Reagan's Cabinet: Big Business on the Offensive

By WILLIAM FALK and TERRY WALSH

On January 7, one month later than originally planned, President-elect Ronald Reagan completed the selection process for the top 18 positions in his administration. A look at the 17 men and one woman Reagan chose makes it clear that he not only believes the government should act in the interests of the big capitalists, but also believes the big capitalists should directly run the government.

Reagan's appointees are, on a scale unrivaled since the Eisenhower administrations of the 1950s, people from the top echelons of the capitalist class. In fact, the New York

(Continued on page 12)
San Francisco hotel workers fight for jobs

Comrades,

Russel Cox, the gay owner and manager of the Hotel York and the Plush Room Cabaret here in San Francisco, couldn't have possibly known that a few months after his firing, the door would be closed on his dream of building a gay-friendly hotel. But the workers who had stood with Cox in his fight, and who had bravely resisted the management's attempts to evict Cox and his workers, were not about to give up that easily.

Ron Taber, a worker at the Hotel York, was one of those who had come to Cox's defense. He had written to the hotel workers' union, the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, to express his support for Cox. The write-up included comments from several other workers who had stood with Cox in his fight against the hotel's management.

The workers who had fought against the hotel's management had received support from the inside—big name entertainers such as Bette Midler and Pat Benatar, who had performed at the hotel, and who had spoken out in support of Cox. The workers had also received support from the outside—other gay-friendly hotels and clubs that had come to their aid.

To win the hotel workers' back pay and reinstatement of their jobs, a demonstration was to be held on January 9. But in case you missed that event, a fund raiser is to be held at the Mabuhay Gardens, 403 Broadway, San Francisco at 8:30 PM on January 20, sponsored by the Immortal Majority. For details and more information regarding the benefit call (415) 626-1245. For information on picketing times and how the demonstration was, please call George at (415) 873-1860 or Howard at (415) 451-1977.

In Comradeship,
Gene Nelsen

More on 'Sanity Now'

Dear Torch/La Antorch,

I'm responding to the editor and publisher of Sanity Now, V.V. Roe, for making unqualified statements pertaining to my letter in the August-September issue of Torch. (Roe's remarks are in the November-December issue of the Torch.)

In the left wing political arena, professional, questionable criticism was welcomed in Torch, under some circumstances, or better put, when state capitalist regimes tolerate strikes.

Roe's unqualified criticism is, of course, not my only criticism. I also criticized Roe's failure to recognize that the Soviet state, in its role as a capitalist state, tolerates strikes. In my view, the fact that such strikes occur in Yugoslavia doesn't really contradict a point Roe was making, although it does mean I should qualify it somewhat.

Roe's unqualified statements are not new. In a previous issue of Torch, Roe appeared to be working on a project to build socialism. In this project, Roe was working as an agent for the Soviet state, trying to develop the economy and bring about a political revolution.

More recently, I have made that clear in my writing. I no longer believe that Roe is a tool of the Soviet state. Instead, I believe that Roe is a tool of the capitalist state, working to develop the economy and bring about a political revolution.

In this light, it's clear that Roe is working to build mistrust between the Soviet and the revolutionary church. Roe is thinking people and prisoners inside these walls, with the statement, "Are you and the writer supporting the right of free speech for nazis and KKws?" I for the Torch never advocated the right of free speech for Nazis or the Klan. I'm just a newspaper editor, and I believe in the right of free speech for all people.

The Soviet state, in its role as a capitalist state, tolerates strikes. In my view, the fact that such strikes occur in Yugoslavia doesn't really contradict a point Roe was making, although it does mean I should qualify it somewhat.

In Yugoslavia, the ruling class has virtually given up its attempts to have central planning. Each firm operates with a very high degree of autonomy, including, I believe, the right to buy and sell from whatever other plant it wants, even if that means losing money. The central bureaucracy has reduced its efforts to centrally plan and direct the economy, when each plant or enterprise operates with a very high degree of autonomy. In this case, each plant or enterprise, even though it is state-owned, functions a lot like an independent capitalist corporation. Since management can grant its workers a lot of decision-making power, the state is able to tolerate strikes.

In the Soviet state, the ruling class can tolerate strikes, because the workers have been trained to vote for unions that represent their interests. The workers who work at the Hotel York are not trained to vote for unions that represent their interests. The workers who work at the Hotel York are trained to vote for unions that represent the interests of the workers.

In conclusion, I want to make a few points about the state capitalist regimes. First, state capitalist regimes tolerate strikes. In my view, the fact that such strikes occur in Yugoslavia doesn't really contradict a point Roe was making, although it does mean I should qualify it somewhat.

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Company Demands $673 Million from Workers

Chrysler on the Brink

By PAUL BENJAMIN

For the second time in two years, the Chrysler Corporation—the tenth largest company in the U.S.—is on the brink of bankruptcy. In 1980, Chrysler lost $1.7 billion, the largest loss by any corporation in U.S. history. Chrysler president Lee Iacocca announced that the company would need at least $350 million in loans to survive over the next few months. He told reporters that if Chrysler couldn't get the loans, "There would be no future. Eventually we would run out of cash."

Chrysler’s mushrooming losses demonstrate that efforts by the federal government, private bankers and the leadership of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) to shore up the company have failed to halt or significantly slow its decline. The company, whose share of the domestic auto market has fallen steadily since the early 1970s, launched an emergency survival program after it lost over $1 billion in 1979. Chrysler executives obtained $1.5 billion in loan guarantees from the federal government, enabling them to borrow some $800 million from private banks. In return for these guarantees Chrysler had to accept the establishment of a Federal Loan Guarantee Board (FLGB) to oversee its operations. The company also introduced its highly-publicized K cars last fall in the hope of increasing its share of the economy car market.

At the same time, Chrysler management, supported by the UAW leadership, carried out a successful cost-cutting campaign at the expense of Chrysler workers. In October 1979 the UAW pushed through a contract settlement in which workers surrendered $205 million in wages and benefits. Then in January 1980 the UAW agreed to reduce the contract and give up another $259.5 million in concessions to the company. UAW president Doug Fraser argued that such sacrifices were necessary in order to preserve Chrysler workers’ jobs. But in fact the number of Chrysler workers on layoff has jumped from 25,000 to 45,000 over the past year.

Chrysler claimed its program would restore the company to profitability by the fourth quarter of 1980. Instead, Chrysler is near collapse as a result of management errors and an industry-wide depression that resulted in the lowest domestic sales in 19 years. Consequently, the company executives now have no choice but to ask their creditors and the FLGB for additional handouts.

Aid sought from government, bankers

On December 17 Chrysler management announced a new plan aimed at assuring the company’s survival. They are requesting the government to grant the company an additional $400 million in loan guarantees. They want the banks which have loaned Chrysler money to essentially write off the loans by converting them into Chrysler stock. And they are asking auto parts suppliers to cut their prices five percent in the first quarter of 1981, freeze them for the rest of the year, and accept delays in payment of outstanding bills.

A crucial element in Chrysler's survival plan is an austere drive aimed mainly against the company’s workers. Chrysler is demanding that its workers agree to yet another renegotiation of their contract and give up $673 million in wages and benefits. In particular, Chrysler management wants to push through a two-year wage freeze and the cancellation of cost-of-living (COLA) raises due under the present contract. In announcing these demands, Iacocca delivered a virtual ultimatum to Chrysler workers, saying: "Boys, you’ve been the highest paid group in the industry. It’s time for the bottom line boys. Chrysler’s got good jobs available at $17.50. We don’t have ‘em at $20."

Chrysler officials are now seeking approval of their plan from the FLGB. To gain assistance from the government, they must convince the FLGB, and the ruling class as a whole, that Chrysler can continue to operate as a viable company. This will not be easy. At a news conference on January 6, Fraser said he was informed that the FLGB had found Chrysler’s plan "unacceptable," and was drawing up one of its own. Moreover, a large section of the ruling class is skeptical about Chrysler’s chances of survival, and is reluctant to give the company further aid. For example, Donald Regan, who will head the FLGB as Secretary of the Treasury in incoming President Ronald Reagan’s administration, told reporters: "In a competitive economy, you are going to have casualties." (Newsweek, December 29, 1980.)

