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TORCH

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New York - Chicago - Detroit



YOUNG WORKERS FIGHT BACK

By Rod Miller, Editor

On July 13, the lights went out in New York City. Minutes later, all hell broke loose. Thousands of people—mostly Black and Latin youth—took to the streets. In neighborhood after neighborhood, people took their revenge on a city which robs them daily and gives them nothing in return.

For two days, a rebellion as big as any of those of the

'60s swept across New York City. Thousands of stores were looted and whole city blocks set ablaze. Millions of

EDITORIAL

dollars worth of property were destroyed. More than 4,000 people were arrested. The city's ruling class watched in fright as the

anger of thousands of people violently exploded.

New York's blackout was no accident, just as the failure of Con Ed's electrical system was no "act of God." Both were the result of decaying U.S. capitalism. Two blackouts in just over a decade in a city of eight million people is just one more sign that capitalism doesn't work
(Continued on page 5)

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AUTO WALKOUTS SWEEP DETROIT

DETROIT, August 1—The last three weeks of heat have triggered the most widespread rebellions against management that the auto plants have seen for 10 years. Walkouts have swept across Detroit, freeing tens of thousands of auto-workers from the heat in the plants. In several plants, the walkouts have led to more militant and organized ac-

tion to stop management from disciplining workers for walking. This upsurge is a great step forward in the fight against management. The task now is to organize to build the struggle.

Here are some of the important events of the last three weeks:

•Dodge Truck: Day shift
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Wildcat at Dodge Truck plant outside Detroit.

Torch photo/Paul Aldridge

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Interview With Jamaican Revolutionary..... see p.10

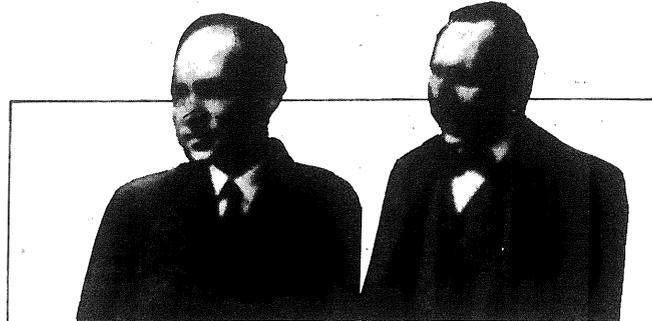
"Even if they kill us, they cannot kill all of us, all the working class, all the good men and women and still less - ideas, rights, necessities, aspirations, ideals. So the cause of freedom and justice, of class and human emancipation will not be destroyed nor stopped, by the bodies, burnt, of two more victims of our foes."

On August 23, 1927—fifty years ago—the State of Massachusetts executed Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti. Sacco, a worker in a shoe factory, and Vanzetti, a fish peddler, were Italian immigrants and revolutionary anarchists. For these reasons, the state of Massachusetts framed and murdered them.

On May 5, 1920, the police arrested Sacco and Vanzetti, charging them with a robbery and murder which took place in South Braintree, Massachusetts, on April 15, 1920. A group of men had killed a factory paymaster and a guard and stolen \$15,000. At Sacco and Vanzetti's trial, dozens of witnesses testified that Sacco was in Boston, trying to get a passport, and Vanzetti was in Plymouth, peddling his fish, on the day of the robbery. But all of these witnesses were Italian and the racist judge and jury refused to believe their testimony.

RED SCARE

In fact, the robbery and murder charges against Sacco and Vanzetti were only a cover. 1920 was the worst year of the "Red Scare" in this country. The U.S. ruling class was frightened by the successful workers' revolution in Russia in 1917, and feared that more revolutions would break out in Europe. In addition, workers in the U.S. were becoming increasingly militant. The Attorney General of the U.S., Mitchell Palmer, and his assistant, J. Edgar Hoover, opened an attack on the revolutionary movement and on foreign-born workers in particular. In the "Palmer Raids," which took place in the spring of 1920, the government arrested and tortured thousands of



AVENGE SACCO AND VANZETTI

By Bob Anderson

revolutionary workers. In addition, the government built up a racist, anti-communist hysteria against foreign-born workers, who were deported by the thousands for their political beliefs.

At the height of all this, the capitalist courts tried and convicted Sacco and Vanzetti. The ruling class decided to electrocute them as an example to all workers who dared to stand up against the capitalists.

FRAME-UP

Sacco and Vanzetti came to the U.S. from Italy in the early 1900's. They were revolutionary working class organizers, active in many strikes and other labor struggles of Massachusetts. For this activity, Vanzetti was blacklisted all over the state. When World War I began, Sacco and Vanzetti organized against the imperialist bloodbath. In 1917, they both went to Mexico rather than serve in the U.S. army. When they were arrested for the South Braintree robbery and murders on May 5, 1920, Sacco and Vanzetti were leafletting for a demonstration to protest the police murder of an anarchist comrade in New York City. The Massachusetts authorities knew Sacco and Vanzetti well and were looking for a way to get them.

On July 14, 1921, Sacco and Vanzetti were convicted of murder in the first degree and were sentenced to die in the electric chair. From their arrests in 1920 until their executions in 1927, Sacco and Vanzetti remained in prison. Their lawyers made appeal after appeal for a new trial, but all were denied. Many public officials in Massachusetts freely admitted that Sacco and Vanzetti were "probably not guilty" of the Braintree murders, but that they "deserved to die" anyway because they were anarchists. During their trial, the judge told friends that he was "out to get them." And after the trial, a prisoner named Celestino Madeiros confessed to participating in the Braintree robbery and swore that Sacco and

Vanzetti were not involved. The judge and District Attorney refused to even investigate his testimony.

Throughout the trial, the appeals and the seven years in prison, Sacco and Vanzetti knew they could not obtain justice from the capitalist courts. Instead, they put their faith in the workers and the class struggle. Millions of workers around the world joined the fight to free Sacco and Vanzetti. From South America to Mexico to China to nearly every country in Europe, the workers built mass demonstrations at the U.S. embassies to demand freedom for Sacco and Vanzetti. Many trade unions condemned the convictions and demanded their release. Hundreds of thousands of workers in cities across the U.S. staged protests to oppose the executions.

During their years in prison, Sacco and Vanzetti wrote many letters to relatives, friends and comrades. In these letters, they left a record of their heroic struggle and of their

beliefs. Vanzetti wrote the following to a comrade about Judge Webster Thayer and justice in February, 1924:

"You are right. Neither do I expect any good from that letter to the judge. I have never expected, nor do I expect anything from him, other than some ten thousand volts divided in a few times; some meters of cheap board and a 4x7x8 feet hole in the ground... I only and alone can see him a self-conceited little tyrant, believing himself to be just, and believing his utterly unjust and unnecessary social office to be a necessity and a good. He is a bigot, and therefore, cruel. At the time of our arrests and trial, his peers were seeing red all around and he saw more red than his peers. He was ready to kill us even before the trials, for he deadly hates the subversive, and believed to have become judge of the State Supreme Court by eliminating us via Law. For he knows that the servants of Capital were always remunerated by the Bosses for a crucifixion of some rebel..."

"My only hope remains in the solidarity of friends and comrades and of the workers. The work of the lawyers are useless before the law. It has helped only because they brought the fact to the conscience and consciousness of the People. That is why Nick and I were not yet roasted. Authority, Power and Privilege would not last a day on the face of the earth were it not because those who possess them, and those who prostitute their arms to their defense, do suppress, repress mercilessly and inescapably every effort of liberation of each and all the rebels.

"The champion of life and of liberty should not yield before the death. I know what they have done and are doing to me and thousands of others... and I know that they are and will always be ready to go against us... They have never had pity for our children, our women, our dear poor old fathers and mothers—and they never will have it. Are they not ready to do with other comrades what they are doing to us? Are they not more willing than ever to squeeze out the workers' blood for more gold? Are they not preparing a greater war? I will ask for revenge—I will tell that I will die gladly by the hands of the hanger after having known to have

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Demonstration for Sacco and Vanzetti, 1927.

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White racists

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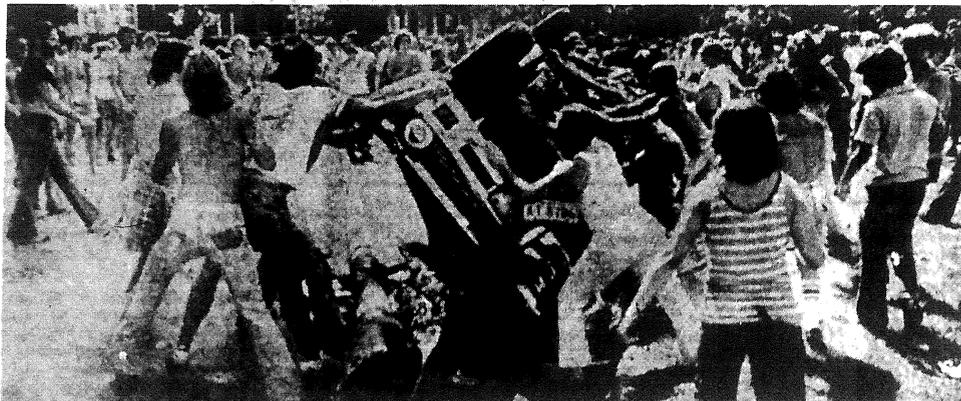
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SMASH THE FASCISTS!

Nazis Plan "White Power" March in Chicago



White racists riot in Marquette Park, Chicago.

CHICAGO, August 6—The Nazi Party in Marquette Park has vowed that it will lead a "white power" march into Chicago's Black community of West Englewood. The Nazis have set September 10 as the date for a "white power" rally and probably plan to use this rally to launch their racist march.

The capitalist courts have decreed that the Nazis have the right to march in Skokie, Chicago or wherever they want. The police, as usual, will be on hand to protect the racists' "right to march." Workers, Blacks, oppressed nationalities, militants and revolutionaries must stop the Nazis. We do not respect their so-called "right" to organize and promote racist violence, the one and only purpose of Nazi marches.

The Nazis must be stopped before they do more damage than they have already done. In the past few years, hundreds of attacks have been carried out on Blacks in the West Englewood-Marquette Park area. People have been attacked on the street, in restaurants, waiting for buses, and driving to and from work. Homes have been stoned and bombed.

Last summer, the Nazis incited a mob of over 1,000 racists to attack an open-housing march sponsored by the Martin Luther King Jr. Movement. This summer, on July 23, when the King Movement called another march, the Nazis again whipped up violent resistance. The march of around 50 people was broken up by the cops almost immediately and never came near the white area. In the meantime, over 1,000 whites turned out on the march route, attacking Black motorists who strayed into the neighborhood. Cars were stoned and overturned, windows smashed and passengers hurt by flying rocks. Meanwhile the cops, thousands of whom live in Marquette Park itself, looked on and did nothing.

JOBS, HOUSING, EDUCATION, SELF-DEFENSE

Why is all this happening? What can we do about it?

We live in a rotting capitalist society. Each year jobs get scarcer, housing conditions get worse, and education becomes more of a joke. The capitalists who make their profits from exploitation and oppression fear workers and the oppressed rising up and smashing their system.

Racism among whites is whipped up and used to divert people from the struggle against the system. In this way the working class is split and weakened, while white workers and youth aid the capitalists' work of attacking the struggle of Blacks and other oppressed nationalities.

Youth is particularly hard hit by the lack of jobs and of any secure future. The Nazis focus their organizing efforts among white youth and play on their frustration, trying to convince them that Blacks, not capitalism, are the cause of their problems.

Two Nurses Are Victims of Frame-Up

Movement to Free Narciso & Perez Grows

DETROIT—On July 13, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez were convicted of poisoning and conspiracy, victims of an FBI frame-up. The two Veteran's Administration nurses were scapegoated because they are Filipinas, women, and workers. A movement demanding their freedom is now being organized.

Four days after the verdict was reached, 700 demonstrators gathered in front of the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor to proclaim the innocence of Narciso and Perez. On July 27, hundreds rallied in downtown Detroit demanding justice for the two nurses.

At the Detroit rally, one of the nurses' patients, a Vietnam veteran, spoke in defense of Narciso and Perez, as did a sister nurse who resigned from the V.A. staff immediately after she heard the verdict. A coalition of organizations and individuals is now being organized in Detroit to build the defense efforts. The coalition is supported by the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid, the Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee, and the Revolutionary Socialist League.

The charges against Narciso and Perez stemmed from a rash of breathing failures at the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor in 1975. Nearly 50 patients suffered breathing difficulties during June, July and August. Many of the failures were later blamed on the injection of a drug, Pavulon, used to relax muscles during surgery. The FBI was called in and they began to look for a scapegoat. A key hospital administrator, Dr. Lindanauer, made it clear from the beginning that the FBI was not to bother the doctors on the staff, but was to concentrate on the nurses. Almost immediately, the FBI began harassing Narciso and Perez.



Detroit demonstration demands freedom for Narciso and Perez.

In January, 1976, the two Filipino nurses were indicted for murder or poisoning in 15 different cases. The indictments followed months of threats and intimidation by over 200 FBI agents involved in the investigation. The trial began in January of this year. After hearing 78 prosecution witnesses, the judge was forced to reduce the charges to only nine of the original 15.

The prosecution's case was completely circumstantial—based on the "evidence" that, by performing their assigned duties, the two nurses were in the area of the breathing failures which took place on their shifts. Throughout the trial, the prosecution was forced to admit that it did not have a motive and that "nobody saw them do it, and nobody heard them talking about it."

Early in the trial, the judge questioned the methods used by the FBI in their investigation, and

To counter the Nazis' lies, we must organize for a program of decent jobs, housing and education for all. We must unite all youth, workers and oppressed in a struggle against the capitalists. We must not allow the capitalists and their agents to use racist propaganda to defeat our struggle.

Hundreds of attacks have occurred against Blacks since the Nazis settled into Marquette Park. Still the police and the courts protect them. The police, the courts, and the federal government will never stop racist terror. The Black community of West Englewood must mobilize for self-defense. All workers and oppressed must join the struggle. The Nazis must be smashed by workers and oppressed themselves. Militants must take this fight into the trade unions, demanding that the unions use their organization and strength to build workers' defense guards to crush the Nazis.

The Nazis can be stopped. Their last march, in October 1975, planned to go through a Black neighborhood. They assembled a mob of over 400, mostly teenagers and many drunk. But before the march reached the neighborhood, a united-front demonstration of several groups, including the RSL, blocked their path. The cops turned back the Nazis before the battle could begin.

