

# workers world

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite

The early 1930s found American workers jobless, without strong leaders, and divided by racism. But it wasn't long before mighty strike struggles forged the great industrial unions. See page 10.

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## Jobless to Ford:

# How about aid for 'refugees' from unemployment!

As Ford asks for \$500 million to assist former police and military officials of the Saigon regime, the jobless here are demanding emergency assistance from the federal government. A group of 30 homeless men in California have petitioned for "refugee" status so they can get a bed and a meal. And in Detroit, the jobless marched last weekend for emergency disaster relief. See page 3.

## *May Day around the world - see centerfold*



May Day celebration in Puerto Rico.

WW photo: Julio



Jobless marcher tapes demand to door of Detroit City Hall. WW photo

## Inventions and millionaires

**McCormick reaper wasn't McCormick's**

By V. COPELAND

Every schoolchild in the United States is taught in the 7th or 8th grade that Cyrus McCormick invented the reaper in 1834 and that this opened up the West, made bread cheaper for the working people, helped the North win the Civil War, revolutionized a thousand years of wheat farming, and accomplished no end of wonderful things.

What the schoolchildren do not learn is that the reaper was actually invented in 1833 by a man named Obed Hussey—whose name is now obliterated from even the most comprehensive encyclopedias.

And what they also do not learn is that **Cyrus McCormick was a**

scheming manipulator of legislatures, briber of Congressmen, and unfair winner of patent battles (with the indispensable alliance of still more unscrupulous bankers and financiers). Above all, he was the oppressor of thousands of immigrant men and women whom he worked 11 and 12 hours a day (for the going wage of a dollar a day or less) in his Chicago factories—and he threw them on the scrap heap whenever the capitalist market "required" it.

**MCCORMICK AND MAY DAY**

What the children also do not learn is that the heartless execution of the Haymarket martyrs of the 8-hour-day struggle

can be traced directly to the door of his International Harvester Company.

The events in Chicago's Haymarket Square, noted in last week's Workers World, took place during a great strike that shut down McCormick's plant and many others.

May Day itself had seen a nationwide peaceful demonstration for the 8-hour day. Although it had been constantly threatened and harassed by armed "militia" and police, it was disbanded without incident.

But on May 3, while a more or less general strike for the 8-hour day was continuing to spread, "the police," in the words of Labor's Untold Story, "exasperated by the

futility of May 1 after such high expectations (of murdering the workers—VC), gained some relief by clubbing the locked-out employees of the McCormick Harvester Works as they rushed in 300 scabs. At closing time a great crowd of the locked-out employees were waiting the exit of the scabs when police suddenly charged them with drawn revolvers. They retreated when police, according to a witness, "opened fire into their backs. Boys and men were killed as they ran."

It was during the mass protest after this event that the great "Haymarket Affair" took place and gave birth to the international tradition of May Day.

But in the meantime how could the "benefactor of humanity" that we all learned about—how could the patient, loving inventor of the all-powerful, labor-saving, life giving, bread-cheapening machinery—have been so villainous and murderous?

Actually, he couldn't have been—that is, the real inventor couldn't have been.

**OBED HUSSEY**

The real inventor, Obed Hussey, is described by his only biographer, Follett L. Greeno, as a man of unusual "kindness and compassion."

"Men of inventive genius," Greeno says, are rarely of the dirty, capitalist cheating type. "They are often unassuming and averse to anything like personal combat (over money matters—VC). Such a man was Obed Hussey, inventor of the reaper. . . . He was a man at once so humble and so broad in his kindness, so loyal to his Quaker ideals of righteousness and justice that he offered no protests or arguments against his rivals and opponents other than the superiority of his own machine."

Hussey, not perhaps quite as meek as Greeno describes him, but obviously too trusting in other people's honesty under a capitalist system, waited 20 years to make the following petition to a Congress which by that time must have been well bribed or overwhelmed by the McCormick forces:

"... But although my labors were finally crowned with success in the production of a good Reaping Mowing Machine, I did not with the most rigid economy, accumulate, during the whole existence of my patent, so much as I might have done in the capacity of a clerk in the Patent Office.

"... But I opened the way for these parties in New York to invest their millions in the manufacture of machines which I invented."

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The reaper, which McCormick did not invent but which he used to make himself a millionaire.

**PHILADELPHIA****COME TO A PUBLIC MEETING**

"THE STRUGGLE IN INDOCHINA AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE STRUGGLE OF U.S. POOR AND WORKING PEOPLE"

Film: "79 SPRINGS OF HO CHI MINH"

Speakers: Tran Vu Zung Ali Shabazz

Together House  
32 E. Armat St.

Sun., May 11  
3:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Youth Against War & Fascism, Box 9894, Phila. 19140 227-3517

## Chicago police and military intelligence behind attacks by neo-Nazi terrorist group

By BOB DOBROW

NEW YORK, May 2—Recent information has surfaced connecting an ultra-rightwing fascist organization with the Chicago Police Department and the U.S. Army. The now-defunct, Chicago-based "League for Justice," was financed and actively supported from 1969 through 1972 by the 113th Military Intelligence Group of the Army as well as by the police.

This information was revealed to the Chicago Daily News earlier last month.

This para-military, neo-fascist

grouping advocated and participated in violence against anti-war protesters and meetings. It planted bugging devices against such groups as the American Friends Service Committee and the Independent Voters of Illinois.

Later revelations pointed to the use of gas bombs to disrupt performances of the Soviet Bolshoi Ballet and Chinese acrobatic troupes in 1970 and 1972. A grenade that was used in one of these attacks has been traced to Army stocks, and the Chicago police were aware of the attack days before it occurred and did nothing

to prevent it.

It has also been revealed that the 113th Military Intelligence Group supplied these fascist vermin with tear gas, Mace, and electronic surveillance equipment. They not only supplied equipment, but also actively recruited members for the organization and either paid them directly or gave the money to their leader to pay rent and expenses. The organization was headed by a Chicago lawyer, S. Thomas Sutton, who has very close personal links to members of the Chicago Police Department's intelligence division.

region.

"From the outside looking in, Bangkok appears to be a decaying city growing more rotten each day. With its thousands of prostitutes, massage parlors, night clubs, glittering neon lights, expensive imported cars, horse racing and all the other superficial signs of Western-style wealth, it's an old-fashioned sin city in the Sodom and Gomorrah sense of the term.

"About 10 percent of Thailand's population lives in Bangkok and each year thousands of rural people drift to the city in the dry season to work as laborers in order to survive until the next planting.

"This crumbling from within, even more than North Vietnamese assistance from without, is likely to prove crucial to the Communist campaign.

"We're at the point now where we're

going to have a revolution in Thailand, there's no question about that," said an agrarian reform specialist."

**STERILIZATION CARNIVAL**

The New York Times, Madras, India, April 21:

"The community marriage hall of the Royapuram residential colony in a crowded section of this city has been given a new role. It is serving as a vasectomy camp. . . . A multicolored balloon floats 100 feet above the building beckoning volunteers for sterilization.

"Aimed at poor workers, the camp has been inducing hundreds of volunteers by offering an \$8 cash award, a one-week holiday if the volunteer is a factory worker, eight pounds of rice and a free movie ticket."

**DECLINE AND FALL****RIPE FOR REVOLUTION**

New York Post, April 23:

"BANGKOK—Thailand is as ripe as a country can be for a full-fledged insurrection.

"With strikingly rare exceptions, top political, military and police officials are thoroughly corrupt.

"The government, patched together into a coalition from more than a dozen political parties, is unstable and may not last another six months.

"The insurgents, known as the Thai Peoples Liberation Armed Forces, are

thought to number about 8500, with about three quarters of their strength in the north and northeast.

"Although the Thai insurgency has been nominally active for at least a decade, in the last few years intelligence sources have detected annual recruitment increases as high as 20 percent.

"This part of the country is ideally suited for their activity. Income is lower than anywhere else in Thailand—about one sixth of what it is in Bangkok—and alienation from the mainstream of Thai society is most keenly felt by the tribal hill people in the

Demand immediate payment to needy

# Detroit jobless rally for emergency relief

DETROIT, May 3—A militant crowd of 200 unemployed workers, senior citizens, and community organizations rallied in downtown Detroit today demanding the city be declared an economic disaster area. The rally, called by the Detroit Committee for Disaster Relief, then took to the streets carrying banners, placards, and flags and marched through the busy shopping district.

The rally heard speakers from several unions, including the Postal Workers and United Farmworkers. In addition, unemployed workers and welfare mothers spoke about the desperate situation faced by the poor. A young high school student explained how there were no jobs for the youth just getting out of school. And a senior citizen told of the retired workers' hardships of living on a fixed income shrunk by inflation.

The Detroit Committee for Disaster Relief put forward its solution to the crisis facing the poor: an immediate payment of \$50 a week in emergency disaster relief to those in need. "If the government can throw billions away in a war no one wanted, then there is money available for those really in need."

The crowd then marched to spread the message of its campaign to many more people. And as they marched in the streets, people joined in, Black and white, young and old.

The march ended at the City-Council Building where the crowd stood chanting "We demand emergency relief, \$50 more a week!" while several organizers of the march taped the demands of the rally to the front door of City Hall. Breaking up for the day, the marchers pledged to return in 2 days to confront the City Council at its next meeting and force it to act.

The unemployed and poor of Detroit sent the politicians a message today: "We want action not promises!"



Marching to Detroit's City Hall, 200 angry residents demand that this city, hardest hit by unemployment, be declared an economic disaster area. WW photo

## While workers suffer

# No hard times for the corporations

By V. COPELAND  
NEW YORK, May 5—While millions (of people) have been thrown out of work each month of the past year, the corporations who laid them off have been making more billions (of dollars) than ever before.

The accompanying table makes that fact abundantly clear. But there is somewhat more to the matter than that.

The table, compiled from the New York Times and Fortune

Magazine, gives sales and net incomes (after-tax profits) of the 20 biggest industrial corporations in the United States for 1974. It also notes the relative positions of each of these companies (as to sales) for the preceding year.

In addition it tabulates the assets that each of these companies reported at the end of 1973. (Remember that all figures have to be multiplied by 1 million!)

**PROFITS, ASSETS UP**  
A quick glance at the difference

between 1973 and 1974 assets reveals the tremendous addition of capital, the gigantically increased valuation of these companies, since that time.

It should also be noted that generally the highest after-tax profits were those of the oil companies.

### OIL SOAKED UP PROFITS

And even more significant, the greatest increases in assets from 1973 to 1974 were also rolled up by these same oil companies. Thus their capital is getting ever more astronomical. The oil companies expand, while workers starve and soldiers die.

While masses of working people are paying higher prices for gasoline and heating oil, the newspapers and TV propaganda blames it all on the Arabs. These

oil companies, however, are owned by non-Arabic U.S. capitalists exclusively. And they are making more money than ever before in their history.

The auto companies, it may be noticed, are "suffering." General Motors made a trifling \$950 million, which is indeed a sad comedown for that great corporation. And only last week they felt so poorly about it that they cancelled supplementary unemployment pay (SUB) for the hundred thousand or more workers they had laid off.

However, poor as GM may be, don't shed too many tears over them. They are owned by the same banks that own half the oil companies. And Chrysler, which actually "lost" money, is owned by the banks that own the other half.

