothing else will change.

Working Woman
New York

A DIRECT APPEAL

Presently there is a moratorium on strip-mining most public lands in the Western states, but Indian lands are exempt from the moratorium. The National Indian Youth Council has been fighting coal strip-mining for over four years, and now has a test case in court to block Consolidated Coal and El Paso Natural Gas from strip-mining 40,287 acres of Navajo grazing land. It's going to be a long and expensive battle. The old Sioux chiefs were always going to Washington to ask government officials for a redress of their grievances. We think we should appeal directly to the American public, instead. Your readers who would like to help and want more information can write to:

National Indian Youth Council
201 Hermosa N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

BLACK-RED VIEW

by John Alan

The recent summit conference of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), held in Khartoum, Sudan, reveals that the old paralysis which has afflicted that organization for so many years still exists. Nothing new or creative came out of that meeting.

No African leader seemed able to grasp the fact that at this moment of crisis, when Africa faces the possibility of direct intervention from the forces of world imperialism, they cannot rely on either U.S. or Russian imperialism, or stave off intervention by taking a dubious middle position as some members did.

The reason behind the convening of this OAU conference was to come to an agreement on methods of how to prevent another Shaba incursion by Western imperialism. But what came out of the conference was the maintenance of the status quo situation that prevailed before the French Foreign Legion descended into Shaba Province, in Zaire. Those African leaders who were pro-Russian remained so; those African leaders who were pro-West remained so; and those who held the "middle position" gained one in the person of Sekou Touré of Guinea.

The shifting over of Touré to the ambiguous middle position between the U.S. and Russia, is another indication of how African leadership has descended from the heights which they commanded in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the African masses were sweeping colonialism out of Africa, to their present dependency on the East/West conflict to gain control of the African continent.

In 1958, Sekou Touré could boldly tell Charles de

Blind fight to keep canes

Washington, D.C.—More than 1,200 blind people from every state in the country picketed the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) on July 5. We came to Washington from Baltimore—where we had gathered to attend the convention of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB)—to demand the immediate end to the FAA policy under which United Airlines has been attempting to take our white canes from us during take-off and landing.

The FAA rules of 1977 state that white canes could hurt inflatable slides or become "flying projectiles" and should be treated as carry-on luggage, that is, stowed in a forward compartment since most white canes are too long to fit under seats.

But a white cane is the way we know what is in front of us, whether we are walking into a wall or a street or a door. It is not only the symbol of our independence; it is the fact of our independence. We won't give them up on anyone, even for a few moments, on the promise of a speedy return.

So far, United is the only airline which is enforcing the "cane rule." They have kept planeloads of passengers waiting hours while they argued with us and then used the plane's PA system to abuse and blame the delay on us.

One man was thrown against a wall and handcuffed when he took his cane through a security check point, though he didn't set off the metal detector. Several groups of blind people were not allowed seats on planes they held tickets for and had to get to the convention by bus.

We know that the airlines are trying to get the powers to limit the number of "handicapped" people who could fly on any one plane. What is at stake here is whether blind and "handicapped" people have the right to travel.

OAU long on rhetoric, short on new ideas

Gaulle to get the hell out of Guinea — when France tried to impose its scheme of neo-colonialism on that country. At that time Touré spoke about the idea that African unity was offering the world a new humanism, founded on universal co-operation, without racial and cultural antagonisms and without egotism and privileges that have so divided the highly developed countries. "This is the world," he said, "that is the aspiration of the African people."

Now, at this most recent OAU conference, we find that Touré has made peace with Paris, and finds himself among those members, like Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, who prefer not to reject Western or Russian/Cuban intervention, but instead to judge each event "on its own merits." The trouble with this position is that it leaves the door open to intervention, without determining who is going to decide what is meritorious.

Ironically, it was this middle section of the conference — to the glee of Western observers — which placed the responsibility of imperialist intervention in Africa upon the Africans themselves. Both Touré and Obasanjo presented this preposterous idea to the conference without any recorded challenges from either the pro-Russia or the pro-U.S./Europe bloc.