The Nazis grow through cowardly attacks and cheap victories. We can prevent these. Join with the RSL on September 10 to stop the Nazis! □

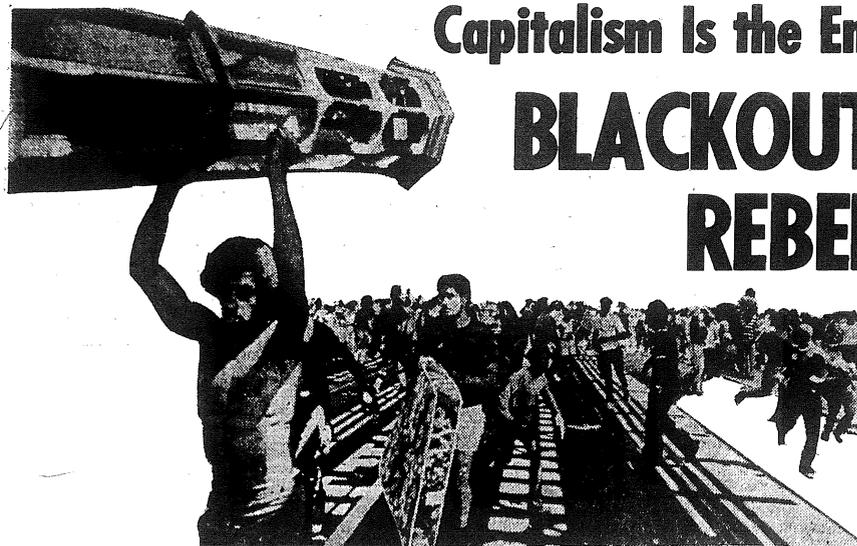
reprimanded the prosecution for withholding evidence from the defense. The prosecution was permitted to use hypnotism to "refresh the memories" of their witnesses! One of the key prosecution witnesses was offered a promotion in return for the "right" kind of testimony. Throughout the trial, the FBI continued to harass and intimidate anyone who would not go along with their version of the events.

Finally, the jury was not permitted to hear testimony concerning the confession of Betty Jakim, the head nurse in the same unit as Narciso and Perez. Before she committed suicide in February, the head nurse had confessed to the poisonings and left a note clearing both nurses. Despite the obvious importance of this information, it was not presented to the jury.

The day after the conviction was
(Continued on page 16)

Capitalism Is the Enemy—

BLACKOUT TRIGGERS REBELLION



By Cliff Gordon

With the temperature in the 90s, New York City was boiling Wednesday night, July 13. The streets were filled with people getting out of apartments turned into furnaces by the heat. A little after 9:30 p.m., the lights started going out. Consolidated Edison's power system had failed and electricity was shut off all over New York City.

After a few moments of total darkness, people started to take in what happened. Somebody yelled out: "Let's get the stores!" Iron gates guarding store fronts were pulled down, windows were smashed. New York's blackout rebellion had begun.

Looting and rioting swept through every ghetto in the city. In East Harlem; Jamaica, Queens; the huge ghettos of Brooklyn—Bedford-Stuyvesant, Crown Heights, Bushwick and Flatbush—private property did not exist that night. Hundreds of thousands of Black and Latin people—mostly youth—broke into stores and liberated whatever they could get their hands on. Money and food stamps from the check cashing stores, cars from dealer showrooms, carpets, washing machines, TV sets—anything and everything was carried off.

Fires raged in the Bronx and especially in Brooklyn. Block after block in Brooklyn was turned into rubble. Whole neighborhoods looked like bombing planes had flattened them.

"WE CAN'T GET JOBS"

In these areas of the city, where as many as three out of every four people do not have jobs, people have close to nothing. Yet many of the things that people need but could never afford to buy were sitting piled up in stores all around. A TV reporter asked a woman from Bedford-Stuyvesant why the looting was going on. She told him: "We've been beaten down and oppressed. We can't get jobs. We can't even afford to buy Pampers for our babies. Mister, you better believe we've got Pampers tonight." This is what people were thinking. They saw their chance and took it.

The ruling class was badly frightened. The city government would have preferred to give the police "shoot to kill" orders. They did not. Mayor Beame was afraid to call in the National Guard because he knew that this could easily turn a night and a day of looting into days of street fighting, with no way of telling just how far things would go or how bad they would get.

The ruling class wanted to avoid having to bring in troops and tanks to crush a Black and Latin working class rebellion in the middle of Carter's "human rights" crusade. It would have blown Carter's liberal cover and exposed to the world his lies about fighting for Black rights in South Africa. It would have made clear that the oppression that goes on in other countries is not much different from conditions in the "democratic" U.S. To protect Carter's liberal image, and to prevent the rebellion from growing, Beame limited police actions.

Despite the orders, when the police did act, they were brutal. They simply beat up and arrested anyone within reach. It didn't matter much to them whether a person was actually looting. In their eyes, everyone was equally guilty because every-

one was Black and Latin and that is enough for the cops.

THOUSANDS JAILED; RIGHTS TRAMPLED

During the blackout, it became clear once again that the capitalists have no concern for the rights of the workers, particularly if they are young, unemployed, Black or Latin. Four thousand people were chained together and thrown into precinct lock-ups and pens, Rikers Island, and other city prisons. The "Tombs," which had been closed years ago by court order for "inhumane conditions," was reopened. Ten people were jammed into cells built for one. There were no doctors for the sick. The heat was bad enough outside, but inside the jails the temperature was well over 100 degrees. One man,

An "Act of God" Says Con Ed

Why Did the Lights Go Out?

Con Ed is blaming "higher authorities" for the second New York blackout in 11 years. The company says it was "an act of God," who they claim threw down enough lightning bolts inside of an hour to destroy all eight power lines which feed the city. Three separate government commissions have been set up to argue over whether God or Con Ed gets the rap.

The real reason for the blackout starts with the fact that Con Ed is a capitalist business whose first goal is to produce profits, not electricity. Vital pieces of equipment were not operating at the time of the blackout because Con Ed had not repaired them.

According to the *Village Voice*, on September 4, 1976, 10 months before the blackout, there was a breakdown in a 345 kilovolt transmission line connecting Con Edison with electric power from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. That left only one smaller transmission line (230 kilovolts) connecting Con Ed with this vital power pool.

Not only did Con Ed not repair this breakdown, it didn't even plan to fix it until May, 1978. In fact, at the time of the blackout Con Edison was busily lobbying against proposed Congressional legislation which would require it to construct emergency ties to other power groups.

When lightning cut off Con Ed's ties to electricity from upstate New

York and New England last month, Con Ed was forced to draw heavily upon the New Jersey-Pennsylvania area group—too heavily for the one small transmission line in operation. This line too burned out as a result, cutting off power supplies from the west.

If Con Edison had repaired the
(Continued on page 16)

Berkley Miller, died from the conditions. In most places, people were not fed until they had been in for a day or two.

Once a person was picked up, that was it. The right to a hearing to set bail was denied. No one even got to see a judge until several days after the arrests. When bail was set, the usual figure was \$1,000 or higher and most people couldn't get that kind of money. The effect was that the city government swept into the ghettos, arrested people in masses, and held them without trial or hearing under concentration-camp conditions.

DEFEND THE BLACKOUT PRISONERS

By the end of July, most of those arrested were out. The city government decided to center on about 1,000 people facing felony indictments and hit them with prison terms of up to seven years. The police and the press are calling July 14 "the night of the animals" and Mayor Beame has told his judges to deal with the prisoners "most forcefully, most harshly." He wants to show the capitalists that he will make examples of the prisoners as a warning to the Black and Latin working and poor people of the city. Every white racist, Democratic Party politician of all colors, and a big section of the Black and Latin middle class are falling right into line. For the 1,000 charged with felony counts, there will be no mercy.

The ruling class wants to use the people arrested as scapegoats. It wants to blame looters for the fact that capitalism is rotting and can't provide decent jobs, housing, education or public services.

CAPITALISM— THE REAL CRIMINAL

The workers must not fall for the capitalists' lie. The working class, in New York and throughout the country, must defend all those arrested. The young Blacks and Latins who
(Continued on next page)



Cop goes after Brooklyn woman during blackout.

YOUNG WORKERS REBEL . . .

(Continued from page 1)

even for the capitalists. But more importantly, the recent blackout and the rebellion that followed showed that the people are beginning to understand that the system doesn't work for them.

As in every major city in the U.S., life is hell for the millions of poor and working people in New York. Housing—rat and roach infested, and often without heat or hot water—is falling apart. The air is polluted. Schools are little more than overcrowded jails. Education is a joke. And for what? Young people are "lucky" to find back-breaking jobs at starvation wages. For most, there are no jobs at all. In New York City, three of every four white youths, and six of every seven Black and Latin youths, can't find full-time work. Every day, people suffer through countless indignities in schools, in welfare offices, or at the hands of the racist cops. Parents try to scrape together enough to keep their children clothed and fed. The young people themselves grow up trying to survive in a society which offers them

no present and no future.

Under these conditions, the response to the blackout is no surprise. Though spontaneous and unorganized, the blackout rebellion proved that the oppressed victims of capitalism are angry and willing to fight back.

The events of July 13 and 14 in New York were not an isolated case of things "getting out of hand." They were part of a growing rebellion against the poverty and misery capitalism forces on millions of people.

Just one month earlier, when Chicago cops attacked a Puerto Rican Day celebration in the city's Humboldt Park community, people struck back. Thousands of community residents—led by Puerto Rican youth—battled cops for two days. With bricks, bottles, stones, sticks and anything else they could find, the people of Humboldt Park fought the same enemy that exploits and oppresses the people of New York City.

In Detroit, during this same period, a different kind of rebellion broke out. In early July, tempera-

tures in the city were climbing past the 100 degree mark. Inside Detroit's auto plants, it was even hotter—in some plants up over 130 degrees. Management maintained full production, forcing workers to work 10, 11 and even 12 hour shifts. On July 7, a worker at Ford's River Rouge plant died from the heat. A few days later, a second Ford worker died. Many other workers passed out on the line. The auto bosses had only one response: "Keep working." But thousands of autoworkers saw it differently. In plant after plant, they walked off their jobs to protest the killing heat. For three weeks, one of capitalism's key centers of production was hit by the largest wave of walkouts in years.

In Humboldt Park, Detroit and New York City, young people have

live in it and know it is a death trap. These are the people who truly have nothing to lose but their chains. These are the people who know that it is right to rebel.

In South Africa, too, it has been the young people, beginning with the youth of Soweto, who have risen up against the apartheid system of slavery. Many of their parents, as oppressed and exploited as any people in the world, have grown tired of fighting. They have lost hope of ever winning. But the young people of South Africa have tasted a life hardly worth living and have answered with wave after wave of revolt. Time and again, they have met tear gas, night sticks and police bullets. Time and again, their comrades have fallen in battle. Yet still they fight on. It is these people, be they in Soweto or New York or Chicago, who are our hope for the future.

Our task is to win these young people to the banner of socialist revo-



Chained prisoners are led into the Tombs, July 14.

Blackout Rebellion . . .



RSL-SCAA demonstration, July 23.

contempt it deserves. They are briefly repaying it for the treatment that they receive at its hands all the time.

But looting some stores and burning some buildings will not end the exploitation and oppression of the unemployed, the youth, or any other part of the working class. Struggles must be organized and have definite political goals. We need a revolution that will win, not rebellions that are all too easily crushed. And we need to build a revolutionary party that can lead it.

But just because the young workers do not yet understand this does not mean that they are criminals or "lumpen elements." Today, they are unorganized and lack political consciousness. But they know that the system offers no future for them. Moreover, they have tremendous energy and they have not yet given up. Their energy and their untapped hatred for capitalism must be seized, organized and trained. It must be turned into a driving force for proletarian revolution. □

been the driving force of this growing wave of struggle. For young people—Black and Latin youth in particular—capitalism is a sick joke. Young people look around them and see a society that literally stinks. It offers no opportunities and no escape. At the same time, young people, more than any other segment of society, are treated to capitalism's worst hypocrisy. Parents say be good. The schools say: Study hard. The press, TV, preachers and politicians say: If you'll work hard, you'll get ahead. But young people are not so easily taken in. One look at the world they live in exposes all these lies. Whatever name they give the system, they

drive needed to build a better world. They see through the lies. They see a society that is rotten to the core.

The overwhelming majority of these people are not politically conscious. They know that life is hell, but aren't sure who the real enemy is. They know that the politicians, preachers, teachers and business "leaders" have nothing to offer but hypocritical garbage. They know that the entire society is a mess. But what to do and how to do it is clear to only a tiny handful.

The task of revolutionaries today is to go to these young people. We must go to them with the only real alternative to dying capitalism: socialist revolution. We must reach out to these young people and show them the way forward. Armed with a Marxist understanding of the world, they can tear it apart and rebuild it anew. These are the cadre of the future revolutionary party.

This is the task facing the Revolutionary Socialist League today—to go into the schools, communities and workplaces, and address the youth of this country. Our message must be clear: Capitalism is a dying system. Every day it survives will bring ever greater misery for the world's people. It must be wiped off the face of the earth! We must explain that an alternative is possible: Working and oppressed people can create a better world. Capitalism exists only because we allow it to. Socialist revolution can win a better world for all!

We must say to the youth: Join us! You are the vanguard of the future! Together we must build a revolutionary party that can organize and lead the working class in its struggles. Together we must build a party that can lead the fight for socialist revolution! □

Defend the Blackout Prisoners!

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Sincere greetings to you all at the Torch. And to all revolutionary brothers and sisters who are struggling in unity and solidarity throughout this capitalistic system. Please print these few lines of support and complete solidarity with the blackout brothers and sisters. And especially to our brother who was murdered in the capitalist cage, chained like a common animal. The brother of whom I speak is Berkley Miller. I hope his friends and family will not take his loss as a loss, but as a banner to carry on the fight. My greatest sympathy lies with them in their sorrows.

If all you brothers and sisters out there want to sit down and let the Man keep on doing what he's doing, then he is not going to ever stop. The only thing we can look for from the capitalists is death by the hand of their paid killers. Look all around you, my people, and what do you see? You see the pigs killing innocent kids on the streets all over the country. Don't ever forget, the next might be your son or your brother or the kid next door. When a pig can pull a gun out and kill a kid, then get a pat on the hand by the courts, then it is time for us to do something about it. Those of you at the Torch—keep the fire burning, nobody could do a better job of bringing the people together more than you are doing in your paper. Love, peace and unity remain with you all in the fight against capitalism.

The struggle continues in unity and solidarity,
F.J.
Somers Prison

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were arrested for looting are not the real criminals. The real criminals are those who run this society, making profits while the country goes to pieces. They have been robbing the city blind for years, profiting off the decay while they jack up taxes to line their own pockets. To hide their own role, they are trying to blame working people, particularly young Blacks and Latins.

These young workers have been abused and stomped on by capitalism for years. They have rotten homes, rotten education, no jobs, no recreation facilities and no future within this system. On top of this the system lies to them, tells them that if they have no job it's their own fault, if they don't go to college it's because they're stupid, if they have no recreation facilities, it's because they don't deserve them. It tells them that this country is the "land of the free and home of the brave." But the young people have eyes and ears and brains. They know they're being lied to. They know that the whole society is one big hustle, with the rich hustling the poor and then blaming the poor for it. When the young unemployed workers riot and loot, they are only showing the system the



Capitalists Plan "Humane Executions"

By Carl Osborne
Death Row Prisoner
Lucasville, Ohio

Rebellion at Napanoch...