## GNP drops 10.4 percent

# U.S. economy still sinking

By T. MITCHELL  
NEW YORK, May 2—Official government economists have been talking hopefully of a recovery by midyear, but bad news persists. The decline has slowed from the rapid drop of the past 6 months, but business is still sinking, only slower.

### HOW BAD IT IS

During the first 3 months of the year, the overall measure of economic activity—called the gross national product—declined at an annual rate of 10.4 percent, the worse since the 1930s. Underneath these figures is the grim reality of millions upon millions unemployed in cities all across the U.S., frustrated in their anxious search for full-time work.

Even the ever-optimistic U.S. News & World Report characterized the current economic news as "gloomy" in its April 27 issue. The barely favorable news is that the decline of industrial output in March was the smallest drop since October. But the direction is still down. Looking ahead, the index of leading indicators announced on

April 28 was down again, suggesting that business will continue to head down for several months.

### ECONOMISTS AGAINST QUICK RECOVERY

However, the top economists who are in positions of authority are not alarmed by the prospect of continued high unemployment for the rest of the decade. They speak against government measures to stimulate the economy now, saying that it will make for severe inflation in a couple of years.

Alan Greenspan, on leave from Wall Street as chief economic adviser in residence at the White House, intends to do all he can to prevent any government spending.

Based on this "do nothing" policy, Greenspan predicted on April 28 to an exclusive audience of institutional investors at the Waldorf-Astoria that the economy "has not reached bottom" yet and unemployment will continue to "creep up."

Arthur Burns, the head of the Federal Reserve Bank, told a

Senate Committee that Congress should take 3 months off so that it won't pass any bills for aid and jobs to the unemployed.

Arthur Okun, another high-placed economist, came right out at the Waldorf meeting and declared that Ford should veto the \$5.9 billion public works program now in Congress.

These economists in the seats of power wield great influence over the economy according to the amount and use of government spending. Acting as loyal servants to the giant corporations that promoted them to the top managerial positions, they see fit to cut back on measures to help the poorest people right at the time when more and more people are in need.

Their answer to the victims of layoffs is that they should be left unemployed for the greater good of damping inflation. Without a doubt, the greatest good these apologists for capitalism could perform would be to get themselves a special educational opportunity—beating the sidewalks looking for work!

### Largest U.S. Industrial Corporations (Ranked by sales. Figures in the millions.)

RANK '74	RANK '73	COMPANY	SALES	ASSETS		NET INCOME
				'74	'73	
1	2	Exxon	42,061	31,332	25,079	3,142
2	1	General Motors	31,550	20,468	20,297	950
3	3	Ford Motor	23,621	14,174	12,954	361
4	6	Texaco	23,255	17,176	13,595	1,586
5	7	Mobil Oil	18,929	14,074	10,690	1,047
6	11	Standard of Calif.	17,191	11,640	9,082	970
7	10	Gulf Oil	16,458	12,503	10,074	1,065
8	5	General Electric	13,413	9,369	8,324	608
9	8	I.B.M.	12,675	14,027	12,289	1,838
10	9	I.T.T.	11,154	10,697	10,133	451
11	4	Chrysler	10,971	6,733	6,105	(52)
12	13	U.S. Steel	9,186	7,717	6,919	635
13	15	Standard Oil (Ind.)	9,085	8,915	7,018	970
14	18	Shell Oil	7,633	6,129	5,381	621
15	12	Western Electric	7,382	5,240	4,828	311
16	21	Continental Oil	7,041	4,673	3,693	328
17	16	E. I. du Pont	6,910	5,980	4,832	404
18	26	Atlantic Richfield	6,740	6,152	5,109	475
19	14	Westinghouse	6,466	4,302	4,408	28
20	36	Occidental Petroleum	5,719	3,325	2,871	281

# Behind the frameup of Joanne Little

By VERONICA GOLOS  
NORFOLK, April 19—The case of Joanne Little has gained worldwide attention as shocking proof that the sexist double standard of justice and the racist use of the rape charge are not just things of the past.

Joanne Little will receive a mandatory death sentence if convicted. She, like so many Black people before her, is a victim of a double standard that views rape of Black women as hardly a crime deserving little punishment

(especially if the rapist is white), while Black men even suspected of raping white women are imprisoned for life, lynched, or executed.

## CARRINGTON, WANSLEY CASES

Of all the white men in the U.S. who have abused Black women, few have been charged and brought to trial, and of those convicted, not one has ever gone to the electric chair. Compare this to the many totally innocent Black

men, likes James Carrington, Thomas Wansley, and others who are in jail right now, victims of the racist use of the rape charge.

James Carrington, a young Black man from Keysville, Va., was convicted in 1970 on trumped-up charges of raping a white woman. His "crime" was sitting in a car with her! The charges against him came when the woman's father learned of her date with a Black man and organized a KKK-style vigilante squad that nearly beat Carrington to death in a so-called citizens' arrest.

As Carrington was being charged with rape and abduction, the racist prosecutor went so far as to state publicly in the courtroom the purpose of the frame-up: "We're going to use this boy as an example," he said, "so that no colored man will ever lay hands on a white girl again."

And despite no evidence of even a sexual act, much less rape, an all-white, all-male jury found Carrington guilty and sentenced him to 75 years in prison! His appeal was recently turned down by the Supreme Court.

Another Black man, Thomas Wansley from Lynchburg, Va., was framed up at the age of 16 in a similar case. Wansley was originally sentenced to death; but a hard-fought legal campaign and efforts by the Black community to expose the phony nature of the charges prevented his execution.

While Carrington, Wansley, and many other Black men remain behind prison bars as a result of the racist use of the rape charge, Joanne Little herself faces execution for trying to protect herself from a real rape.

## BOSSSES' MOTIVE

It is no accident that these kinds of racist attacks on Black people come at a time when so many workers, both Black and white, are out of work, hungry, angry, and beginning to unite and fight back. Racist attacks on Black people have always been used by the bosses and their courts and police to divide Black and white workers, weaken their unified strength, and keep wages and working conditions at rock bottom as they are in the South.



Joanne Little at a Washington, D.C., rally for the support of her struggle and the struggle of the Atmore-Holman Brothers.

WW photo: Tom

## 200 at D.C. rally for victims of racist courts

Special to WORKERS WORLD  
WASHINGTON, D.C., May 2—Over 200 people gathered on Sunday, April 27, at the All-Souls Church in Washington, D.C., to give their support to the struggles to free Joanne Little in North Carolina and the Atmore-Holman Brothers in Alabama. The benefit rally, called by the D.C. chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, raised closed to \$1,000 for the two cases, including a contribution from a union local of Library of Congress workers.

The rally was chaired by D.C. Councilwoman Willie Hardy, and its spirit was enlivened by freedom songs from Honey and the Rocks, including a powerful song entitled "Joanne" written by Bernice Reagan, a member of the group. The rally gave long, standing ovations to both Mafundi and Joanne Little. Mafundi is a veteran of 13 years of struggle in the Alabama penal system and first chairman of the Inmates for Action. Since his release he has been an organizer of the IFA and the Atmore-Holman Brothers Defense Committee.

Joanne Little tearfully recalled her experiences while being hunted as an "outlaw" in North Carolina after her successful escape from a rape attack by a white jailer. Joanne is charged with first-degree murder for the death of a guard whom she killed while warding off his attack.

Jerry Paul, a Durham, N.C., attorney for Joanne Little, and Bill Allison, an attorney for the Southern Conference Educational Fund and the Atmore-Holman Brothers, both explained the repressive courtroom atmosphere surrounding their respective cases, including threats and attempts on the lives of the lawyers. Willie Hardy noted that both lawyers, who are white, are from the South. She said, "We can see how our movement is growing when we hear the same things we've been saying for years coming from young, white lawyers with southern accents."

## ATMORE-HOLMAN BROTHER KILLED

Prior to the rally, a press conference was attended by representatives of local and national media at which the murder of Frank X. Moore, one of the Atmore-Holman Brothers, was condemned as "the last in a series of murders committed by the state of Alabama against the leaders of the Inmates for Action, an Alabama prisoners' organization." Representing the Atmore-Holman Brothers Defense Committee to the

press were Bill Allison, Mafundi, Sekou Lumpen of Mobile and a founding member of the Inmates for Action, and Tom Gardner, a Workers World newspaper correspondent.

Attorney Allison explained that Frank X. Moore was the third prisoner to be killed of those reportedly named on a "death list" marked by prison administrators for assassination. The Atmore-Holman Brothers are nine Black prisoners and IFA members who have been framed for the deaths of the guards. No officials have been indicted for the murders of the prisoners.

Frank X. Moore was reported to have been found hanging in his cell at 3:15 a.m. on Saturday, April 26. Although the state performed a partial autopsy (perhaps to cover up rather than discover the cause of his death), Frank's family has yet to be officially informed of his death. No one who knew Frank believes the official "suicide" story. Frank had finished his time and was being held in the Escambia County Jail in Brewton in lieu of a \$40,000 bail, awaiting trial in June on phony charges arising from the Atmore incident of last year. The sheriff of Escambia County, Scotty Byrnes, was involved in the Atmore incident and rode in the ambulance in which Chagina (sn. George Dobbins) was murdered. Friends and relatives who visited Frank recently in the primitive and oppressive county jail report that "he was as strong as ever, and was prepared to keep fighting the inhumane conditions of the Alabama prison system." That is why he was killed.

## WALLACE INDICTED

Noting the recent announcement that Alabama Governor Wallace would run for President, Mafundi told a Washington press conference, "The 'new' George Wallace who condones these murders is no different than the old George Wallace who condoned the bombings of Black churches and homes in Birmingham, the murder of Rev. James Reeb in Selma, and the murder of Viola Liuzzo (Wallace had said, "She should have been home with all those children"), and the other sick atrocities perpetrated under the racist regime of Wallace against people seeking human dignity."

Mafundi added, "Rather than running for President, Wallace should be standing trial before a 'people's court' for complicity in a long list of murders either carried out or covered up by the State of Alabama while he was Governor."

## Norfolk supporters hold solidarity day with Little

By L. MURDOCK  
NORFOLK, Va., April 27—"We're here today because Joanne Little is a poor Black woman, a prisoner, who defended herself against a racist-rape attack—who did what any one of us would do when attacked." Monica Morehead was chairing a solidarity day rally with Joanne Little today called by the Prisoner's Solidarity Committee of Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF).

Over 60 people attended the rally to hear speakers Bayinnah Shabazz, a member of YAWF and a founder of the Joanne Little Support Committee in Philadelphia, and James Rowan and Patricia Chance, both organizers and members of the Joanne Little Defense Committee.

The feature speaker, Bayinnah Shabazz, covered the political significance of the case. "Historically," she said, "the rape charge has been used by the racist white ruling class again and again as an excuse for horrible lynchings and mutilations of Black men. But there is no record of one white man ever being lynched or executed for the rape of a Black woman."

When a Black woman could gather enough courage to go to the "authorities" to report that she had been raped by a white man she was humiliated, intimidated, and savagely beaten. And in many cases she was accused of lying and was either burned or lynched."

James Rowan, a North Carolina attorney and legal coordinator of

the Joanne Little Defense Committee, spoke about the "justice" that Black and poor people receive in U.S. courts. "It's just luck that we have been able to fight Joanne's case this way," he said, referring to the publicity and support Joanne has received. "So many people are railroaded through the courts everyday unnoticed."

Patricia Chance, organizer and member of the Joanne Little Defense Committee, said, "We have received letters of support from around the country and internationally for Joanne."