The London Observer quoted Obasanjo to this ex-

Chicago Nazis shouted down

Chicago, Ill.—On the morning of July 9, over 2,000 people assembled on 71st Street, just inside the Black west Englewood neighborhood, to march on Marquette Park and demonstrate against the Nazis at their scheduled, court-approved rally there.

The marchers represented dozens of anti-Nazi coalitions, Left and civil rights organizations, labor unions, church and synagogue groups, and hundreds who came on their own from as far away as New York and Minneapolis. They were young and old, Blacks, whites, Latinos, and Jews.

Many were harassed and threatened with arrest on their way to the march by roving police patrols. Police stopped all of us where 71st Street crosses the railroad tracks, the "borderline of racism" in southwest Chicago. But in spite of the 1,500-man police blockade, several hundred of us made it through.

In Marquette Park, several hundred Nazi sympathizers were waiting, but the mobs of thousands of brick-throwing, racist whites who the Nazis could call up two years ago never materialized. Nazi leader Frank Collin spoke, but only the media heard because we shouted his P.A. system down. If our march had not been illegally stopped, he wouldn't have spoken at all.

Collin has applied for rally permits in a dozen south suburbs and boasts he will use the ACLU's free legal aid to wage financial war on any community that opposes him. And to further prove that freedom of speech here is for fascists only, the right-wing Church of Christian Liberty—which is sending ex-Green Beret volunteers to build an anti-guerrilla base in Rhodesia—invited Ian Smith and his cabinet to north suburban Prospect Heights to speak at a seminar on how to crush national liberation movements.

But these domestic and imported Nazis may be in for a surprise. Their real mass support now is only the masses of Chicago police who protect them. For the first time they face a powerful opposition in one of the most segregated, racist major cities in the U.S.

— Marxist-Humanist

tent: "We cannot ask outside powers to leave us alone while in most cases it's our actions which provide them with the excuse to interfere in our affairs." Obasanjo was alluding to the fact that many African states did not treat their citizens with the proper democratic respect. This, of course, is not why the East and the West are trying to gain hegemony in Africa as they maneuver to gain world domination. The denial of democratic rights to the African masses is the result of the fact that the African states are neo-colonial states.

The question is not that the OAU doesn't have the desire to resist imperialist intervention and control, but that the leadership is so alienated from its own masses — the only force and reason which can provide the revolutionary resistance to imperialism in Africa — that they dare not bring the masses into this fight.

The most cursory examination of African leadership would show that many of them came to power by a coup, and some with the aid of former French colonists, not to protect the country from invasion, but to protect the Black President from his own people! When the internal politics of Africa coupled with its economic dependency upon outside help are examined closely, one can understand why the OAU conference was long on rhetoric and short on action.

But Africa does not have to be this way; the revolutions that started in the 1950s and disposed of colonialism must be "unfrozen" to dispose of neo-colonialism, whether it is the Eastern or the Western variety. African intellectuals who want to stave off the encroachment of imperialism need a new commitment to the African masses as the only force and reason that can bring about true revolutionary changes in Africa.

Frantz Fanon, Soweto, and American Black Thought

by Lou Turner and John Alan

Introduction by Charles Denby and Raya Dunayevskaya

\$1.00 (Plus 30c postage)

Send to: News & Letters, 1900 E. Jefferson Detroit, MI 48207

Nationwide gay rights parades

San Francisco, Cal. — Over 300,000 people participated in the annual Gay Freedom Day Parade held here June 25, in one of the most politically-inspired gay parades ever. Gay people and straight supporters came from all over the West coast and around the country to affirm their humanity in the face of recent vicious attacks against gays.

The most heated issue this day was the Briggs Initiative, a measure on the November California ballot that would fire all gay school workers and anyone speaking up for gays. Not only is this a hideous assault on all gay people in general, but it could institute a full-scale witch hunt in California schools. The signs, petitions, buttons, and speeches against the Briggs Initiative at this rally were almost too numerous to count.

