NO to Nuclear War Madness!
Thousands March for Disarmament in Europe

By ALBERT LARY

An estimated 300,000 protesters gathered in Bonn, the capital of West Germany, on October 10 to protest the spiral of U.S.-Russian military confrontation in Europe. The march, the largest in recent German history, was organized by two church groups and was endorsed by 802 organizations.

The protest demanded: 1) no nuclear weapons in Europe; 2) no North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) deployment of U.S. middle-range Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles; and 3) that all European governments open disarmament talks at once. Thousands of marchers carried signs such as “Reagan’s Peace Is Our Death,” “No Euroshima!” and “The Main Enemy Is At Home—German Imperialism!”

Two weeks later, Europe’s growing peace movement held a series of gigantic weekend rallies across the continent—150,000 in London, 100,000 in Rome, (Continued on page 4)
17 ‘suicides’ in Chicago jails?

Dear Torch/La Antorch,

On Friday, October 16, between the hours of 5:30 and 10:00 a.m., approximately 20 members of the Special Services Unit (the police and intelligence arm of the California Department of Corrections) and members of the Berkeley/Oakland Police Department barged down the doors of four homes of members and friends of the Black August Organizing Committee. Under the guise of a “parole search,” the SSU stormed into the homes with guns drawn, holding all members of the households at gunpoint, including small children, while they proceeded to ransack the houses, open drawers, closets and overturn furniture.

During these attacks Jastal (Harold Benson), Hashima (Michael Murdock), and Menjali (Anderson Thurston), members of the Black August Organizing Committee, were arrested and taken into custody. For the last six days no charges have been filed against any of the four men now in jail, the California Department of Corrections has issued a statement alleging that they have “uncovered a plot to assassinate” top prison officials, supposedly based on information gathered during the early morning raids on Friday, October 16.

We, as members of the Black August Organizing Committee, vehemently deny any knowledge of such plots or conspiracies, and demand the immediate release of Jastal, Hashima, and Menjali. We, as members of the Black August Organizing Committee, are demanding the release of all four men who have been active in fighting to expose conditions inside prisons, especially in San Quentin, and to educate the community about the racist policies of the prison authorities and the Special Service Unit through their work in the Prison Crisis Committee. The Prison Crisis Committee is a group that has recently initiated a suit on behalf of prisoners in San Quentin’s Adjustment Center who were brutally attacked and tear-gassed by guards in April 1981.

We charge that these latest allegations made by the California Department of Corrections are only another part of the overall political campaign being waged against the Black August Organizing Committee in an attempt to disrupt and suppress our political work in the community and in the prisons.

We charge that the real criminals are the members of the California Department of Corrections and the SSU that continue to attack and terrorize members of the Black August Organizing Committee, their friends and family, who are fighting to expose the true racist, repressive reality of prisons, to raise the issue of Black POWs in the U.S. and to put an end to the racial injustice that Black people are subjected to daily in this country.

Black August Organizing Committee

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Andrew Young: Georgia's Nativist Governor

Not for close friends only

Andrew Young has been an ardent advocate of policies that could, if not directly, then indirectly help Black voters to the detriment of White ones. He is a member of the ruling class and, as such, he is definitely a part of that class.

But this fact soon came out in a major way.

Andrew Young was campaign manager of the Black vote in Atlanta. He didn't just register a sizable number of Black voters to vote, he did it in a manner that assured their candidacy in the election. The result was no surprise. The newspapers and television stations were filled with stories of how Young's campaign was successful.

And the fact is, it was. But there was one thing missing from all these stories—a Black candidate running against a White one.

Marcus was running for re-election to the business community. He had a great advantage over his opponent, except that he was running against a White candidate. And Young was visibly supported by our friends, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others.

For the first time in history, a Black candidate running against a White one. The result? Not a surprise. Marcus lost.
Black People Vote in Record Numbers—
Turnout a Response to Growing Racism

Not for close to 20 years have the top levels of government been as blatantly racist as they are today. In addition to specific policies that directly or indirectly attack Black people, such as the budget cuts, Reagan's proposals to gut the Voting Rights Act, etc., the essence of Reagan's political strategy is to foment a virulently racist social isolator. Whether the issue be Black or white, it is the only issue in the contest was the o

In Hartford, Connecticut, a similar trend showed up. The only Black candidate for mayor was expected to finish fourth in the Democratic primary held on September 22. Instead, the candidate, Thirman Milner, finished second and missed winning by only 94 votes. In a rerun of the primary on October 13 York is to save the white neighborhoods and business districts and the rest of the city. He combines this with an almost openly arrogant racist public pose used to build white public opinion for someone, anyone, against Koch brought many Black and Latino voters to the polls for the primary elections. Overall, turnout was 33 percent of registered Democrats, above the usual for primaries. Koch got 70 percent of the Black vote and 36 percent of the total vote. Koch los t to Robb in all 16 districts, except as in the state assembly by a Black or Latino.

The voter turnout in Manhattan, North Carolina, and in a challenge to Borough President Andrew Stein by City Clerk David Dinkins, who is Black. After a bitter campaign, it was dominated by the Black/white issue and Stein's $1 million advertising budget. Dinkins narrowly lost. He received 80 percent of the Black vote.

In the general election, Koch, running on the Republican ticket, was the candidate of the opposition to the Black voting block, and Republican party tickets, won easily. Since his victory was virtually assured, the voter turnout was the lowest in 20 years. In Virginia, the Democratic candidate for governor, Charles Robb, won on November 3. While only 14 percent of registered voters in Virginia are Black, they created Robb's margin of victory by going to the polls in large numbers to vote in his favor. In Richmond, the state capital, Robb got an amazing 97 percent of the total vote in Black areas.

Robb is actually a Reaganaut in Democratic clothes, while his opponent, Mills Coleman, is a moderate Republican who has received a sizable number of Black votes in the past. But Coleman moved to the right for this campaign, wrapped himself in Reagan's program and, with the active support of the White House, labeled the election a referendum on the president's performance. Moreover, Coleman attempted to paint Robb as a liberal Democrat, using the fact that Robb's wife, Lynda Bird, is the daughter of Lyndon Johnson.

Robb resisted this image, re-creating Tom the presidential campaign and, in the last analysis, trying to portray himself as tougher on drug pushers than is Coleman. He also maintained his support for Virginia's union "right-to-work" law, forting an endorsement from the New York AFL-CIO.

The crucial event in the campaign was probably Coleman's endorsement by Mills Godwin, a former governor and an old guard segregationist. At a televised Coleman rally, Godwin attacked Robb for supporting the Voting Rights Act (a position Robb had only switched to recently), and for favoring giving the District of Columbia representation in Congress.

At that point, the Black community, which united by then had been lukewarm about Robb, moved to support him. Coleman continued to dig his own grave, attacking Robb for saying he would make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a state holiday and saturating the television with Reagan's endorsement statement. The Black community was galvanized around Robb, and Coleman lost badly.

Democrats won't defend Black people

As these examples suggest, Black people used the electoral process this fall to begin to mobilize against the racist offensive that has been launched against them. But there is not much cause for cheering. Among other things, the elections also show that a racial polarization is occurring across the country and reveal just how far Reagan and the capitalist class are willing to go to create the racist and reactionary climate they desire. Another negative side of the elections is the fact that the Black vote by and large went to Democratic Party candidates. Now that the Democrats are out of power at the national level, they are trying to come forward as the friends of Blacks and other oppressed people.