The rally heard a message of solidarity from Thomas Wansley, a Black prisoner himself framed up on a rape charge and serving life in one of Virginia's concentration camps. It was followed by the film, "Teach Our Children," about the heroic Attica prison rebellion in September 1971.

A member of the PSC who had been incarcerated in a number of Virginia's prisons said in his introduction to the film, "Attica concentration camp is no different than any other concentration camp in this country. It serves not to incarcerate criminals but to lock into cages the rebelling masses of Black, Latin, Asian, and other oppressed minorities and poor whites who demand freedom from oppression, exploitation, and racism."

Free Joanne Little! Free the Attica Brothers! Free All Political Prisoners! Tear Down the Walls!

## Won't cooperate in Hearst hunt

# Bill Walton defies the FBI

By PETE PERKINS  
NEW YORK May 2—Bill Walton and Patty Hearst have probably never seen each other but they seem to have a lot in common. Only about a year ago they were college students wondering what to do with all their money once they graduated. But time has changed all that.

## SPORTS STANDOUT

Bill Walton is the sort of person who stands out in a crowd. Being 6'11" tall is just part of it. He is one of the best and probably the most radical athlete in professional sports today.

What makes him the center of controversy and endangers his playing career is his principled refusal to testify to the FBI as to the whereabouts of Patty Hearst. What makes it so principled is that he probably doesn't have any useful information and the refusal to testify is an act of solidarity hitherto unknown in the history of professional sports.

Another close associate of Walton's, Jack Scott, and his wife Miki, are also facing possible legal reprisals for refusing to testify to the feds. They have all referred to the FBI as an enemy of the people. This has drawn the reactionary wrath of right-wing sportswriters around the country and has made them front page and not just sports page news.

## REACTIONARY HERITAGE

Professional sports have a long history of reactionary coaches and competitors. Who could forget Vince Lombardi, long-time coach of the Green Bay Packers. One of his star linemen, Jim Ringo once summed up Lombardi's racist and chauvinist philosophy of football and life by saying "You just imagine that the guys on the other side of the line are the commies."

Lombardi died about 5 years ago during the height of the anti-war movement. Back then pro-war campus people were known as jocks, whether they played any

sports or not. But now things are changing.

## NEW BREED

Prior to signing a multi-million dollar pro basketball contract, Bill Walton had been arrested twice on UCLA campus protests against the Vietnam war. He has also spoken out vigorously against racism. Some thought that his newly found wealth would change all that, but it hasn't.

As the FBI probes deeper into the matter, they seem to be finding more and more sports figures sympathetic to Jack Scott and Bill Walton. The also seem to find fewer and fewer sympathetic to Vince Lombardi and Jim Ringo.

Their continuing investigation is aimed at nipping the growing progressive sentiments in sports in the bud and alleviating their own embarrassment and frustrations over not being able to locate Patty Hearst. It should be seen as a sure sign that the ruling class and their agents are losing popularity and becoming isolated and frustrated.

## Framed-up Black activist wins hearing for new trial

# Lee Otis Johnson: victim of Texas 'justice'

By BARTEE HAILE

HOUSTON, April 22—Today Lee Otis Johnson won the right to a hearing for a new trial from the judge who presided over his recent conviction on an outrageously false burglary charge.

Reluctantly granting a hearing to be held May 15, that could reverse the 17-year sentence Johnson received at the hands of an all-white jury April 18, Judge Garth Bates so far has done everything in his power and often beyond it to insure the reimprisonment of this well-known Black activist. Again Lee Otis Johnson is the victim of Texas "justice," and again he wages a determined fight for his freedom.

### SNCC ORGANIZER

During the 1960s Johnson was a dynamic Black leader in Houston who earned the hatred of the oil barons and the politicians who run this town for them. An organizer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Johnson boldly spoke out against the oppression of Blacks, Chicanos, and other poor people. When harassment failed to silence him, the notorious Houston cops employed the classic tactics of frame-up. An undercover agent accused Lee Otis of giving him a marijuana cigarette. Utilizing the state's archaic marijuana law, biased media coverage, and the typical lily-white jury, the district attorney engineered the 30-year prison term that made Lee Otis Johnson one of the most widely defended political prisoners in recent years.

Broad and militant support throughout the country produced freedom for Lee Otis Johnson in June 1972. He had spent 4 years behind bars, but the architects of repression in Houston were not satisfied.

In the summer of 1973, Johnson came to the aid of a young woman who was the target of an attempted rape. But it was the two would-be rapists who filed charges. Lee Otis was arrested for "false imprisonment," "illegal possession of a firearm," and "attempted murder." A bond of \$10,800 was posted and Lee Otis released, only to face more arrests and charges.

After spending several months in California, Lee Otis and his wife Estelle returned to Houston in April 1974. The trial on the ridiculous charges from the previous summer was scheduled for that month, but the DA obtained one and then another unexplained delay. It was as if the cops and the DA were waiting for "further developments."

### CONSTANT HARASSMENT

Immediately upon their return to Houston, the Johnsons were the target of a campaign of intense harassment from the HPD. "We were stopped every two or three days for months by the police," explains Estelle. "They would search the car completely, go through my purse, and even inspect our arms. They said they were looking for needle marks."

During this period vicious slander was directed towards Lee Otis in the local media, particularly in a Black newspaper that specializes in sensationalism. This paper carried several slanderous articles about Lee Otis including one with the headline, "Friends Say Lee Otis Johnson Now a Dope Addict." In the nightmarish months that followed, not even the police concocted drug charges against him, but this vicious yellow

journalism did serve to confuse and divide.

Estelle describes a manhunt the police launched for her husband in August 1974. "They came to the house saying they had a warrant for his arrest for burglary. I told them that I didn't know where he was. One of the policemen told me, 'If we find him, we're going to shoot him on sight.'" Soon after, Lee Otis surrendered at police headquarters, and was eventually released after an original bond of \$80,000 was lowered to \$10,000.

During the fall of last year, Lee Otis was in and out of jail. More burglary charges were piled on him and bonds changed as indictments were returned by rubber-stamp grand juries. Then on February 6 Lee Otis went to court expecting to stand trial on one of the many burglary charges—but instead was taken into custody in front of television cameras and charged with "aggravated robbery." Numerous line-ups later, another robbery charge was added. The new bond? \$80,000.

At this point, all the vulture bondsmen holding bonds on Lee Otis jumped their price. The result was a new total ransom for the freedom of Lee Otis Johnson of \$151,800. That bail has yet to be made.

Before the April 18 trial that ended with the 17-year sentence, Estelle Johnson personally appealed to various progressive and left organizations in the city to rally in defense of her husband. It

was of course very reasonable for her to expect that genuine progressives, not to mention revolutionaries, would respond to such an appeal. But other than the Houston branch of Youth Against War & Fascism (YAWF) and Workers World Party, no other organization has responded. At a meeting of the newly formed Coalition Against Police Repression, representatives of several groups at first ignored the

appeal and later declared that the charges against Lee Otis Johnson are "not political" and that this Black man who has suffered so much does not deserve support. The October League, Congress of Afrikan People, and the Revolutionary Union not only denied Lee Otis their support but also blocked all attempts to develop a program of support for the Coalition.

But Lee Otis Johnson will be

freed, with or without the participation of such "revolutionaries." Many individuals and grass-root organizations, in addition to YAWF and WWP, are coming to his defense and a broad defense campaign has begun. For more information or to send urgently needed contributions, please contact the Lee Otis Johnson Defense Committee, care of Estelle Johnson, 711 Main St., Room 800, Houston, Texas 77002.

## May 15 activities planned in U.S. in support of Palestine liberation

NEW YORK, May 6—Throughout the U.S., activities in support of the national rights of Palestinians and in solidarity with political prisoners in Israel and Jordan are being planned for May 15.

May 15, usually observed among Arab people as the anniversary of the seizure of Palestine and the U.S.-backed establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, was designated an International Day of Solidarity with the Struggle of the Palestinian People at the recent Conference of Nonaligned Nations in Havana.

In New York, the Palestine Information Committee, an organization of Palestinians and other Arabs with ties to the Palestine Liberation Organization, has announced a May 15 Night of

Solidarity with the Struggle of the Palestinian People. The event will take place at Columbia University's School of International Affairs, 118th Street and Amsterdam Ave., at 8 p.m.

The solidarity night will be followed by a May 18 demonstration at 2 p.m. at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 47th Street and First Avenue, which will also include a march to the Israeli and Jordanian consulates.

A wide spectrum of liberation support groups and political organizations, including Youth Against War & Fascism, will be endorsing the New York activities.

According to a press release from the Palestine Information Committee, actions are also being planned in the California Bay

Area, where a May 15 Solidarity Night and demonstration May 17 have been organized; in Houston, which will have a May 15 Solidarity Night and May 18 demonstration; in Denver, which will have a May 15 demonstration and May 16 teach-in; in Youngstown, Ohio, which will have a May 15 teach-in and a demonstration; and in Detroit, which will have a May 15 teach-in and May 18 demonstration.

In Washington, D.C., activities in solidarity with Palestine and with political prisoners in Israel and Jordan have been slated for May 15 through May 18.

Other solidarity activities will take place in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, southern Ohio, Dallas, and Tucson.

## Arab woman tells story of horror in Israeli jails

The following is a statement by Lutfiya al-Hawary, a Palestinian woman who spent 6 long years in an Israeli prison for resistance to Israeli occupation. Lutfiya, who is suffering from a variety of ailments stemming from the torture she underwent while in prison, explains what life is like for the thousands of Palestinians currently serving terms in Israeli jails. Her statement was originally published in Palestine Lives, an organ of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Dear friends, try to imagine the life of our women and men in the fascist Israeli jails. Israel kills them gradually in order to make death more painful and less of a scandal. This process of slow death begins in the houses of detention where interrogation, torture and ill-feeding starts, and continues in the central jails.

Can you imagine, for example, the feelings of Aisha Audeh, sentenced three times to life imprisonment, plus ten years?

Visits are only allowed for half an hour per month. A stone wall separates prisoners from visitors in a suffocating room, in which police men and women are constantly present. Visits are only allowed for the parents and two young brothers or sisters. The militant must get used to the idea that she will never see the rest of the family again. Correspondence is limited to a small page with nine lines, and can only be addressed to the parents, never to friends. Militants are not allowed to receive cards from anyone. They must

always dress in black or navy blue, underwear included.

The food is always the same small portions of disgusting stuff. The rooms are damp and cold, boxes crowded with detainees. Work in the prison is all routine, freezing the intellect, affecting the nerves and inducing feelings of misery and despair. For instance, closing bottles with plastic covers for seven consecutive hours.

As regards medical care, examination is superficial and treatment limited to pain-killing tablets whose side-effects often appear immediately, apart from the long-term damage.

Moreover, doctors are used as interrogators at times when the detainees are suffering. The doctor attempts all sorts of psychological means to extract information. One example of this was Suhair Hani from Akka, who had gangrene.

I would gladly give more details, but for your sake and because of my own health I will cite only the following cases:

Afifa Batoura from Beit Sahour, sentenced to life imprisonment, suffers from emaciation, anaemia, serious inflammation resulting from haemorrhages in the veins and arteries of her legs and right arm. She is forced to stay in bed for long periods. She has already been in the Ramleh jail for 7 years.

I will tell you also about my comrades Aisha and Rasmiya Audeh. Aisha's hymen was pierced with a rod by interrogators; and Rasmiya was stripped naked before her own father. This in addition to the usual forms of torture.