On August 8, 150 prisoners at the Eastern Correctional Facility at Napanoch, New York, took over a wing of the prison and seized 14 hostages. The rebellion was the prisoners' answer to guards who have been building Ku Klux Klan chapters in the prison. The prisoners demanded that two guards be fired for their involvement with the racists.

The prisoners also demanded decent food, earlier parole, and amnesty for those prisoners involved in the battle.

The rebellion broke out in the isolation unit where "troublemakers"—those prisoners who fight the hardest against the Klan and for decent conditions—are kept. Three prisoners and two prison employees were injured in the fight.

The state quickly promised to investigate the prisoners' demands. The prisoners then released all the hostages.

The prison keepers took advantage of this and locked all the prisoners in their cells. The prisoners have now been locked in for two days. The keepers claim they are searching for contraband. In fact, they are trying to scare the prisoners—to keep them from continuing the struggle.

And at Auburn...

On the same day that the rebellion at Napanoch broke out, prisoners at the New York Correctional Facility at Auburn went on strike. Almost all of the 1,572 prisoners at Auburn are in their cells, refusing to make the prison function.

At Auburn, the prisoners are demanding the passage of a law that would apply time off for good behavior to prisoners' minimum sentences. Today, good time is taken from the maximum sentences.

And at Woodbourne

On August 9, prisoners at the Woodbourne Correctional Facility in Sullivan County, New York, went on strike. This strike has less participation than the strike at Auburn, but as of this writing, it is into its third day.

The prisoners at Woodbourne have not yet released their demands.

All these prisoner actions show that prisoners have not forgotten the empty promises made to them last summer when prisoners at three New York prisons struck for decent conditions.

Riot Squad Attacks Marysville Sit-Down

The keepers of the Ohio Reformatory for Women in Marysville are stepping up attacks on the prisoners there. A letter sent to the *Torch* stated that a riot squad attacked a peaceful sit-down strike in the prison. Demonstrators were beaten, maced, strip-searched and locked in their cells. They have not been allowed to shower or exercise.

Twenty of the demonstrators were transferred to death row in the Ohio Penitentiary for Men, to separate them from their sisters.

The prison administration has also withheld all political newspapers and journals from the prisoners, including the *Torch*, *Workers World*, and *Intercontinental Press*.

These prisoners need support. Messages of solidarity can be sent to the *Torch*, where they will be forwarded. Send letters of protest to: Warden, Ohio Reformatory for Women, 1479 Collins Avenue, Marysville, Ohio 43040.

Gay Prisoners Murdered

The growth of an anti-gay movement has meant harassment, police attacks, and beatings and murders of gay people across the country. In the prisons, this atmosphere of hate, fear and violence is encouraged by the prison administrators.

At the McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary in Washington, three gay prisoners have been murdered in the last year.

On April 9, Thomas Colvin was stabbed in the shoulder and the back of the neck during a movie showing. Sources inside the prison say that a "contract" (an order to have someone killed) had been placed on Colvin's life after he aided another gay prisoner who had been attacked.

Earlier in the year, Glen Levine, another gay activist prisoner, was stabbed to death. A guard, who saw the murder taking place, simply turned his back.

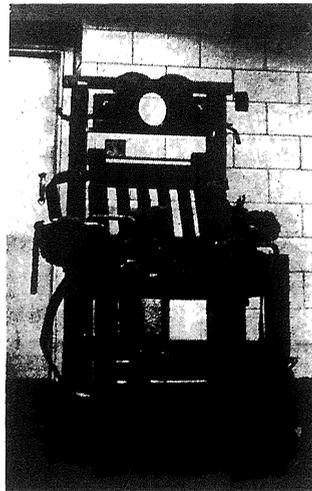
On May 24, Don Dumas was found dead in his cell. The official reports stated that Dumas died of "mysterious causes."

All three murdered prisoners fought for the rights of gay people in prison. The growing movement for gay liberation must take up the fight of gay prisoners if the struggle of these murdered brothers is to be carried on.

—FH

the point that when people decide to disagree with philosophies set down by lawmakers and politicians, they will become candidates for executions themselves. They would have to be exterminated because of the threat they would pose to the capitalist foundation. The United States would become one big police state, people being totally ruled by the political controllers. It would be an Adolph Hitler-Jewish relationship; society being the unfortunate Jews, political figures being the Hitlers.

The time has come for the people who refuse to be ruled by this sort of system to step up from the trenches and speak. Capital punishment is only one example of the power the political establishment is trying to use on us. Innocent people are being killed by states because of the threat they pose to the establishment, not to society itself, as people are led to believe. We, the people, are still individuals, and should not allow ourselves to be herded into faceless, voiceless masses. It is a constitutional freedom to be able to speak as you feel. With so many of our other constitutional freedoms and rights being taken away, let us not waste one of the few rights that we still have. Speak Out!!!



person killed in an auto accident is no less dead than someone that passes away of old age. For anyone to even suggest that injecting lethal drugs into a person's body is humane, is an outrage. A local humane society for stray animals recently experimented with putting animals to death by injection. The cost of each injection was 78 cents. After injection, death came about 20 seconds later. After a week of experimentation with this method, it was cancelled, because of the pain experienced by the animals before death set in, as evidenced by the screaming of the dying animals. Yet, this type of execution is deemed more humane for people.

Obviously, the issue of capital punishment is a controversial one. Lawmakers want to lessen the impact and importance of each execution by using injections instead of other methods. They feel that the conscience of the capitalistic society would be less burdened when the condemned person isn't burnt alive by countless volts of electricity, or their chests ripped open by a volley of bullets from a firing squad. Simply putting people to "sleep" is much less gruesome, less expensive, and easier to perform.

If society is ready to accept these philosophies, then they have simply become sheep, easily led along any course. Sooner or later, it will get to

Free Carl Osborne!

The above article is written by Carl Osborne, a prisoner on death row at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility at Lucasville. The article exposes the ruling class's plans to "liberalize" its methods of murdering working and oppressed people.

On June 22, the Ohio Supreme Court turned down Osborne's appeal for a retrial. The Court set August 22 as the date for Osborne's execution. Osborne is now fighting a legal battle for a stay of execution.

Osborne was found guilty of the December, 1974, kidnapping-murder of Hermalee Ross. But as past *Torch* articles have shown, Carl Osborne is innocent. He is the victim of a frame-up.

The key prosecution witness at Osborne's trial, James Westlake, admitted a month after the trial that he was promised a parole in exchange for testimony against Osborne. A second prosecution witness, Michael Goins, also admitted after the trial that the prosecution made a deal with him. Not one eyewitness of the kidnapping gave a description that was anything like Osborne.

FLASH—As we go to press, the *Torch* has learned that Carl Osborne's execution has been temporarily stayed. A new execution date will be set shortly. Osborne urgently needs \$200 to prepare and file appeal briefs. Please send contributions immediately to: Ernest Wallace, 6057 Maple Canyon Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43229. Letters to Osborne may be sent in care of the *Torch*.

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WALLA WALLA PRISONERS WIN STRIKE

By Frank Hopkins

"We have won everything we sought. . . . It was a long struggle but worthwhile."

This was part of a victory message sent to the Torch by leaders of the 14-week strike by prisoners in the Intensive Security Unit (ISU) of the Washington State Penitentiary at Walla Walla. The strike ended in mid-July, with striking prisoners winning their major demands.

The Walla Walla strike began on April 10, after three days of beatings, mactings and other abuses of prisoners at the hands of the prison guards. Striking prisoners called for an end to guard brutality and rampant racism, and demanded decent living and working conditions. For 46 days, until May 25, the entire prison population was involved in the strike. The general population went back to work after an "investigating commission," set up by Washington Governor Ray, promised some changes.

But prisoners in segregation (ISU) did not trust the promises of an "investigating commission." They knew that many of the promises to the general prison population would not be kept and that the demands of the prisoners in segregation would be ignored unless the strike continued. For this reason, ISU prisoners remained on strike.

ISU prisoners raised four main demands in addition to those raised by the general population:

- An end to the use of contracts. (In order for a prisoner to get out of the ISU he had to sign a contract. The keepers used these contracts to make sure that prisoners would submit to the rules and abuses of the prison authorities.)

- The release of all ISU prisoners unless the warden can prove that the prisoner is a clear and present danger to the security of the prison.

- The release of all prisoners from isolation who have spent more than 10 days in isolation.

- The same visiting rights as prisoners in the general population.

In mid-July, with the strike nearing its 100th day, the administration gave in. All the segregation demands were met.

The granting of the prisoners'

demands represents a change of tactics by Washington prison authorities. For years, Walla Walla has been ruled through the use of systematic terror. Prisoners were thrown into the ISU without any kind of trial. Others were sent to the behavior modification unit where they were forced to wear diapers and were handcuffed to their beds. The guards stole prisoners' personal property whenever they wanted. Beatings were frequent and brutal.

But during the course of the strike, the state realized that the terror tactics were beginning to backfire. It

was clear that after weeks and weeks of abuses, the striking prisoners in segregation were standing firm. The governor stepped in and removed both the warden and the assistant warden, appointing "liberal" keepers in their place. They now want to convince the prisoners that the new regime at Walla Walla is somehow "different."

But a prison is a prison and a keeper is a keeper. The attempt to paint a "liberal face" on Walla Walla prison is just a new battle plan in the same war that has gone on at Walla Walla for years. The keepers will use

their new tactics only so long as they fool enough prisoners into believing that change is on its way. As soon as large numbers of prisoners see through this lie, the terror tactics will be restored.

The prisoners at Walla Walla can and must prepare for this. One of the most important things that was achieved during the strike was the creation of strong unity among the prisoners. With this unity, prisoner organization can be strengthened. This will be the key to fighting the authorities' repression—no matter what form it comes in. □

Remember George Jackson!

Prisons: Schools for Revolution

Six years ago, on August 21, 1971, San Quentin prison guards murdered George Jackson. He was murdered at the order of the U.S. ruling class.

Jackson was killed because he was a prisoner leader and a revolutionary fighter. He hated the capitalist system and gave his life to the fight to destroy it. This is why the ruling class hated Jackson so much. And this is why they killed him.

Very early in his life, George Jackson learned from personal experience that capitalism offers nothing to working and oppressed people. When he was 18, he was accused of stealing \$70 from a gas station. He was promised that he would get a short jail sentence if he pleaded guilty. He did—and instead of a short sentence, he got an "indeterminate sentence"—one year to life. Because Jackson would not bow and scrape before the prison keepers, he ended up in prisons—first Soledad and then San Quentin—for the rest of his life.

PRISON ORGANIZER

In prison, Jackson fought against the white racist organizations and the guards who supported them. For doing this, Jackson was kept in a segregation cell 23 and one-half hours a day. He spent years in segregation. But he did not stop fighting. He still found ways to organize.



George Jackson.

In 1970, Jackson and two other prisoners, Fleeta Drumgo and John Cluchette, were framed for the murder of a white prison guard. The prison keepers hoped that this frame-up would do two things. First, they hoped that the charge against Jackson would scare him enough so that he would stop organizing. Second, the administrators hoped that the frame-up would stop the growing prisoners' movement. Prisoners in prison after prison had been fighting for decent conditions and an end to

racist treatment. The ruling class wanted to end the prisoners' movement before it grew too big.

But the frame-up strategy backfired. Jackson did not scare so easily. He kept on fighting no matter how much the prison keepers and the government tried to terrorize him. The case of Drumgo, Cluchette and Jackson—the Soledad Brothers—became known throughout the country, won wide support and helped to build the prisoners' movement.

Because the capitalist class could find no other way to stop George Jackson, they plotted to kill him. At first, they tried to get white prisoners to do the dirty work. When this scheme failed, they used their paid killers, the prison guards. On August 21, 1971, George Jackson was murdered in a supposed "escape attempt" from San Quentin Prison. Every piece of evidence has shown that this "escape attempt" was really a government-organized execution.

The ruling class was able to kill George Jackson. But it was not able to kill the teachings of Jackson or the anger of the prisoners. Within 20 days of the assassination, prisoners at Attica Correctional Facility in New York rose up, organized themselves and proved to the whole world that revolutionary prisoners have a tremendous determination to fight to change the entire society.

PRISONS: SCHOOLS FOR REVOLUTION

George Jackson's fight shows that the prisons can be schools for revolution. While Jackson was in prison, he spent his time studying revolutionary politics. He wrote letters to friends on the outside, attempting to develop unity between people in prison and those on the outside. His prison letters have been read by many prisoners and other working and oppressed people. Jackson also tried to build a core of revolutionaries in the prisons. He organized fellow prisoners into the Black Panther Party. While the Revolutionary Socialist League does not agree with everything he wrote and did, we respect George Jackson as a courageous revolutionary.

Jackson was not alone in his struggle. Many prisoners see through the lies of the capitalists about how prisons are for "rehabilitation." Many prisoners understand that they are in prison only because capitalism cannot meet the needs of working and oppressed people. From Walla Walla, Washington, to Somers, Connecticut, prisoners are studying revolutionary politics, organizing themselves and fighting administrative terror. More

(Continued on page 16)

Attica / South Africa: Same Enemy! Same Fight!

BUILD THE DAY OF SOLIDARITY!

On September 9, 1971, prisoners at Attica Correctional Facility in New York seized the prison and began the historic Attica rebellion. This year, on September 11, the Revolutionary Socialist League and the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid will commemorate this date by holding a Day of Solidarity: Attica-South Africa, Same Enemy! Same Fight! Prisoners across the country have endorsed the Day of Solidarity (see "Letters" page—Ed.).

The conference will open with the film "Attica," a documentary of the rebellion. Following this, workshops will be held on the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and the struggle of prisoners in the U.S.

The Day of Solidarity will end with "Last Grave at Dimbaza," a film about the nature of apartheid, made illegally in South Africa and smuggled out.

The Day of Solidarity will inform people about the revolutionary struggle in South Africa and the struggles of prisoners in the U.S. The conference will show that it is capitalism that is responsible for both the apartheid system in South Africa and the prison system in the U.S. The message of the conference will be that the battle against these conditions will be won only by building a revolutionary party to fight for the socialist revolution.

(For details on the "Day of Solidarity" see ad on page 15.)



Attica rebellion, 1971.

Miners March on Washington

Strikers Call for Miller's Resignation

By Bob Anderson

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 6—Over 1,000 striking coal miners marched on Washington on August 5. They came in on buses from the coal fields of West Virginia and Kentucky. These miners, along with 70,000 other United Mine Worker (UMW) members, are currently on strike against the cutbacks in their health benefits. They organized the protest in Washington to demand that their union leaders and government officials take immediate action to restore full medical benefits to working and retired miners and their families.

"BURN PEANUTS FOR HEAT!"