But the Democrats will not defend Black people or anybody else suffering from the capitalist attacks. They support these attacks in their basic form and see no alternative if the racist system they support is to survive. At best, they will modify the attacks so they look slightly more equitable and, as a result, can be more easily defended.

As a result those Blacks who, along with millions of Latinos, white workers, women and gays, voted for the Democratic Party are stepping into a trap. This was shown clearly in Virginia where the Black community voted to elect Robb, a conservative who is as reactionary, anti-labor and racist as his Reagan-backed opponent.

The fall's elections show why it is crucial for the unions, the movements of Blacks, Latinos, women and gays, along with the peace and disarmament movement, to build a mass political organization, be it a Labor Party or a mass union-type formation, such as Polish Solidarity, that is opposed to both the Democratic and Republican parties. Only this type of organization can organize, mobilize and unite all working class and oppressed people in a successful struggle to defend our rights and needs.

Andrew Young and his wife, Jean, vote in Atlanta mayoral election October 28. Young, who won the election, got 90 percent of the Black vote, while his white opponent got 90 percent of the white vote.

New York City Blacks oppose racist mayor

In two other nationally prominent local elections there was also a heavy turnout by Black voters. But in these cases it was white candidates who were the recipients of the Black vote. In New York City, an unknown white liberal state assemblyman, Frank Barbaro, went way beyond initial expectations in his effort to win the Democratic nomination for mayor.

Koch's program for New York is to save the white neighborhoods and business districts and the rest of the city. He combines this with an almost openly arrogant racist public pose used to build white public opinion for someone, anyone, against Koch brought many Black and Latino voters to the polls for the primary elections. Overall, turnout was 33 percent of registered Democrats, above the usual for primaries. Koch got 70 percent of the Black vote and 36 percent of the total vote. Koch lost to Robb in all 16 districts, except as in the state assembly by a Black or Latino.

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Charles and Lynda Bird Robb celebrate their election as Virginia governor November 3. Robb, a conservative Democrat, got overwhelming Black support after his Republican opponent attacked the federal Voting Rights Act.
No to Nuclear War Madness!

(Continued from page 1)

50,000 each in Paris, Brussels and East Germany. Most of the protests focused on NATO and the U.S. nuclear presence in Europe, but both the Paris and Brussels marches specifically demanded the removal of Russian SS-20 nuclear-tipped missiles from Eastern Europe, and in Rome, the march route took demonstrators past both the Russian and U.S. embassies. The U.S. government's first response to this massive outpouring of anti-imperialist sentiment was to hang tough. "It doesn't change the policies of the government," snapped U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger as he left London after a tense meeting of NATO defense ministers. "We feel this will not impact on our policies," echoed presidential counselor Edwin Meese III.

But off-the-record remarks by U.S. diplomats in Europe told another story. "We'd be foolish not to take the opposition seriously," said one anonymous U.S. diplomat, as quoted by the Los Angeles Times. "And we do take it seriously. The movement has not yet peaked."

"Flexible and controlled response"

The immediate issue involves a 1979 NATO decision to place 572 middle-range Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Britain, West Germany, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands to offset 175 Russian SS-20 missiles that are now aimed at European cities. This is part of NATO's doctrine of "flexible and controlled response," which was adopted in 1967 to replace its earlier doctrine of "massive retaliation" to a Russian attack. "Flexible and controlled response" initially meant the placement of tactical nuclear weapons in Western Europe as a deterrent to the larger Russian-bloc non-nuclear forces in Central and Eastern Europe. When the Russians matched this with their own tactical, or battlefield-level, nuclear weapons, the NATO governments decided to up the ante.

Unlike the present battlefield-level nukes, the new Cruise and Pershing-2 missiles have a range which can take them deep into Russia itself. Until now, only U.S.-based, airborn, or submarine missiles have had that capability. Thus, NATO's current plans represent a significant escalation in the global nuclear arms race and increase the chances of a European war. Already, some 4,000 Russian and American nuclear warheads face each other across Europe. Reagan's new budget plans call for a $180 billion military buildup over the next six years. This will include 100 new B-1 bombers, more powerful and more accurate nuclear missiles for U.S. Trident submarines, and 100 new MX intercontinental ballistic missiles.

In early August, Reagan announced that the U.S. had begun production of the neutron bomb, the first nuclear weapon designed primarily to destroy people, with extremely high rates of radiation, rather than destroy property with heat and blast. On August 11, Secretary Weinberger cited, as a main reason in the U.S. decision to produce the neutron bomb, its "ability to help blunt an invasion of Europe."

Unlike the main deterrent value of the more traditional megaton megaton nightmares, the neutron bomb is intended to be used, specifically in Europe. Millions of Europeans are horrified at the prospect of a U.S.-Russian conflict in their heavily populated nations, where the neutron bomb, because of its lesser damage to property, would most likely be the "weapon of choice." So far the U.S. government has decided to call this new European panic by promising that the neutron bombs will be stockpiled only inside the U.S. But as everyone knows, they could easily be flown to Europe within a few hours if the government decided to.

The reality that has dawned on the people of Europe that they are living in the midst of a U.S.-projected theater of "limited nuclear war," an anti-war, pacifist and neutralist movement has mushroomed. Capitalist politicians all over Europe are being shaken by large, angry, 60's-style mobilizations.

In the Netherlands, the Interfaith Peace Council claims to have 200,000 members, mostly youth, and connections with anti-war activists in Poland and East Germany. As a result of their pressure, the Netherlands government has now backed off from its earlier promise to accept 48 Cruise missiles. The Belgian government is wavering.

In West Germany, the controversy could cost Chancellor Helmut Schmidt his job. As a staunch supporter of NATO and nuclear armament, Schmidt has been steadily losing support, even within his own Social Democratic Party (SPD). After Schmidt denounced the October 10 Bonn protest as "a declaration of war against the government," 25 percent of his party's members of parliament endorsed the demonstration, as did one-third of the delegates of the Free Democratic Party, Schmidt's ally in the ruling coalition. One leading SPD member, Erhard Eppler, spoke at the Bonn rally, calling for a "nuclear-free Europe."

An SPD Congress next April is expected to vote against the NATO missile deal. In Britain, where the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament claims 280,000 supporters, the anti-nuclear movement jumped abroad the movement with a call for unilateral British disarmament. Most recently, Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu has joined the chorus with a call for both Russia and NATO to disarm. We will have to take the guns away from them.

Today the European anti-war movement is led by pacifists who think capitalism can be reformed. But this may not always be the case. As the nuclear arms race intensifies, as U.S. and Russian militarism edges closer to a global holocaust, as the European pacifists fail to stop the drift toward war, many of today's young activists will turn toward revolutionary solutions.

"Disarmament" through worldwide revolution

All the world's governments should disarm, just as they should give up political power to the working class, but they won't, and a pacifist strategy won't force them to, no matter how big the protest rallies become. Capitalism exists in every country in the world, as an organized system of force and violence. Part of this violence is directed against rival capitalists and emerges periodically in bloody world wars. An equally severe, day-to-day, violence is aimed at the working class in every country, at small oppressed nations, and especially against people everywhere. The capitalists maintain their monopoly of force (up to, and including, nuclear weapons) as a means to maintain political and economic power. They will never disarm voluntarily. We will have to take the guns away from them.