But in spite of all their suf-



Lutfiya al-Hawary after her release from 6 years in an Israeli prison tells of the torture and brutality suffered by her jailed Palestinian comrades. Photo: Palestine Information Committee

ferings, our militant comrades in Israeli jails still wear on their tired faces smiles of steadfastness, and of their determination to resist the fascist authorities. We organized ourselves as best we could within the jails. On the day that Abu Ammar spoke at the United Nations, the women in Ramleh Prison so annoyed the authorities with our singing of patriotic songs and slogans that they could not listen to it, and had to bring the police in to shut us up. And I must thank my jailed comrades who staged a hunger-strike in my support when I badly needed a doctor and whose spirited resistance helped to set me free.

Our militants in Israeli jails are solidly in support of the P.L.O. and want an independent national authority under P.L.O. leadership on any inch of liberated land, in continuation of our struggle. They are confident in the inevitable success of the Palestinian struggle which daily increases.

Resistance on the West Bank

escalates daily. And inside Israeli society itself there is almost total breakdown, economic, social and political. Many Israelis are starting to support the Palestinians. My own release was forced on the Israeli authorities not only by widespread agitation throughout the West Bank, but also by the overwhelming pressure of world opinion, which the progressive Israeli lawyer Felicia Langer helped in mobilizing.

Now that I am free, I am going to Geneva to testify before the Commission on Human Rights. Then I want to mobilize international pressure in support of our prisoners in Israeli jails. What is urgently needed is an international medical team to examine, treat and follow up the health of our prisoners and detainees.

Please, dear friends, can you do everything within your power to help us to obtain this, to do what you can to save our suffering prisoners?

May Day in Ho Chi Minh City

# The joy of liberation

By ANDY STAPP

MAY 5—In the newly freed Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), May Day, the holiday of the international working class, and Liberation Day, the long and hard-fought goal of the Vietnamese people, merged in one spectacular explosion of joy. According to Time magazine (May 12), "huge parades involving thousands of Communist soldiers and Saigonese citizens were held on flag-festooned streets. Some Communist troops garlanded their rifles with flowers, others offered children rides on their tanks."

**BAN PROSTITUTION, FREE PRISONERS**

Only 2 days before, Saigon had been the fascist capital, a place of torture and oppression. The victorious revolution moved swiftly to change all that. Prostitution and drug traffic were immediately banned. The hideous U.S.-manufactured "tiger cages" on Con Son Island were opened and the thousands of political prisoners crushed together inside were released and taken to hospitals. Hundreds of children were also rushed into clinics to get treatment for malnutrition inherited from the old regime.

Three thousand Saigon workers stormed the headquarters of the fallen government's repressive labor front and declared the formation of a revolutionary trade union confederation. Strikes had been banned by the Thieu clique.

Before the revolution, South Vietnam had a maximum wage law!

**WEALTH NATIONALIZED**

The estates of large landlords, factories, businesses of the local capitalists and their imperialist bosses, and all banks were immediately nationalized and declared the property of the whole people.

Thousands more joined the May Day celebrations in both Danang and Hue. They carried colored pictures of Ho Chi Minh and banners proclaiming "Long live the spirit of International Labor Day," "Long live the spirit and militancy of the Vietnam working class," and "President Ho Chi Minh lives forever in our revolutionary cause."

The May 2 New York Times reported some of the reactions of the people in Danang when they heard the news over liberation radio that the Saigon fascists had surrendered. "One official of the Provisional Revolutionary Government had not seen his family in his native village in the Mekong Delta since 1945. His lined face relaxed in a flicker of a smile. In his eyes was a hint of tears.

"A younger functionary, more fluent in English, tried to sum up what winning the war meant.

"It is over. But at what a cost," he said. "Thirty years of people being killed and our land being destroyed. Now there is much work to do."

Peace was also welcomed by the majority of those who had been forced to live under the despotic rule of General Thieu. Time magazine quoted one of "many of Saigon's intellectuals and professionals who have long and still-existing ties to the leaders of the National Liberation Front. 'I love Vietnam,' said an architect, 'I love the Vietnamese. The V.C. are our friends, not our enemies. I am not afraid. We are innocent people. We are not corrupt. We have not cooperated with this government.'"

A British journalist from the BBC who remained after liberation wrote how "A few of them (revolutionary soldiers) sat down self-consciously on the veranda of the 'Continental Shelf,' the hotel where, just three days before, Americans had sipped martinis and whiskey sours. The Communists ordered orange juice. One government clerk watched the goings-on and was puzzled. 'We were told we would be killed,' he remarked. 'It looks like it was another lie.'"

**"BLOODBATH" A FRAUD**

Such stories, which can readily be found even in the capitalist press, totally expose Ford's and Kissinger's red scare fraud about a bloodbath "against intellectuals and anyone who ever worked for the Americans." It is clear that except for a few of the very highest officials (and even some of them, like ex-president Duong Van Minh,

and the police murderers who acted as hangmen for the CIA, the Provisional Revolutionary Government intends to pursue a generous policy toward its defeated enemies in Vietnam.

**VICTORY FOR THE POOR**

Those who will gain most from the revolution are, of course, the poor people. And almost all of South Vietnam's people are very poor indeed. After 30 years of war forced on them by the U.S. imperialists, at least half of the entire population have been made refugees and have lost any material possessions they may once have owned. For them the revolution means hope for a new life of justice and economic security, free from the police tyranny and marauding troops of the former U.S. puppet military.

The triumph of the Indochinese people, more than any other event in recent years, dramatically illuminates the decline of U.S. imperialism for all the world to see.

Back in the summer of 1963, General Paul Harkins, then the U.S. military commander in South Vietnam, confidently announced that the war was "well in hand."

One assassinated President, a Watergate, and a depression later, the last U.S. Marine barely escaped from the helicopter pad atop the U.S. Embassy just 2 hours before its capture by the liberation army.



In Danang, NLF soldiers carrying equipment in south Vietnam.

## Jersey stud

By SHARON SHELTON

NEW YORK, May 5—Massive layoffs of teachers and other personnel in New Jersey schools prompted angry protests by high school students in Newark and surrounding areas May 1.

Black, Puerto Rican, and white students in at least three schools staged the demonstrations, according to the New York Daily News.

**STUDENTS MARCH THROUGH STREETS OF NEWARK**

By far the largest protest occurred at Newark's East Side High School where most of the 2,100 member student body boycotted classes in favor of a march through the streets to the school superintendent's office and afterwards to City Hall.

"We know we are missing school, but this is the only way to make the people of this city and state take notice that we want an education," student council president James Pagnotta told reporters.

The boycott and demonstration took place after East Side High

## New York

By NICK DEFREITAS

NEW YORK, May 1—Close to 1,000 demonstrators armed with placards, flags, and colorful banners commemorated May Day here today with a militant march through Manhattan's Lower East Side. Joyous about the surrender of the Saigon regime to the People's Revolutionary Government

Around the world

## May Day marchers hail Indochina victory

By JOHN C. OTZO

NEW YORK, May 2—All around the world workers observed their day with extra joy this year to celebrate the victory of their sisters and brothers in Indochina.

In Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, 3,000 workers visited the Presidential Palace and then joined a parade to celebrate International Workers' Day. With the revolution there still in progress, workers seized the city's water works and electric power stations and other factories.

In Hanoi, the population stayed up all night and mingled in streets decorated with colored lights and flags. In Cambodia, 2 weeks after the U.S. and their puppets were driven out, a government broadcast linked the Khmer Rouge victory to workers' struggles against imperialism on other continents. Some reports in the capitalist press have claimed that the new Cambodian government has turned against foreigners; the May Day broadcast shows they have turned against foreign bosses, but stand in solidarity with the foreign oppressed.

**PEKING, MOSCOW, EAST EUROPE**

Huge crowds in Peking celebrated the liberation of Phnom Penh and Saigon. This was called an example of how a small nation could stand up to a large imperialist power.

Thousands paraded in Moscow, where the theme of the celebration was the 30th anniversary of the WWII victory over Nazi Germany. Several of the Eastern European socialist states held marches with a similar theme, with the German

Democratic Republic (East Germany) holding a large military parade.

**WEST EUROPE, MEXICO, JAPAN**

In West Berlin, 30,000 militants gathered in John F. Kennedy square chanting "The first of May and Vietnam is free." Millions of workers came out at the call of the Social Democratic trade unions in the rest of West Germany, demanding more social security and an end to unemployment. The largest demonstration in years was held in London.

Nearly 200,000 workers and students marched in Paris, celebrating the victories in Indochina and a strike victory at home by the Renault workers. With the flags of revolutionary Vietnam, North and South, fluttering everywhere along the route of march, the demonstrators chanted, "Saigon is liberated!" "Long live Ho Chi Minh!" and "Victory at Renault!"

Cheers and applause were particularly tumultuous for a group of several hundred Vietnamese residents who sang resistance songs and carried a huge portrait of Ho Chi Minh. There were also many workers from North Africa in the parade.

In Mexico City, 700,000 workers marched through the main plaza. In Japan, more than 1 million rallied and marched with slogans denouncing inflation and nuclear weapons, as well as demanding higher wages, better social programs, and the advancement of women's rights.

**PORTUGUESE HOT SPOT**

Hundreds of thousands

celebrated May Day in Lisbon, but at a rally during the day a clash occurred between the Socialist and Communist parties. The Socialist Party, although it had played a relatively minor role in the anti-fascist struggle under the Salazar-Caetano regime and in the two mass anti-fascist mobilizations since the overthrow of fascism last April 25, managed to win the largest single bloc of votes in last week's elections. Claiming that the CP had prevented the SP leader Soares from entering the rally, 4,000 SP members pushed into the rally and shouted down the other speakers, demanding that their

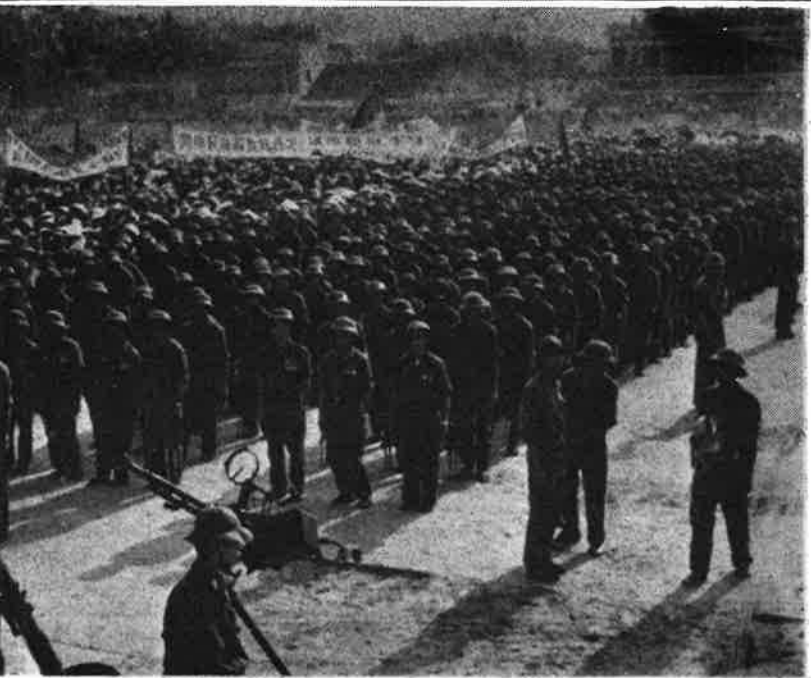
party be given a larger share of the power.