The miners assembled Friday morning at the United Mine Workers' national headquarters. Arnold Miller and the other top UMW leaders refused to meet with them. Shouting "No Cards, No Coal" (referring to the UMW welfare cards used for medical care), the angry miners marched from the UMW building to the White House. They demanded a meeting with President Carter, who also refused. The miners stayed in front of the White House long enough to shout a message to



the President: "Tell Carter he can burn peanuts for heat this winter!" The miners then marched down Pennsylvania Avenue and held a rally on the steps of the Capitol Building.

The miners' wildcat strike began in July, when the Bituminous Coal Operators' Association (BCOA) announced large cutbacks in the miners' health care benefits. These cutbacks are an attempt to discipline the rank and file miners' movement and put a

stop to the militant struggle in the coal fields. The BCOA is trying to force miners to pay the first \$250 of medical expenses and 40 percent of the remainder. (Before this, for the past 30 years, miners got all their medical expenses paid in full.)

MILLER HIDES

Through the fight over the health cuts, many militant miners see more clearly than ever that they can't rely on the UMW bureaucrats to lead the struggle. Miller and the other top leaders are opposing the wildcats and urging the miners to return to work. In early August, striking miners in Beckley, West Virginia, had held a meeting to build the fight against these bureaucrats. They demanded the resignation of Arnold Miller and made plans to start a recall campaign to force him out of office.

Miller wouldn't even show his face while the striking UMW members were in Washington. One rank-and-file miner, speaking from the steps of the Capitol, said Miller and the UMW bureaucrats "might as well be dead."

Many miners, however, still have confidence in the district UMW leaders. Under pressure from the miners,

the leaders of District 17 in West Virginia were forced to help organize the march on Washington in opposition to the UMW's national leadership. But the district leaders urged miners to put their faith in Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall and in various Democratic Party politicians from West Virginia and Kentucky. These politicians made plenty of promises to the miners in closed meetings, but promises do not pay medical bills. Some district leaders, however, bought these promises and have told the miners that they should end the strike. This would be the clear path to defeat. If the miners end their strike, the politicians will leave a sigh of relief and forget the promises.

The ruling class relies heavily on coal for its energy needs. It wants plenty of cheap coal and the profits that go with it. To get it, the capitalists are out to destroy the rank-and-file miners' movement. The miners' struggle, and their determination to defend what they have at all costs, stand in the way of the bosses' plan.

Even more than this, in the eyes of the ruling class, the miners set a bad example for the rest of the workers. For years now, the miners have been in the front lines of the class struggle, far ahead of the rest of the class. The miners organized to dump the Boyle machine, they have waged wildcat after wildcat to defend their contract and to fight for safe working conditions. They have fought to keep the courts out of their union and now they are fighting to defend their health benefits. The ruling class fears the militancy and the level of rank and file organization among the miners. They don't want this to spread to other sections of the working class. For all of these reasons, the capitalists are out to smash the miners' struggle.

Many of the miners who were in Washington know what is at stake in this battle. They are demanding new funds for medical benefits, but they also understand that the future of their union and of the rank and file movement is on the line.

SPREAD THE STRIKE

Right now the strike is centered in West Virginia and parts of Kentucky. To win, the miners have to spread the strike to Ohio, Pennsylvania and the rest of the coal fields. The only way to

(Continued on page 16)

Workers Wildcat Over Firings at Chrysler's Trenton Engine

FLASH—TRENTON, Michigan, August 10—Auto workers have wildcatted at Chrysler's Trenton Engine plant over the firing of several stewards and production workers. The stewards and workers were fired for their role in a July 24 heat walk-out. In addition to the six workers fired, seven workers were given disciplinary layoffs and 41 others received written warnings.

As soon as word of the firings and disciplines spread through the plant on August 8, the night shift walked out and set up picket lines. As of this writing, all shifts are out and the entire plant is shut down.

More than 1,000 workers have been walking picket lines in front of the plant. The strikers are defying a court order to halt picketing and return to work. (The judge who issued this order also presided over the recent frame-up convictions of two Filipino nurses, Filipina Narciso and Leonora Perez.) Over 100 riot-equipped police are now stationed around the plant, 24 hours a day.

Chrysler fired the stewards for what it termed "negative leadership." This meant the stewards refused to order people back to work during the July 24 heat walkout. One steward described his role this way: "When the company told me to tell the workers to go back to work, I told them to go to hell."

The Trenton Engine workers are maintaining a militant strike despite opposition from their entire union leadership. Robert Smith, president of the 4,500-member UAW Local 372, called a special meeting on Tuesday, August 9, to urge members to return to work. Following the meeting, Smith told the press: "We told them we would ask the international union for strike approval if they went back. They told us to go to hell." Mean-

while, UAW International headquarters has sent the striking workers a telegram calling the strike "illegal" and ordering the workers to end it.

All autoworkers must support the Trenton Engine workers in their struggle to defend fired and disciplined militants. Their action is a good example of what is needed at other auto plants to stop management retaliation for the heat walkouts. □

Defy ENA No-Strike Pledge

Twenty thousand members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) went on strike August 1, shutting down nearly all iron ore mines and processing plants in Minnesota and Michigan. This is the first major strike in the basic steel industry since the 116-day national strike in 1959.

The immediate issue in the strike is the iron ore miners' demand for incentive pay equal to that of other steelworkers. The iron ore miners average 60-80 cents per hour less than workers in the steel mills. The miners are also striking over working conditions, health and safety, and the backlog of unresolved grievances on these and other issues.

The strike has significance beyond

(Editor's Note: In order to provide additional space for coverage of the auto walkouts, our regular column, "Labor in Struggle," does not appear in this issue. It will return next month.)

20,000 Iron Ore Miners Strike

the specific demands of the iron ore miners. Under the Experimental Negotiating Agreement (ENA), signed in 1974, the steelworkers' union promised the steel companies that the union would not strike nationally. By giving up the right to strike, the union leaders threw away the steelworkers' most powerful weapon. Iron ore miners are now challenging this no-strike pledge.

The ENA allows local strikes over local issues. But the steel companies claim that the miners' demand for incentive pay is a national issue, covered under the national contract signed this April. The companies sought a court injunction against the strike, but didn't get it. Now they are threatening to sue the USWA for millions of dollars in strike damages.

Whether the issues are called local or national, the iron ore miners are putting the ENA to the test. They are showing other steelworkers that it is possible to break the stranglehold that the ENA has put on the union. This would be a big victory for all steelworkers. Without the right to

strike, steelworkers have been forced to rely on the "goodwill" of the steel bosses. The result has been thousands of layoffs and lost jobs, increasing numbers of deaths and injuries on the job, and wage increases which have not kept up with inflation.

If the iron ore strike continues, it will seriously hurt the steel companies. The striking miners produce 85 percent of the domestic iron ore, and the major companies only have enough stockpiles to last a few weeks. This means the strike will quickly force cutbacks in steel production.

For the first time since the defeat of the 1959 strike, steelworkers have the opportunity to win a major victory against the companies. A victory in the iron ore strike could open a whole new period of struggle in steel. It could open the way to completely smashing the ENA. Steelworkers everywhere have to close ranks behind the iron ore miners—victory for them is a victory for all workers. □

AUTO WALKOUTS SWEEP DETROIT

(Continued from page 1)

walked July 7 and July 20. Second shift walked July 5 and 6, and July 15. A shift meeting July 19 drew 350 people demanding an immediate strike against the heat conditions and disciplines.

• **Lynch Road Assembly:** There were several plant shutdowns over heat. Beginning July 20, first and second shifts stayed out to protest threatened disciplinary action. Cops who were brought into the plant gate area the night of July 21 got bricked and bottled. Seventy-five people were still out July 22, protesting the disciplines.

• **Jefferson Assembly:** Heat walkouts closed the plant twice. Almost 80 people met after the July 19 walkout to organize a stop-the-disciplines action.

• **Warren Stamping:** Massive de-

mands for heat passes shut whole departments several times. A shift meeting on July 13 demanded the union organize walkouts. Workers formed a rank-and-file health and safety committee to organize the plant against heat conditions and other health and safety dangers.

• **Further walkouts reported at:** Dodge Main, Eight Mile Stamping, Ford Sterling, Chevy Truck, Trenton Engine.

The militancy of the walkouts has been able to stop management's plans for immediate massive firings and disciplinary action. At Dodge Truck, 12 people were fired right after the walkouts and hundreds of others were put on notice. All but one of the 12 have been rehired. At Lynch Road Assembly, while 150 were put on notice, so far only three have been fired. Two people have had their

records pulled at Jefferson and others have been threatened, but so far no action has been taken. These disciplines must be stopped! Defending these brothers and sisters is key to defending the right to refuse to work under unsafe and unhealthy conditions.

Instead of immediate massive firings, management's game plan is to find ways to fire militants over the next few months. At Dodge Truck, management is circulating to foremen a list of 50 workers it wants fired. These are all leftists and militant organizers. The same thing is going on at other plants in Detroit. At Warren Stamping, numbers of militants have been told by foremen they will be fired soon. If management is allowed to get away with firing these militants, all workers in the plants will pay. Unity and orga-

nized militant action is the main defense against management. If management can destroy that, by ripping off the strongest fighters, they will have a free hand to beat everyone down in the plants. All the disciplines must be stopped.

UNION LEADERS REFUSE TO TAKE ACTION

The union leaders should be preparing now to stop management from disciplining workers for walking. On a moment's notice, Solidarity House could mobilize hundreds of thousands of workers for a march to Chrysler headquarters in protest. They could build a city-wide strike against the disciplines and heat conditions. Instead, Dodge Truck union officials cancelled the scheduled strike vote, and Lynch union officers went on the radio urging workers to go back to work. Solidarity House has not said a word. These officials are helping management stop the struggle!

To carry the struggle forward, autoworkers must organize around clear demands:

No firings or suspensions for the walkouts!

Back-pay for all disciplined workers!

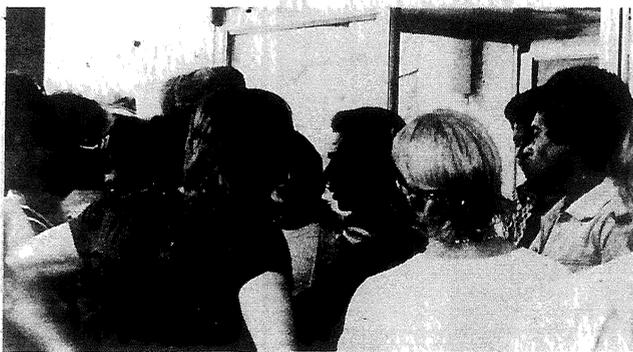
Moreover, autoworkers must focus the heat walkouts on demands for changes in the plants:

Shut down the plants when the inside temperature reaches 95!

Full pay for lost time when it's too hot to work!

The UAW leadership will not lead the fight for these demands. The heat walkouts showed once again that any serious resistance to management will be led by rank and file autoworkers, not by Solidarity House. The lesson is clear: Autoworkers must organize to take control of the UAW into their own hands. □

Dodge Truck Workers Fight Firings; UAW Leaders Block Strike Action



Torch photo/Randy Cross

Workers confront union hack at UAW Local 140 union hall (Dodge Truck).

By a supporter of the
Revolutionary
Autoworkers Committee

DETROIT—Several workers at the Chrysler Dodge Truck plant in Warren, Michigan, have been fired for "inciting to walk out" during the July heat wave. Hundreds of others have been robbed of their July 4 holiday pay, and have been given warnings or time off. This has provoked an angry struggle by Dodge Truck workers against Chrysler's firings and disciplines.

At every step in the struggle against these disciplines, the leadership of UAW Local 140 has blocked and betrayed the ranks.

When word of the disciplines spread, workers went to the July union meeting to find out what was going to be done. Local President Cooper ruled discussion of the disciplines "out of order," and adjourned the meeting. The following Tuesday, close to 300 workers jammed the union hall for shift meetings, demanding to know what disciplines were planned, and chanting for a strike. Under this pressure, Cooper stated he would conduct a strike vote by Monday, July 25.

This was a lie. Cooper went on a "leave of absence" for two weeks. Monday came and went, with no further word.

In the face of this sellout, two of the more visible opposition groups in the local tried to mobilize for action.

Supporters of the Call, newspaper of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist), called a meeting at the union hall. Instead of building for this meeting, another organization, the Workers Unity Caucus, a chapter of Autoworkers United to Fight, supported by the Revolutionary Communist Party, called for a picket at the union hall for the same day.

About 75 workers came to the hall for the meeting or the picket. Enough workers were present to begin organizing the plant for action. But

instead of trying to build for an organized action, supporters of the Call proposed to strike the plant immediately. As this was being debated, many workers left and the issue was postponed until the next day.

Most of the rank and file in the local supported the struggle and felt a strike was necessary. But it was clear to them that a wildcat strike had to be better organized. When picket lines were set up, a large crowd gathered in the plant parking lot and across the street. The cops were out in force, and tension ran high against them and the company supervisors. But most workers drifted into work, and production was not halted.

The opposition groups of the Call and the Workers Unity Caucus tried to bypass the task of organizing the struggle. Instead, they thought a few workers by themselves could spark a mass wildcat. Their role only increased the confusion and endangered the jobs of serious militants.

A truly revolutionary leadership in the local would have organized the heat walkouts from the start. The basis for this leadership exists among the 300 workers who attended the shift meeting to demand a strike. Out of this group must come an organized caucus that is fully committed to fighting Chrysler, and has the will to push aside anyone who acts as a barrier to the struggle. The Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee is working now to build this kind of organized struggle. □

Organize for Revolution!

Statement on the
wildcats and walkouts
by the Detroit Revolutionary
Autoworkers Committee

The wave of heat walkouts prove that autoworkers are ready to take action against the conditions in the plants. To turn the walkouts into strikes demanding real change, all that is needed is organization. Our job as militant fighters on the shop floors across the country is to organize these struggles. Our task as revolutionaries is to give these struggles political consciousness and direction. This is what the Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee stands for. Organization means building net-

works of fighters on each line, in each plant, across the city and country. These networks, committees of the most serious militants, can lead the developing struggles with management by investigating conditions, distributing information leaflets, calling general meetings, pickets and demonstrations, and eventually leading walkouts and strikes. These can force the union leaders to support the demands of the union members, or force the leaders out of office entirely. By doing this organizing work carefully, the whole mass of workers in the plants can be united and drawn into actions demanding real change in the conditions we face in the plants

(Continued on page 17)

Heat Walkouts at Ford Mahwah

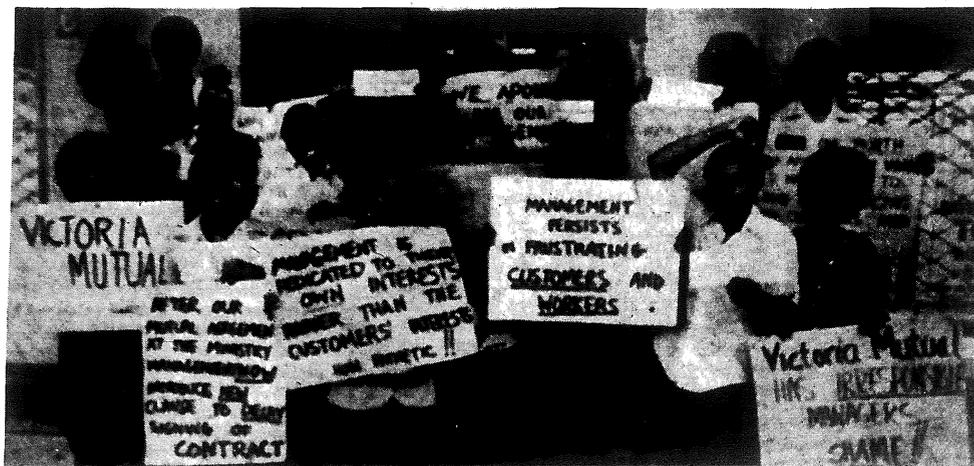
By an autoworker correspondent

On Thursday, July 21, several hundred workers shut down Ford's Assembly Plant in Mahwah, New Jersey. As one of the worst heat waves in years hit the New York-New Jersey area, Ford forced people to work 10 hour shifts in 130 degree heat. Workers were passing out on the job.