Politicians have own reasons to support movement

Obviously, all these classic capitalist politicians have their own motives for endorsing the new movement. British Labour Party leader Michael Foot wants Margaret Thatcher's job as top cop. The SPD's Erhard Eppler has openly explained his role as that of preventing the Social Democratic Party from losing ground to alternative, left-wing groups in West Germany. Romania's Ceausescu is facing a serious economic crisis at home and needs to bolster his "independent nationalist" credentials to stay in power.

But it is the massive, popular movement which has forced these concessions from the European ruling classes. This is a movement with a tremendous potential—a potential to organize millions, unite separate struggles, and to generally raise hell against capitalist governments across the continent.

At the same time, it is clear that many of the young European anti-war activists have illusions in the present capitalist system. Politicians like Foot, Eppler and Ceausescu have jumped onto the handwagon precisely to foster those illusions, to prevent the movement from moving left.
Several Hundred Demonstrate in Ann Arbor

‘Family Protection Act an Attempt to Control and Suppress Us’

On October 31, over 250 people demonstrated in Ann Arbor, Michigan, against the Family Protection Act (FPA). The FPA, proposed by the Moral Majority forces in Congress, is a broad attack on the working class. It attacks women, lesbians and gay men, Blacks, Native Americans and all poor people by proposing to eliminate funds for legal aid, battered women’s programs, child abuse programs, and any social service for gays or those who support gay rights. In addition, the FPA would prohibit textbooks that show women in non-traditional roles and would attack public school teachers rights to organize.

Demonstrators included people from Lesbian/Gay Community Services, National Black Independent Political Party, Legal Services, local unions, the Revolutionary Workers’ League and the Revolutionary Socialist League.

The RSL speaker, Maggie S., emphasized the need to understand that the FPA is just part of a massive attack on the working class. Below is the text of her speech.

TODAY, we unite together to rally and march against the Family Protection Act. The FPA, a bill being pushed through Congress by the Moral Majority, is an attack on all working class people in an attempt to control and suppress us.

We must recognize that the FPA is not an isolated idea brought about by the Moral Majority alone, but comes from the capitalist system itself. The only way to smash the FPA and make sure it’s gone for good is to smash capitalist and state-capitalist repression of the working class all over the world.

By working class we mean those of us, the majority of people, Black, Latin, Asian, white, gay and straight, men and women, who are forced to sell our labor to the ruling class. The profit from our labor goes into the pockets of a wealthy few.

Even now, much work is done that is unpaid in the family—child bearing and raising, laundry and cooking, and sexual services.

Maintaining the family is something the capitalists need but don’t have to pay for.

Despite this, the family—capitalism’s stronghold of economic and social support—is falling apart. Through the stress of working conditions, or finding a job at all to feed the family, keeping up the rent or mortgage payments, rising heating bills and so on, the failure of family life to fulfill people’s emotional and other needs is rising.

That’s why it’s no accident the FPA is being introduced at this time.

If the FPA is passed, lesbian mothers will face court rulings to take their children away because of their sexual preference. And not only will you be attacked at your workplace, school or hospital for your sexual lifestyle, but also because of your religious or non-religious beliefs.

Religion, like the family, is one of the mainstays of capitalist control. The Moral Majority, backed by the capitalist ruling class, wants to use religion to suppress and divide us. Through religion the Moral Majority wants the education system to maintain exactly what social norms it needs to control our lives even more than it does now. It will use religion as a tool to suppress women and to tell people we must not fight back— you’ll get your rewards in the afterlife.

People should have a choice whether they want to be religious or not—but the Moral Majority wants to make everyone—atheists, agnostics, Baptists, Buddhists, Jews, everyone—be controlled under their totalitarian Christian-Protestant norms.

Today’s rally and demonstration is a step forward in the defeat of the FPA.

These attacks on the freedom and control of our lives by the Moral Majority backed by Reagan are part of the all-out attacks going on all over the world against the working class.

In South Africa, the apartheid system is backed by U.S. corporations against the liberation struggles of the Black people, from their chains of white minority domination. Millions of Black people are forced to work in slave-like conditions, being paid hardly a fraction of what their White counterparts make.

They are forced to work under dangerous work conditions—on the average, three miners are trapped and killed each day digging for gold so a wealthy few can eat lavishly while the rest starve, so a few live in huge houses while the rest are forced to make their houses out of sheet metal left behind by U.S. corporations.

The liberation struggle of the Black South Africans is for control of their lives.

And in El Salvador, where the FDR is fighting a country, at the U.S. back door, the people are fighting for their self-determination and for control of their lives.

And in Jamaica, where the right-wing of the Seaga has won power, the U.S. is giving him government loans to build up the military and repressive apparatus to

(Continued on page 16)
Acted as mediator, said of the prisoners' leader Joseph Bowen: "He while even you start to believe imposed by state corrections officials." IBStitutioR in Bnshnell, Florida, took over the prison for over six hours. The rebellion was set off when four hostages for over eight hours. The prison superintendent told the AssodateQ Press that it was the guys in the white shirts walking around that do a number on you, and make you feel like you are a man every day and after a while even you start to believe it."
Workers World knows this. Apparently, however, the WWP believes that if people are told that the enemy is powerful and the struggle will be long and hard—if people are told the truth, in other words—then “the abuses will not act.” So, instead, people are lied to. This is an approach that looks at working people as passive, and in fact rather stupid objects, who can only be manipulated into struggling on the basis of false promises and false perspectives.

This approach virtually guaranteed that the APC would not be a serious, meaningful conference. If real discussion over the nature of the ruling class offensive and the tasks in organizing a fightback had been allowed, the bubble of hype Workers World had created would have been burst.

The result was that people at the APC were treated to a barrage of rhetorical speeches designed to “whip people up” and avoid all difficult questions. This was probably what most angered the many serious activists who came to the conference. They were being treated precisely as—passive and rather stupid—objects. Who could really believe Workers World leader (though he was never identified as such) Larry Holmes when, in speaking of the proposed “National Days of Resistance” (planned for April 24-May 2), he claimed: “We’ll surround the U.S. Congress and stay there until they vote to reverse the cuts”???!

Playing into the hands of the Democrats

There was an additional, somewhat more hidden aspect of Workers World’s dishonest approach. This was its use of the slogan “Overturn the Reagan program.” Many people interpret “Reagan” or the “Reagan program” to mean the specific policies of the Republican Party, rather than the policies of the ruling class as a whole. And, unfortunately, all too many people have illusions that the Democratic Party—the so-called friends of poor and working people—represents an alternative.

WWP deliberately tried to pander to these illusions. Literature building for the APC often used phrases such as “We can’t wait for the 1984 elections.” Since the 1984 elections would most certainly be a contest between the Democrats and Republicans, this suggested to people that what the WWP was about was defeating the Republicans. In fact, a reasonable person could only interpret the slogan “Overturn the Reagan program” as meaning replacing the Republicans with the Democrats—certainly people weren’t...

(Continued on page 16)
PATCO Strike Defeated; Philly Teachers’ Walkout Ends With Mixed Results

By WILLIAM FALK

The defeat of the air traffic controllers’ strike became complete October 22 when the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) was de-certified as a bargaining agent. The de-certification, demanded by Reagan, took effect October 27 after unsuccessful union court appeals and means the destruction of PATCO.

The PATCO strike was defeated in a matter of weeks when the controllers got little substantive help from the rest of the labor movement. Acting alone, the controllers shut down the airports. The PATCO leadership weakened the strike as well. Instead of working to spread the strike, they were on a continual quest for a back-room deal from Reagan, whom they had supported in the 1980 election.