Regan and other top economic advisors in Reagan’s administration believe such casualties are part of the necessary changes in the U.S. economy. They argue that Chrysler, to maintain a competitive economy, must become more efficient if it is to compete with foreign auto makers. Consequently, they are demanding that Chrysler workers accept wage freezes, production layoffs, and give up retirement benefits. Chrysler officials have announced that they cannot operate a two-shift plant without such concessions.

The League’s demand for Chrysler

The League is demanding the following major demands of Chrysler: (1) Repay all debts to workers including $400 million in lost wages and $800 million in future wage losses. (2) Reopen the UAW’s 1980 contract. (3) Rehire all workers who are currently on layoff. (4) End the freeze on healthcare and pension benefits. (5) End plant closures and layoff plans. (6) Build a union-run plant where Chrysler workers can run the company. (7) If Chrysler management refuses, strike the company with the support of the entire union movement.

A successful campaign

A successful campaign to defend Chrysler workers against the Reagan administration’s anti-worker policies is the key to saving Chrysler. But the current crisis is only a result of the auto industry’s long-term decline. Chrysler’s collapse is one of a series of corporate bankruptcies in the U.S. that have strained the federal government’s ability to save the auto companies. The Reagan administration is pressuring the federal government to approve Chrysler’s survival plan, but it is certain that no such plan will be accepted by the Reagan government, as it has already refused to save GM.

The League, however, is committed to the defense of Chrysler workers at all costs. In addition to demanding the above demands, the League is organizing a giant sit-down at the company’s Dearborn plant. The League is also organizing a general strike in the auto industry, demanding the defense of Chrysler workers and the defense of all workers against the Reagan administration’s anti-worker policies. The League is demanding that workers fight for a government that is committed to the defense of workers’ rights.

Thanks!

The League’s drive to raise $12,500 by January 15 has succeeded. As we go to press, contributions total $14,858. This is nearly 20 percent more than the goal.

The contributions from readers and supporters of the Torch/La Antorcha were more important in this drive than ever before, making up a significant percentage of the total raised. Our own members and sympathizers, however, did the most to make the drive succeed. Each branch of the RSL raised substantially more than expected. Our special thanks go to the fund drive coordinators in each area—Kevin Lover in Boston, Darryl Clark in Chicago, Miriam Lee in Detroit, Elaine Scott in Los Angeles, and Terry Walsh in New York.

Once again, thanks to all who helped make this drive successful, putting our work on a firmer footing for the coming year.

Thanks!

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FIRST NATIONAL GAY LIBERATION CONFERENCE MEETS IN MEXICO CITY

Mexico's first national gay liberation congress took place December 13-14 in Mexico City, sponsored by the Frente Homosexual de Accion Revolucionaria (FHAR—Gay Revolutionary Action Front). One hundred gay activists and supporters registered for the congress. Most were from Mexico City, but some came from Aguascalientes, Puebla, Toluca and Oaxaca. A delegation from the RSL was also present.

THE CONGRESS was an important step forward for the Mexican gay movement. After more than two years of organizing, FHAR felt the time was right to hold a public congress where its politics could be openly debated and its influence could expand.

But even though things have improved in Mexico for same-gays as a result of FHAR's organizing work, carrying out a successful congress was not easy. Finding a building for the event was a major problem. The congress was forced to meet in a public high school quite distant from the central city. Even at that, school authorities tried to sabotage the event. As registration began, the building was briefly sealed off and people turned away. Hurried negotiations overcame the problem but attendance at the congress was considerably lower than FHAR planners had hoped.

Congress workshops took up issues such as the special oppression of lesbians, transsexuals and transvestites; family and law; class structure in the gay community; and relations with the left.

One controversy, over an analysis of transsexuality, was resolved by an RSL-initiated motion of support to transsexuals. The motion is for defense of transsexuals' rights to live and be respected in their chosen sex and the right to receive sex-reassignment surgery. This motion was later unanimously endorsed by the congress.

In general, FHAR defines itself as anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and part of the Marxist movement. The historical lack of support to gay liberation from the left was noted and participants resolved to increase their demands on all political parties to clarify their positions on this question. A debate between FHAR and other left groups was proposed.

AT THE SAME TIME, the congress stopped short of defining FHAR's Marxist politics in more than a general sense. An RSL proposal, for example, that FHAR affirm the necessity of socialist revolution and the need to combat gay oppression all over the world was tabled. Some feared that such a call for socialist revolution would be too ideological or dogmatic. Others wanted to avoid any implicit criticism of the state-capitalist countries where they believe socialism already exists.

This was a serious mistake on the part of the congress. Clarifying one's politics is an essential part of moving the struggle forward. Marxists and gay liberationists cannot remain neutral on the question of socialism, revolution, and gay oppression. It is surely better to tell the truth about gay oppression in Cuba, Russia, or wherever and let people draw their own conclusions than it is to hide the truth in order to protect a "socialism" where gay people are not free.

The congress would have been stronger had there been greater participation by working people, especially by women and others of the special oppression defined by middle class men it will not be able to provide the necessary social strength or analysis to link it to a working class revolution.

BUT THE FHAR congress was a good beginning. By opening their politics to public review, by challenging the social and political rules of Mexican capitalism, by calling on oppressed Mexican gays to organize and fight back, FHAR is contributing significantly to the international gay movement. Responsibility for the eventual success of that movement lies with the international working class.

RML Message to FHAR Congress

The following message was sent by the Revolutionary Marxist League (our sister organization in Jamaica) to the FHAR congress in Mexico City. It, along with a message of solidarity from the Revolutionary Socialist League, was read by an RML contingent attending the congress.

The Revolutionary Marxist League wishes to express its full solidarity to the first national congress of the Revolutionary Homosexual Action Front. The holding of this conference at this time marks an important development in the freedom struggle of gays, lesbians, working class people and other oppressed people. Today, the international capitalist class is continuing its repressive and reactionary policies.

Now more than ever, there is need for a principled, fighting unit of all progressive communist forces on the broadest possible international scale to defend the rights of all working and oppressed people against the right-wing capitalist attack.

As you should be aware, the RML, along with our sister organization the RSL, is firmly committed to struggling for gay liberation. As our program states: "We support the struggle of all oppressed groups, such as women, gay people and black people, and fight for the freedom and dignity of all. However, we understand that there is no liberation for gays, blacks and other oppressed groups without the freedom and rights of all working and oppressed people."

We wish you continued success and end with revolutionary greetings.

Patsy Christie, for the RML Executive Committee

Polovchak Case Reveals U.S. Ruling Class Hypocrisy

By LAURA WADEBAY

CHICAGO—Walter Polovchak is a 12-year-old immigrant from the Ukraine in the USSR. He and his parents, who came to the United States in 1980, are disillusionsed with life in the U.S. and want to go back. Walter and his sister, Natasha, want to stay. The result of this disagreement has been a court case which has become a symbol of the hypocrisy of the U.S. ruling class.

It began on July 14, when Walter's parents, Michael and Anna Polovchak, decided to go back to the Ukraine. They had come over in January, looking for a better life. When they got here, they found out that the American Dream isn't so hot and decided that they'd be better off in the USSR.

However, their children, Walter and Natasha, wanted to stay, so they ran away to a cousin's house. Michael and Anna Polovchak are trying to take Walter back with them because the Russians will only let them return if he is with them. They are willing to let Natasha stay, because she is 17 and has a separate passport from the family.

The U.S. ruling class, in a flush of enthusiasm to defend what they saw as free world patriots fleeing from godless communism, jumped in on Walter and Natasha's side. Juvenile court judge Joseph Mooney took them into temporary state custody on the grounds that they were delinquent. For its part, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) granted Walter asylum, which they said at the time meant he was free to stay here whether his parents wanted him to or not.