**GREECE, SPAIN**

Gatherings in the street were banned in Greece, following a mass anti-U.S. imperialist demonstration that took place recently. Still a gathering of 1,000 took place. In fascist Spain, naturally demonstrations are illegal; the workers' reply to this was to demonstrate anyway. Police fired on demonstrators in Vigo killing a bystander. In the Basque provinces to the north, a molotov cocktail was hurled into a Pamplona bank.



Workers throughout the world are celebrating the victory of the Vietnamese. Here, workers and students in Paris carry pictures of Ho Chi Minh in May Day parade.



Carrying banners and flags celebrate the first May Day in liberated

## Students say NO to layoffs

School students learned that 1,612 Newark teachers, administrators, clerks, and custodians—almost 10 percent of the school work force—would be laid off as a result of a \$14 million slash in the 1975-76 education budget by the City Council.

Of those to be laid off, 685 clerical workers and custodians are slated for immediate dismissal. The rest of the layoffs will take effect next fall.

The East Side High School students announced plans to stay out of school until the city government makes a commitment to stop the layoffs.

"If we have to, we may stay away from classes for the rest of the year, and that could hurt the graduates. But it's important," Pagnotta declared.

Newark teachers also said they would take measures to fight the dismissals. Carole Graves, president of the teachers' union, said that teachers would meet tomorrow to discuss strategy.

Meanwhile, in New Brunswick,

right outside of Newark, 150 students picketed at New Brunswick High School to protest the firing of 30 teachers and the principal, Donald Banchik.

Carrying signs and banners, the students were joined by parents from the city's Puerto Rican community. The picket was followed by a march to the school superintendent's office there.

The day before, at Hillside High in Union County, approximately 300 students picketed to protest the termination of Donald Paradiso, an industrial arts teacher.

Not only will these layoffs add to the swelling ranks of unemployed, but they will create tremendous hardships for the students. For the students, the massive terminations will mean larger classes, an end to recreational programs such as gymnasium classes, an end to funded extra-curricular activities such as school newspapers, and a drastic cut in the curriculum, eliminating art, music, home economics, and industrial arts classes.

## Workers: 'Vietnam has won!'

liberation forces, many demonstrators carried National Liberation Front flags and chanted, "Vietnam has won!"

The spirited marchers braving the rainy afternoon received an enthusiastic response from the predominantly Puerto Rican community. This area has long been the scene of an intense battle over community control of the school board. Two slates are striving to win a minimum of five seats on the nine-member District 1 School Board. The Por Los Ninos (Save the Children) slate is backed by the forces favoring community control. The so-called "Brotherhood" slate is backed and financed by racist bureaucrats of the United Federation of Teachers, headed by Albert Shanker.

This school struggle has made the community politically conscious on a broad variety of other issues, too. Many times the May Day demonstrators were cheered on as spectators left their apartments to join the march or raised their fists in solidarity. Some hung NLF flags out their windows, to much applause from the marchers.

Today's march and rally was called by the May Day Committee, initiated by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. Almost 60 percent Latin, the demonstration included delegations from other cities and

many other progressive groups. A bright orange banner representing Youth Against War & Fascism and Workers World Party hailed the victory of the Vietnamese people.

The march ended in a rally at Tompkins Square Park where many of the speakers expressed their solidarity with liberation movements throughout the world.



"This is our day!" Workers in Puerto Rico dedicate their May Day celebration to the victories in Indochina and the struggle of the Puerto Rican workers against colonialism and oppression.

# May Day in Puerto Rico: workers in fighting mood

By JULIO GHIGLIOTTY

SAN JUAN, P.R., May 1—Over 15,000 workers and students celebrated International Workers' Day tonight at the steps of the Capitol building, answering the call of the United Workers Movement (MOU).

A 5,000-strong torchlight march from Pier 14, where dockworkers are on strike, joined the thousands waiting at the steps of the Capitol for a May Day celebration dedicated to the victories of Vietnam and Cambodia, working women, the Puerto Rico Cement strikers, the Puerto Rican Telephone Company (recently bought by the colonial government) strikers, "and all struggling workers here as well as throughout the world. This is our day," proclaimed the master of ceremonies.

Present on the podium were leaders of the most progressive unions on the island, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), and other progressive organizations.

Speakers included Norma Valle, coordinator of the Federation of Puerto Rican Women, Jose Juan Hernandez, president of the Independent Union of Telephone Employees (UIET), and Efrain Fernandez, president of the Cement Industry Operators and Quarry Workers Union.

### WOMEN'S STRUGGLE HAILED

"Our oppression is economic," said Norma Valle, the first speaker, concerning the oppression of women. "Our way of thinking has been shaped," Ms. Valle went on, explaining the many anti-women theories put out by 19th and 20th century "scientists." "Machismo is a product of all of this. . . . Many men and women believe they must preserve the culture of "machismo" as a guard against assimilation by the oppressor culture. She went on to describe how Puerto Rican heroines knew that their liberation was tied to the labor movement and marched shoulder to shoulder with the male workers.

After Ms. Valle's talk, an announcement was made that workers at the San Juan Star, an English-language daily, had gone out on strike tonight. The workers, 265 members of UPAGRA (Union of Reporters, Graphic Arts, and Related Branches) and representing all departments, went out after 6 months of fruitless negotiations for a pay raise and job

security with the paper. Twenty-five workers have been fired by the paper since last November.

The chant "Workers united will never be defeated!" rolled through the crowd as it roared its support.

The next speaker, Jose Juan Hernandez, president of the UIET, now engaged in a strike against the telephone authority, pledged his support and that of his union for the San Juan Star workers and announced that he would join them in their picket line after tonight's event.

### PHONE STRIKE

The strike against the telephone authority resulted from the use of the Teamsters by Salvador Rodriguez Aponte, ex-police chief and head of the telephone authority, to deny the workers representation by the UIET. The firing of an operator, Isabel Colon, precipitated a strike on April 10 in Arecibo.

Hernandez pointed out that 225 workers had been fired by April 22. Since January, repressive measures have been taken against the UIET by the company, as the Teamster leadership continued to dispute with the union over representation and submitted a petition for an election by the workers. Rodriguez Aponte used this to deny recognition of the UIET, even though a great majority of the workers were with the UIET. On April 22, the union went out on strike in San Juan as well as in Arecibo.

"While Salvador Rodriguez Aponte represses our strike, over here (in the Capitol) laws are being written to freeze the workers' wages," Hernandez exclaimed. "But they will not win. This movement will not be broken!"

Efrain Fernandez, president of the Cement Industry Operators and Quarry Workers Union and the next speaker, announced that the southern area MOU will stage "a massive act of solidarity with the telephone workers."

The Puerto Rican Cement Company strike, entering its third month, has become a rallying symbol for the unity of the growing labor movement in Puerto Rico. The repression levied against them has been the most vicious in the history of the Puerto Rican labor movement.

### ATTACKS CAPITALISM

Fernandez explained how they

"have been accused of misusing funds, of being communists . . . and we have been accused of allegedly violating the anti-explosives law" by the company and the government. This is besides the armed attacks by Security Associates guards crossing the picket line with the aid of the colonial police at the Ponce plant.

The militant labor leader continued by urging unity of all labor, political as well as in struggle. "Eighty percent of the workers do not have a fighting organization at this moment . . . and that is the fault of the capitalist system in this country," he exclaimed.

"Every day in Puerto Rico more factories close down throwing workers out on the street. It's our responsibility to organize these workers. We must unite to push this movement forward," he proclaimed. "I ask (the worker) . . . to keep an eye on your organizations, to keep an eye on your labor leaders."

### CELEBRATE INDOCHINA VICTORY

The main speaker of the celebration was Pedro Grant, coordinator of the United Workers Movement (MOU). "Today is a day of extraordinary importance for the working class of the world. Today we also celebrate the triumph of the peoples' forces in Vietnam against three imperialisms," he began, citing the defeats of the Japanese, the French, and now the U.S. imperialists by the Indochinese people. He declared that the Puerto Rican people also are with the Vietnamese.

Commenting on how the red flag has been outlawed in Puerto Rico since the 1920s because it supposedly represents "subversive" elements wishing to "destroy the common good," the MOU leader forcefully stated that "law or no law, we will continue to use the red flag because it is the flag of the worker."

"Inflation and unemployment are problems which only affect capitalist countries," he said. "The capitalist system is no longer capable of solving the problems of the worker."

"Here, in this stage, is the new syndicalism of Puerto Rico. . . . Time has passed by that 'old guard' (labor) leadership celebrating 'Law Day,' he said, referring to the meeting held by the island affiliates of the AFL-CIO at which the colonial governor spoke and called for increased production as the answer to all the economic ills of the island.

"We are determined to increase production only when the means of production are under our control," was Grant's response.

"This movement," he said, "cannot be stopped either by the government's campaign or the bosses' campaign" because it is the instrument which will lead to the destruction "of the system . . . of exploitation of man by man."

Messages of solidarity were received from the Cultural Workers Syndicate of the Soviet Union, OSPAL in Cuba, progressive movements in the U.S., and other unions throughout the island, such as the Firemen's Union, Union Carbide Workers, and CORCO workers.

"There is no force in this country strong enough to halt this new syndicalism," Grant concluded. "Only united will we win!"

WW photo: Julio


 EDITORIAL

## Hail Vietnam victory!

The following statement was sent by the National Committee of Workers World Party to Nguyen Huu Tho, Chairman, and Mme. Nguyen Thi Binh, Foreign Minister, Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, on May Day.

Dear Comrades,

We of Workers World Party and Youth Against War & Fascism hail your heroic victory and conquest of full power in your country as a victory for all the workers and oppressed throughout the world.

Your monumental struggle, at a cost of such great self-sacrifice, from the battle of Ap Bac, to the glorious Tet Offensive, to the present final victory, has awakened the youth and people of the United States and the world to struggle and resistance against the master classes. Your brilliant achievement against the full wrath of the military and economic might of U.S. imperialism is indeed a turning point in human history and an inspiration to all who fight for justice and the revolutionary reconstruction of society.

Ours is a young Party which developed and grew up in the struggle against the U.S. imperialist invasion of Vietnam. From our earliest days we felt your struggle to be ours and the joy we feel at your victory knows no bounds. As the gold star flutters over the City of Ho Chi Minh, we shall seek to be the equal of our task and pledge ourselves to struggle till the whole world belongs to its toilers.

LONG LIVE THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM!

LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF HO CHI MINH!