Several isolated walkouts broke out on Tuesday, July 19. Then on Thursday with temperatures reaching 104 degrees outside—several hundred workers refused to go to work. Unable to start production on the night shift, Ford was forced to send everyone home.

Since then, Ford has disciplined workers for "participating in an unauthorized work stoppage." Many more workers have been disciplined for being out without doctors' notes. With the hottest month of the summer facing them, Ford fears the workers will act again.

Over 400 people signed a petition calling on UAW Local 906 to hold a special union meeting to fight the disciplines. For the first time in several years, workers at Mahwah are again standing up to Ford.



Striking workers outside Jamaica's Victoria Mutual Building Society.

Interview With a Jamaican Revolutionary

The following is an interview held in mid-July with a leading member of the Revolutionary Marxist League (RML) of Jamaica. The RML is the only organization on the Jamaican left which opposes the liberal capitalist People's National Party government and aims to destroy imperialist-dominated Jamaican capitalism through working class-led socialist revolution.

Torch: What is your assessment of the current state of the class struggle in Jamaica, and in particular what do you think is behind the recent strikes at Esso and Barclays Bank?

RML: In June, Jamaica saw a new surge in the class struggle. There have been a number of strikes. Esso oil refinery technicians went out on strike in support of demands that certain labor arbitration awards be applied. That was perhaps the most significant strike struggle, because the tanker drivers solidarized with that strike and refused to cross the picket lines. Telephone company workers supported that strike. Alongside the Esso strike, we had Barclays Bank workers on strike in support of demands for a 60 percent wage increase and participation in negotiations that are being held between the government and the present owners of Barclays for take-over of that company. What is fundamentally behind all the strike struggles is the beginnings of a fightback by the working class against increasing attacks on them by the Manley government.

Torch: What's been the response of Manley and the People's National Party (PNP) to these strikes?

RML: In the Esso oil refinery technicians' strike, they moved in the army to break the picket lines, collect the gas, deliver the gas, and then sell it to customers in the service stations. At another strike at Tia Maria, a liquor company, the army was again brought in, supposedly on stand-by. But their real role was to

intimidate the pickets and effectively to crush the strike. So the response of the Manley government has been an extremely sharp one, crushing the more militant strikes that have developed so far.

Shift Away From Manley

Torch: Has there been any noticeable shift in consciousness among workers in their attitude towards Manley and the PNP?

RML: There has been a fairly sharp change in the perception of Manley on the part of the working class in Jamaica. Manley's announcement of the Emergency Production Plan represented a sharp attack against the working class in an attempt to stabilize local capitalism, which is in serious crisis, on the backs of the working class. The attacks have been so sharp that the working class has had to at least begin to resist these moves on Manley's part.

You have rising unemployment, you have a number of factories being closed down, you have a lot of young people leaving high school, leaving universities, being unable to get jobs and Manley is clearly unable to deal with that kind of situation. The Production Plan itself was clearly in the interests of the imperialists and local bourgeois forces within the country. They have all come out in full support of the Plan. The Emergency Production Plan, with its clear anti-working class character, has been the main spur for the beginnings of a shift away from Manley.

Torch: Exactly what is so-called "democratic socialism," which the PNP government claims to be building in Jamaica?

RML: We have to understand first of all that there is absolutely nothing socialist about "democratic socialism." It represents the liberal face of Jamaican capitalism. The background to the declaration of democratic socialism by the PNP regime in 1974 goes back to 1972,

when the PNP mounted an election campaign based on the need for change, based on a promise to achieve changes in the socio-economic conditions of the working people, the poor people of the country. Manley spoke of ridding the country of unemployment and crime, providing housing, education and so on.

When Manley took office in February of 1972, he began a program of minor reforms. One example is "free education." It didn't amount to much because, as has been admitted by one of his ministers, some 200,000 children of school-going age are unable to go to school because there are no places for them. The program of land reform has meant nothing more than giving two or three acres of the poorest land to the small farmers and the landless youth. Manley's whole program of "democratic socialism" was an attempt by the liberal wing of the bourgeoisie in our country to contain the developing mass struggle within manageable limits by handing out some reforms. The real capitalist nature of the "democratic socialism" platform can be seen in the escalating attacks that Manley has launched against the working class in Jamaica.

Myth of Anti-Imperialism

Torch: Manley's supporters claim that Manley and the PNP form some sort of anti-imperialist government, a government which fights against U.S. imperialism. They cite his partial nationalizations of the bauxite industry, the banks, the telephone system, to show how he's fighting imperialism. How do you see this?

RML: Manley's supposed anti-imperialist orientation is simply a specific instance of a more general tendency in this period of the decay of international capitalism. That is, the developing bourgeoisie of neo-colonial countries attempts to strengthen itself by moves toward state ownership, state control of some of the means of production. The most recent example has been the announced intention to buy out three commercial banks in Jamaica. All sections of the bourgeoisie have supported this action wholeheartedly. The basic idea behind the nationalization of the banks is to make it easier for the developing bourgeoisie in the country to get credit, credit which at that time was very

hard to come by, given the imperialist-controlled banks.

The Manley government, representing the liberal capitalist bourgeoisie in our country, has been making moves to work out some kind of arrangement with imperialism where they will become junior partners with imperialism. It is instructive to note the attitude of the main bauxite companies to the nationalizations. They have all welcomed it, as a sign of the understanding and agreement that exists between the local ruling class, the PNP government and themselves. The more liberal, as well as the more reactionary, sections of the ruling class in Jamaica are united on the need to work out a deal with imperialism to strengthen themselves and provide jobs for certain sections of the petty bourgeoisie, and so on.

Torch: For a period of time, it was clear that the U.S. government was engaged in efforts to de-stabilize the Manley regime, to weaken it, to make it possible for the right-wing Jamaica Labor Party (JLP—the opposition party representing the conservative wing of the Jamaican bourgeoisie—Ed.) to take over. For example, CIA agents were actively helping to organize right-wing anti-Manley activity, and so forth. Could you comment on this?

RML: It is true that the American government particularly, beginning in January of 1976, put in motion a campaign of economic sabotage, direct financing of the JLP, and running an anti-communist line in the national Jamaican press and in the American newspapers, which were all geared at creating confusion within the country. Manley's declaration of "democratic socialism" was taken seriously by the broad masses of the people. The landless youth seized land, and strikes developed, very sharply, a whole wave of strikes in 1974 and 1975. The right wing in Jamaica began to react with a call for stronger government. The basic attitude to Manley was that although he was clearly not a communist, although he clearly did not support any of the measures being taken by the working class on his own initiative, at the same time his declaration of "democratic socialism" and the rhetoric of the so-called left-wing ministers in his government had inflamed the masses of people and had led to this.

The crucial question involved was: Was Manley losing control of the class struggle in the country? Did American capital, did the local capitalists feel they had to abandon Manley in favor of the JLP in order to protect their interests? But even when the American government was supporting the JLP in massive ways, through indirect funding and that



Kingston, Jamaica, 1976

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The PNP "Left"

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to protect their interests? But even
if the American government was
supporting the JLP in massive ways,
through indirect funding and that

kind of thing, they were also making
use of Manley. In November, Manley
was getting loans from America,
from Canada. Immediately after
Manley won the elections, Henry
Kissinger made a statement that
American imperialism was prepared
to work with Manley. Since then, the
imperialists have received all the re-
assurances that they deem necessary.
The Production Plan and the general
attack against the working class have
caused them to put aside any doubt
they may have had. They are now
supporting Manley to the hilt.

The PNP "Left"

Torch: What exactly is the PNP
"Left"? How much power does it
have, what kind of a role does it play
inside the government?

RML: The PNP "Left," so-
called, is largely a group of petty-
bourgeois democrats, such as D.K.
Duncan, presently Secretary-General
of the PNP and Minister of National
Mobilization; Arnold "Scree" Ber-
tram, who is the Minister of Infor-
mation, Festivals, Culture and
Broadcasting; Hugh Small, presently
the Minister of Youth and Sports.
These elements have made it possible
for the PNP to capture the loyalty,
over the past six years, of broad masses
of workers, small farmers, unem-
ployed and landless youth and so on.
None of these elements want to use
their positions within the government
to mobilize the working class, to mo-
bilize the broad masses of people
within the country. For this reason,
the PNP cannot be seen as anything
but a liberal capitalist party. All this
talk of the PNP being an open, mass
movement is total nonsense, because
although there are distinct wings
within the party—the petty-bourgeois
democrats on the one hand and the
right wing on the other, with Manley
serving to mediate between the two
wings of the party—the policy of the
party, the class line of the party, is
one of unrelenting attack against the
working class, total subordination to
imperialism.

Manley Goes To IMF

Torch: Recently, Manley went to
the International Monetary Fund
(IMF) to obtain a large loan and
certain conditions were attached to
that. What have been the effects of
taking out this loan on the living
standards of the working class in
Jamaica?

RML: The move by the PNP
government to the International
Monetary Fund and the conditions
set for this loan have led to a drastic

lowering of the living standards of
broad sections of the Jamaican
people, the working people, the small
farmers, the poorest layers of the
petty bourgeoisie within our country.
It has meant the devaluation of the
Jamaican dollar by an effective 20
percent across the board. This has
intensified the rising cost of living
and forced tremendous increases in
prices of essential items: food, cloth-
ing, shelter and so on. It has also
meant the imposition of a wage freeze
from January to July 1 of this year.
We are told that some kind of a
permanent wages and incomes policy
is to be imposed.

Torch: You mentioned earlier the
Emergency Production Plan. Could
you explain what that's all about?

RML: The Emergency Produc-
tion Plan was announced on April 22
of this year. It is supposed to be a
short-term national plan, which is to
be followed up sometime later this
year by a five-year plan for economic
development for the country. It
represents a specific drive by the
Jamaican capitalists to increase pro-
duction by a number of measures, all
of which require the working class to
sacrifice. The Production Plan means
increased speedup in a number of
industrial enterprises. It means a
clear policy of disciplining the work-
ing class in the most serious kind of
way: strikes are not to be tolerated;
the working class is to hold back its
demand for better working condi-
tions; in fact, it is to abandon its
struggle on a day-to-day basis against
the employer class in the interest of
boosting production. The main capi-
talist owners have been rationalizing
production by laying off large sec-
tions of the work force.

Workers Liberation League

Torch: Aside from the Revolu-
tionary Marxist League (RML), the
Workers Liberation League (WLL) is
the other major organization in
Jamaica which considers itself as revo-
lutionary Marxist, for revolutionary
socialism. What is the attitude of the
WLL to the PNP government, and
does it have any relationship to that
government?

RML: It is true that the WLL is
the main active group on the left
apart from the RML at this time. The
attitude of the WLL to the PNP has
developed basically over two periods.
The WLL was formed in 1974. At
that time they adopted the position
that the PNP represented the liberal
wing of the capitalist class in
Jamaica. They took a position of no
support to the PNP. They called for
the working class to maintain total
independence, organizational and
programmatic, from the PNP. They
saw the need for the development of
an independent, revolutionary work-
ing class organization.

Later in 1974, Manley declared
himself for "democratic socialism,"
reforms were stepped up, action was
taken against the bauxite producers
in Jamaica. Manley began to take a
stand for national liberation on the
African continent and throughout the
world. He began to develop closer
relationships with Cuba. As a conse-
quence of that, by 1975, the WLL had
changed its view of Manley. They
began to say that Manley was anti-
imperialist, based on his opening of
relationships with Cuba, based on
positions he had taken raising the call
for a "new world economic order."
The WLL claimed that Manley was
taking a "non-capitalist path of
development."

What has happened in practice is
that the WLL has been openly in
collaboration with the PNP govern-

ment. They have been open in their
betrayals of workers' struggles. They
have time and again called for the
working class to hold down its strug-
gles, to hold back its demands.

RML Program

Torch: Could you briefly outline
what you see as the central concep-
tions behind the RML's program,
which sets it apart from all the other
various organizations which claim to
be revolutionary Marxist?

RML: In one sentence, the dif-
ference between our conceptions is

**There is absolutely nothing socialist
about "democratic socialism." Manley's whole
program of "democratic socialism" is an
attempt by the liberal wing of
the bourgeoisie in Jamaica to contain the
developing mass struggle within manageable
limits by handing out some reforms.
The real nature of Manley's platform can be
seen in the escalating attacks that
he has launched against the working class.**

that we stand on revolutionary
Marxism and they are essentially
reformist. The essence of Marxism is
the theory of working class revolu-
tion. That is the fundamental plank
of our conception. We see the
working class as being central to the
task of making the socialist revolu-
tion in Jamaica, in the Caribbean,
and internationally.

The WLL, the Maoists (such as
they exist in Jamaica), a number of
organizations that call themselves
Trotskyists, pay lip-service to the
central role of the working class in
making revolution, in building social-
ism in the country and interna-
tionally. The Stalinists and the
so-called Trotskyists in reality
place the leading role in the socialist
revolution on any of several alien
class forces. The WLL advocates, in
effect, that the working class subordi-
nate its struggle to the liberal bour-
geoisie and to elements of the
petty bourgeoisie.

The various so-called Trotskyist
organizations propose the possibili-
ties of creating workers' states with-
out the working class, without the
working class making a revolution.
Both these fake Trotskyists and
Stalinists would therefore group to-
gether China, Cuba, Russia, and so
on, these so-called socialist countries,
as countries where the working class
rules, where the main means of pro-
duction in the country are in fact con-
trolled by the working class. We
differ fundamentally with that no-
tion, we hold the view that there are
no socialist countries in the world
today, that the so-called socialist
countries are state-capitalist coun-
tries.

Key Tasks Of the Period

Torch: What does the Revolu-
tionary Marxist League consider the
key tasks to be in the coming period?