Later, Michael and Anna Polovchak sued the government to regain custody of Walter. They are being represented by lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which volunteered its services. The ACLU is contesting the restraining order that in taking Walter and Natasha into state custody, Judge Mooney violated (Continued on page 16)
Buffalo: Anger Grows Over Racist Killings

By ROD MILLER

January 10 — "Where will it stop?" This is the question on the minds of Black people in Buffalo following the news of the latest racially motivated stabbing in that city. On Sunday, January 5, a Black man was stabbed on Buffalo's East Side—the fifth stabbing victim in little over a week. Only one of the victims has survived.

The five stabbings this past week followed the shooting deaths of four Black men and a woman around Buffalo during a 36-hour period this past September 22-24. Authorities believe these shooting deaths and the recent rash of stabbings are connected. In addition, two Black taxi-cab drivers were shot to death in October. The bodies of the two men were discovered with their hearts cut out.

AS THE racist attacks continue to escalate, there is a growing fear among Black people in Buffalo about their physical safety. Most of the attacks have taken place in the daytime, often on busy streets. Accompanying this fear is mounting outrage at the inability of the police to do anything about these attacks.

The attacks in Buffalo are part of a nationwide series of apparently racially motivated assaults and slayings. On December 22 in New York City, five Black men and one Hispanic man were knifed on a single day. In Atlanta, Lubie Geter, a 14-year-old Black youth, was reported missing on January 3. Geter is the 16th young Black person to disappear from Atlanta's city streets in the past 18 months. On January 9, two skeletons were found which may be those of two of the missing Black children. This would bring to 13 the number of the kidnap victims known to have been murdered; the others are believed dead as well.

Incidents of racist terror—assaults, murders, cross-burnings, firebombings of Black people's homes, Klan and Nazi marches—are reaching epidemic proportions throughout the country. As the government steps up its attacks on people's living and working conditions, it is increasingly fostering a reactionary and racist climate in the country. This climate is encouraging hard-core racists and fascists to act more boldly as the shock troops for an assault on the most oppressed sections of the working class in particular, Black people. In Buffalo, the Nazis—the National Socialist Party of America—have announced a counter-demonstration to the planned Nazi rally in Buffalo. At a press conference, a spokesperson for the coalition said: "The proposed Nazi rally, if it takes place, is an outrage and a provocation to the people of Buffalo. Another spokesperson added: "We anticipate a strong and determined showing on January 15 demonstrating the strength and militancy of this community and of the work of the Ku Klux Klan."

Anti-Racist forces, organized in the Martin Luther King Day Memorial Rally Coalition, are calling for a counter-demonstration to the planned Nazi/Klan rally in Buffalo. At a press conference, a spokesperson for the coalition said: "The proposed Nazi rally, if it takes place, is an outrage and a provocation to the people of Buffalo. Another spokesperson added: "We anticipate a strong and determined showing on January 15 demonstrating the strength and militancy of this community and of the work of the Ku Klux Klan."

Supporters of the Revolutionary Socialist League will be traveling to Buffalo to participate in the anti-Nazi rally. RSL supporters will also be in Washington, D.C., on January 15, where a large turnout is expected for a march demanding that Martin Luther King's birthday be made a national holiday. The march was initiated by musician Stevie Wonder and has been endorsed by a wide array of civil rights, trade union, community and left organizations. Many people view the march as an important opportunity to respond to the recent wave of racist assaults and murders.

UNITE!

(Continued from page 1)

what should we do?

We need to organize to fight back.

Today's march is a good start. But we need to organize even bigger and stronger protests in every major city in the country. We need mass marches and other actions to demand: Jobs, housing, better schools, health care, and an end to racist terror! We need self-defense organizations to defend our communities from racist forces like the Klan and the Nazis. It is clear that we can't rely on the police or the government to do this—in fact, the police are often involved in terrorizing oppressed people, the poor who are black and murdering young people.

We need to unite. Our slogan must be: "Everyone organize to support everyone's struggle—No to the death penalty! No to the draft! No to the Ku Klux Klan and the Nazis!"

We need to know who our enemies are.

The right wing is our enemy. The Klan and the Nazis, the "Moral Majority," the forces opposing school desegregation, affirmative action and open housing are the enemies of all working and oppressed people. These people are attacking all Black and Latin people, rolling back the gains of the civil rights movement, weakening the trade unions, driving women out of jobs and back into the home, oppressing gay people and destroying our communities.

The entire ruling class is our enemy.

It is not just the right wing which is out to attack our living standards and working conditions. The ruling class—the people who run the big corporations and the banks—plan to solve their economic crisis by launching an offensive against the entire working class and all oppressed people. Budget cuts, the draft, the death penalty and racism are all part of this offensive. The government is our enemy.

The government is committed to leading and coordinating these attacks. Ours is not a government "of the people"—it is a government of the rich and powerful—the ruling class. We cannot look to the government to solve our problems out of the goodness of its own heart. We need to build our own independent movement, relying on the strength of all working and oppressed people united, to fight for the things we need.

Both the Republicans and the Democrats are our enemy. These two parties are the parties of big business. Reagan and the Republicans are trying to make a stand against the rich and powerful—the ruling class. We cannot look to the government to solve our problems out of the goodness of its own heart. We need to build our own independent movement, relying on the strength of all working and oppressed people united, to fight for the things we need.

The government is our enemy.

We must...
Prisoner’s Death Linked to Plot Against Peltier

By ADELE LOHMANN

Bobby Gene Garcia, a Native American prisoner, was found hanged in his cell in the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. A federal agent was also found dead there.

Garcia's death was ruled a suicide, but his family and supporters believe he was murdered. They say the government has done everything to cover up what really happened. They are demanding a full investigation.

The government denies any involvement in Garcia's death. They say he killed himself. But his family and supporters are not convinced.

They are demanding answers. They want to know what really happened and why Garcia was killed. They say the government is trying to cover up the truth.

Garcia was a leader in the American Indian Movement (AIM). He was arrested for his role in the Wounded Knee incident in 1973. After his release, he became involved in the AIM's struggle for Native American rights.

Garcia was found hanged in his cell on March 26, 1975. The government says he hanged himself. But his family and supporters say it was a murder.

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The government denies any involvement in Garcia's death. They say he killed himself. But his family and supporters are not convinced.

They are demanding answers. They want to know what really happened and why Garcia was killed. They say the government is trying to cover up the truth.
The federal government might then take TDC over, or put it into receivership. This, too, cannot be expected to bring dramatic improvements in the lives of TDC prisoners. While the federal system has a number of minimum security and "country club" facilities, these are generally reserved for white collar" criminals: business executives, congressmen and the like. Places like Marion, Atlanta and Leavenworth are every bit as hellish as TDC. The fact is that for poor black and Latin workers and political prisoners there is no such thing as a decent or humane prison. Prisons exist to warehouse the people whom the system has no use for: the people who are denied a decent education, who can't get a job, who may commit "crimes" in order to survive. The prisons are also for those who fight back against this dehumanizing capitalist system. Prisons are not meant to rehabilitate, they are meant to punish, break the spirit, and ultimately toss people on the scrap heap. Whether TDC takes a stab at making some cosmetic changes in the prisons or the feds take TDC over, the dehumanization and brutalization of poor white and black and Latin working class people in the prisons will not change. This will only be solved by a workers' revolution which will end the conditions that place our brothers and sisters in prison, and which will tear down the walls forever.

Getting Out Soon?

Are you being released soon? If so, you can still receive the Torch/La Antorcha FREE for six months. Just let us know where to send it.

We are providing these FREE six-month subscriptions because we know that when you get out, you don't want to have to rely on the Federal government to pay for a paid subscription. And we don't want to lose touch with you just because you're out now. In fact, we want and need to tighten our relationship with you—and convince you to join us in building a revolutionary socialist party.

When you're back on the inside, why not pass your copy of the Torch/La Antorcha around? One of the best ways you can help build the Revolutionary Socialist League is by introducing people to our newspaper. And let us know what you're doing when you get home. The struggle doesn't end when you walk out of the cage—it only begins on a different level. Continue to struggle! Contact us in any of our branch cities (see listing on page 15), or write to our National Office and maybe we could arrange to meet you somewhere. There are always lots of activities going on in which your participation and experience could be a big help. Or there are classes on revolutionary politics you can join.