## 'We shall be wedded in the spring'

*I think of you, my love, of those dark days  
When I lived in a hole underground,  
Ate from a ball of rice and drank from a flask,  
Swallowing my anger in the bosom of the cold earth.  
You brought me rice each night, your eyes shining,  
Only the stars bore witness to our love.*

*Four years have passed, how fast time flies,  
Our forces have grown, the trees in the forest,  
Our steps shake the Pentagon,  
In our hands, three-fourths of the land.  
Immense are the freed areas,  
Under this vast sky I haven't met my sweetheart.  
It's festival night. How I think of you:  
Four years! And we haven't met.  
Only a few words once reached me on a tiny sheet,  
Stained with the blood of a young courier:*

*On her way she had been killed by the enemy.  
She died but your letter reached me none the less,  
And her own last words were relayed to me:  
"She loves you and thinks of you,  
In the city she is in the van of the struggle."  
And so Saigon has become even dearer to my heart,  
For in its streets I imagine your shadow passing  
And your voice in the clamour of its multitude  
Engaged in earth-shaking struggle!  
Festival night! But blood hasn't dried on the streets of Saigon,  
The tyrants want no spring for the people!  
Yet joy is in every heart:  
Victory is near, put on your new clothes to give battle,  
Magnificent is your fight! Rifle in hand,  
I shall walk into the heart of Saigon singing the Song of  
Liberation,*

*And plant our flag on this town of glory,  
So the Gold Star shall shine over Ho Chi Minh City!  
I shall look for you. Put on your new clothes,  
When the guns fall silent, wedded we shall be.  
Over our free land, in the Spring of Victory,  
Two white doves shall take wing in the azure sky.*

Vien Phuong  
1965

Translated from the Vietnamese

IM STILL THE WORLD'S GREATEST  
PIRATE -YO HO HO...?



## Will Korea be the next Vietnam?

By ANDY STAPP

NEW YORK, May 6—Speaking in a nationally televised address on the night of May 6, President Ford stated he had no intention of withdrawing U.S. blessings and military support from the surviving right-wing puppet dictatorships in Asia, despite the collapse of the U.S. stooge governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia. On the contrary, he proclaimed his intention of increasing American aid to these unpopular and repressive regimes.

"It's my aim," Ford said, "to tie more closely together South Korea and the United States, to reaffirm our commitments to Taiwan, to work more closely with Indonesia, with the Philippines and other Pacific nations."

The disorderly withdrawal of the last U.S. troops from Indochina still leaves the Wall Street imperialists with a huge war machine in the eastern Pacific region: 182,000 soldiers and marines, 850 combat aircraft, and 56 major naval ships, including aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and ballistic missile submarines.

### KOREA VAST U.S. BASE

Nowhere is the U.S. military force greater than in south Korea, which is occupied by 40,000 American soldiers and the largest air force contingent maintained by the U.S. east of Hawaii.

And few regimes can boast such an infamous history of brutality and corruption as that of south Korea's "President for life," Park Jung Hee.

There is little or no difference between the Park clique and the late unlamented Thieu government in South Vietnam.

Like Thieu, Park was put in office by a U.S.-backed military coup. And just as the Saigon fascists were totally a creation of the U.S.; Park couldn't survive a day without constant transfusions of U.S. dollars, troops, and armaments. Over the past decade, Park has been the recipient of almost \$2 billion in military hardware alone, supplied free to him by the Pentagon and paid for out of our taxes.

Park is such a complete puppet of the U.S. that even the New York Times admitted in its May 6 issue,

"South Korean troops are under American command, a residue of the Korean war." The only foreign soldiers in Korea today are those of the U.S. Eighth Army and U.S. Fifth Air Force.

### PARK ANOTHER THIEU

Both Park and Thieu have a long and ugly history of treason to their countries in the service of imperialism. Thieu got his start as an officer in the French army and then hitched his wagon to the U.S. after France's defeat at Dien Bien Phu. Park began his career as a lieutenant in the Japanese army occupying Korea, changed his name to Okimoto, and participated in over 100 anti-guerrilla campaigns against Korean patriots fighting for their nation's freedom. After Tokyo's surrender he adroitly switched his allegiance to the U.S. and entered the military intelligence service.

Like Vietnam, Korea was cut in half by the imperialists into north and south, an excruciatingly painful experience for the people of both halves, who had a long and glorious history as one nation before they were sliced in two. Just as they did in South Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists rigged up a fascist dictatorship in southern Korea, executing and jailing anyone who dared to oppose them. North of Korea's 38th parallel the workers and peasants seized power.

The fanatical drive of the U.S. ruling class of rich businessmen to control the natural resources and exploit the labor of Asian workers by setting up satellite states has led to bloody wars, pitting the revolutionary masses against U.S. combat troops and Pentagon equipped puppet armies. The war that ravaged the Korean peninsula in 1950-53 was as bloody and as marked by racist atrocities as the fighting in Vietnam has been. But while the Indochina conflict ended with the total rout of the imperialists, the south Korean people have yet to be liberated from the hated colonialist regime in Seoul.

### THREAT OF NEW WAR

The U.S. determination to keep south Korea as the private property of Texaco, Gulf, and the Chase Manhattan Bank can only lead to another war. Ominously,

Time magazine (May 12) stated, "In order to demonstrate that it is not withdrawing from the Far East, the U.S. may have to undertake some kind of forceful, symbolic action."

The New York Times of May 6 left little to the imagination about where this "forceful, symbolic action" would be directed. In an article entitled, "Will Korea Be Next?" and datelined Seoul, south Korea, this leading pro-imperialist newspaper suggested, "President Park may be tempted to strike north if he becomes desperate as his political backing at home continues to erode."

On a visit to the People's Republic of China last month, Kim Il Sung, the President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (north Korea), clearly warned the imperialists about what the consequences would be for them if they started another war. Speaking in Peking, he said,

"In an endeavor to save themselves from crisis, U.S. imperialism and south Korea's ruling clique are intensifying their fascist repression of the south Korean people and further stepping up their preparations of war against the northern half of the republic."

"However, history is not moving as the imperialists and their lackeys expect but advancing steadily as the people, makers of history, wish and act."

"If the south Korean rulers continue to suppress at the point of the bayonet the people's discontent and wrath that is underlying south Korea society, it will result in a greater revolutionary explosion."

"If revolution takes place in south Korea, we, as one and the same nation, will not just look at it with folded arms but will strongly support the south Korean people."

A recent poll indicated that 65 percent of the American people would oppose any United States intervention in a new Korean war and only 14 percent would approve. The will of the people is very clear on this.

In stepping up his support for the police state regime of General Park, Ford is following the dictates of big business and not the majority of people who would rather have the U.S. troops brought home than fight again in Asia.

Profound lessons behind the statistics

# Why Soviet steel production surpasses U.S.

By V. COPELAND

In the minds of the steel corporation presidents of the United States, the first and most important thing about the accompanying graph on steel production is the fact that the Soviet Union has outstripped the USA.

This is undoubtedly true. Without another imperialist war even bigger than the one against Indochina, the U.S. will never again surpass the Soviet Union in tonnage of steel produced. And steel is still the most basic and crucial physical material in the construction of modern civilization.

But for the working people of the United States, there are more profound lessons than this to be learned from the statistics shown here.

It is clear, for instance, that even 10 and 20 years ago, when Soviet steel plants were far behind the American, there was a constant rise and never a falling back. In the United States there were never more than 4 years at a time of constant growth, while in the Soviet Union there were no less than 28 increases in 28 years.

The graph shows a great decrease in steel production here in 1954, just after the Korean War. That decrease meant 40,000 to 50,000 workers thrown out of work. The recession of 1958 and the low production which continued until 1964 took a similar toll of working people.

And even though U.S. production peaked again in 1973, it fell off drastically within a few months and many more workers were permanently laid off.

Furthermore, in the year 1948 (when the graph begins and Soviet production was less than one-quarter of the American), the people of the USSR were literally building up from the ashes. They had lost more than 20 million killed during the Second World War. The U.S. lost about 1 percent of that amount. Half the Soviet cities were in ruins—comparable here to everything east of Chicago being destroyed.

It should also be emphasized that in 1948, when the U.S. had been producing steel on this scale for years, the Cold War was on in earnest. And while the U.S. government was lending billions to the former Nazis in West Germany, the rehabilitated fascist millionaires in Italy, and the im-

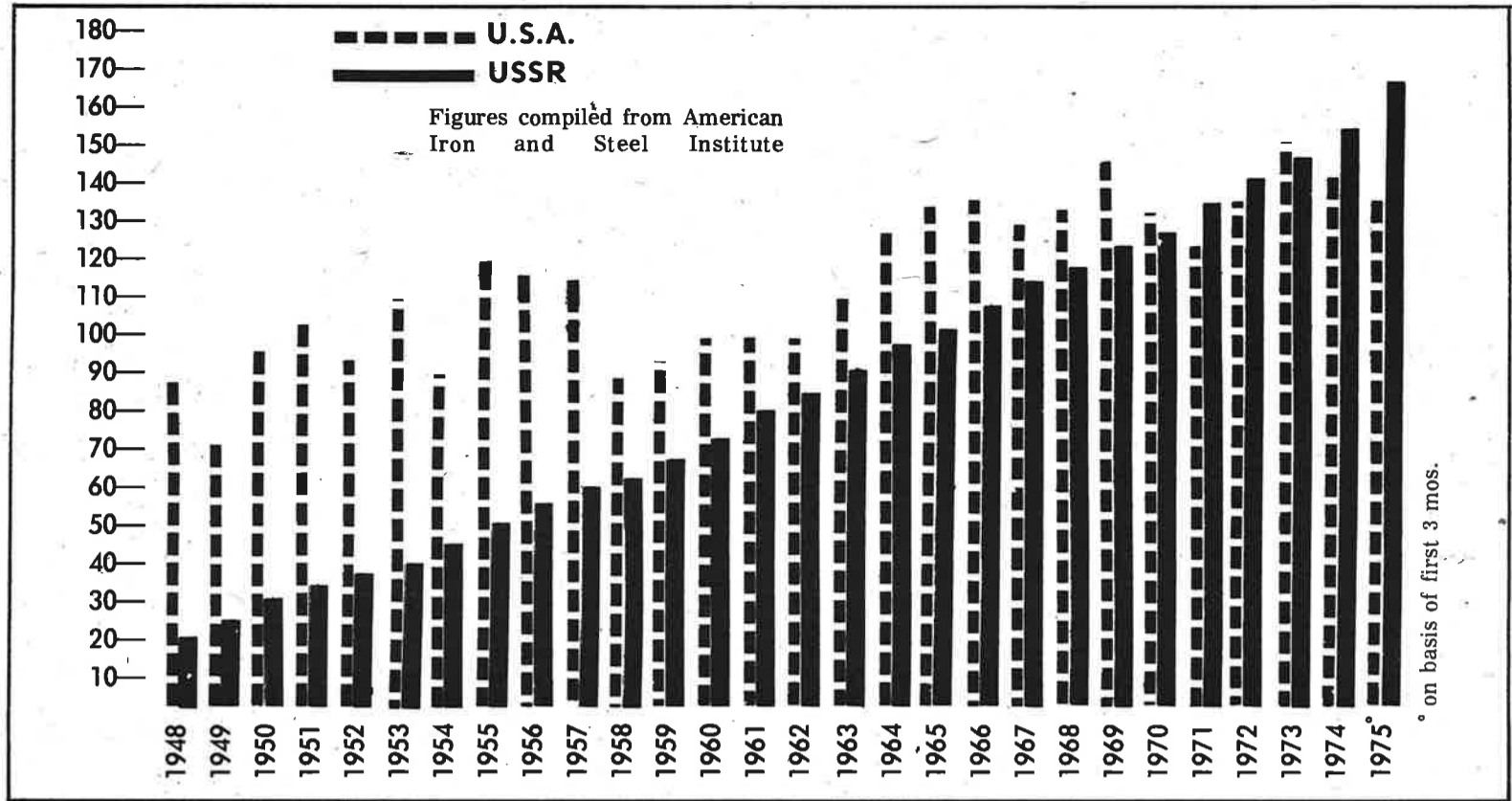
## A note on banking in Africa—and California

The Rockefellers' Chase Manhattan Bank has only two branches in Africa—one in Liberia, and one in Cairo—and plans to open others in Nigeria and the Sudan.