RML: We of the RML view the

present period as being one of
deepening crisis of international and
local capitalism. As a result, the
working class is under tremendous
attacks. It is facing layoffs, it is
facing wage limits, it is facing
tremendous price increases; all the
problems of landlessness, poverty
and so on. From our standpoint the
main task facing the working class
now is to build a militant, uncompro-
mising struggle against the wave of
attacks it faces. This calls for a
serious effort to unify the whole class.
This calls for a struggle around
certain transitional demands: a slid-
ing scale of wages and hours, which
would mean in our country running
more than a single shift in various

plants, a shorter working week
without any cut in pay. This would
mean a struggle within the unions for
control of the unions. This means
connecting up with the growing
ranks of the unemployed, that is,
workers who still have jobs building
serious links with those elements of
the class that have been laid off. We
are very clear that this struggle has
to be seen as integrally connected
with the struggle for working class
revolution in Jamaica, and that there
is no way that the demands can be
met in full, or even in any substantial
way, without it.

Torch: Could you discuss how
the RML views its international
tasks in the Caribbean, in other
countries and in the world struggle?

RML: We realize that what is
facing the working class in Jamaica
today is international capitalism in
its decay. We realize as well that the
Jamaican economy, Jamaica as a
whole, represents a backward, just-
developing capitalist country. The
productive forces are not developed
on which to base socialism, the re-
sources are not there. Our perspective
is that the working class in Jamaica
has to make socialist revolution, but
is unable to build a workers' state
outside of the prospects for workers'
revolution within the Caribbean,
within the United States of America,
North America particularly, and
throughout the world.

Our outlook is one of the working
class in our country striving to create
a party, a Leninist vanguard organi-
zation, which has to struggle to
generate the formation of other
revolutionary workers' parties
throughout the Caribbean. We see
the need to connect up with the
struggles of the working class
throughout the world on an interna-
tional level. We see the need to build
an international party of working
class revolutionaries. That, as far as
we are concerned, is the only basis on
which the chains of capitalist oppres-
sion and imperialist exploitation can
in fact be broken. □



World in Revolution



Imperialists Scramble for East Africa

Ethiopia's dictatorship of Colonel Mengistu is being rocked by a war on two fronts. To the north, it has lost control of all but three cities in Eritrea. On its southern front, the bulk of the Ogaden province is in the hands of the West Somali Liberation Front, which is fighting to unite the province with Somalia. Both the Eritrean and Somali liberation struggles are fights for self-determination by oppressed peoples, and deserve support.



As these struggles come closer to victory, U.S. and Russian imperialism are stepping up their race to see who will become top dog in East Africa. Nothing shows the imperialist nature of the Russian government better than its cynical policy in East Africa. For a long time the Russians were important arms suppliers for the Eritreans. And until a few months ago, the Russians were tight with Somalia's dictator, Said Barre. They called Barre a "Marxist-Leninist" and supplied him with arms, while the U.S. backed Colonel Mengistu in Ethiopia.

Recently the Russians thought they saw a chance to widen their influence in East Africa by giving their support to Mengistu. Now

Mengistu has Moscow's "Marxist-Leninist" franchise, with Castro's personal blessing. U.S. imperialism, on the other hand, has taken the "socialist" Barre under its wing.

True Marxism and Leninism has nothing in common with these maneuvers. The U.S. and Russia are trying to manipulate the struggles of the oppressed East African masses in order to maintain imperialist exploitation and national oppression.

"Rhodesia": Rats Desert a Sinking Ship

The armed struggle in Zimbabwe ("Rhodesia") is beginning to take its toll on the white rulers. Their combat deaths have tripled over the last year. In fright, the whites are leaving the country at the rate of 1,000 a month. Press reports state that most of the 250,000 whites say they will leave if there is no "peace" by Christmas. By "peace" the whites mean a settlement that preserves their stranglehold over the government and all the wealth of Black Zimbabwe (population: 6.4 million).

As the end approaches, the capitalists are squabbling among themselves. There is a split between the Rhodesian bandits and their big brothers in the U.S. and Britain. Another split has developed among the Rhodesians themselves. The larger Rhodesian faction—supporting Prime Minister Ian Smith—wants a settlement with the right wing of the nationalist forces, to preserve the whites' position. The smaller faction, organized into a new party, wants to fight it out to the end. An August 31 election will determine which white faction wins out.

Since 1965, when Rhodesian whites declared themselves an "independent nation," Britain and the U.S. have been their biggest backers. Now the U.S. and British imperialists are ready to jump ship and let "Rhodesia" sink. They want the armed struggle to end quickly and quietly, because they are terrified that it will spread to South Africa. South Africa is the biggest and richest white-ruled African country. Both the U.S. and Britain have enormous interests there.

Israelis Steal More West Bank Land

On July 26, Menahem Begin, Israel's head of government, gave official status to three existing Israeli colonial settlements in the Palestinian West Bank. The West Bank is one of the lands stolen by Israel in its 1967 war against Egypt, Jordan and Syria. The previous Israeli government set up more than 70 settlements in these lands—over 40 of them in the West Bank.

Starting in 1976, the Palestinian masses began to rise up in bitter clashes with the Israelis over these settlements. As a result, the U.S. government put pressure on Israel to stop settling the West Bank. The Israelis continued to set up settlements, but without official government approval. The newer settlements were supposed to be "temporary" and could not get government aid. Now these pretenses have been dropped. Moreover, the government plans to build 16 brand-new settlements in the West Bank. Three of these will become new Israeli cities of 150,000. This policy proves that Begin lies when he talks of a "peaceful settlement." So long as the Zionist state of Israel survives, it will continue to gobble up Arab land.

General Strike in Peru

On July 19, workers in Peru paralyzed the country with a general strike against the government's economic policies. At least 20 people were killed in clashes with troops. Scores of union leaders were arrested. The strike followed riots in Cuzco, Huancayo and Trujillo.

Struggle Continues In South Africa

Black students in South Africa have taken to the streets again. The students are boycotting the schools until so-called "Bantu education" is done away with. "Bantu education" is the segregated and inferior system of education that the white authorities have set up for Blacks. The system is designed—in the words of one government minister—to prove to Blacks "that equality with the white man is not for them."

The protests began July 25 in three Black townships outside Pretoria, South Africa's capital. They quickly spread to Alexandra, a township in Johannesburg where 60,000 Blacks live in one square mile. Within two days, the strike and protests had spread to all of Johannesburg's Black townships. Police reinforcements were brought in from as far as Groblersdal, 120 miles away.

On August 3, Soweto's cops fired on students throwing stones. One 16-year-old was killed and several others were wounded. This was the fourth person killed by Soweto's cops in five days. As of this writing, the strike and the protests continue.



Soweto, August 1976.

As the students' strike began, South Africa's strongman Vorster made plans to reorganize South Africa's Urban Bantu Councils. These are the government's puppet Black councils in the townships. Since June, when the militant Soweto students forced that township's Bantu Council to resign, the councils have lost whatever authority they might have had in the eyes of Black people. To clean up their image, Vorster wants new laws which will allow all township Blacks to vote for these councils—until now most urban Blacks could not vote, because they were classified as "citizens" of the rural "Bantustans." The councils will have limited taxing powers and are supposed to help the government police the townships. Any council decision can be vetoed at any time by the white authorities. This scheme is just one more insult to South Africa's Black people.

A group of Black professionals and intellectuals, known as the Committee of Ten, has been formed in Soweto to oppose Vorster's plans. It wants to set up an elected city council in Soweto. This city council would control Soweto's housing, schools, public works, traffic, utilities, health, etc. It would also control Soweto's rents (now collected by the white authorities). The Committee of Ten wants this council to have the same

authority as South Africa's white city councils. The Ten expect that the idea will catch on in all the Black townships.

The apartheid government sees these moves as a threat. It banned a July 31 Soweto rally in support of this plan. Another mass mobilization is planned for August 7.

The Committee of Ten has the support of the Soweto Students' Representative Council (SSRC). Without this support, the self-government idea could not have gotten off the ground.

The Revolutionary Socialist League supports the Black students' goal of smashing the puppet Bantu Councils. These councils must be smashed as a step towards Black self-rule. But we do not believe that real self-rule is possible without smashing the apartheid system.

If this plan of "self-government" is ever implemented, nothing will change. The white capitalist overlords will still control all the country's industry and mines, its cities and its wealth. The apartheid system will continue to control the lives and destiny of the Blacks; to super-exploit Black labor; and to murder those who fight back.

Any attempt at "Black self-government" inside the apartheid system can only serve to confuse the people about what the real tasks are, and to derail the struggle for revolution. It will only create more Black puppets serving the interests of the white rulers.

The tip-off about the real meaning of "Black self-government" is the support it has received from the liberal segregationists in the opposition capitalist parties, and from the "Bantustan" leaders (apartheid's most notorious Black allies). The white liberal capitalists want to keep the apartheid system intact. They merely want to clean it up some, through things like "Black local self-government" and token representation in apartheid's state and national legislatures, and by abolishing the most insulting (and unnecessary) segregation laws. They hope that this will stem the tide of revolution.

South Africa's Black working masses and revolutionary students must reject this trick by the liberal capitalists and their Black middle-class allies, and must press on with the struggle for complete elimination of apartheid through the socialist revolution. □

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British autoworkers march against wage freeze.

Workers Fight Back As British Capitalism Decays

By Tony Curzo

Britain was once the most powerful imperialist country on earth. Today it is close to collapse. For centuries, Britain stayed afloat by looting its huge empire. Now that the empire is gone, its outdated industry can no longer compete on the world market. As a result, British capitalism is in a state of permanent economic crisis. Inflation is now almost 48 percent, and still rising. Unemployment—over 1.5 million and going up—is the highest since the Great Depression.

In an effort to prop up Britain's economy, the capitalists and the reformist labor bureaucrats set up a wage freeze program, known as the "social contract." In its first year, this wage freeze set a maximum limit of \$13 a week on any wage increase. During this past year, increases over 5 percent were outlawed, even though inflation was more than three times that high.

Since June, 1975, when this wage freeze first took effect, British workers have taken a beating. In the last 10 months, average income has increased by less than 9 percent, but prices have jumped by more than 16 percent. Unemployment continues to go up. British workers have seldom lost so much in so short a time.

The "social contract" has not solved the capitalists' problems. Last year, the British economy grew a mere 1.5 percent, compared with 5 to 6 percent for most Western imperialist countries.

Because of this crisis, the class struggle is heating up in Britain. After two years of attacks, the workers have had enough and are starting to fight back. The increased fighting spirit of the workers began to show earlier this year, and has been picking up steam ever since.

The first major struggle involved 3,000 skilled toolmakers on strike against British Leyland, the country's largest automaker. Beginning last February, their month-long strike paralyzed the sick giant. The toolmakers, who struck in opposition to their union leaders, called for increased pay differentials between skilled and unskilled labor, and for

separate bargaining rights for the skilled workers. These demands are reactionary because they increase divisions within the working class. But despite this, the toolmakers' strike had to be supported.

The strikers demanded a settlement which would have broken the wage freeze. This is why the capitalists threw everything they had against the strikers. In spite of this, the strike lasted a month. The toolmakers were finally forced back to work when their union leader, Hugh Scanlon, publicly supported the company's threats to fire the strikers.

Other strikes soon followed the Leyland strike. Last June, Ford workers struck, demanding 80 percent layoff pay. The strike lasted three weeks and cost Ford at least 17,000 vehicles and \$90 million. It ended when the union promised to reopen these issues after August 1.

GRUNWICK STRIKE

The fighting mood of British workers can also be seen in the Grunwick strike, at a photo lab in northwest London. The workers, mostly Asian, have been fighting for union recognition for a year. Recently they have won increasing support from the labor movement and the British left, who have mobilized to join the pickets. As a result, the picket lines have faced mass police attacks.

On July 11, 4,000 cops attacked more than 20,000 leftists and trade unionists. Eighteen cops and 40 militants were hospitalized. Seventy other militants were arrested. Another mass mobilization is planned for August 8.

Meanwhile, the postal workers have refused to handle any Grunwick mail, even though they are under court order to do so, and their local branch has been suspended. The strike has become a national confrontation between workers and capitalists, and appears to be sparking other union recognition struggles among Britain's 10 million unorganized workers.

On top of all this, during the last few months union after union has rejected the wage freeze. Scanlon's engineering workers were the first.

On May 4, soon after Scanlon scabbed on the toolmakers, his union's national committee—feeling the heat from the rank and file—voted to scrap the wage freeze. By June 3, union conventions representing three million workers had voted to reject the so-called "social contract."

In July, the Labor government and the union bureaucrats, still hoping to rescue the wage freeze, were putting the final touches on Phase III of it, which was to have begun when Phase II ended on August 1. For one full year, wages would not rise more than a maximum of 10 percent, and a so-called "12-month rule" was to be observed. This meant that last year's Phase II contracts could not be reopened after August 1 until a full 12 months had passed.

WAGE FREEZE KILLED

But Phase III was killed before it was born. Particularly important in killing it were the votes of the militant miners and of Britain's largest union, the two-million-strong transport workers' union. In the first week of July, both unions voted at their conventions to scrap both the wage freeze and the 12-month rule. The miners voted to demand a 90 percent wage increase in November, even though their contract isn't up until March.

The transport workers voted to boycott any and all talks with the government over collective bargaining. The transport workers' convention took these steps over the frantic opposition of the union's top bureaucrat, Jack Jones, Jones, who calls himself a "leftist," is Britain's most powerful union hack and the original author of the wage freeze. His defeat by his own union signaled the end of the "social contract."

In the face of this working class rebellion, the Trades Union Congress (TUC—Britain's AFL-CIO) has been forced to reject the "social contract." The government has dropped Phase

III, but has kept its 10 percent wage "guidelines." However, this is not likely to have much impact on workers' demands in coming contract negotiations.

The workers' rejection of the "social contract" will probably kill the Labor Party government. The Labor Party doesn't have enough votes in Parliament to remain in power without outside support. The government survives only with the support of the Liberal Party. The Liberals have made very clear that if the Labor Party hacks can't control the workers, they will withdraw their support. New elections therefore are likely in the fall or winter.

British capitalism can't escape from the bind that it is in. The ruling class lacks the capital to invest the many billions that are required to modernize production and to provide for workers' needs. Since World War II there have been no less than five government "incomes policies" (wage freezes). But this situation cannot repeat itself forever. British capitalism doesn't have the maneuvering room to satisfy workers' demands for a decent life. The capitalists realize that only by smashing the trade unions and destroying the democratic rights of the working class can British capitalism experience even a partial, temporary recovery.

FASCISTS GAIN RULING CLASS SUPPORT

This is why the British capitalists and their cops and courts are supporting fascist thugs like the National Front (NF), Britain's Nazi group. The NF in Britain has started a campaign of terror against Britain's minority workers: the Africans, South Asians and West Indians. This has sparked frequent attacks on Black and Brown workers and youth in the last few months. Like their counterparts in the U.S., Britain's Nazis hope to grow and gain power by blaming these immigrant workers for the crisis and decay of British capitalism. Today, the fascists are going after Black and Brown workers; tomorrow, they will go after the entire working class.