Finally, we know that a lot of you don't have your own subscription to the Torch/La Antorcha—and that you need someone else's copy. If you are being released, you can still get a FREE six-month subscription to the newspaper. Just drop us a line with your new address and the name of the prison you were in.
Residents Hold Rally

GM Starts Demolition of Detroit Community

By PAUL CARSON

DETOIT—On December 20, 80 people braved frigid weather to march and rally against General Motors' plan to destroy Poletown, a multi-racial, working class neighborhood on the city's east side. The plan calls for tearing down the abandoned Dodge Main plant in Hamtramck along with the homes of 3,500 people in Poletown to clear a site for a new GM plant.

The City of Detroit is spending $520 million on the project to help GM, claiming that the plant will create jobs. But the fact is that the GM plant will employ 9,000 fewer workers than the Fleetwood and Cadillac plants it is scheduled to replace.

THE DECEMBER 20 demonstration was sponsored by the Poletown Neighborhood Council. It began with a march through the neighborhood. Many of the demonstrators were from the immediate area. A number were from left organizations active in Detroit.

All along the march route neighborhood residents showed support from their windows, or by honking their horns. One house on the march route displayed a sign reading "This house is not for sale."

The march was successful in drawing support from outside Poletown. Autoworkers from a number of shops in and around Detroit attended. This is significant because the GM plan is actively supported by United Auto Workers' president Douglas Fraser, who endorsed the lie that it will create jobs. A worker from Fleetwood spoke at the rally which followed the march and suggested organizing the auto workers present and UAW retirees in the Poletown neighborhood against Fraser's support for the new plant.

TRIBUNE/PAUL CARSON

Other speakers at the rally included Tom Olechowski, the President of the Poletown Neighborhood Council, along with representatives of the PLUS Neighborhood Council of Northeast Detroit and the RSL.

A HIGH point was a speech by Teofilo Lucero, a Native American resident of Poletown. He compared the forcible eviction of Poletown residents to the removal of a Russia Americans from their land throughout history. He called it a "trail of tears" that Native Americans are all too familiar with and that some Poletown residents are just now experiencing. He argued against trusting any politicians, and said we should have started protesting in the streets long ago.

Despite community organizing, many Poletown residents feel the GM plant is inevitable and are making plans to move. GM and the city government are confidently going ahead with their plans. The demolition of the Dodge Main plant, which is the first step in "clearing the site," has begun.

LABOR IN STRUGGLE

ÚFCW calls for Perdue boycott

In December the United Food and Commercial Workers union (ÚFCW) began organizing a consumer boycott of chicken sold by Perdue Farms, the largest poultry processor on the East Coast. In Virginia and Maryland. Over 6,000 of them are employed by Perdue Farms, which has played a major role in resisting union organizing efforts in the poultry processing industry. Jerry Gordon, who is coordinating the ÚFCW's organizing drive, calls Perdue "the J.P. Stevens of the chicken industry." For instance, in the past two years Perdue built a company owned by Swind, a unionized company, closed them for "modernization," and then reopened them with plants with non-union workers.

Perdue management has temporarily held off ÚFCW's organizing efforts at its largest plant in Accomac, Virginia. A union presentation at the plant was scheduled at the plant on October 2 but last August the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, which was trying to organize truck drivers at the plant, won an unsuccessful two-week strike. During the walkout, hundreds of workers refused to cross the truckers' picket lines. This gave Perdue an excuse to fire 56 workers who were the core of the ÚFCW's organizing drive. As a result, the union was forced to settle the unionization dispute would be held later in January. Striking teachers and workers say they will not go back to work until such elections are held.

RF Blue Shield workers walk out

One thousand academic and service workers at the four-campus Autonomous University of Baja California in Mexico have been on strike for over two months, demanding recognition of the Sindicato de Trabajadores Académicos (STA) (Academic Workers Union) and the Sindicato de Trabajadores al Servicio (STS—Service Workers Union). The state universities, which includes 30,000 students, has been closed by the strike. The government has created and recognized two of its own company unions in an effort to break the more radical STA and STS.

Several violent attacks have been launched by the strikers against the employers by professional scabs and government agents. On November 26, 200 thugs attacked a building occupied by strikers. Fourteen workers were injured and six cars destroyed. On January 5 and 6, 300 strikers and 600 strike-breakers battled on the Tijuana campus, leaving several people injured. On January 7, 400 strike-breakers attacked an occupied building in the Mexican campus. The building was set afire, seven cars destroyed and one person injured by gunfire.

Similar incidents have also been reported from the campuses at Tecate and Ensenada.

After threatening the strikers with mass firings and arrests, the Baja California government may be ready to give up. Governor Roberto de la Madrid announced on January 8 that elections to
Polish Workers and Farmers Continue Struggle Under Threat of Russian Invasion

Since the outbreak of the Polish workers' rebellion last August, the threat of Russian Intervention has loomed over the Polish people. Fears of a Russian Invasion rose dramatically in late November after a series of confrontations between Solidarnosc (Solidarity), the independent union formed by the workers, and the ruling Polish United Workers Party (PUWP), currently led by Stanislaw Kania. The Russian government placed 250,000 troops on alert near the Russian-Polish border, and an Invasion seemed imminent.

But on December 5, at an emergency meeting in Moscow of Eastern European leaders, it was apparently decided to give Kania more time to try to restore the PUWP's authority over the country. After the meeting, Russian officials expressed confidence in the PUWP's ability to resolve the Polish crisis. However, Russian troops remain camped on the Polish border. According to a Western intelligence officer, they could "be off and running across the Polish frontier in anything from one to eight hours."

Thus, it remains to be seen exactly how much time the Russian rulers will allow Kania, or what further concessions, if any, they will tolerate before moving in.

Workers, farmers press demands

These questions are assuming critical importance as Polish workers and farmers continue to take militant action against Kania's state-capitalist regime. On December 22, 150 delegates representing workers from 135 factories and mines around Pietrkow Trybunalski in central Poland were promised increased concessions after a four-day sit-in in local government offices. Workers and farmers in southeastern Poland organized a one-hour general strike on January 6 to protest government harassment of their unions. In western Poland, the Solidarnosc committee in Zielona Gora and the town's Solidarnosc spokespeople, who face harassment as they try to organize activities, strengthen their efforts; the Russian ruling class may find it difficult to resist any Russian Invasion.

The Russian army could quickly overwhelm any conventional forces massed against it, particularly since there are few natural barriers to hold up its advance. But it would have to maintain a massive occupying army against inevitable guerrilla attacks at an enormous cost to its already weakened economy. Moreover, it would face the task of suppressing the mass workers' and peasants' organizations in a country whose people have a long history of resisting Russian domination.

Nevertheless, if the Polish state-capitalist class remains unable to re-establish its authority by its own efforts, the Russian ruling class may well decide it has no other choice but to order its troops into Poland.

Will Russians invade Poland?

We cannot predict when the Russians will invade Poland, if they will do so at all. However, the Russian government is unlikely to keep its own troops mobilized but inactive for long, particularly since many are reservists called up from vital jobs. In August, the army was to war strength. Sooner or later the Russian ruling class must choose either to invade Poland or to send at least some of these troops home. Some military experts believe the best time for an invasion would be between January and March, when the marshy lands on the Polish-Russian border are frozen and would more easily support movement of troops, tanks and artillery.

There are certainly strong reasons for the Russians to want to avoid direct military intervention. An invasion of Poland would be enormously costly for the Russian government, as it would meet resistance from the whole of Polish society. For instance, the Speaker of the Polish Parliament warned in December that "any intervention from the outside" in Poland's internal affairs would be "inadmissible." The commander of the Polish army told a party meeting that "The army will do nothing to sever its ties with society and the workers." Significant sections of the army are likely to resist any Russian Invasion.

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Left Launches 'Final Offensive'  

Showdown in El Salvador

By ALBERT LARY

The year ended in El Salvador with 12,000 dead, the economy in a shambles, the government on the edge of collapse and the bloodshed climaxing the danger of U.S. military intervention and escalating civil war. "This is a place drifting toward chaos," said one observer, as all sides rushed to consolidate their strength before Ronald Reagan takes office.