Unfortunately, as of now, only gay groups and teachers' unions have mounted any effort against this initiative. In the coming months, many more groups will have to come out with educational campaigns showing this as an attack on all people's civil liberties.

Chicago, Ill. — The week of June 18 was Gay Pride Week, culminating in a march Sunday, June 25. Despite the showers, 10,000 turned out for the three-mile march. Some people were wearing the pink triangle, the symbol used to identify homosexuals in the Nazi death camps. Others wore the yellow star — the Nazi symbol for Jews — which had been worn the day before in the anti-Nazi demonstration.

We were very moved by the openness of the lesbians in the march who showed such an interest in our new Women's Liberation-N&L pamphlet, "Revolutionary Feminism," that they bought every copy we had with us. But we were struck by the contradictions within the parade itself. On the one hand, there was the celebration and pride of saying who we are, of saying we will never go back to the closet. On the other hand, was the appearance of sado-masochism as if it is something good rather than what it is in reality — a symptom of living in this repressive, sexist, racist, alienating world.

The Gay Pride Parade was important this year because attacks on gays have sharply escalated this past summer with numerous brutal beatings. Gays have organized themselves into whistle brigades in order to combat these attacks. The potential revolutionary nature of the gay movement can be measured by the fear of the opposition — Anita Bryant and Co.

What is really new is the internationalism of the gay movement. Not only were there parades in the U.S., but in Madrid, 2,000 homosexuals marched in their first public demonstration.

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by Jim Mills and Peter Wermuth

The recent upsurge of Latino youth revolt in the U.S., particularly in Chicago with the protest at St. Pius Institute for Latin Progress, and the ongoing four-month occupation of the 500 building at Hostos College in the South Bronx, forges a different kind of internationalism than the solidarity-for-show of the 15th World Youth Festival in Havana, Cuba last month.

The Communist sponsors of the Havana Festival presented the event as an international gathering, supposedly not restricted to youth groups of the various Communist Parties. That did not compel them, however, to examine the actual links made this year between revolutionary youth activity in the U.S. and the struggles in Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, and Panama.

Instead, the youth attending the "Festival" were treated to empty rhetoric proclaiming the "true internationalism" of Cuban foreign policy, just when that state-capitalist government is aiding Ethiopia in attacking the Eritrean liberation struggle.

Very different than that type of "internationalism" was the meeting students held at Hostos on July 28 to discuss the Puerto Rican independence movement (see article this page). All struggles at Hostos are tied to the movement for Puerto Rican independence, from participation of liberation support groups in the occupation to the defense of Panama Alba, arrested this year for demanding Puerto Rican liberation in an occupation of the Statue of Liberty.

Likewise, the struggle by Chicanos in Chicago to save that city's only bi-lingual adult education center is but the latest struggle of Chicanos within the U.S. (see article this page). Whether it is that fight, or last year's Humboldt Park rebellion against police repression—which likewise was the spark for rebellions in Houston, and Matamoros, Mexico this summer—all the revolts speak a true international dialectic to Latino struggles south of the border.

At the same time that Castro is making overtures to Carter for "normalization of relations," Panamanians are protesting Torrijos' capitulation on the Canal Zone treaty. The total rejection by Panamanian youth of

Latino youth revolts versus Havana Festival

U.S. imperialism was clearly shown when they fought pitched battles with police and pro-government vigilantes on the eve of Carter's visit June 14 to sign the treaty in the blood of the two students slain in those battles.

Look at the activity of Nicaraguan high school youth of Masaya and other locations who seized their schools in the growing militancy against the despotic Somoza regime. Their struggle has sparked Latino struggles within U.S. borders. When Somoza recently visited New Mexico, he was met by demonstrations at Albuquerque and Kirtland Air Force Base.

In confronting imperialist relations most concretely, these struggles are creating new paths to international liberation far removed from the narrow view presented

at Havana. The challenge for today is to develop this internationalism—a passion for a total change of social relations—so that aborted revolutions truly become a thing of the past.