The fascists' organizing is made easier by more than 200 years of British imperialism. This history has left a tradition of racism and vicious nationalism which works to the advantage of the fascists and the capitalists. British workers must reject this heritage, and unite with their Black and Brown brothers and sisters against the common enemy.

British capitalism will keep right on rotting. As time goes on, its attacks on the rights and living conditions of the workers will get worse. The capitalists won't hesitate to try to put the fascists in power, if this becomes necessary to smash the workers. There is only one way out of this situation: Britain's workers must organize to wipe out British capitalism. □



Pickets fight cops outside London's Grunwick plant.



EDITORIALS

Defend the FALN!

On August 3, the Armed Forces for Puerto Rican National Liberation (FALN) carried out another terrorist action in New York City. Bombs exploded at Mobil Oil Corporation headquarters and at offices of the U.S. Department of Defense. One person was killed and seven more were injured, all at Mobil Oil. Over 200 bomb threats were phoned in that day, causing 100,000 people to be evacuated from a dozen different downtown office buildings.

The FALN is demanding an end to U.S. imperialism's exploitation of Puerto Rico, and the freeing of five Puerto Rican nationalists jailed for their role in this struggle. These demands are just, and must be supported by all revolutionaries and working class militants.

Right now, the ruling class is whipping up a hysteria campaign against the FALN. New York's Mayor Beame is calling for the death penalty for the FALN. The ruling class wants to create an atmosphere where the police can feel free to harass and intimidate the Latin communities, in the name of tracking down the FALN.

Already, one day after the bombings, the cops arrested David Perez, former Defense Minister of the Young Lords Party. Breaking into a South Bronx apartment without a warrant, the cops seized Perez illegally and dragged him away, even though they admit they have no evidence linking him to the FALN.

But the attacks by the capitalist politicians and press on the FALN's use of violence is the sheerest imperialist hypocrisy. Every day U.S. corporations suck the lifeblood of the Puerto Rican people. Unemployment is nearly 50 percent in Puerto Rico, and wages are kept at starvation

levels. Babies die of malnutrition, while the U.S. uses this to justify its forced sterilization of almost half of all Puerto Rican women. Every time the people of Puerto Rico have rebelled against U.S. colonial rule, these U.S. government has crushed these uprisings. Yet, the capitalist politicians scream that the FALN is violent and guilty of moral outrages!

The imperialists try to draw attention away from their own crimes by focusing on the "innocent by-standers" hurt by the FALN. They want to keep people from seeing the real issue—the U.S. government's violence against the people of Puerto Rico and of hundreds of other countries, including the U.S. itself.

The capitalist state is attacking the FALN not because people were hurt or property was destroyed in the bombings. This is just the excuse. U.S. imperialism wants to smash the FALN because, in its own way, it is fighting against U.S. imperialism's rule. The FALN must be defended!

INDIVIDUAL TERRORISM

The bombings raise an important question for the working class movement: What should our attitude be toward individual terrorism?

The Revolutionary Socialist League opposes the terrorist policy of the FALN and other terrorist organizations. Our difference with the FALN is not over the fact that they use violence against U.S. imperialism and capitalism. But we oppose a strategy of individual acts of terrorism by small groups of people, isolated from the masses and mass struggle. These acts do not further the struggle, and usually only hurt it.

Individual terrorism does not weaken the ruling class. Bombing

buildings will not stop U.S. corporations from looting the people of Puerto Rico. Even killing high-ranking business and political leaders will not stop them. The problem is not individual politicians or capitalists. The problem is capitalism. As long as private ownership of industry and land exists, as long as the state's police, army, courts and bureaucracy remain intact, the ruling class will always find replacements for individual capitalist leaders. To end imperialist exploitation, capitalism itself must be destroyed.

Isolated acts of violence do nothing to weaken the capitalist system, but they do give the ruling class an excuse to crack down on the masses. The arrest of David Perez is only the beginning.

Unfortunately, the FALN's terrorism often helps build support for police repression inside the oppressed communities themselves. For most working and oppressed people, terrorist actions seem to have nothing to do with them at all and no connection to their oppression. These acts appear as just one more instance of the daily violence and brutality of this rotting society—violence which the masses of people must live with, but cannot control. The difference between acts of political terror and the "Son of Sam" murders is, unfortunately, not clear at all to most people.

MASS STRUGGLE

While the individual terrorism of the FALN provokes increased repression by the ruling class, it does nothing to prepare the masses to act in their self-defense. This is not accidental. Terrorists have a completely elitist way of looking at revolution. They lack faith in the masses'

strength, intelligence, and ability to organize and struggle for their own liberation. Instead, terrorists believe that a handful of people, armed with bombs, can take the place of a revolutionary movement of millions of working and oppressed people, conscious of the need to overthrow capitalism and determined to do it.

As opposed to individual terrorism, we stand for building a mass struggle of millions of workers and oppressed people against the entire capitalist system. In contrast to a policy that divides and disorients, we fight to unite and organize the working class, to build its consciousness and its confidence in its ability to struggle and win.

ARMED UPRISING

Does this mean we oppose all terror against the capitalists? No, by no means. But the kind of terror that Leninists stand for is completely different from the FALN's.

The capitalists will not give up their power and their property without a fight. It must be taken from them by force. The working class and its allies will need an armed uprising to make the revolution and put the working class in power. The working class will have to use violence and terror to suppress the resistance of the capitalists and their supporters.

But this kind of violence will not be separated from the struggle of the masses. It will be directly based on it. This kind of terror is effective and will win because it will have the active support and participation of millions of working and oppressed people who will direct and control it. It will be used not to remove a few capitalists from power, but to destroy the entire capitalist system. □

"Capitalist Roader" Back in China

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, meeting from July 16 to 21, reinstated Teng Hsiao-ping to all his former posts. Teng was the leader of China's anti-Mao forces and was twice purged by the late Chairman. Once more, Teng is Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army, Deputy Premier and Deputy Chairman of the Communist Party.

At the same time, the Central Committee formally expelled the "Gang of Four"—Mao's closest collaborators and the leaders of the so-called "radical" faction, all of whom have been in jail since shortly after Mao's death last October. These events confirm the victory of the "moderate" faction, those Mao called "capitalist roaders," within the Chinese Communist Party.

In the nine months since Mao died, China has been racked by factional strife. The so-called "moderate" faction, who look to Teng for leadership, have consolidated power throughout this period. Mao supporters have been dislodged one by one from their posts in the Party, army and state leaderships. In their place are Teng's men, many of whom have been out of sight since they were purged by Mao during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s. All that was missing was the return of Teng.

Teng's return completes the victory of the "moderates" in the faction fight within the Chinese ruling class. Purged in the 1960s as the "number two capitalist roader" in China, he was outcast for eight years before re-emerging in 1973 under the sponsorship of former Premier Chou En-lai. Following Chou's death, Mao quickly dispatched Teng to what the Chairman hoped would be eternal oblivion.

Mao and his supporters, in China and around the world, had more than enough ammunition to use against Teng. Teng was always perfectly frank about his contempt for Mao's approach to building a modern China on a state-capitalist basis. Mao wanted to rely on ideology and mass mobilizations to give Chinese state capitalism a "revolutionary" appearance. Mao's approach aimed to squeeze more production out of the masses and, at the same time, to keep their loyalty. Teng, on the other hand, believed that the Chinese rulers could only modernize China and stabilize their rule by relying on modern technology and pragmatism (doing "what works" regardless of what it looks like). Teng expressed this difference frequently. In a statement typical of his anti-Mao approach, Teng said: "Any by-hook or by-crook method can be applied. It doesn't matter whether

a cat is black or white so long as it catches mice." In a similar vein, Teng scoffed at Mao's proposals to switch scientific research from the laboratories to the fields. Attacking Mao's plans for the Academy of Science, he said: "It is not an academy of cabbage; it is not an academy of beans; it is an academy of science."

For more than a dozen years, Teng has ruthlessly criticized every aspect

of Mao's leadership and strategy. When Mao died, Teng's supporters in the Communist Party took the offensive against Mao's forces, led by the so-called "Gang of Four." Since that time, they have moved China quickly and steadily in the direction Teng had always urged. Teng's return is proof positive that while Mao's image may still be revered in Peking, the new leadership is quickly burying Maoism in practice. □

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PRISONERS ENDORSE DAY OF SOLIDARITY

Ashland Federal Correctional Institution

Dear Torch:

First of all let me, and the comrades of the October 30th Revolutionary Movement, express our fervent solidarity to all the brothers and sisters out there in minimum security, who are driving to eradicate this decadent monster that has this entire world in an uproar. We would like to officially endorse the conference "Attica-South Africa, Same Enemy, Same Fight."

It is time we all recognize the fact that the battle being waged throughout South Africa and Zimbabwe by

American Empire are degrading and unhumanistic, and they are getting worse. As I walk around the "compound" of the Ashland Federal Correctional Institution, I witness the double standard of laws in this Empire. But most of all I am well aware of the ignorance of our people as to the real reason they are incarcerated.

When I approach a Brother the first verbal response I get is "What's happening?" The prisons are busting from their seams with Third World People and they ask "What's happening?" Brothers are kidnapped from their cells in the middle of the night and they ask "What's happening?" America is still practicing the art of separating families from their fathers and they still ask "What's happening?" Carter is preaching about human rights while at the same time our sisters in North Carolina are being tortured, raped and brutalized, and yes, they still ask "What's happening?" The Supreme Court just ruled that prisoners have no right to form a union or any other kind of group and they want to know "What's happening?" Drug victims are getting life in the joint while the real pusher is basking in the sun in San Clemente and the Brothers want to know "What's happening?"

Brothers and sisters, whatever is happening we must begin to be a part of it. Now is the time for all oppressed people to join in the struggle to drop the "Paper Tiger." We have got to stop categorizing ourselves. The Brothers and Sisters in Minimum Security must begin to realize that the struggles being waged within Maximum Security are one and the same with theirs. We must all begin to realize that the struggles being

Third World people is the same battle being waged here by us in Minimum and Maximum Security. We are all fighting the same reactionary forces, though some use different disguises and different tactics.

For years now it has been said that the job of the revolutionary is to educate the people and to wage battle against the enemy, all at the same time. It is a long hard struggle that we have ahead of us, with many victories and losses. But the battle must continue if we are to have total freedom and complete liberation for the masses of people.

As you well know, the current situation in the prisons of the

waged in Johannesburg and the Cape Verde Islands are part and parcel of the ones being waged in Walla Walla, Attica, Roxbury, Harlem, Detroit, and even here in Ashland.

Wake up, sleeping Comrades, all around us the voice is calling. Watch TV and you hear someone say "You ask for it, you've got it." Or look at a magazine and you see a foxy lady with the caption "You've come a long way, baby." Have you? Yes, the voice is calling, telling you through such actions as the victorious people of Viet Nam, the heroic people of Angola and Mozambique, the determined comrades at Walla Walla, the brave and beautiful sisters of North Carolina, that a change is what's happening.

You are either with or against the Monster, there is no in-between. I am sure, comrades, that you will give our love to everyone at the Conference. We are grateful we got a chance to endorse it. We thank you.

In Struggle,

J.K.

October 30th Revolutionary Collective

Soledad Prison

Greetings RSL:

I am writing to extend my and other Comrades' Solidarity to all comrades involved in or taking part in this definitely necessitated demonstration (the Day of Solidarity—Ed.). It is good to see the escalation of revolutionary outside organizations becoming more involved in Prisoners' struggles.

I think that the major line to be expounded at the demonstration is a very needed point to be discussed, because it appears that a great deal of people righteously do not understand the ruling class' purpose of the state, prisons, government, and so forth, be it in America, Puerto Rico, South Africa, etc. Its main function is the suppression of the workers, revolutionary movements, and poor people in general.

I am confident that the demonstration will be successful.

In revolutionary solidarity

and struggle,

Comrade H.B.

Somers Prison

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

We who are incarcerated in Somers Prison can readily identify with other oppressed people who are suffering from the same types of abusive treatment as we are.

The earlier attitude that allowed the ruling class to believe they could continue to apply fierce repressive measures to the struggles of the oppressed has been badly shaken by the rising intensity of the current struggles.

The moment of truth is fast approaching and the rulers must either face it, or accept the inevitable. We at Somers Prison wish to take this opportunity to proudly display our show of solidarity for all of the oppressed people. LIBERATION FOR ALL IS A NECESSITY! The following people are proud to be endorsers of the Attica-South Africa Day of Solidarity conference.

Signed by 20 Prisoners

Wisconsin State Prison

Endorsement:

We two Prisoners who have signed below have read the proposal "Day of Solidarity."

As Prisoners, we are not deceived by the lie that prisons and the Criminal Justice System exist to rehabilitate humans, but rather they are a means of punishment and control.

If there is one unifying understanding that we prisoners all share it is the knowledge that the state acts on behalf of the wealthy; and that whenever and wherever prisoners' struggles occur, that state apparatus will be to repress those just movements.

Inside prison, racist policies and blatant racism are used by guards and administrators to cause prisoners to fight each other and be divided, in order to maintain control and prevent white and third world prisoners from working together towards their common goals. Racism is clearly manifested inside prisons as illustrated by vicious murders, beatings, harassment and parole denials.

Prisons attempt to force women into powerless and dependent stereotyped roles of passivity. There is constant psychological and physical brutalization of women who resist these attempts. Rape by male guards and forced sterilization are common experiences. Women prisoners are forcibly separated from their children and have no control over their welfare. Prisons attempt to force women into oppressive subservient positions in a male-dominated society.

For a long time the prison officials (freaks) have acknowledged they are sitting on boxes of dynamite on account of lousy conditions in prisons and the fuse is getting shorter, day by day, by the poor and oppressed prisoners.

This atmosphere now cannot continue to exist; nor will it! The human mind and body can only take so much of this mistreatment in prison.

In the Struggle,

J.K., A.L.M.

Ohio Reformatory for Women

To my Brothers, the People and Sisters in the Struggle on this Day of Solidarity with the Attica Uprising:

... I am a Female Prisoner in the Ohio Reformatory for Women. I am a sister and a Revolutionist and I struggle for what each and everyone of you are struggling for: to get the U.S. Imperialism not only out of Africa but out of every country in this universe. To get rid of the oppressors and to strengthen our struggles, the oppressed, poor, sick, old and children of both America and Africa, to fight Imperialism and obtain freedom and to do away with Prisons, mental hospitals, lobotomies and the Death Penalty. I send all my love and regards and struggle.... Your Sister in Struggle, S.K.

ATTICA-SOUTH AFRICA

SAME
ENEMY
SAME
FIGHT



DAY OF SOLIDARITY

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Jackson . . .

(Continued from page 7)

and more sisters and brothers behind the walls are dedicating their lives to the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system.