Late in December the Dirección Revolucionaria Unificada (DRU—Unified Revolutionary Directorate), military command of the Frente Farabundo Martí de Liberación Nacional (FMLN—Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front), launched what it called its "final offensive" against the government with a major attack in the northern border provinces of Chalatenango and Santa Ana. Leaflets distributed in San Salvador, the capital, proclaimed that "the hour of decisive combat and final triumph" was at hand. On January 11, the rebels widened the offensive with attacks in and around San Salvador, Usulutan and other cities.

A DRU spokesperson, Fermin Cienfuegos of the Fuerzas Armadas de Resistencia Nacional (FARN—Armed Forces of National Resistance), described their strategy as one of seizing small towns and surrounding the larger cities, in the style of the Vietnamese national liberation war, to avoid the dangers of concentrated aerial bombings. According to Cienfuegos, once a liberated zone is won a "democratic revolutionary government" will be established to claim international recognition. This government will not be socialist, he said, but rather a coalition of leftist guerrillas, Social Democrats, Christian Democrats and independents. It will be willing to open friendly relations with the U.S. The property rights of capitalists will be guaranteed, he added.

**Leftists forced into war of attrition**

But the rebel offensive is in trouble. Army reinforcements block the supply lines and helicopters beat back the December attacks in Chalatenango and Santa Ana. Despite new assaults by the liberation forces, most of the area is still in government hands. As we go to press, the attacks in San Salvador and other cities also appear stalled.

The guerrillas, who claim to have 40,000 members and 30,000 reservists, are poorly armed. They cannot sustain a direct confrontation with the U.S.-equipped and U.S.-trained Salvadoran army. As a result, they are forced to wage a rural-based war of attrition, waiting for the political mood of the masses to swing ever to a readiness for insurrection.

But the Salvadoran army is not in great shape either. Split by internal political factionalism and demoralized by the widespread hatred they face from the Salvadoran masses, they are unable to crush the left.

**U.S. govt's junta's only supporter**

Meanwhile, in the capital, a U.S. diplomatic team, allegedly sent to El Salvador to investigate the murders of four U.S. women missionaries, actually spent most of its time trying to breathe life into the crumbling junta. Its solution was a government re-shuffle which dissolved the junta and replaced it with a figurehead president authorized to seek negotiations with the rebels. This concession to international public opinion cost cities millions of dollars and little and means even less. Real government power shift...

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**H-BLOCK PRISONERS END**

By CASS MAYHEW

On December 18, 1980, 37 nationalistic political prisoners were freed in British-occupied Northern Ireland ended a 66-day hunger strike.

The prisoners were demanding recognition as political prisoners, including the right to: not wear prison uniforms; do no work for the prison system; get and send mail, uncensored; and to from whom ever they wish; and associate freely with their fellow prisoners. In addition, the prisoners demanded a remission of their sentences—reduction to time already served.

During the strike, thousands demonstrated in support of the prisoners in Northern Ireland, and thousands more around the world. On December 13, their supporters burned shops in Derry, and 2,000 people battled the cops in Armagh, where the seven women strikers are imprisoned. The British government, which is holding 35 women and 30 men, denies they are political prisoners. Instead, it says they are "criminals," guilty of "bombing" and "murder," and wants to treat them like criminals treat anyone else who does these things. But this same imperialist government has locked these liberation fighters up after secret trials with no juries and only police evidence presented—for the "crime" of being nationalists in an occupied country.

The nationalistic prisoners staged their hunger strike not simply to win improved treatment, and not because they think they are better than other prisoners, but because forcing the British to grant them political status would make the imperialists officially recognize the existence of a legitimate national liberation movement. Granting nationalist prisoners political status would mean that the imperialists recognize them as political prisoners. The IRA is one of the oldest active liberation movements in the world; it has been around since 1919. But the British have always refused to deal with it as such a movement. This is its recognition, from either the British or the semi-colonial government of Ireland, that the fasting prisoners were demanding.

The strike had been declared as a fast to the death. Such fasts have a long history in the modern Irish nationalist movement, dating back to 1919. The last person to starve himself to death was Frank Stagg, a Provisional IRA member who died in Britain in 1976. Nationalists have often chosen this slow and painful death both to protest British imperialism and to demand better conditions for their fellow prisoners.

This FAST was an intensification of the four-year-old blanket protest, during which prisoners have refused to wear clothing, work, use toilets or bathe because the imperialists won't recognize them as political prisoners. The strikers ended their fast, they say, when the British government seemed to have heard the demands of their demand for political prisoners. Concessions did appear, although the demands of the strikers included not only freedom for them, but also must be about remission of their sentences.

The strikers now face at first, the Irish "republicans," who will not be satisfied. Since then, the IRA public relations officer, the Maze prisoner, said that the British had given in, the Irish "republicans," who were on the brink, have now backed off. He asked all the prisoners to be patient, that time is needed. He said the ARDIs (IRA supporters) have often staged protests and more frequent protests are needed.

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The 63-day protest in Northern Ireland was a common theme among speakers at the rally.

Hundreds of people joined in the demonstration as it marched around MacArthur Park, in a working class Latin neighborhood.

To protest U.S. involvement in the El Salvador civil war, longshore workers on the U.S. West Coast are refusing to load U.S. military equipment already on route to the Salvadoran regime. Several tons of material have been halted at the port of San Francisco alone. A spokesperson for the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union said the boycott would be felt in over 30 ports.

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In the capital, a political faction and U.S. military forces are engaged in a battle for control. Colonel Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, the one remaining loyal in the junta, has been powerless for months, and the situation is chaotic. Majano is under the assumption that a counter-insurgency program is necessary, and he is ready to go underground. The U.S. intervention in the region by whatever means is necessary and has been ongoing. Majano's removal split the middle-level officer corps into rival camps. At least one officer has threatened to take command over the area of the rebels if Majano leads the way.

The new president is a Christian Democratic politician and long-time junta member, Jose Napoleon Duarte, who admits the new government is a "last ditch effort" to avert the "ultimate crisis." No one expects the government to survive. Right-wing Colonel Jaime Abudt Garcia, an ultra-rightist with known ties to paramilitary death squads, remains as defense minister.

In a further ominous development, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, head of the fascist White Warriors Union, re-entered the country in mid-December. D'Aubuisson was involved in two previous coup attempts last year.

To promote the stability of the reshuffled regime, on December 18 the U.S. government pushed through a $45.5 million loan from the Inter-American Development Bank. It also restored $20 million in U.S. economic assistance, which, along with $5.6 million in military aid, had been suspended two weeks earlier after the murders of four missionaries. Although an FBI/State Department investigation implicated Salvadorean security forces in the murders, U.S. aid to these forces is essential to maintaining U.S. influence in the area. Even the January 3 killings of two U.S. officials, Michael P. Hammer and Mark David Pearlman, shod by rightists to prevent their collaboration with the junta's "land reform" program, hasn't altered the imperialists' strategy.

At first, in an effort to keep alive his "human rights" reputation, President Carter refused to restore the $5.5 million in military aid to the regime. But he left a five-man U.S. Army counter-insurgency team in El Salvador and continued to pour arms into neighboring Honduras, a close ally of the El Salvador junta. Finally, on January 14, Carter used the rebel offensive as an excuse to restore the suspended military aid.

While U.S. policy makers nearly all recognize that the immediate threat to the regime is from the far-right forces, they fear even more that continued instability will serve to strengthen the left. Therefore, they continue to promote the charade of "moderate centrist" government, which long ago ceased to have any base outside the U.S. embassy.

French CP leads attack on immigrants

The French Communist Party (PCF) is actively participating in a racist campaign against immigrant workers in France. On December 24 Paul Merle, the PCF mayor of Vitry-sur-Seine, a working class suburb of Paris, led a white mob in an attack on a housing project for 320 immigrants from the West African country of Mali. While Merle, a racist, surged them on over a bullhorn, his followers destroyed telephones, wires, and water heaters in the government project. One used a bulldozer to knock down one of the walls of the project.