Just because the strike has been defeated does not mean that the airways are running well, however. They are a mess. Schedules have been sharply curtailed and ground delays of one to two hours are now “normal.” In addition, only a limited number of private planes, most of which are owned by corporations, will be allowed to use the air control system in the coming months. Weather is too bad for the pilot to fly by eyesight, many of these planes will be grounded.

NOW THAT the union has been destroyed, a number of ruling class figures, including the editors of the New York Times, have called on Reagan to rehire some of the controllers in order to put the system back in working order. For his part, Robert Mosbacher, head of PATCO, has said he is ready to “call off the strike” if the government would take back the fired workers.

LABOR IN STRUGGLE

Ford demands 50 percent wage cut

The Ford Motor Company is trying to force over 900 United Auto Workers (UAW) members at its Sheffield, Alabama, aluminum casting plant to take a 50 percent cut in wages and benefits. Ford claims that “high labor costs” are responsible for the plant’s losing money for the past six years. On October 27 it issued an ultimatum to the workers, threatening to shut down the plant on January 1, 1982, unless they agreed to junk the national Ford-UAW agreement and negotiate a separate contract including the cuts. It also threatened to shut the plant for a cool $40 million. But Ford insisted that the cuts would be necessary to keep the plant open whether or not workers bought it.

On October 31 the UAW International rejected Ford’s demands as a violation of the union’s national agreement with the company. Ford is now asking leaders of the UAW Local 255, which represents the Sheffield workers, to pull them out of the UAW and buy out the plant. But Local 255 President Lavoye McClean opposes any buy-out, declaring: “They would be using your money to make money.”

The Sheffield ultimatum is part of a wider Ford plan to eliminate the wages and working conditions of its workers. Earlier this year the UAW rejected company demands to renegotiate the national contract. Since then the company has forced workers at three Midwest plants to accept wage cuts or walk out and face changes by threatening shutdowns. This offensive is just a prelude to the attacks on Ford workers—and all autoworkers—expected in next year’s contract round. Ford lost $2,374,5 million in the third quarter of 1981 alone, while General Motors lost even more. Both companies have already made it clear that they will try to recover their losses by demanding enormous wage and benefit concessions, similar to those Chrysler workers gave up over the past two years, in the 1982 contract negotiations.

Unions map Houston organizing drive

In a major effort by the labor movement to unionize workers in the South, the AFL-CIO has announced it will open an organizing drive beginning December 23. Right now, less than 20 percent of Houston workers belong to unions. The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) plans to try to organize workers at refineries and petro-chemical plants in the Houston area. The Service Employees International Union is working with District 1199 to reach 30,000 hospital and healthcare workers in the city. The UAW, the USWA, AFSCME and several construction unions are among other unions participating in the drive.

Timken workers coerced into 11-year strike ban

The Timken Company has successfully blackmailed steelworkers at three of its Ohio plants into accepting an 11-year strike ban and other concessions in return for its promise to build a new steel mill in the state. On November 2 the workers, all members of the United Steelworkers union (USWA), voted by 3,446-334 to accept a contract that includes a ban on strikes and picketing; an 11-year moratorium on grievances over assignments at the new plant; a 20 percent wage cut for new hires during their first 120 days of work; and freedom for the company to ignore the union’s seniority system in selecting workers for the new mill when it is completed. Timken had threatened to build the mill in Tennessee or Kentucky, rather than in Canton, Ohio, if workers did not agree to the concessions.

Harry Mayfield, director of USWA District 27, and USWA leaders in Canton, Wooster and Columbus had favored granting Timken’s demands in order to keep the proposed plant, which will provide 800 jobs, in Canton. But in mid-October workers voted down the offer by a margin of 727-722. After the vote, Timken agreed to drop its demand that workers agree to strike. Instead, USWA members agreed to strike TBA, a 20 percent wage cut for new hires during their first 120 days of work; and freedom for the company to ignore the union’s seniority system in selecting workers for the new mill when it is completed. Timken had threatened to build the mill in Tennessee or Kentucky, rather than in Canton, Ohio, if workers did not agree to the concessions.

By W.E. SCHWEIZER

“TA attacking benefits, COLA

The latest round of attacks began when the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced it would change bus schedules to cut lunch periods of thousands of bus drivers. Traditionally, these were paid under a verbally agreed-on contract.

However, when the TA proposed the new schedules, most of the drivers resisted by refusing to drive. The union leadership took the initiative to arbitration. The union won but arbitrator Theodore Schneeberger ominously added that the TA was free to take away the pay lunches when the union’s contract expires next April.

“There are too many good, damn verbal agreements,” says John Black, a rank and file activist in the TWU. “The TWU leadership has been playing...
NY’s Transit Union Targetted by City

TWU’s Dues Checkoff Suspended

By W.E. SCHWEIZER

“We’re going to sock it to you.”

Those were the words of New York City Mayor Ed Koch, applauding a recent Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) decision that penalized the city’s transit workers for striking in April 1980. By taking away their union’s dues checkoff rights, New York’s transit workers, historically one of the strongest sections with the TWU labor movement, have been earmarked by the city government for a union-busting campaign.

A series of attacks on the workers and their union, the Transport Workers Union (TWU), began three months ago. Much is at issue, but Karl Herishman, a former transit striker, is among those who believe that the city tried to solve its financial crisis by attacking workers and slashing social services. From being the best paid workers in the industry nationally in 1974, NY transit workers fell to about the average in 1980.

Now the city is going for blood. Although the campaign against the TWU has stalled recently, the city is getting ready for an all-out battle when the TWU’s contract and those of all municipal workers expire next year.

TA attacking benefits, COLA

The latest round of attacks began when the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced it was changing bus schedules to eliminate the paid lunch period for thousands of bus drivers. Traditionally, they had been paid under a verbal agreement with the TWU.

However, when the TA posted the new schedules, most drivers resisted by refusing to bid for assignments, while the union leadership took the issue to arbitration. The union won, but arbitrator Theodore Kheel reiterated that the TA was free to take away the paid lunch periods when the union’s contract expires next April.

“There are too many goddamn verbal agreements,” says John Black, a rank and file activist in the TWU. “The TWU leadership has been playing ball with the TA in terms of verbal agreements and now the TA wants them back. And if they get them all back, we might as well be slaves.”

At the same time, the TA went after transit workers’ cost-of-living allowance (COLA). Under the settlement contract which transit workers were forced to accept in 1980, COLA payments were tied to productivity gains. When this fall’s scheduled increase came up, the TA claimed that productivity hadn’t gone up enough and tried to cut the payment by more than half.

An arbitration panel again ruled in favor of the union. But the whole question—indeed whether there is to be any COLA at all, along with everything else the union has ever won—gets thrown up for grabs next year in the new contract. Koch immediately began setting the stage for a take-aways when he denounced the arbitrators’ award and declared that transit workers “rip us off like a cancer.”

It was after these first two attacks that the New York Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) took away the TWU’s dues checkoff for 18 months as punishment for the transit strike in April 1980.

Under a checkoff system, union dues are automatically deducted from members’ paychecks and forwarded in a lump sum to the union. Taking this crime on “incompetent” and “lazy” transit workers—those who threaten to be a repeat. The PERB also eliminated the dues checkoff for the United Federation of Teachers in retaliation for its strike in 1975 against layoffs and budget cuts.