The Revolutionary Socialist League understands that prisoners will be among the most dedicated, self-sacrificing and energetic fighters for the socialist revolution. The RSL considers that one of its most important tasks is to win revolutionary-minded prisoners to Marxism, Leninism and Trotskyism, and to the fight to build a revolutionary party. For this reason, we correspond with many prisoners, and have set up the Prisoner Literature Fund to help make it possible to provide prisoners with revolutionary literature. And in the pages of the Torch, we give extensive coverage to prisoner struggles and work to build outside support for these struggles.

Years ago, George Jackson declared "war without terms" on the capitalist system. To win that war, we must organize in the factories and on the streets. But we must also organize in the prisons where many of the best battalions for revolutionary battles are now being forged. □

Con Ed . . .

(Continued from page 4)

bigger 345 kilovolt line, or if it had constructed new emergency links to the New York-New England systems, the blackout would never have happened. Repairs and construction cost money. But funds needed to hire workers and fix the equipment had been paid out in \$257 million worth of dividends to the owners last year.

Even if Con Ed had spent its profits on improving its operations, it is unlikely that this money would have been enough to overhaul the rotting and outdated equipment, which is bound to break down over and over again. The blackout is another example of how the capitalist system is falling apart. Capitalism is so diseased that the ruling class cannot even keep the lights and computers running on Wall Street, the headquarters of their world financial empire. It's time to finish it off. □

Narciso . . .

(Continued from page 3)

announced, Torch reporters spoke with a group of nurses who had worked with Narciso and Perez. All were convinced of the Filipino nurses' innocence. They also believed that the hospital administration was involved in the frame-up to cover up the poor medical care provided by the hospital, due to inadequate staffing and poor working conditions. Along with other workers at the hospital, the nurses have joined in the defense of Narciso and Perez.

Now, Narciso and Perez face the real possibility of spending the rest of their lives in prison. But just as with Joan Little and the Livernois Five, a militant, mass defense can play a key role in setting them free. The Detroit coalition is building a petition drive demanding a new trial and building for a mass demonstration on the day of sentencing, which is scheduled for early September.

The frame-up of Narciso and Perez is not an isolated case. The bosses and their servants in the government are trying to whip up national preju-

dice against minority workers to deepen the divisions within the working class. We must answer these divide-and-conquer tactics with united working-class struggle against the real enemy—the capitalists' rotting system and its injustices. □

Sacco . . .

(Continued from page 2)

been vindicated. I mean "eye for an eye, ear for an ear," and even more, since to win it is necessary that 100 enemies fall to each of us. The struggle goes on, til we are breath to breath with the enemy fighting with short arms, til then to fight is our duty, our right, our necessity. The slave has the right and duty to arise against his master."

On August 3, 1927, after seven years of struggle and countless appeals, the governor of Massachusetts announced that he would not stop the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti. They would be electrocuted on August 23. Workers all over the world demonstrated and struck in these final weeks to stop the murders.

On the day of the executions, thousands of workers struck in New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois and other states in a final attempt to save Sacco and Vanzetti. And on the night of August 23, thousands upon thousands of workers surrounded the Massachusetts State House with a massive picket line.

In these last days, Sacco and Vanzetti sent their final messages to their comrades, to their families, to the workers and to the future.

"Anyhow even if they kill us, they cannot kill all of us, all the working class, all the good men and women and still less ideas, rights, necessities, aspirations, ideals. So the cause of freedom and justice, of class and human emancipation, will not be destroyed nor stopped, by the bodies, burnt, of two more victims of our foes. So have heart, be cheerful, victory is ahead and do your share with glad heart." (Vanzetti to a comrade on July 22, 1927.)

"Yes Dante, they can crucify our bodies today as they are doing, but they cannot destroy our ideas, that will remain for the youth of the future to come." (Sacco's final letter to his son on August 18, 1927.)

RULING CLASS HYPOCRISY

A few weeks ago, the governor of Massachusetts, Michael Dukakis, issued a proclamation making August 23 "Sacco and Vanzetti Memorial Day." The proclamation states that Sacco and Vanzetti didn't get a fair trial. But it refuses to admit that they were innocent. The rulers murder two workers, and now, 50 years later, a liberal politician calls it a "shame." Why? The liberals want to make it appear that capitalist "jus-

stice" admits its "unfortunate mistakes." They want to use Sacco and Vanzetti—two dedicated fighters against capitalism—to hide the crimes of capitalism today.

This is the height of hypocrisy. Gary Tyler, Carl Osborne, Filipina Narciso, Leonora Perez and thousands of others are today's Sacco and Vanzetti's. They remain in prison, some facing death, all innocent victims of capitalist frame-ups. Sacco and Vanzetti will be avenged only when the workers have wiped capitalism and its system of "justice" off the face of the earth.

Sacco and Vanzetti fought and struggled until the rulers strapped them in the electric chair and killed them. They did not waver. Until the end, they stood for workers' revolution to overthrow capitalism. They hated the liberals, the reformists and the fake socialists of their day. They disagreed with Lenin and the Bolsheviks on the need for a vanguard party. They disagreed with the need for workers to build their own government after the revolution in order to crush the reactionaries and lay the basis for socialism. But Lenin, Trotsky and other Communist leaders correctly saw that many of the most revolutionary-minded workers were attracted to anarchism because they hated liberalism and the reformist social-democrats. For these reasons, the Bolshevik party fought to win anarchist workers to communism.

ANARCHISTS MUST BE WON TO LENINISM

Today, there are many revolutionary workers, prisoners and youth who may be looking to anarchism and anarchist-like ideas. They are looking for the road to workers' revolution, the overthrow of capitalism and the creation of a new world of freedom and dignity. These workers are disgusted with the bureaucracy, conservatism and opportunism of the Stalinists, Maoists and fake Trotskyists of our own time. They want uncompromising struggle against capitalism. They want to fight for freedom, not for a totalitarian state capitalism that calls itself socialist.

These militants are right to be disgusted with state capitalism. But in their disgust, they must not reject Marxism, Leninism and Trotskyism. They must not accept the lies that picture Lenin and Trotsky as the bureaucrats and opportunists that most of the so-called Leninists and Trotskyists are today. Lenin and Trotsky belonged to the workers, not to the opportunists. The strategy of Lenin and Trotsky, their teachings on the party, the state, the Permanent Revolution, and other questions, represent the road to the emancipation of the working class. The workers need a revolutionary party to organize and lead their struggles. And after the revolution they will need their own state to ensure their victory. Without this the workers will remain disorganized and will be

crushed. We want to convince the revolutionaries and militants who may be attracted to anarchism of this. We want to struggle with them and win them to the real Leninism and Trotskyism, that stands for the revolutionary emancipation of the working class and all oppressed people.

Today, Sacco and Vanzetti's executions are long dead and if they are remembered, it is only for their crime. But Sacco and Vanzetti, through their words, their struggles and the example of their lives, remain alive in the hearts of working and oppressed people struggling to destroy capitalism and build a better world. □

Miners . . .

(Continued from page 8)

beat the coal operators is to shut down coal production nationwide. Most miners know this, but can't see a way to do it. Arnold Miller and the other top leaders won't lead the fight.

Rank-and-file miners have to take the struggle into their own hands, spread the strike with roving pickets, build a strong rank-and-file organization and prepare to hold out for as long as it takes.

If the miners can win and can build ties with other sections of the working class, then other workers will see that it's possible to fight back against the bosses' attacks and win. This will encourage new struggles in steel, auto and other industries. Steelworkers, autoworkers and others should do everything possible to build support for the miners, to explain the importance of their struggle and to prepare additional strike funds if necessary. □

Fund Drive Ends In Success; Nearly \$20,000 Raised

The drive to raise \$15,000 to build the work of the RSL had ended in success. As of the final date, August 1, \$17,407 had been collected. This is \$2,400 over our goal. An additional \$2,500 has been pledged but not yet received. We expect much of this money in the next month.

We thank Torch-La Antorch readers for their generous contributions to the fund drive. In this year's drive, we received more contributions from Torch-La Antorch readers than in any previous fund drive. This is a sign of our own growth as well as of the growing dedication of our readers and supporters.

The money will greatly aid the expansion of our work in the coming months.

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Reject "Human Rights" Slogan! Join RSL Contingent!

NY Gay Demo Planned

NEW YORK CITY—On August 20, a march demanding "full human and civil rights for lesbians and gay men" will be held in New York City. The Revolutionary Socialist League is organizing a contingent for the demonstration. The contingent will march under the slogans: **Fight for Lesbian and Gay Men's Rights! Workers Must Defend Gay Rights! Beat Back All Right-Wing Attacks!**

Carter's "Human Rights" is a Capitalist Trick—Gay Liberation Through Socialist Revolution! We Call on all militant supporters of gay rights to join this contingent.

Attacks on gay rights have been mounting ever since Anita Bryant's successful crusade to repeal the Dade County, Florida, gay rights law. In June, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to ban federal housing aid to homosexuals and to forbid the use of federal legal aid for gay rights cases. The August 20 march offers an opportunity to continue to build a fighting response to these and other anti-gay attacks.

Unfortunately, the sponsor of the march, the recently formed Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights (CLGR), has adopted the slogans of "human rights for gays" and "human rights for everyone." These slogans deliberately echo Jimmy Carter's "human rights" campaign. In effect, the CLGR is asking Carter to extend his campaign to gay people.

This is a serious political error. Carter and the imperialists are using the "human rights" slogan to pretend that the U.S. ruling class, the murderers of the Vietnamese, Chilean and other oppressed people, is suddenly concerned with the rights of the people of the world. Carter's campaign is nothing but a trick. Carter is working to defeat revolution in southern Africa and throughout the world. His "human rights" rhetoric is meant to cover this up. It is meant to fool oppressed people into thinking the U.S. imperialists are their friends.

By using Carter's slogans, the CLGR covers up the role that Carter and the U.S. imperialists are playing around the world. This only helps Carter fool oppressed people into trusting the U.S. government.

Moreover, adopting Carter's slogans also covers up the fact that the U.S. ruling class supports the right-wing attacks on gay people. Carter is on Anita Bryant's side! He has backed up her anti-gay campaign by claiming that homosexuality is "not

a normal human relationship" and preaching about preserving the family.

The CLGR's approach reflects the liberal politics of the main organizations in the coalition—New York's Gay Activist Alliance, Lesbian Feminist Liberation, and the Socialist Workers Party. All want to build a gay movement allied to liberal, Democratic Party politicians. They call for "human rights" because that is the slogan of the liberals they want to ally with. For the same reason, these groups refuse to link the gay struggle to the struggles of other workers and oppressed people fighting capitalist oppression. For example, at a July

meeting to build for the march, these groups voted down a resolution of support for the 4,000 young Black and Latin people arrested during New York's blackout two days before.

The CLGR approach must be fought. It means defeat for the gay struggle and for the struggles of all workers and oppressed people. The recent anti-gay campaigns are not the work of an isolated lunatic fringe. They are backed by the U.S. ruling class, which wants a more right-wing atmosphere that will help it turn back the gains of working and oppressed people. To defeat these attacks, gay people must reject alliances with liberals, who will "lead" the gay movement into the dead end of Democratic Party politics. Gay militants must fight to unify the gay struggle with the struggles of all oppressed people. And they must fight for socialist revolution—the only road to full liberation for gay people.

March with the RSL on August 20 to build this struggle! □

FORUMS

Detroit

Film—"Attica"

Sponsored by: the Solidarity Committee Against Apartheid and the Revolutionary Auto-workers Committee.

23 East Adams
(Corner at Woodward)
September 11 7 p.m.

For information: 341-1250

New York

"Gay Liberation Through Socialist Revolution"

Sunday, August 23

(For the time and place of the forum, call (212) 865-6796 or 567-3628.)

Revolution...

(Continued from page 9)

and in society.

The need for organization is urgent. The wave of walkouts so far has been strong enough to keep down to a few the number of disciplinary actions by management. But over the next few months, management will probably move to find ways to fire militants leading shopfloor actions. And the next wave of walkouts will certainly bring a harsher response from management. If the movement is to grow, every militant organizer must be defended against management attack. We must act quickly now to set up the organizational networks needed to move the struggle forward.

The Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee sees the present walkouts and wildcat strikes as the beginning of a militant movement of workers fighting for their rights against management. But capitalism—management's rule of society—is a dying system. The capitalists cannot afford to grant basic human needs to the working class. They cannot provide every worker with a job at decent wages under decent working conditions. Instead, the auto bosses and the other capitalists are moving, slowly but surely, to take away the few rights the working class has won. The only way to defend and expand basic democratic rights is for the workers' movement to move steadily toward the socialist revolution. The capitalists are pushing society back toward slavery. The only road forward is the road to revolution, to workers' rule of society.

Build the Struggle!

Join the

Revolutionary Autoworkers Committee!

Fight for Socialist Revolution!

Militant Struggle Forces Anti-Gay Bar to Back Down

NEW YORK—Chanting "Gay Power!" and "Take Down the Sign!" 50 gay activists invaded Geordie's, a New York straight singles bar, the night of July 28 to demand the removal of an anti-gay sign posted over the bar.

The sign was displayed next to a large axe and read: "fairy swatter." Representatives of the Gay Activists Alliance and other gay groups had asked several times that the "fairy swatter" sign be taken down. Geordie's management repeatedly refused.

On July 28, gay militants invaded Geordie's and occupied the bar before startled bouncers could get into action. They kept Geordie's ringing with chants and fists pounding on the bar. Outside, another 30 activists, who arrived after Geordie's management locked the doors, formed a loud picket line.

After half an hour Geordie's had had enough. The bar manager came outside, waved for silence, and began: "Let me explain how the sign

originated..." That was as far as he got. The pickets shouted him down. A moment later, he announced that the sign would be removed. Inside, cheers went up as the "fairy swatter" sign was removed.

The Geordie's sit-in and picket was a small victory in the battle against gay oppression, but it showed that militant action can get results. It must be followed by organizing gays for self-defense against the thug and gang attacks that have increased across the country since Anita Bryant's reactionary victory in Miami two months ago. □

Gay Worker Writes On Harassment

To the Torch:

There has been a lot of harassment of gays in the plant where I work. I am a concerned gay myself. I saw a gay fellow discharged supposedly for cheating, but later it was noted he was fired because of his homosexuality, which isn't fair. We are people, we are human beings who are part of society also. Are we not supposed to work to support our families which are mainly built of our children?

I myself asked a simple question of a union official and I was called all types of names in the middle of the plant parking lot. Nothing was done about it so far.

Is this establishment built up on fair and equal rights for all, or does it just extend in the category of heterosexuals? If it does, it isn't fair. We are just as human as the next man or woman. Man wasn't made the judge of people on how to live their lives.

A simple example towards ignorance, Anita Bryant caused a gay to get killed after that demonstration in Florida. The people said "Here's one for Anita." Was that right to take a life of another human being, and in the process say this is for Anita Bryant? They did take a gay's life, a human being. I think that all action that is necessary and effective should be taken by gays and straights together to stop this kind of brutality and to stop Anita Bryant's campaign against gays.

Yours truly,
A Concerned Detroit Gay

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