There are over four million immigrant workers in France, representing almost eight percent of the total population of the country. The French government originally encouraged immigrant workers to come to France as a source of cheap labor for the capitalists, while it denied them any political rights. However, French capitalism is now in the grip of a recession which has left 1.5 million French workers unemployed. Consequently, President Giscard d'Estaing's government is restricting immigration, while a growing number of French workers are blaming the immigrants for taking away their jobs.

The PCF is encouraging these racist attitudes and is calling for a total ban on further immigration. The mob attack led by the "communist" mayor Merle is an example of the PCF's policy. PCF leader Marchal also claims that the d'Estaing regime is trying to force his party to take responsibility for immigrant workers by placing them in towns and cities districts controlled by local PCF governments. While this may be true, it hardly excuses the PCF's racist policy, or its criminal actions in Vitry.

Mugabe reshuffles cabinet

Robert Mugabe, the prime minister of Zimbabwe, has begun a shake-up of his government aimed at consolidating his power. On January 3, he dismissed Joshua Nkomo, the head of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) as home affairs minister. At the same time he fired Edgar Tekere, a leading member of Mugabe's own party, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), from his position as manpower planning minister.

Mugabe and Nkomo were co-leaders of the Patriotic Front, which led the successful struggle for Black rule in Zimbabwe. But they are political enemies, largely because Nkomo was always more of the "former white settler regime," but also because they represent rival tribes. When they ran against each other in last year's election for a Black government, Mugabe won an overwhelming victory. Since then their respective supporters have fought several skirmishes. In Bulawayo, an Nkomso stronghold, at least 55 people were killed on November 11, after Nkomo supporters apparently fired on troops loyal to Mugabe. The shooting started after Enos Niakia, the finance minister and a close ally of Mugabe, made a speech in which he called for a one-party state and urged Mugabe troops to "take action" against the Nkomo forces. Since then, the government has jailed several of Nkomo's leading members.

Although Tekere is a member of ZANU, he is not one of Mugabe's close political allies. Instead, he represents a faction within the party which opposes Mugabe's moderate policies that allow the white minority to retain their grip over the economy. Last summer, Tekere was charged with murder after a gun battle in which a white farmer was killed. He was acquitted in December. Mugabe justified his dismissal of Tekere by claiming that he needed a change of leadership after the trial. Mugabe refused to say whether Tekere would seek his high party posts.

In dismissing both men, Mugabe has strengthened his own control over the government. By firing Nkomo from a post which gave him nominal authority over the country's police, he has deprived him and his followers of any chance to gain actual control over a vital piece of the state apparatus. And by dismissing Tekere, Mugabe has weakened the influence of one of his main rivals within his own party.

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63-DAY HUNGER STRIKE

when the British government seemed to have granted some of their demands. But these concessions did not meet all the demands of the prisoners, some work is being demanded of them, and nothing was said about remission of sentences. The strikers nonetheless said, at first, that they had won.

Since then, the Provisional IRA public relations officer at Maze prison has stated that, the British government had given in, then backed off after the fast was called off. They say they are prepared to give in because two of the prisoners were on the brink of death, but then went back on their promises. He asked the prisoners' supporters to hold themselves alert for future actions by the prisoners for their original demands. This is the first time such a large group of nationalist prisoners have quit without either winning their demands or, more frequently, starving to death. Whatever the causes of the prisoners' defeat, revolutionaries must support the Irish national liberation struggle and the political rights of captives of the occupying power.
Reagan's Cabinet: Big Business on the Offensive

(Continued from page 1)

Reagan ran for president on a promise to "put America back to work." His program to accomplish this included rolling back government regulations to give business greater leeway to re-organize production, regardless of safety and health hazards, and exploit and exclude natural resources; lowering the minimum wage, at least for youth; cutting individual and corporate taxes and shortening the period over which business can write off depreciation costs; and creating a balanced budget by cutting food stamps, unemployment compensation and other social services.

Implicit in most of Reagan's campaign and his program is the lie that working women, Blacks and Latins are getting too much, and that affirmative action, busing, and other anti-discrimination measures should be ended.

The individuals Reagan has picked for the top 18 jobs are people ready to carry out this program. "We're looking for people with a real S.O.B. factor," a Reagan recruiter smugly confided to a Wall Street Journal reporter this December.

In fact, most of the "S.O.B.'s" are not merely tough-skinned businessmen. They are also solid members of the WASP (white Anglo-Saxon Protestant) Eastern Establishment that forms the core of the U.S. ruling class. This sector of the capitalist class, which has taken the lion's share of top government jobs over the years, is blamed for "the decline in America's strength and morality" by many rank-and-fileers of the New Right.

Of Reagan's 18 top people, nine attended Ivy League universities and two attended West Point. Five currently own or are executive officers of at least one large company. Five others are now corporate lawyers and three come directly from full-time staff positions in the Reagan campaign. The remaining five include two state government officials, one former governor, one congressman, and one resident scholar at a right-wing think-tank. Eight of the 18 have served in past presidential administrations, mostly the Nixon/Ford ones.

There is one woman among the 18, one Black person and two Catholics, neither of them of Irish descent. There are no Latins, Jews, Asians, or Southern or Eastern Europeans.

A look at the individual records of Reagan's appointees makes clear where their loyalties lie. We'll start by looking at the six posts that are concerned with foreign policy.

Foreign policy junta

The new Secretary of State is Alexander Haig. He is most recently president of the country's 10th largest manufacturing-firm and the third largest defense contractor, United Technologies Corporation.

Haig is best known, however, for his career as a professional army man and White House aide. In the years before joining United Technologies, Haig was Henry Kissinger's number one administration advisor and leading aide for six years that Kissinger was National Security Advisor to Richard Nixon. Haig, who had the rank of colonel at the time, was one of the most blood-thirsty hawks in the Nixon White House; he pushed hard for the 1972 Christmas bombings of Hanoi and the mining of Haiphong Harbor. Over the course of four years, Nixon promoted Haig from colonel to four-star general and then appointed him to a top Pentagon position—Army vice-chief of staff.

Haig came back to the White House and became the president's chief of staff, however, when Watergate disclosures forced H.R. Haldeman to resign from that position. Many accounts of the last Nixon days picture Haig actually running the White House, although the source for these stories may be Haig himself. Haig was appointed commandant of the N.A.T.O. (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) forces soon after Ford became president. He retired from the army in 1979 and after testing the waters for a possible try at the Republican presidential nomination, became United Technologies' president—at a salary so large, he says he will lose upwards of $5 million by serving in the cabinet for four years.

Casper Weinberger is the new Secretary of Defense. Most recently, he had been chief legal officer of Bechtel Corporation. Bechtel, with annual revenues of around $5 billion, is the country's third largest engineering and construction company, as well as the number one builder of nuclear power plants. Bechtel's president is George Schultz, who was Treasury Secretary in Nixon's administration; the company's construction projects in Iran—now defunct—were supervised by former ambassador to Iran and former CIA director Richard Helms.

Before going to Bechtel, Weinberger had a string of political offices and important jobs. He was a member of the California state legislature in the 1950s and was Republican Party state chairman in the early 1960s. Although he gave only token support to presidential candidate Barry Goldwater in 1964, and fought Ronald Reagan's successful drive to win the Republican nomination for governor in 1966, he served as state finance director while Reagan was governor. He left that position when Nixon appointed him Federal Trade Commissioner in 1969. Weinberger later became Director of the Office of Management and Budget and subsequently Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW). At HEW, Weinberger got the nickname "Cap the Knife" for his cutting of social service programs.

Weinberger is a Harvard graduate and serves on the boards of directors of Bechtel, Pepsico, Inc., and the Quaker Oats Company.

In 1969, Casey began his career in government. After he came to the attention of Richard Nixon as the leader of a committee buying newspaper ads supporting the controversial anti-ballistic missile system, Nixon appointed him to the advisory council of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

Two years later, he was appointed chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the government agency that polices the stock exchanges and stock and bond brokers—and the same agency that had investigated Casey for violating its laws. While at the SEC, Casey helped the International Telephone and Telegraph company (ITT) side-step charges of bribery. As SEC chairman, Casey also was one of the key players in the dealings between Nixon and financier Robert Vesco.