Fight Chicago bilingual cuts

Chicago, Ill.—On Aug. 3, I participated in a demonstration of about 60 people, mostly Latins and Blacks, who were demanding to save Latin and Black high school programs the city of Chicago is trying to kill.

On July 26 without any previous notice, the City College of Chicago (CCC) cut off all financial aid to St. Pius Institute for Latin Progress—the only high school that teaches its courses in Spanish for adults in the city of Chicago—and St. Mary's, a predominantly Black high school, as well as La Universidad Popular.

The reason was not clearly stated by the chairman of the CCC. However, one person I talked to who had been in contact with CCC said this is being done to these three educational centers, that prepared minorities to go into universities so they can get better jobs, as the money supporter doesn't agree with their philosophy.

These institutions, especially St. Pius Institute for Latin Progress, are run by the students and the community itself. The Chairman of the CCC told the representatives of these institutions that unless the administration is run by him and his system they will no longer be supported financially by the CCC. However, the students, teachers, and supporters of these schools, will not allow it and are fighting to maintain their own developed educational philosophy just as the students in New York did with Hostos Community College.

—Chomere

Vieques defy U. S. Navy

New York, N.Y. — At a recent meeting in the occupied "500" building at Hostos Community College, a Puerto Rican activist described the struggle going on between the U.S. Navy and the people of Vieques, an island off the coast of Puerto Rico.

Beginning during World War II, the Navy has used Vieques for target practice, making three-quarters of the island off-limits to its 9,000 residents, as well as much of the waters in which they make their living by fishing.

Parts of the island have actually disappeared from the continuous bombing, and other parts have been turned into desert. The people, who were forcibly evacuated from their homes elsewhere on the island, risk constant injury from unexploded bombs and grenades in the water and beaches.

In February and again in March, the Vieques association of fishermen protested by sailing 40 fishing vessels into a bombing area and forcing a halt to bombing for the day. On July 4, 200 residents invaded the off-limits territory and planted a symbolic vegetable garden.

The Puerto Rican activist recently visited Vieques and mainland Puerto Rico, where Vieques is the biggest issue. He urged New York Puerto Ricans to organize local people from Vieques about it, and chided the revolutionary parties in Puerto Rico for not giving support to the fishermen's initiative.

He was attacked by some in the audience who believe the Puerto Rican movement should concentrate on the issues of independence for Puerto Rico and freeing the political prisoners. But this kind of vanguardism turns revolution into an abstraction when it ignores the actual struggle by Puerto Ricans against U.S. imperialism over Vieques.

—Friends of the Hostos occupation

Marchers protest racist cops

Brooklyn, N.Y. — At a march in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, on July 16, 3,000 Blacks showed their support for this Black community and its leaders' call for an end to the violence and racist actions practiced by the police.

We marched from the 77th Precinct to Eastern Parkway, the dividing line between Blacks and whites, where we rallied in protest of the police murder of Arthur Miller, a Black community leader; the beating of Victor Rhodes; and the continued unreported discriminatory actions practiced by the police against others. We are still waiting for justice in the Arthur Miller murder, and the federal government has refused to investigate until New York finishes its investigation, from which we cannot expect the truth.

What appeared to be the entire police force, with their helicopters, horses, barricades and motorcycles, looked on, ready to "maintain order." The police had just held their own rally nearby, supposedly a memorial service for slain policemen, in a blatant attempt to provoke trouble.

At our rally, the crowd was kept in line by the newly-formed volunteer Black Civilian Patrol, and shouted the cry, "Fired up, Can't take no more, Won't take no more!" The rally culminated with a sense of togetherness in working towards unity and an end to injustices and discriminatory practices in the community.

—Crown Heights resident

Youth in Revolt

Over 2,000 South Korean students at Jeonnam University occupied the campus library last month to protest the arrest of 11 professors for publishing a statement critical of the country's authoritarian educational policies. After the students were forced from the building by riot police, over 1,000 students gathered the next day, pelting the police with stones and bottles.