The PERB acted under New York’s Taylor Law, which makes it illegal for public workers to strike. Under its terms the TWU and two other unions already have been fined $1.3 million for the 1980 strike. In addition, union members already have each lost $1,000-$1,500 in fines out of their paychecks.

New York City workers march in support of transit workers in 1980. Mayor Ed Koch is unleashing new offensive against TWU.

Union leadership urging retreat

While the city prepares for battle, the TWU leadership is urging retreat. In August, when the TA began attacking the bus drivers, TWU Local 100 President John Lawe offered to give up the union’s traditional stand of “No Contract, No Work” in favor of binding arbitration.

And while it is true that the TWU has won a couple of small victories from arbitration this fall, the arbitrators themselves have already signalled that all bets are off when the contract expires next spring.

Clearly, rank and file transit workers need to organize to defend themselves. This will not be easy. Despite sporadic resistance, the transit rank and file has been demoralized since their strike was sold out last year. The Local 100 elections this fall reflect this. Two years before the last one was sold out because three rank and file slates split the vote against him. This year threatens to be a repeat.

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Central America: A Region in Revolt

The following is the first part of a two-part series on Central America and U.S. Imperialism's response to it given by Franz Morgan to a meeting of the RSL's Central Committee held September 26-27. The second part will appear in the next issue of the Torch/La Antorcha.

After decades of relative stability, Central America today is experiencing a number of significant new political developments in Central America, such as the renegotiation of the Panama Canal Treaty, the emergence of the Sandinista movement in Nicaragua, and the development of a solidarity bloc, a policeman for Central America, available to serve as the U.S. proxy in the event of continued revolution.

To win support for this strategy, the U.S. is waging an intense propaganda campaign. The strategy is to portray the Sandinista regime as popular, progressive, and "moving toward democracy." Another crucial aspect of the propaganda effort is to exaggerate or invent the danger of a Soviet/Cuban threat to the region. Finally, the strategy requires the perspective of "saving" Mexico, the ultimate domino, at all costs. Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador have a very significant economic consequence for U.S. imperialism. The struggle there—to the U.S. is a major war for political and ideological control, not to mention dollars. While Guatemala is considerably more significant to the U.S., it is Mexico which absolutely cannot lose. Mexico has one of the world's largest oil reserves, billions in U.S. investments, 70 million people and a 2,000-mile lightly guarded frontier with the U.S. Political turmoil in Mexico indirectly affects the entire U.S. Southwest through trade and tourist traffic.

Political alignments in the region have shifted. Panama and Mexico, though still U.S. allies, have become more independent and frequently disagree with the U.S., especially in foreign policy matters. Nicaragua, especially under the Sandinistas (Frente Sandinista de Liberacion Nacional—FSNL), is essentially a left social democratic movement, a coalition of forces with a mixed record.

Rebels in El Salvador and Guatemala are following the basic political model set by the FSLN, and they are likely to be eventually victorious in their national liberation wars. Even the Central American rightists are not as obedient to the U.S. as they once were. In El Salvador and Guatemala, for example, the U.S. has been unable to control the excesses of the neo-fascist military and right-wing death squads.

U.S. imperialism's strategic response to the Central American crisis has several aspects. The first response is to throw money at the problem. Massive economic and military aid is pouring into El Salvador and Honduras and will soon start flowing to Guatemala (after a brief suspension under Carter due to "human rights violations.") The intent is to create a military alliance between the three right-wing military regimes in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. This alliance, dubbed the "Iron Triangle," should serve as a huge conservative bloc, a policeman for Central America, available to serve as the U.S. proxy in case of continued revolution.

With new laws against strikes, land occupations and factory takeovers and a big drive to increase productivity, the FSLN has hoped to dispense with the Cuban model of mass popular mobilization. The literate campaign and the recent uniformed militia training are examples of this. Such mobilizations serve to arouse genuine patriotic sentiment and divert the people's attention from the danger of a U.S. intervention in Nicaragua.

All U.S. loans and aid to the FSLN government have been cut off, while private sector aid continues to flow to Nicaraguan capitalists. The World Bank has imposed conditions on Nicaragua's world stature; in addition, the FSLN have been pressured by U.S. imperialism to take it over. The struggle for political advantage in the region is a war between the U.S. and U.S.-backed forces. Nicaragua, Nicaragua capitalists, who still own 60 percent of all means of production, have been encouraged to decapitalize, abandon

Nicaraguan youth celebrate fall of Somosa regime in 1979.

Nicaraguan society today is extremely unstable. The FSLN's attempts to build a pluralistic, mixed-economy society have run up against severe hostility from U.S. imperialism, resistance from the native capitalist class, and insistent wage, workplace, and consumer demands from workers and small farmers. The current Nicaraguan crisis is driving the FSLN faster than it wants to go toward state capitalism—toward repression, violence, and the working class. But as long as the capitalists, to prevent capital flight, have the money, and abandonment of factories and fields, are combined

Tensions with the U.S.
laws against strikes, repressions and factory closures, and a big drive to stop productivity. The literacy campaign has been seen as an attempt to organize the country's remote Atlantic Indian peoples. A U.S. strategy of containment with Nicaragua, that has occasional positive overtures but, in a hint of new aid, an overall U.S. posture is hostile and will remain so. The FSLN's slide toward state capitalism will continue, the speed of the process depending on the success the government has in gaining full advantage of the island's energy endowment. To the FSLN, Cuba, too much of a drain on its socialist muscle, is not destined to last.

Interestingly, Fidel Castro knows this, and has warned the FSLN not to follow the Cuban road. And Reagan, after all his attempts to organize anti-communist support by anti-Communist groups, has persuaded another thoroughly dependent client state in the Western Hemisphere. The addition of mass popular mobilizations to Nicaraguan forces is another factor in the regime's fall. Whether the literacy campaign will save the FSLN is very unlikely.

In the short run, a regionalization of the conflict through joint military operations of the Iron Triangle countries—Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador—has already been tried successfully in the region.

Next month, part two of Morgan's talk will discuss Guatemala and Honduras, and will outline a revolutionary, working-class perspective for the region.

Mexico Deports Guatemalan Refugees

During the past year, 40,000 Guatemalan peasant refugees have crossed over into the southern Mexican state of Chiapas. They are fleeing from a bloody civil war at home. Most of them are Indians whose language is Mayan, not Spanish. Many are illiterate. The Mexican government calls them "illegal," and wants them out. In February of this year, 1,300 Guatemalans were forcefully deported from Chiapas. In May, another 400 were rounded up. In June, a wave of pan-Mexican refugees, estimated at 6,000 to 7,000 people, crossed the Guatemalan border into Mexico, fleeing a massacre by Guatemalan troops in their hometown. Forty-six were noted to be political asylum seekers. The rest were placed on Mexican military trucks, driven to the border, and turned over to the United States' declaration that at least 100 are known to have been killed by Guatemalan troops.

This incident provoked a minor scandal in Mexico. The coordinator of the Mexican government's commission for refugees, Gabriel Fraga, signed in protest along with most of his staff. The UN high commissioner for refugees also issued a sharp protest: "These people are prima facie refugees," said a UN spokesman. "The proof is that when they were sent back, many were murdered." Fraga's replacement as head of the Mexican refugee commission is Luis Orta Monasterio, who denies that the issue has anything to do with Central American politics. "It's a question of numbers," says Orta. "These large numbers of refugees in a state like Chiapas could radically affect our stability."