The Rockefeller industrial, agricultural, and mining exploitation of the continent is on so vast a scale that a mere four banks would seem to be a very small number to handle all the financial work for so great an empire.

However, Chase Manhattan has no less than 900 other branches in Africa through its part-ownership of the British Standard and Chartered banking system! Chase owns 12 percent of the \$10.5 billion London bank, and that percentage usually is more than enough to establish effective if not absolute control.

The reason this interesting fact



perial ruling families in Japan, it was also surrounding the Soviet Union with dozens of air bases and hundreds of army and naval stations.

### FROM STALIN TO BREZHNEV, THE PROGRESS CONTINUED

On the other hand, this remarkable achievement is not the result of any innate superiority of Soviet workers, Soviet steelmakers, or Soviet ingenuity over the laggard Americans. Nor is it due to the especial brilliance of the Soviet governing officials as compared to their not-necessarily stupid U.S. counterparts.

It is the result of socialized industry and central planning—planning for people instead of for profit. It is the result of production not being subject to the whims and vagaries of the capitalist owners and the capitalist market—in which profits, not people, govern jobs and production.

It is not the result of the respective genius of Stalin, Malenkov, Khrushchev, or Brezhnev. These men may or may not have been experts at steel-making. But they all had different degrees of ability and different approaches to their work and to politics.

And yet through the ad-

ministrations of all these different leaders the production of steel (and cement, electricity, oil, coal, etc.) went steadily upward and at more or less the same consistent rate.

### THE REVOLUTION DID IT

The truth is that the effectiveness of these leaders, like the achievements of the Soviet steelworkers, lies not primarily in individual ability, important as that is, but in the fact that they all presided over the same progressive and revolutionary social system.

## 20,000 attend funeral of Milan militant

# Italian workers hit fascist terror

By JOHN C. OTTO  
New York, May 4—On April 16, a fascist hoodlum in Milan, Italy, shot and killed a 15-year-old student. This latest example of fascist terror led to 3 days of street demonstrations by workers and progressive youth in Milan, with the struggle spreading to all the major Italian cities.

As workers and radical student youth took to the streets to protest this murder, the Christian-Democratic regime sent its police and carabinieri to defend the offices of the "parliamentary" fascists, the Italian Social Movement (MSI). In the ensuing clash, a militant of the Lotta Continua group was struck by a jeep driven by carabinieri and killed.

### VICTIMS OF FASCISTS HONORED

This act further outraged the workers and students and on Friday a 2-hour general strike was called by the three major national unions. Milan's schools were closed. At least 20,000 joined the funeral cortege through downtown Milan.

As the cortege proceeded, smaller groups broke off to attack the offices of the MSI and the MSI's trade union organization. Demonstrators threw stones,

It was the epic revolution of the millions of Russian people in 1917 that created this system and this basic capacity to plan production and benefit the people. It was the expropriation of the millionaires and the nationalization of production that did it.

There has never been a country that could show such a record of solid and consistent material progress since capitalism began and mass production was invented.

But there are many more countries that are building such a

record—socialist Vietnam, for instance, People's China, the German Democratic Republic, Socialist Korea, Cuba, Cambodia, and many others. And the list will include at last a socialist United States itself.

And once there is a world victory for the working class and world planning of the really abundant society we will have, the steel production record shown here, magnificent though it is, will be infinitely superseded by productive and cultural achievements we can now hardly imagine.

pipes, and molotov-cocktails to teach the fascists a lesson, clashing with the police as they did; they even occupied some of the offices for a while.

### SOLDIERS FACE LEFT

Italy's bosses, bankers, and especially generals were shocked to see that many hundreds of Italy's rank-and-file soldiers broke the usual discipline to observe 5 minutes of silence to pay respect to their fallen comrades in Milan. The groups to the left of the Italian Communist Party (PCI) have been organizing among the soldiers for a few years now. Progressive soldier groups such as Proletarii in Divisa (Workers in Uniform), a group influenced by Lotta Continua, have had considerable success, as this latest demonstration showed.

A representative of the Lotta Continua group, Pepino Campini, recently spoke in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was interviewed by our correspondent there, Mike Nigor. Campini reported on the upsurge in the Italian working class movement, from the great victory in the divorce referendum last spring, to the big anti-fascist demonstrations following terror bombings, to refusals to pay electricity rate increases by the workers of Turin. Lotta Continua, growing out of the massive strike wave of 1969-70, is the largest of the extra-parliamentary groups to the left of

the PCI. Campini urged U.S. progressives to be on the alert for CIA maneuvers in Italy and to protest them.

### ROLE OF THE PCI

The PCI is playing its usual reformist role in the present struggle. On the one hand, it was able to bring about the 2-hour general strike and has demanded that the Christian Democratic government take a firmer stand against the fascists. On the other hand, the PCI condemns the direct action against the fascist headquarters, in its desire to keep the law sacred, even though it's the bosses' law. It was not surprising that as many of the demonstrators in Milan passed the PCI's union offices, they chanted "revisionist traitors". To the students and workers of Milan, a 2-hour strike was a small answer indeed to the fascist and police murders, compared to what is possible in Italy.

The 1½ million member PCI and the millions of other Italian workers who consider themselves communists are again and again the targets of fascist attacks, even if the PCI doesn't take the lead in answering these attacks. Not reliance on the state, but workers' self-defense independent of the bourgeois state can stop these attacks. The youth and workers of Milan and those who fought the fascists all over Italy are leading the way in this defense.

Lessons for our class, part I

# Labor & the depression: then and now

By LENNY KAPITOS

MAY 2—When 60,000 workers converged on Washington last week to present their grievances to the government, Gerald Ford let it be known that he was taking the day off to play a round of golf.

That is more than we know about what George Meany was doing that day.

Because George Meany, and most of the other officials of the labor movement in America, boycotted that rally. They turned their backs on the appeals from the thousands of working people who came to Washington seeking relief, and in effect, buried their heads in the sand while spreading economic disaster continues to pile up misery, ruin, and chaos.

Labor in America needs militant leadership with a fighting program. Without it, as each day passes we are slipping closer and closer to disaster.

Labor will have its new militant leaders and they will be equipped with an effective program for turning back the tide. But who will they be? And where will this new leadership come from? What tactics will labor use? To answer these and other questions, let's take a look into labor's past when workers faced similar and even more difficult problems.

### THE "GOLDEN TWENTIES"

Let's look at the years following the First World War: the so-called "golden twenties"; then the year of the crash, 1929; then the depression years of the 1930s; and finally, out of the ashes of despair, the rebirth of a vigorous labor movement that successfully challenged and overran the entrenched positions of anti-unionism in America.

The First World War ended in 1918. And as the dust settled over the battlefields of Europe, life had ended also for the more than 10 million who died being told they fought "the war that would end all war."

In America, a whole class of bankers and businessmen fattened on the huge war loans and military purchases made by warring states in Europe. In fact, the war which had devastated Europe raised the U.S. to the dominant banking and manufacturing position in the world. The American workers, some returning from overseas and the rest released from the "no-strike" pledges their "leaders" had made for them during the war, resolved to win for themselves some of the vast treasure that their bosses had accumulated.

### NO SO GOLDEN FOR WORKERS

But then, as now, profits were something "sacred," and the corporations were in no mood to tolerate any demands from the workers. The colonies of Latin

America and the Pacific seemed to lie at the feet of the U.S. The American "captains of industry" (not too long before they had been known as the "robber barons") were ready to reap the harvest of their newly acquired world dominance. They saw no reason to share it with labor.

A furious anti-labor offensive was launched to counter the rising struggle of the working class. It took many forms. Militants and radicals were hounded out of the unions. Strikes were crushed with the same methods and weapons used at Verdun and the Sommes. Union officials were bought off by the bosses. Workers were routinely sold out.

Gangsters took over unions on an unprecedented scale. Courts were issuing anti-strike injunctions faster than workers could take strike votes. Corporations turned

twenties, AFL policies and practices went a long way in contributing to the massive decline of the labor movement here.

The leadership of the American Federation of Labor, and of its member unions, was hopelessly mired in obsolete and erroneous conceptions, a kind of hand-me-down ideology from the very bosses they were entrusted with the responsibility to combat.

### EXCLUDED BLACK WORKERS

With the notable exceptions of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the United Mine Workers, the Black worker was excluded from the ranks of organized labor. Many of the AFL craft unions explicitly denied rights of membership to all but white workers, thereby compelling many Black workers to accept employment as strikebreakers.

that the federation leaders were among the last holdouts in the country against wage and hour legislation, social welfare programs (the AFL fought unemployment insurance for workers almost until 1933!), and protection from discrimination for Black workers (which they are still resisting to this day).

Political involvement, if it meant anything at all to the AFL leaders, amounted to following in the wake of the Democratic or Republican party politicians. They actually seem to believe (they have not learned yet) that they can outbid the banks and corporations for control over dyed-in-the-wool pro-business politicians. It is not just that "Hope springs eternal..."; they have neither a realistic understanding nor an alternative program.

### Other weaknesses of organized

revolution that compelled the government to adopt a more far-seeing program. (The recklessness of business pursuing Profits Uber Alles nearly brought the whole thing down.) But the millions of unemployed who forced major concessions from business by their struggles were "non-persons" in the eyes of the AFL officials.

### CAPITALIST ILLUSIONS

Before the 1929 market crash literally bankrupted their fantastic schemes, the officials of many unions were putting their energies and the resources of their members into real estate speculation, labor banks, and stock market investment deals. This was to be the miracle by which labor could bypass the class struggle and become capitalist itself! Why suffer the hardship and uncertainty of a strike, they figured, when everybody's getting rich on Wall Street?

As you know, the real Wall Streeters remained rich, but the unions that got sucked into speculating with their members' money went broke. Then they had to carry out the class struggle under more difficult conditions, with an empty treasury and empty stomachs.

The other disruptive policy that the labor officials learned from management was the "red-baiting" technique. This amounted to trying to isolate, immobilize, and finally oust the militant oppositionists among the rank-and-file. "The flag," as we have learned once again from Tricky Dick "being the last refuge of a scoundrel," corrupt and cowardly officials tried to fend off criticism of their bankrupt policies by attacking their critics as "reds."

Throughout the twenties, before the bubble burst on Black Tuesday, red-baiting was standard operating procedure for dealing with a militant opposition. For some reason, red-baiting had less appeal thereafter, when millions of workers were dumped into the street by their patriotic bosses and ignored by the patriotic AFL.

By October 1931, when the Soviet Union advertised for 6,000 skilled workers, more than 100,000 Americans put in bids for the jobs.

The Depression years knocked the labor movement on its back, from which it was to arise with new leadership. Back on its feet and swinging, drawing its strength from the millions of unorganized, impoverished workers neglected in the past, the labor movement was reconstituted. The volcanic eruption of workers by the mid-thirties successfully overcame the citadels of anti-unionism that had intimidated Gompers and his heirs for so long.

NEXT issue: Sit-Downs and the rise of the CIO.



Shacks of the unemployed, New York, 1932. "The Depression years knocked the labor movement on its back, from which it was to arise with new leadership."

to the company union technique on a mass scale. Undercover spies were planted by the bosses in unions and shops everywhere. Frightened and corrupt union officials denied workers any democratic participation in their unions. And among other devices, corporations turned to the "yellow dog contract" and the runaway shop. All this was known as the "American Plan."