Angered by a refusal of the Carter administration to acknowledge police brutality in the murder of a handcuffed 12-year-old by Dallas police, over 1,000 Chicanos rallied in Plainview, Texas on July 15. The protesters also demanded a federal review of the police shooting of 25-year-old Timothy Rosales.

Over 100 students at Detroit Institute of Technology occupied the college the night of Aug.-9 to protest the arrest of an Iranian student for not showing a school guard his ID card required for entering the college. Iranian students picketed the school the next two days demanding an end to harrassment of Iranian students by police and FBI agents.

TWO WORLDS

(Continued from Page 5)

Notebooks stated: "Let me say at the start that although you have entered into this 'conspiracy' with Lenin, the outstanding difference between the two 'versions' (of the Dialectic) is striking. You will note that Lenin's notes on the Notion are as lengthy as those on the Introduction, and Doctrines of Being and Essence combined . . . although you spent that much time on Notion, and included its practice, the thing you chose most to stop at and say: hic Rhodus, hic salta to was the Law of Contradiction in Essence . . . (but Lenin) chose to single out the section on the Idea."

JAMES FIRST FINALLY, on June 10, 1949, got to acknowledge the translation of Lenin's *Philosophic Notebooks* and my commentaries. He wrote: "You are covering a lot of ground and it is pretty good. But after conversations with G & reading (carefully, this time) your correspondence, I feel that we are still off the point . . ." Clearly, it is not I with whom they disagree as hotly as they did with Lenin. Indeed, they had not the slightest notion of what Lenin was talking about until July 9, when finally Grace did get down to the Doctrine of Notion as Lenin worked it out . . .

She proceeded to analyze the major categories on the Doctrine of the Notion — the Universal, Particular, Individual — showing that the whole structure, as well as each separate part of the Science of Logic, was grounded in them. This was spelled out especially clearly in her letter of September 4, 1949. And, having made a leap in cognition, she became most concrete regarding Imperialism, on the one hand, especially as it related to Bukharin . . .

(She wrote): "Development is the absolute mediation of Universal, particular and singular. Isn't this the Logic of Self-determination when (there is) growing internationalization? Destruction of state machine when bourgeois state has reached highest stage of organization? . . ."

Now, compare this clarity on self-determination with what we wrote in *State-Capitalism and World Revolution* as we skipped over the stage of unfolding national revolutions: "the struggle for national independence since World War II is an illusion and cannot fail to have reactionary consequences."

How can there possibly be such retreats, i.e., how can opposite positions be taken in what was worked out philosophically, when we weren't writing a "Resolution" and when we were? Upon reflection, it appears that, had it been worked out seriously, that is to say, not just abstractly but concretely, that couldn't have happened. But then that is speculation — no one can tell what is going on in another's mind — and I do not appreciate any indulgence in speculation. What I do know, for sure, is that with the outbreak of the Korean War, June, 1950, and the Trotskyists once again failing ending Stalinism, the Johnson-Forest Tendency felt it imperative to leave the SWP once and for all.

THE WHOLE OBJECTIVE post-World War II situation, which looked so ripe for revolution in the 1940s, was once again plunged into a new war . . . All the more did it become imperative, I thought, to work out all philosophic ramifications and not allow our analysis of state-capitalism to remain at essence of economics. In any case, I continued to work at philosophy as I began to develop the research I had been doing for years on "Marxism and State-Capitalism," the book that was to become *Marxism and Freedom*. I proposed two new points of departure: (1) Lenin's *Philosophic Notebooks*, and (2) the American proletariat as seen in the Miners' General Strike of 1949-50 . . .

Everything changed in 1953 with Stalin's death in March. Not only was I writing politically on that event, but I decided also to try out the analysis of the 1920-21 Trade Union debate between Lenin and Trotsky, in the context of the 1950s and, again, with the American proletariat's attitude to these events. The Correspondence special was called "Then and Now," and was distributed at factory gates. By May, 1953, I not only returned to the Absolute Idea in *Science of Logic* and tackled also Absolute Knowledge in *Phenomenology of Mind*, but also plunged into Absolute Mind in *Philosophy of Mind*, from which C.L.R. James had said he "got nothing" . . .