For the Mexican government, its southern frontier area is especially sensitive. It contains the nation's major oil deposits as well as a large, poor Indian population. Land disputes and labor conflicts are already common in Chiapas, and the government wants no refugee camps there. Guatemalan rebel influence could grow.

Mexico's hard line against the refugees has placed it in an embarrassing international position. "If we continue this policy," admits Commissioner Orta, "it could be argued that we have no moral authority to insist on better treatment for our citizens in the United States."

But the deportations go on. In September, 1,400 Guatemalan refugees were expelled in October. Shortly after this, a priest in the Mexican border town of Ciudad Guzmán reported the discovery of 13 corpses which had floated across the San Gregorio River from Guatemala. All had been mutilated. One's eyes were gouged out.

The strategy of Guatemala's right-wing military regime is to control its rebel guerrilla armies by creating an empty no-man's land along the border. Its method is mass terror. And Mexico, despite its liberal image, has become a willing partner.

The repercussions of this policy may return to haunt both governments as the struggle grows. One Guatemalan refugee, interviewed in the Mexican daily Uno Más Uno, said: "All of us are living along the river bank. We are watching as our government allows it to happen. But now, yes, I have four little sons. If there were guns I would say to them—go."
By PAUL BENJAMIN

On November 4, General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's Prime Minister and recently chosen leader of the ruling Polish United Workers Party (PUWP), met with Solidarity head Lech Walesa and Archbishop Józef Glemp, head of the Polish Roman Catholic Church, to seek their cooperation in solving the country's political and economic crisis. According to a government press release, the three "exchanged views on ways to overcome the crisis, and the possibility of forming a Front of National Agreement," described as "a permanent platform for dialogue and consultation of the political and social forces on the basis of the constitution."

On the surface, the proposed Front would appear to be a major concession by the government to the union. In August 1980, when the PUWP recognized the workers' right to form independent unions in the Gdansk accords, the workers, under terms of the agreement, had to accept the "leading role" of the PUWP in Polish society, and agree not to form an opposition party or otherwise challenge the PUWP's monopoly of political power. Now the PUWP is apparently offering to share power with Solidarity through the proposed Front.

But in reality, the so-called "Polish summit" marks a successful step in the Polish state capitalists' long-term campaign to co-opt and defuse the workers' rebellion. As early as October 1980, some members of the PUWP Central Committee were arguing that the party should offer Solidarity "co-responsibility in the exercise of power" if union leaders accepted the overall authority of the party. As we warned then:

"If the other workers, the ruling class would make a deal with Walesa and other reformist union leaders that would give them official power and status, but only at the price of Walesa and Co. agreeing to discipline the workers in the interests of 'solving Poland's economic problems,' that is, stabilizing Polish state capitalism. If such a capitalism is arranged, the state capitalists hope the mass of workers would eventually become demoralized and the new unions could be integrated with the state and the remains of the old unions. The result would be a defusing of the present situation and a return to the status quo ante, as in 1980." (Torch/LA Appeal, November 15-December 14, 1980.)

But up until now the PUWP has been unable to carry out this co-optation strategy. The main reason for this is that both the party leadership and the moderate forces within Solidarity opposed the move. Walesa, in the defensive face of the militant struggles of the Polish workers. Although Stanislaw Kania, who took over the government following the Gdansk accords, was under constant pressure from the Russian ruling class and hardliners within the PUWP to refuse any further concessions to the union, he was incapable of stemming the tide. Meanwhile, Walesa was under similar pressure from within Solidarity to defend and extend the gains the workers had already won. Consequently, union and government leaders were unable to reach an accommodation despite their mutual desires to do so.

The result was an unstable and exploitive dual power situation in which the PUWP held the state apparatus while Solidarity became the real representative of the Polish people.

Today, however, it appears that the PUWP is gaining the initiative against the workers' movement. In particular, Walesa's "guarded optimism" over the Tarnobrzeg province, in southeast Poland, 180,000 workers walked off their jobs to protest inadequate food supplies. And in western Zielona Góra province, another 120,000 workers struck after the dismissal of a local Solidarity official from his job.

Altogether, over 300,000 workers in 36 of Poland's 49 provinces were on strike by October 23. The strike wave led to a 24-hour national strike on October 28 by over nine million workers. Following the general strike the Zyrardów and Tarnobrzeg workers returned to their jobs. But as of this writing the Zielona Góra strike is continuing, and union leaders in other parts of the country have issued strike alerts.

The PUWP is gaining the initiative against the workers. But in reality, the Polish economy is in a state of total collapse. Above all, people do not have enough to eat. For instance, in Zyrardów, a town in central Poland about 20 miles south of Warsaw, workers face a serious bread shortage and must wait in line three or four days hoping, often in vain, to buy meat. A local Solidarity official told a national television audience that Zyrardów workers could not finish their jobs because of hunger, and "real starvation." The food shortage is one of the most stark examples of the shortages that are paralyzing the entire country. In Warsaw, parts and materials at the Ursus tractor factory lie rotting because other essential parts are lacking. Cars are lined up literally for miles because of a gas shortage. Parents are unable to buy winter clothes for their children.

One of the main reasons for what may be a decisive shift in the Polish situation is the disastrous shape of the Polish economy. Put bluntly, the Polish economy is at the point of total collapse. Above all, people do not have enough to eat. For instance, in Zyrardów, a town in central Poland about 20 miles south of Warsaw, workers face a serious bread shortage and must wait in line three or four days hoping, often in vain, to buy meat. A local Solidarity official told a national television audience that Zyrardów workers could not finish their jobs because of hunger, and "real starvation." The food shortage is one of the most stark examples of the shortages that are paralyzing the entire country. In Warsaw, parts and materials at the Ursus tractor factory lie rotting because other essential parts are lacking. Cars are lined up literally for miles because of a gas shortage. Parents are unable to buy winter clothes for their children.

To cope with these shortages Polish workers have been forced to resort to a barter system, exchanging scarce, desired items like cigarettes and liquor for essential goods like food or clothing, and for medical and other services. As the economy has crumbled around them, the workers have lashed out against the government in spontaneous strikes. In October, they defied both the government and their own union leadership to carry out the biggest strike wave since the August 1980 revolt. In Zyrardów, 12,000 textile workers, most of them women, began a sit-down strike over food shortages on October 13. In...
Workers Threatened

Moderates Seek Immodation

Government

southeast Poland, some 170,000 workers of a local union staged a strike to protest the army's readying to use force against the workers. The strike led to a wave of protests across Poland, with workers demanding the army to be kept out of the labor movement. The army's intervention fueled the protests, leading to a national strike that lasted for several months. The strike was a significant event in the history of Poland, as it marked the beginning of the Solidarity movement.

Walesa condemns 'unjustified strikes'

But these attempts at reorganizing the Solidarity apparatus and giving the PUWP a new credibility would hardly be sufficient to allow the PUWP to regain the initiative—if it were not for a key additional factor. That is the fact that Walesa and his allies in the leadership of Solidarity are, for the first time, openly collaborating with the government against the workers.

At a meeting of the union's National Committee on October 23, for example, Walesa insisted that the PUWP's control over the government was "unassailable." He also called for the creation of a new body to settle conflicts between the PUWP and the union, a proposal remarkably similar to the government's offer of a Front of National Agreement, which was announced two weeks later.

Walesa's pro-government stance was revealed most clearly in his response to the October strike wave. On October 20, at the height of the workers' uprising, Walesa pushed a resolution through Solidarity's National Committee agreeing with the PUWP that strikes were "economically harmful" and pleading: "We shall see to it that unjustified protests, or those embarked upon before other means of reaching an agreement have been exhausted, are eliminated."