Casey left the SEC to become Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, but soon left that post and became head of the Independent Regulatory Commission, a semi-independent government agency.

The new National Security Advisor (NSA) is Richard Allen, another full-time staffer in the Reagan campaign. The job is not much of a change for Allen; for the past 10 years he has been a professional advisor and lobbyist in and around the Washington foreign policy establishment.

In the same period, Robert Vesco paid Allen $10,000 a year to represent his interests, and he was working for Nippon Motors as well. Five days before the 1960 election, the Wall Street Journal published an article documenting that at the same time he was hiring himself out as a lobbyist for these people, he was also working on a day-to-day campaign basis for Kissinger's office and passed information he received in confidence at the White House to his private clients. This article forced Allen to resign as an official of the Reagan staff, but after the election he was restored to a position of honor.

Reagan visited the South Bronx in New York City (above) during the campaign and attacked Carter for breaking his promises to rebuild the area. Now Reagan is planning to cut back on unemployment compensation, the food stamp program and urban aid programs.

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As Allen's past shows, Reagan's busi­nessman's cabinet signals a break from
the Watergate concern over possi­
ble scandals. It represents a return
to opening again that the ethics of busi­ness—where breaking the law when
necessary and possible is standard
operating procedure—are the proper
ets for government well.

The last two foreign policy positions,
which have much less power than the
previous four, are the Ambassador to
the UN, and the Special Trade Envoy.

Jean Kirkpatrick, the new Ambas­
sador to the UN, is a political science
professor at Georgetown University
and a resident scholar at the American
Enterprise Institute, a right-wing
think-tank. She has not held a govern­ment job before. Kirkpatrick is part
of the group known as neo-conserva­
tives, former liber­
als, whose
she has be­
com­
ervatives in
hawks in recent years.

Like most neo-conservatives, Kirkpatrick considers herself a Democrat. She has been an outspoken critic of Carter's human rights campaign, believing it gets in the way of supporting the repressive re­
gimes she sees as the best defenders of U.S. Interests against social change. It is a typi­cal move for Reagan that the
one job he has given to a woman
involves mostly talk and little power.

William Brock, the Special Trade
Envoy, is most recently Republican National Chairman. He is from an elite
Southern background, and was given
the post largely because he was widely
credited with playing a major role in
rebuilding the Republican Party. He is
close to the more moderate wing of the
Republican Party group around Ger­
ald Ford, and is not well liked by the
circle around Reagan. He was the last
person appointed to a cabinet-level
position, and reportedly only took the
job after Reagan promised that the job
would remain, at the cabinet level for at
least six months.

Economic policy group

The promise to do something about
the economy was responsible for more
votes for Reagan than any other
promise, and it is the performance of
Reagan's top economic officials more
than any others that will determine
whether Reagan retains the popu­
arity he had on November 4.

The leading economic official, the
Secretary of the Treasury, is going to be
Donald T. Regan. Regan is most
recently chairman of Merrill Lynch and
Co. He has spent most of his adult
life working for Merrill Lynch and its
largest subsidiary, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and
Smith, the nation's largest stockbroker — the one that ad­
vertises that it is "bullish on Amer­
ica."

Donald Regan is
known for having aggressively expanded
Merrill Lynch from the nation's
largest broker to one of the nation's
largest financial firms, competing head–
to-head with the large banks and
money management companies. He did this by finding the loopholes in
laws intended to keep brokers out of
the banking business, and then stretching them as far as he could.

Regan, like many of Reagan's ap­pointees, is taking a large salary cut
to go into the cabinet. Cabinet officers
now earn $69,000 a year. Yet, this is so
far below what the heads of private cor­
porations are used to that the Wall
Street Journal (which often complains
that automakers' wages are too high)
was moved to say that inflations has
make a joke.” In fact, Time maga­
ze has estimated that the average
salary of everyone working through
investments, interest, etc. of
Regan's cabinet appointees last year
was $285,000. In Donald Regan's case,
who earns from $500,000 a year
in salary and incentives, plus earn­
ings on a large amount of stock in Merrill
Lynch and Co.

Regan, a graduate of Harvard, is a
trustee of the University of Pennsyl­
vania, a member of the Business
this year. He served as a vice-chair­
man of the New York Stock Exchange
from 1972-75 (the same period that
Casey headed the SEC).

David Stockman is Reagan's pick for
Chairman of the Office of Manage­
ment and Budget (OMB), the agency with
primary responsibility for distribut­
ing money to the various government
departments along the guidelines set
by Congress. Until his appointment,
Stockman was a con­
gressman from
Michigan, and the
Chairman of the "supply-side econom­
ics" group in the Republican
Party. This group believes in cutting taxes to
stimulate the econ­
omy, while cutting the budget and re­
stricting monetary growth to keep infla­
tion. Stockman, who was active in
the anti-war movement in the '60s, is one of
the few Reagan appointees with links to
the New Right, which is probably
why he was appointed.

Completing the economic junta are the
secretaries of labor and commerce:
Both these positions have been given
to men useful in the Reagan campaign,
as rewards for services rendered.

Raymond Donovan, the new Secre­
tary of Labor, was Reagan's campaign manager for New Jersey and raised
$600,000 for the New Jersey primary
effort. He is currently executive vice­
president of Schiavone Construction
Company, a northern New Jersey firm
that builds roads and tunnels. Although
much has been made in the press of his
being a "man of both labor and manage­
ment," Donovan's union experience is
counted among several craft
unions during summer vacations from
college.

As Secretary of Labor, Donovan will
have authority over the Occupational
Safety and Health Administration
(OSHA), the for most job safety
laws and one of the agencies
Reagan has said he wants to enfeeble.
Dono­
van's own company has been cited for
135 OSHA violations in the last six
years, 57 of them considered serious.
The company is currently under investi­
gation for 12 unfair labor practices, 10
of them discrimination against women.

Donovan's appointment was sup­
ported by the ra­
bidly anti-union
National Right to
Work Committee
and was intended
as a slap at the la­
bor bureaucrats
and in an effort to cut the national labor
management.

Donovan's appointment is another
statement that the Reagan administra­
tion is about to cut. The
New Jersey construction industry,
including Donovan's company, has well
documented ties to organized crime.

Malcolm Baldrige, the new Secre­
tary of Commerce, was chairman of
Reagan's cabinet appointees last year
During the general election, Baldrige
was national vice-chairman of Busi­
ness for Reagan/Bush.

Baldrige is currently chairman of
Scoville, Inc., a Connecticut manufac­
turing firm with total revenues of
$1 billion, whose best known products
are Yale Locks and Hamilton Beach
appliances. Baldrige, a Yale graduate
who is on the boards of six corpora­
tions, including AMF, Bendix and Uni­
royal, presently "earns" a salary of
$342,431.

Social policy secretaries

The federally-sponsored social ser­
ices that Reagan has vowed to cut are
for the most part administered through
three departments: Health and Human
Services (HHS—formerly HEW), the
Department of Housing and Urban Devel­
opment (HUD) and the Department of
Education.

At the Department of Health and
Human Services, Reagan has chosen
Richard Schweiker. The appointment
of Schweiker, who has been a senator
from Pennsylvania, is another payment
services rendered. In 1976, Schweiker,
then considered a liber­
al Republican, ac­
cepted an offer to run for vice-presi­
dent with Reagan if
Reagan got the nomination. This
agreement was a ploy to get liberal
Republicans to switch from Ford to
Reagan. The maneuver failed, but it
changed Schweiker's life. Since then he
(Continued on next page)
served as president of the California Chamber of Commerce. A Harvard graduate, Smith is on the boards of six corporations, including CompuServe National Bank, Pullman, Inc., and Pacific Telephone.

James Watt, the new Secretary of the Interior, has spent his entire political career as president and chief legal officer of the Mountain States Legal Foundation. The foundation, which is primarily supported by right-wing beer baron Joseph Coors, has waged legal battles for the right of private companies to plunder the natural resources of public lands. It has also brought suits challenging Native American sovereignty on reservations and special utility rates for low-income and handicapped people.