Within six weeks of my Letters, an actual proletarian revolt had broken out spontaneously, and inside a state-capitalist land calling itself Communist — East Germany. This June 17, 1953 Revolt, which signalled a new age, was followed by the Beria purge, and once again I returned to "politics," writing the lead for the very first issue of the published *Correspondence*, October, 1953. McCarthyism was in full swing and it took less than a year for us to be "listed." By then, Johnson was in England, but still "The Leader," and instigating the break-up of the Johnson-Forest Tendency. What was great about that was that it permitted us to work out those philosophic ramifications so that, instead of just "state-capitalist tendency," we became Marxist-Humanists. The very first mimeographed pamphlet we published was Lenin's *Philosophic Notebooks*, but it took another two years of not finding a publisher, before the *Notebooks*, along with Marx's *Humanist Essays* were printed as Appendices to *Marxism and Freedom* . . . from 1776 until today.

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OUR LIFE AND TIMES

by Peter Mallory and Ron Brokmeyer

France

Repeated wildcat strikes, demonstrations inside the plant, and threats of a plant occupation by workers forced the Renault-Flins management to bring in the police to evacuate the huge plant for a day on June 6. Jittery French capitalists, remembering the Renault-Flins workers' pivotal role in the near-revolution of 1968, condemned "agitators" and "hotheads" among the workers and tried to suggest that only 10-15 percent of the workers were involved.

"Immigrant" workers, mostly from Southern Europe and Africa, along with young workers, were in the forefront. The latest wildcat began when management sent a worker home for two days for lateness. Management had been attempting to crack down on absenteeism and lateness, as absenteeism had begun to reach levels of 15 percent for a work force of 20,000, over one-third of whom are "immigrants."

Other auto plants have also erupted, as at Renault-Cleon, where workers occupied the plant. At a time when the Communist and Socialist Labor bureaucrats have been saying they can work with the Giscard government, and the Communist-led CGT actually dared hold an unprecedented "meeting" with Giscard, auto workers have shown once again that their own attitude remains one of irreconcilable opposition.

U. S. political prisoner

We have received the following "Letter from the House of the Dead":

Dear Comrades:

I am a Black political prisoner confined in the infamous Control Unit Behavior Modification Program at the Marion Federal Penitentiary. Ten prisoners have died in the Control Unit in the past few years (3 deaths in 1977 alone), and hundreds of others have been driven to self-mutilation or insanity. (See N&L, April, 1978 — Editor)

The Control Unit is nothing less than a torture chamber and a death camp designed to break and/or murder political prisoners, prison activists, jail-house lawyers, and other "troublemakers." My second day in here the prison guards tried to set me up by trying to incite two white prisoners to attack and kill or injure me. On another occasion, a Nazi prisoner tried to shoot me with a zip gun. Prison guards are continually inciting racial conflict among the prisoners.

I need a transfer out of this hellhole; it's a matter of life and death! A new federal prison has opened in my home state of Tennessee (at Memphis), which would allow me the protection of my family, friends and attorney, as well as the opportunity to have visits with them. I've suffered the inhuman abuse of prison for over 10 years now and should be released. However the prison officials are refusing to send me there, saying that I "don't qualify" since I'm a "troublemaker" and a "Black militant."

I am asking everyone who supports the human rights of prisoners to write or call the Bureau of Prisons and demand that they move me to Memphis. Contact Roy E. Gerard, Asst. Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, 320 1st St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20534, (202) 739-2226. (A telephone call is more effective).

In solidarity,
Lorenzo Komboa Ervin
U.S. Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois.

Britain

A foreman at the Ford Plant in Dagenham, England was surrounded by angry Asian workers on July 18. A worker said: "They were trying to get at the foreman to beat him up. Some had sticks and they were shouting 'Kill him.' The foreman went white with fear. Then a plant superintendent and several foremen rushed to the foreman's aid."