In other words, Walesa forced the Solidarity leadership to openly declare its intention of disciplining the workers for the ruling class. Eight days later, the union leadership called for a general strike as a means of "guaranteeing" the army's participation in the opening and fighting for leadership within the union.

Some of these factions represent conservative, pro-Western nationalist forces that are trying to use the workers' movement to further their own political concerns. The most important of these is the Confederation for an Independent Poland (KPN), which reportedly had 100 sympathizers among the 292 delegates at the union's recent congress. This group is trying to capitalize on Polish hatred of Russia and demand a new body to settle conflicts between thePUWP and the Russian ruling class. It is only natural that some Polish workers, who have endured 35 years of state-capitalist tyranny masquerading as socialism, and who are fiercely opposed to Russian domination of the region, look to the West for salvation.

But this tendency must be ruthlessly combated by the left, which must warn that a victory for the KPN would mean freedom for the workers, but only a new oppression, this time to Western-style capitalism and Western, rather than Russian, imperialism.

Moreover, the left needs to war Polish workers that they should not look to the U.S. or its allies for help against the PUWP or the Russian ruling class.
Crisis of Jamaican Capitalism Deepens

RML Holds Successful Congress

On October 16, 17 and 18, the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica, West Indies, held its second Congress. In two and a half days of intense discussion and debate, comrades and supporters of the RML, along with delegates from the Revolutionary Socialist League, discussed the present situation in Jamaica and the tasks facing the RML.

One of the highlights of the Congress was the approval of a motion of fusion between the RML and the RSL. Along with a similar vote at the RSL's Fifth National Convention, held in June of this year, the vote at the RML Congress completed the unification of the two organizations into one democratic centralist organization.

Anti-JLP mood grows as attacks increase

The RML Congress was held in two parts. One was a series of sessions involving only members and candidates of the RML plus the members of the RSL delegation. The first session of this closed portion of the Congress heard a report from one of the RML comrades about the pre-sent situation in the United States and the struggle of working people against the escalating capitalist attack.

The second part of the closed portion of the Congress was devoted to a report and discussion on the political situation in Jamaica and the tasks of the Revolutionary Marxist League. Comrade Jon Thomas, a member of the RML Executive Committee (EC), explained the nature of the existing anti-working class program presently being carried out by the revolutionary Jamaican Labour Party (JLP), which took office a year ago. Comrade Thomas pointed out that the JLP is following a two-pronged strategy to try to restart the stalled Jamaican economy. On the one hand, the JLP is trying to sell off local companies to U.S. capitalists and permit them to buy into the country by offering tax holidays, cheap factory space and facilities for repatriation of profits. On the other hand, the government is brutally attacking the living standards of the Jamaican workers through a relaxation of price controls, wage restrictions and massive rent increases, while increasing the exploitation at the work place. In the meantime, layoffs and attacks on the rights and gains won by workers in past struggles.

In particular, the JLP is trying to create a strong anti-working class, anti-worker's movement in order to sow the seeds of counterrevolution and bourgeois interests. This position was adopted unanimously by the delegates at the Congress.

In addition to the Tasks and Perspectives discussion, the Congress also heard reports from the Organizing Committee and the RML Women's Committee by EC member Patsey Christie. Of particular interest has been the demand for a peaceful and just solution to the housing crisis, a demand that has been threatening for some time now.

On Sunday evening, the Congress's public session was held and was attended by 60 members and supporters of the RML. After opening remarks by Comrade Christie, solidarity messages from RML supporters, the strikings Housecraft workers, the Standing Strike Support Committee and the RSL were read and members and supporters of the RML read revolutionary poetry they had composed. Comrade Thomas then gave a clear and incisive talk about the economic and political situation in Jamaica and outlined the decisions of the closed sessions of the Congress concerning the tasks of the League.

After some questions and discussion came another of the highlights of the Congress. This was a skit (actually, a play) put on by members and supporters of the RML about the struggle of the workers at Housecraft Manufacturing Company. The Housecraft workers had been on strike for eight months over the worsened conditions in the Housecraft factory and for the right to have the union of their choice.

The skit graphically showed how Housecraft owner and manager Loraine Fung abused the workers, forced them to work many hours of overtime, actually sleep overnight on the picket line, demand less pay, then fire them and cheat them out of their wages. It revealed how the workers came to see what was going on, to do something about it, and to work together. The delegations of the Housecraft workers. (Continued from page 18)

not only helped to them.

Finally, the left has to take concrete steps to prepare for an armed defense of the Polish revolution. It must build an underground organization that can build revolutionary networks inside the Polish army and send agents across the Polish border to mobilize support for the Polish people among workers in other Eastern European countries oppressed by Russian imperialism and their own state-capitalist rulers. At the same time, it must call on soldiers in the Polish army and the Russian troops already stationed in Poland to refuse orders to fire on the workers if and when they are given.

The most urgent problem facing the left is that it is running out of time. The Polish people are already divided, exhausted and exhausted after nearly a year and a half of struggle. If they see no solution to their problems, they may turn to a spontaneous strike, forcing an ill-prepared revolt that can be put down by the PUV and the Russian army. It is also possible that many workers may eventually give up the struggle and accept the discipline that Walea and the PUVW are seeking to impose because they see no other way out.

However, it is not too late for the left to lead a successful revolution in Poland. It will take time for the PUV and Walea to actually act on an economic appreciation, given the opposition to a deal that exists both within the PUVW and the union. This delay will give the left time to mobilize workers against Walea's efforts to betray them. It's also quite possible that the negotiations between Walea and Jaruzelski will be broken down, just as the efforts to solve the problems of the Polish state capitalism have failed. Such a breakdown can only intensify the political struggle within the union, and may increase the left's chances to build a revolutionary faction that can lead the workers to victory against the Polish ruling class.

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RML’s hold on Jamaica

The most recent RML attack on workers in the country has been the strike of workers at the Housecraft Manufacturing Company. The company, which is owned by the LFP, has been under attack by the RML for months, and the company has been forced to shut down several times. The RML has been successful in their efforts to weaken the company, and many workers have been fired or forced to take on more work. The RML has also been successful in organizing workers at the company and has been able to win some concessions from management.

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In conclusion, the RML has been successful in their efforts to organize workers at the company and has been able to win some concessions from management. The company has been forced to shut down several times, and many workers have been fired or forced to take on more work. The RML has also been successful in organizing workers at the company and has been able to win some concessions from management.
**EDITORIAL**

Of Brinks hold-ups and government repression

Early news reports of a hold-up of Brinks armored truck in Rockland County, NY, on October 20, in which one of the guards was shot and killed and two others wounded, sounded at first like dozens of other stories that filled the news that day. But this one was different: At one of the police roadblocks set up around the county, a van was stopped by the cops, and when they attempted to open its back doors, gunnen jumped out shooting. In the melee that followed, two convicts town cops were shot and killed, and four occupants of the van and two accompanying cars were captured.

As is now well-known, among those arrested were several people who had been self-declared members of the Weather Underground, a terrorist faction that emerged out of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the late 60s. These were Katherine Boudin, Judith Clark and David Gilbert. Also arrested was Samuel Brown, a former police officer who had a long police record but no known political identification.