Before his appointment to the cabinet, former North Carolina Governor James Edwards said he'd like to go to Washington, close the Department of Energy, and then go back to practice law. But this is the chance to run the department, and although it is unlikely that it will be shut down, Edwards is a strong advocate of nuclear power, and his approach to social issues can be judged from his statement after returning from a trip to South Africa three years ago: "The Black influence in African politics has prevented the white South African government from getting its fair share of sympathy and understanding."

John Block, Reagan's Secretary of Agriculture, is currently Secretary of Agriculture in Illinois. He owns a large highly-mechanized soybean and hog farm in the northern part of the state. After six years, Block set up an agency similar to NASA's National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Domestic affairs departments

The last five cabinet positions, those for domestic policy, are Attorney General, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Director of Education, Secretary of Agriculture, and Secretary of Transportation. To fill the slot of Attorney General, Reagan has chosen a personal friend, William French Smith. Smith is currently a law partner in a large law firm of Gibson Dunn and Crutcher since 1946.

Smith is a partner in the National Association of Independent Retailers and a supporter of every president since Eisenhower and appointed a close friend, William French Smith. Smith is currently a law partner in a large law firm of Gibson Dunn and Crutcher since 1946.

The only Black person in the cabinet is the new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Samuel Pierce, Jr. While Pierce is in the cabinet, it is possible that a Black attorney for the Department of Justice, Thomas Byrd, will be appointed to the cabinet. Byrd has been involved in the civil rights movement and is a strong supporter of civil rights.

The last two cabinet positions are Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. The Secretary of Transportation is the first Black person in the cabinet. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is the second Black person in the cabinet.

This list includes a collection of mainstream conservatives, nearly every one of them personally a member of the top layers of the capitalist class. They are not some wacky right-wingers, but have seized control of the government. In fact, there is a noticeable absence of New Right representatives in the Reagan administration. We've been closed out, complained Richard Viguerie, whose direct mail service has been crucial in organizing and unifying the New Right.

For a time, Reagan's transition team put out the word that hard-right-wing Reagan people—who are now calling themselves the New Right—would have given many of the cabinet positions to act as watchdogs over the many Eastern Ford/Bush Republicans who were being appointed to key spots. But it hasn't worked out that way. Casper Weinberger, for instance, told the heavily Reagan-first Depart-
Protests Greet 1st Day of Draft Registration; 32 Arrested in NYC

By MARY ROBINSON

On January 5, demonstrations against the draft were held in a number of cities around the country to protest the first day of registration for the 1.9 million men born in 1962. Last summer, men who were born in 1960 and ’61 were ordered to report to post offices to register with the Selective Service System. This year, beginning January 5, men were ordered to report for registration as they passed their 19th birthday.

Demonstrations have been reported in New York City, Washington, D.C., Boston, Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, Louisville and Phoenix. Despite cold weather throughout the North—where temperatures ranged from -8 degrees in Detroit to 11 degrees in New York—most of the demonstrations were well attended.

In New York City, nearly 500 people gathered in front of the General Post Office chanting “Hell, no, we won’t go! We won’t die for Texaco!” and “No draft, no war! U.S. out of El Salvador!”

After picking up the post office, there was a short rally. A few speakers connected the draft registration to the whole system which keeps working and poor people down. The young crowd—including students from a number of high schools throughout the city—then marched to the Times Square Army recruiting station. Here 32 people were arrested when they sat in front of the recruiting station and refused to leave. Of those arrested, 27 still face charges of resisting arrest and disorderly conduct and must appear in criminal court February 26.

The New York demonstration was organized by a number of groups, including the Mobilization for Survival, the New York Committee Against Registration and the Draft, the War Resisters League and groups from Stuyvesant, Music and Art, and Hunter high schools.

In Boston, 24 people were arrested when protesters tried to occupy the draft registration offices in the McCormack Federal Building.

In Los Angeles, demonstrators stuffed toothpicks into post office door locks to jam registration procedures. The day before, over 500 people marched from Los Angeles’ MacArthur Park to protest the draft and U.S. intervention in El Salvador. (See box on page 10.)

In Atlanta, 128 protesters marched in front of the main post office. In Louisville, 100 demonstraters marched outside the federal office building.

The exact future of this draft sign-up plan is unclear. It was developed by the Carter administration following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. During the election campaign, Reagan opposed the peacetime sign-up as a “meaningless gesture” that would save little time. However, he has since stated that he “hopes” he won’t have to institute a peace time draft.

our readers write...

Murder at Leavenworth

Dear Comrades,

With honor I write to you in hope that these most divine places of me will be taken under serious consideration at your earliest convenience. Reading your most magnificent and desirable paper was an inspiration and at my request will you please give me the opportunity of receiving my subscription.

I would like to known whether or not will you publish a letter for me because myself and three other IFA (inmates for Action) members were transferred from the state of Alabama prison system for engaging in a peaceful protest against the brutality and the inhumane and horrendous conditions that are within the Alabama prison system. Consequently the four of us were transferred to the federal system to be assassinated, and on the last part of October at Leavenworth prison my comrade Anthony “Bectemba” Dimba was brutally stabbed because of his continuous trying to organize the comrades to protest against the administration.

I have been incarcerated since 1971 when I was only 17 years of age at that particular moment the long struggle must not be in vain—so in our hearts, struggle as one.

My comrade, I leave you with this: Without a struggle there is no progress. We must unite! Unite! Unite! Now! Struggling for justice for all! Your Brother, RYF

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Chrysler on the Brink

(Continued from page 3) against workers in weaker unions or those with no union protection at all.

UAW tops support attacks on workers

Far from defending its membership against this campaign, the UAW leadership is joining forces with Chrysler to enforce the ruling class ultimatum. On December 22, the union’s Chrysler Council voted to renegotiate the Chrysler contract. After the meeting, UAW spokesman Don Stillman denied reports that the Council had rejected any direct response to Chrysler management. Instead it stated that: “While it may be necessary for extraordinary steps to be taken regarding the Chrysler-UAW collective bargaining agreements, these are a reaction to the demands of the government decision makers rather than the demands of management.” In other words, UAW leaders are waiting for the FLGB or Congress to demand a wage freeze. The resolution passed at the meeting actually sidestepped any direct response to Chrysler management. Instead it stated that: “While it may be necessary for extraordinary steps to be taken regarding the Chrysler-UAW collective bargaining agreements, these are a reaction to the demands of the government decision makers rather than the demands of management.” In other words, UAW leaders are waiting for the FLGB or Congress to demand a wage freeze. The resolution passed at the meeting actually sidestepped any direct response to Chrysler management.

Pollovchak Case

(Continued from page 4) the Pollovchaks’ right to due process because they did not know enough English to state their case. The ACLU is also arguing that the government’s mismanagement of the Pollovchaks’ case, by violating their right to privacy, is illegal. In what was a matter.

In taking custody of Walter and granting him his Liberalism, the government in fact violated its own sacred principles. Legally and in principle the government is violating the Pollovchaks’ case. According to U.S. laws, parents’ rights over their children are nearly absolute and what the child wants is totally irrelevant. Even when a child’s life is in danger, police and social workers usually look the other way rather than infringe on “parents’ rights.”

In 1972, for example, a six-year-old boy named Johnny Lindquist, who had been placed in a foster home for a year, returned home to his parents against his wishes. He wanted to stay with his foster parents, who were willing to adopt him. But Catholic Church had placed him, decided that his natural parents knew what he needed better than they did. He died five months later because of a beating from his father. The government’s failure to understand what it meant to young people already in the U.S. if they grant Walter the right to leave his parents, appears to be backing off its original position. Specifically, Judge Mooney now says he wants to throw a limbo where Walter and Natalie go back to their parents and their parents stay in the U.S., but he expects the children to end up back in their parents’ custody either way. Meanwhile, the INS says that if Walter is returned to his parents, he will have to go back with them unless they decide to let him stay.

In our view, the entire case misses the point. The real issue is whether Walter or young people in general wishes. If Walter were 18, there wouldn’t be a case. As a result, we support Walter Pollovchak’s right to remain in the U.S. And if he wanted to return to the Ukraine, his parents wanted to stay here, we would defend his right to go.

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