This foreman had been arguing with an Asian worker, Suryakant Patel, on the Friday night shift the week before. The next evening, Patel had to be

hospitalized after being badly beaten by a gang of white thugs while he was on his way home from a night club two miles from the plant.

The beating and the confrontation in the plant came a week after several hundred day-shift workers walked out of the plant to participate in demonstrations in London's East End protesting the rising wave of violence against Asians.

At the Dagenham plant, over 200 workers, mainly Asian, went to a meeting called inside the plant to discuss what had happened to Patel, as well as the violence against Asians which have included beatings and killings in the East End.

A correspondent in Britain wrote us:

There are frequent incidents at Ford as immigrant workers vent their resentment against the supervision. It's not just racial attacks or racial insults. It is the realization that they were enticed to come here to slave for capitalists' profits.

Many of the young immigrants are "given" money via social workers and "race relations" groups to buy furniture, set up home, etc. One worker told me he was given £280 by the Greater London Council for deposit on furniture, etc. Later, they realize that they are up to their necks in debts—debts that would take years to pay, financial shackles heavier than any old slave market.

India

Ten thousand harijans—untouchables—demonstrated on Aug. 5 in Nagpur against discrimination which supposedly has long been outlawed in modern India. They were demanding that a university be named after a late harijan leader, Dr. Bhimrao R. Ambedkar. When the police were finished, five demonstrators were killed and over 70 injured.

Under the Desai regime, parts of India are reminiscent of the old South. The day after the demonstrations in Nagpur, upper-caste Hindus raided the city of Nander burning down 89 huts. In Uttar Pradesh, a harijan woman's ears were cut off after she drew water from the village well of an upper-caste Hindu.

Bonn summit gives no relief for capitalists' ills—crisis and revolt

(Continued from Page 1)

While we have heard long and frequent complaints about labor productivity, the capitalists have coined a new term for their falling rate of profit: "reduced productivity of capital relative to labor."

In 1976, 25 percent of U.S. corporations reported lower earnings. In 1977, it was 23 percent, with one out of 16 companies reporting losses. High unemployment and slow growth are common to all of the countries represented at the Summit.

The export of U.S. capital seeking better profits in cheap labor markets has doubled in the past five years to \$6 billion a year, creating loss of jobs, fueling inflation, and adding to the balance of payments problem. Since 1973, the inflow of capital to the Brazilian dictatorship is up 160 percent, Mexico is up 320 percent and South Korea has tripled.

Western Europe, which since World War II has depended on imported labor, has sent their foreign labor force back home and is using their increasing unemployed to do the work. Still, neither unemployment nor inflation has stopped rising.

Carter promised to "do something" about inflation, but if the latest rate of 11.4 percent is any indication—the highest in over three years—along with a zero growth rate during the first three months of this year, his promises are worth nothing. We're back to Nixonite double-digit inflation.

Carter's requests for better access for U.S. agricultural products also fell on deaf ears. The French want to protect their own farmers. The Japanese refuse to increase imports of citrus fruits and beef. The result is no change in sight.

None of these problems was seriously faced or solved by the leaders of the U.S., England, Italy, West Germany, France, Canada or Japan, because they are incapable of solving them under state capitalism.

PRODUCTION STAGNATES AND LABOR REVOLTS

West Germany and Japan, the "best" of the non-U.S. economies, are glutted with U.S. dollars which keep decreasing in value to the lowest point in history. At the same time, it is not only decreased U.S. purchases in both West Germany and Japan, but low investments, and above all very nearly zero economic growth in those countries, that shows up the totality of the crises. It is not only that traditional guaranteed-lifetime jobs in Japanese industry are a thing of the past. So is presumed labor passivity. The strikes in Japan are almost as numerous as in the U.S.

The depth of labor unrest can be seen in the fact that the labor bureaucrats, hardly firebrand revolutionaries, have begun criticizing Carter for moving so far to the right as to be indistinguishable from "corporate power." Thus, the executive assistant to George Meany told a union officials' meeting: "It still is, as it has

always been, them versus us. Call it class struggle, call it corporate power versus the people . . ."