**Hold-up sets off FBI witch-hunt**

In the three weeks since the hold-up and shootout, the government—-from the local district attorney to the FBI—and the media have seized on the incident to carry out and justify an attack on left-wing and Black nationalist organizations. Indeed, on the 24th of October, the director of the Joint Terrorist Task Force of the FBI admitted that in the words of the Times, "the investigation had grown into a major inquiry of the right-wing and leftist underground's." Indeed both the police and the FBI who are working in a spirit of "unusual cooperation,"-again according to the Times—had already started conjuring up lurid images of networks of terror conspiracies that included the Weather Underground, the Black Liberation Army, the FALN, the May 19th Communist Organization—and even "foreign governments," specifically Cuba.

With this as a cover, they have raided apartments, houses, and workplaces around the metropolitan area, searching for and arresting hundreds of people in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the metropolitan area and as far away as Mississippi, supposedly hot on the trail of "terrorists." One death of an alleged suspect, severe beatings, false arrests, and unwarranted searches have followed in their wake. In fact, the Rockland County events came at a perfect time for the government. In the early 70s, as the impending defeat of U.S. imperialism in Vietnam threw the U.S. ruling class into disarray, a number of scandals—Watergate, the Pentagon Papers, etc.—exposed government corruption and, more importantly, institutionalized government spying, harassment and various criminal activities the ruling class has carried out under its democratic veneer. CIA assassinations and attempted assassinations of foreign leaders were exposed. Lists of "public enemies" were uncovered. FBI "black-bag" jobs, infiltration of organizations, dozens of literally tens of thousands of individuals—all the dirt the government had tried to keep buried was brought out into the open. As a result, some limitations were forced on the various branches of the state apparatus—although government dirty tricks hardly stopped. In recent years, however, large sections of the ruling class have sought to remove the fetters on the agents of the state, an effort that was given a huge boost with the election of Ronald Reagan last year. Since then, FBI agents convicted of break-ins and burglaries have been pardoned; new, looser regulations on what the CIA and FBI can and can't do have been issued; and there is currently an effort underway to go back to the Freedom of Information Act.

The War and government repression of the ruling class are not new. For the first time in this country, the U.S. intelligence services have been caught up in the struggle against the system. The Weathermen were the first, and the others followed in their wake. The government has had a tacks on the Weatherpeople and the others arrested on trial not because of their actions but because of their avowed political beliefs. It is, in fact, as left-wing, anti-imperialist politics will be put on trial—"we must defend them against the state."

**Weatherpeople turned back on working class**

At the same time, however, we must say that we feel very little affinity and a lot of disgust with the politics and alleged actions of the Weather Underground. The Weatherpeople have been pardoned; new, looser regulations on what the CIA and FBI can and can't do have been issued; and there is currently an effort underway to go back to the Freedom of Information Act. No, the Weatherpeople's politics are not revolutionary. The manifestos denouncing U.S. imperialism, and statistical society with the struggle people of Vietnam, etc.

Today, however, the Weatherpeople's activity appears to be nothing more than a desperate attempt to come. Moreover, insofar as the government will be putting the Weatherpeople and the others arrested on trial not because of their actions but because of their avowed political beliefs. It is, in fact, as left-wing, anti-imperialist politics will be put on trial—"we must defend them against the state."

**A boon for the government**

What we do know is that the hold-up and shootout have proved to be a bonanza for the ruling class and a disaster for the left. The government was handed, as if on a silver platter, precisely what it needed. At a time it needed it, go after the left and large-scale government spying, harassment and the arrest of innocent people. One Black, who were hardly symbols of U.S. capitalism, are dead, and the government in a position to look around the left, or at least sections of it, are the ones who hold human life in disregard.
crush the growing militancy of the Black working people and progressive left organizations: They want control of their lives.

The attack against the Solidarity union and Polish workers’ struggle by the Polish government and the Russian ruling class is an attack on the workers having control over their workplaces and over the means of production. The workers are fighting for control of their lives.

Cuban gays and lesbians were so repressed they were forced to flee to the even more repressive U.S. refugee camps. They are fighting for control of their lives.

In the so-called socialist countries, Russia, China, and the like, the state owns the means of production and the average person has no control over the means of production. People have no control over the schools, hospitals or workplaces. That’s why we say they are state-capitalist. The workers in these countries are fighting for control of their lives.

Here at home we must fight against racism, sexism, union-busting and repression—we must fight for control of our lives. We must connect the struggles of our brothers and sisters all over the world to really see and understand that an injury to one is an injury to all.

Our money—our hard-earned money, the sweat, toil and misery of workers all over the world—is being used for a mass military buildup that will only lead to total destruction. We, the workers of the world, should have the say-so to where our labor goes—to feeding our children, giving them a decent education that tells the truth, to decent health care facilities and housing for everyone. The ruling class of the world won’t hand this over to us and what little reforms it gives it takes away.

Only a strong working class movement, developing into a working class party and leadership can show the way for people all over the world to liberate ourselves from control of our own lives through socialist revolution.

The Revolutionary Socialist League is a multi-national organization fighting to build a revolutionary party. Along with our sister organization, the Revolutionary Marxist League of Jamaica, we are active in a wide range of day-to-day struggles: the fight against the Nazis and the Klan and all racist attacks, union struggles, community struggles, the fight for lesbian, gay and women’s liberation, the movement against nuclear power, national liberation struggles, the fight of prisoners for rights and freedom and many other struggles. In these battles for basic needs and rights, we fight to win the greatest gains possible. At the same time, we will always tell the truth: that freedom—and liberation, a better world, will only come when worldwide capitalism is destroyed and replaced with real workers’ rule—socialism.

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All Peoples Congress

(Continued from page 7)

going to believe that the entire ruling class would be overturned through one demonstration. This is further confirmed by the kinds of people WWP brought into the leadership of the APC. While most of the left was excluded from any meaningful role, pro-Democratic Party politicians such as Bella Abzug, Paul O’Dwyer and Ramsey Clark were brought onto the APC’s National Advisory Board. John Conyers (D-Mich.) was a prominent speaker at the APC. WWP found time to give Conyers a platform and thereby build his stature within the movement (which he will use to advocate support for Democratic Party candidates), while there was supposedly “no time” for 99 percent of rank and file participants to speak.

The result is that militant social movements in this country have been co-opted into the Democratic Party. In the coming period, we will once again see the Democrats try to rebuild their strength and influence by posting as “progressives.” Other published estimates have put the number of “people professing to be leftists . . . from the so-called Revolutionary Socialist League and Revolutionary Communist Party.” Leaving aside the insidious implication that the members of these groups are something other than working people, this charge is also dishonest.

The dozen or so supporters of the APC that attended the conference were hardly responsible for the widespread dissatisfaction over how the conference was run. The RSL certainly did join in the chants of “Open the Mike!” at the Sunday session. So did large numbers of other people. Neither the RSL nor the RCP organized this outcry and it would have taken place, without us.

We believe that the experience of the All Peoples Congress is a lesson in how not to build a movement. We need a movement that is both democratic and politically conscious, a movement that understands what its friends and enemies are and what it is fighting for and what it is fighting against.

We need a movement that understands that, in order to win the broadest possible support, the Reagan government has to be defeated. We need a movement that understands that the capital class—the most powerful and ruthless class in the world—will not be easily “overthrown.”

But, no matter how long the struggle for a better world, for a just and democratic society is, one thing is certain: We will never build a strong movement, much less a socialist world, through manipulation and dishonesty. This is surely the road to defeat.

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