Thus, as Carter returned from the summit, he was confronted by the resignation of Douglas Fraser, President of the United Automobile Workers Union, who served as a member of Carter's Labor-Management Group. "It really serves no purpose," Fraser said of the committee, which has eight members each from labor and industry. It is GM's Murphy whom Fraser must soon face at the bargaining table when the auto workers will pressure him not to capitulate (see Editorial, p. 4).

"I believe that leaders of the business community, with few exceptions, have chosen to wage a one-sided class war today in this country—a war against the working people, the poor, the minorities, the very young and the very old, and even many in the middle-class of our society," Fraser wrote in a letter to the group. In his press conference, he said Carter was ineffective and the Democratic-controlled Congress "an abysmal failure . . . I cannot sit there seeking unity with the leaders of American industry while they try to destroy us and ruin the lives of the people I represent."

Among the issues which Congress and industry are opposed to are national health insurance, a higher minimum wage, the Humphrey-Hawkins full employment bill, tax reform and government reorganization. Fraser singled out Thomas Murphy, President of GM, also a member of the Group, as the author of the "southern

WORKER'S JOURNAL

(Continued from Page 1)

gia. The politicians then began to say that the Blacks needed to elect Blacks into office, to get what was justly due them. But no sooner were they elected than they began to show what they really meant.

When Dr. King was assassinated, all of the leaders shed crocodile tears, saying how awful and what a shame it was. But now they are in the same position as the whites in Memphis, and their actions are the same as those whites in Memphis toward Blacks.

They are against everything that the masses of the poor people are for. Because there are so many Blacks unemployed, they tell the strikers that if they do not return to work, they will be fired, because there are others that are waiting to take their jobs.

Coleman Young yelled to those strikers that they couldn't abolish forced overtime, because that would mean they would be running the city, not him. A worker told me this is absurd, "but we could do a better job than he is doing when it comes to running our department."

The first thing that Coleman did was to rush to a judge and get a restraining order for the workers to return to work at once, but they ignored it. The next thing

strategy" of moving GM plants to the South and then seeking to block unionization of the plants.

Fraser has been a class-collaborationist for so long that no one can or need envisage him in any other role. Yet even he had to declare that the UAW will sponsor a strategy meeting in Detroit in September, to "reforge the links with those who believe in struggle, the kind who sat down in the factories in the 1930s and who marched in Selma in the 1960s."

It isn't that that the rank-and-file have any confidence in Fraser's "leadership," either his "return" to the labor militancy of the 1930s that created the CIO, or in the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, much less "forging links" also with the Women's Liberation Movement at a time when the UAW is nearly as guilty as management in keeping working women, in the shop and in his own union, on as low a pedestal as can be forced on them.

What is involved is that rank-and-file workers do have confidence in their own strength and think that if they did compel Fraser to resign from the Labor-Management Group, and do hear words of class warfare from such as George Meany who certainly has no intention of initiating any such thing, they do have a freer hand in exercising pressure on these bureaucrats. They know that they will wildcat where necessary, not only against management but also against their own "leadership." A new page in labor struggles has definitely begun.

was a threat to fire all those who did not return, and that did not work. But the strike is over now, and the workers have returned, with the understanding that none will be fired or disciplined, and they will go back to the negotiation table and try to work out something on forced overtime. But no one is expecting anything positive to come out of it.

Several whites that were on strike heard some Blacks cursing Coleman Young, and they seemed surprised. One white asked one of them, "I thought you all liked Young, he is Black, and you all are Black." "Man, who ever told you that because a person is Black that all Black people accept what he does?" the Black worker replied.

In fact, the Black Movement has been in a situation of dual alienation, from its own leadership as well as from the American System, ever since the mid-1960s when the mass of Black people began to question the goals and methods of the Civil Rights movement leadership. What marked the great and historic decade of the '60s was the mass nature of the Black revolt, its self activity and self-organization. Black masses, not Black leaders, have always been the revolutionary vanguard.