During the so-called prosperity years from 1920 to 1929, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) dropped in membership from 4,093,000 to 2,769,700. The labor movement was unprepared to meet the bosses' challenge. The AFL was even more unprepared to respond to the crisis that followed. By 1933, another half-million members of the AFL were lost.

### AFL CONSERVATISM

The federation leaders were not altogether blameless for all this. While it's true that U.S. corporations and government teamed up for the anti-union drive of the

Other unions accepted Black workers but weakened the organization by dividing (segregating) their members.

As America stepped into the 20th century and the huge mass production industries were being put together, the heads of organized labor remained tied to the 19th-century patterns of organization they had grown up with. There were carpenters and printers and bootmakers and painters—but automobile workers, steel workers, tire and glass workers? Heaven forbid! The millions of workers in the new mass production industries who desperately needed union organization were unceremoniously ignored by the dominant labor organization of the time.

Another fundamental weakness of the labor movement that stemmed from the blind policies of the AFL was its adamant refusal to undertake an independent political struggle on behalf of labor. This reached such grotesque propor-

labor under the AFL misleadership included abandonment—of the unemployed, "business unionism," and red-baiting in the unions.

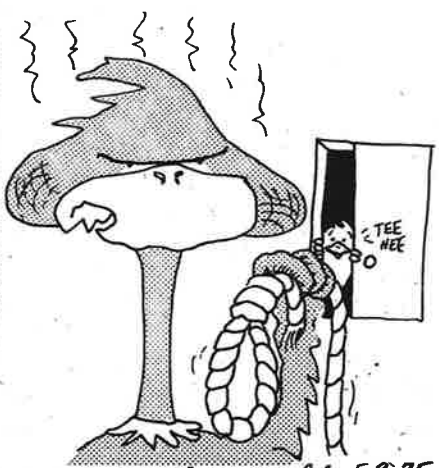
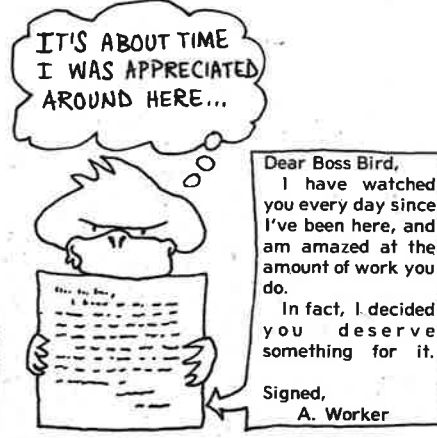
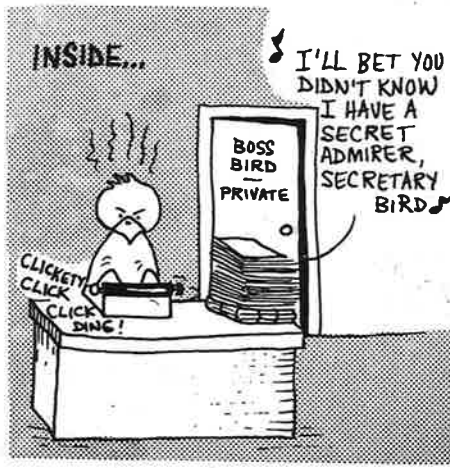
### WOULDN'T FIGHT FOR UNEMPLOYED

While millions of workers were being thrown into the street by industry, first from "normal" causes of speed-up and technological development, and then from the cutbacks in production during the depression, the leaders of organized labor offered them nothing more than the admonition to wait until business "picks up."

By refusing to fight for the unemployed, the AFL abandoned them to the bosses' strategy of strike breaking and union busting. (This was why the workers had to adopt the "sit-in" technique, to keep scabs out of struck plants.) By 1933 at least one-third of the nation's workers were unemployed.

It was fear of total collapse and

### FOR THE BIRDS...



wynn: workers world 5-9-75.

# POLITICAL PRISONERS



## MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE JAMMED

I would like to bring attention here to the Maryland Correctional Institute at Hagerstown, Md. The main population consists of comrades from Baltimore and D.C., whose average age is 23. The capacity is 600, but there are now over 900 men, and the number threatens to reach a thousand.

Because of this vast overcrowding, the guard-dogs have been harassing many comrades without cause. Many brothers have been restricted from going into the courtyard for 90 days at a

time.

The administration has seen to it that there is always diversion, and if any kind of unity is shown, some new kind of pacification is put forth. Because of this there is all-out confusion, and any attempt at trying to bring the mass together would only result in the removal to another institution of tighter security.

Because the institution has a big deficit, the only way they see to get out of debt is to push us into the

act of rioting, whereas they could get more money and commit vast atrocity without fear of punishment. With all the harassment that is now going on, it is only a matter of time until such a reactionary move takes place.

One more note of importance. With the population being something like 95 per cent Black, there is only one Black guard and a Black assistant superintendent.

A voice of MCI  
P.S. This letter had to be smuggled out.

## BLACK LIBERATION ARMY FRAME-UP

NORFOLK, Va., April 24—On April 16, after 2 days of a stormy and complex trial, it took a Norfolk jury only an hour and a half to unjustly convict two members of the Black Liberation Army and sentence them each to 40 years in prison.

The racist convictions of Safiya Bukhari (slave name Bernice Jones) and Masai Eheozi (slave name William Gibson) stemmed from an incident at Green's market in Norfolk last January 25 when another BLA member, William Butler, was murdered by Paul Green Jr., the son of the store owner.

Although the BLA members were actually the ones attacked, they were charged with attempted robbery, attempted murder, possession of a machine gun in the commission of a crime, and even first-degree murder for the death

of their own comrade! There was absolutely no evidence for any of this. The state's case rested entirely on the fact that the defendants were BLA members and that they were armed.

Safiya, who denied the court's right to try her, took the stand to explain what actually happened at Green's market.

On January 25, she had gone into the store for food. In a few minutes she heard shooting, then saw her comrade William Butler coming down the aisle shouting, "I've been shot!" (Green, Jr., had testified that he opened fire on Butler when he saw the butt of a gun under Butler's coat.) Sister Bukhari then testified that "the two men (the Greens) came around after shouting 'White is all right,' put a gun in her face, and then started stomping the wounded brother."

Prosecuting attorney Joe Campbell, knowing there was no real case against Bukhari and Eheozi, asked for a conviction solely on the basis of the defendant's participation in the BLA. He actually said to the jury, "If you just give them (the defendants) 10 or 20 years on each charge, that won't catch people's eye. But if you give them one or two thousand years that will get the message out to the people like this: 'Stay away from Norfolk. If you are going to train your army, don't do it in Norfolk, or this will happen to you.'"

This confirmed what the BLA and the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners have been saying since the incident in January. "Black people, and particularly Black revolutionaries, cannot get justice in a court system run by and for the racist white ruling class."

## INMATE PETITION AT MISS. STATE PEN.

PARCHMAN, Miss., April 15—Forty Black and white inmates at the Maximum Security Unit of the Mississippi State Penitentiary have signed a petition calling on prison authorities to improve conditions in their part of the prison.

The petition lists 21 specific complaints, ranging from harassment by guards to the lack of church services. Other issues include insufficient exercise, cold meals, lack of work, and a shortage of reading material.

The complaints are followed by

a list of 13 demands which, if met, would alleviate the worst problems, according to the prisoners. The petition closes by saying that "certain and such action to bring these deplorable conditions to national attention will be taken unless our complaints are recognized and our demands met."

Informed sources said that the only response to the petition by prison officials has been tightened security and increased harassment in the Maximum

Security Unit.

Michael Raff, director of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations, said, "Many of the issues raised in the petition are things that the court has already ordered the prison to change. The problem is that Judge Keady hasn't forced the administration to obey his own order."

For more information contact: Mississippi Council on Human Relations, 201 West Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201, (601) 948-0878.

## LETTER FROM N. CAROLINA PRISON

I am writing in behalf of myself and seven other brothers who are seeking support and advice that may help us in our struggle for survival. On March 24 the Asheboro administration falsely accused us of assaulting three administration informers (inmates). We were falsely accused only because we stand together as men and because our religion is Islam. For this they labeled us "trouble makers."

We were given five minutes to get our clothes together. Two of us were sent to Yanceyville Concentration Camp, and five to Yadkinville. Here at Yadkinville we are kept locked in a 12-by-15 room with five other men. Now that's a total of ten men in such a small room, not counting the roaches that visit our beds each and every night.

The food is not fit to eat whether you are striving for Islam or not. It always contains pork, or something we never heard of

before, so if our finances run out we will be unable to eat. The State even went so far as to take two of the brothers' personal property, including religious books, legal papers, radio, and personal hygiene equipment.

We are unaware if our mail reaches its destination or file 13 (the trash can). We know that there is constant danger if we are separated and so we refuse to be parted. We are aware that the state is capable of explaining one man's death, but five at one time would be pretty hard to explain.

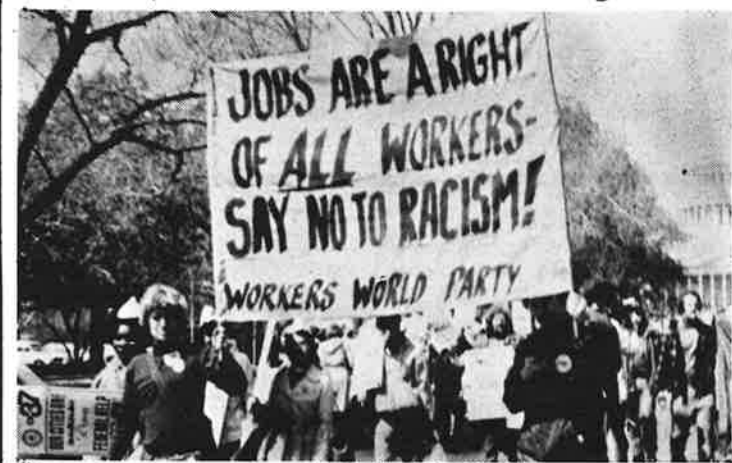
We are asking the sisters and brothers on your staff to assist us in our struggle for survival. We need to keep in close contact with the outside world, because you are the masses that we can only depend on to print our article for the people to see the inhuman treatment our people are going through. We are asking you to write us because it will show these devils that we don't stand alone.

Contact us as follows: Bros. Gregory Seku Barrett, Robert E.X. Carroll, James X. Harris, Louis X. Pittman, Ronnie X. Rankin, Fred X. Crawford at P.O. Box 578, Yadkinville, N.C. Bros. Maceo X. Carmen and Henry X. Byrd can be contacted at P.O. Box 217 Yanceyville, N.C.

Power,  
Gregory Seku Barrett



Get in the struggle with  
Youth Against War & Fascism  
and Workers World Party!



For information, contact: WORKERS WORLD  
46 WEST 21 STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10010: TEL: (212) 255-0352; (212) 989-3932

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Joanne Little, a Black woman who defended herself against rape by her white jailer, is fighting valiantly for her freedom and winning support across the country. See page 4.

## Expose' of 'dirty tricks' in Attica cases prompts growing demand for amnesty



Last week, a demonstration in downtown Albany calling for amnesty for all the Attica Brothers drew over 600 people from all over the state. WW photo: Ken F.

By BRAD KANE

BUFFALO, April 30—In an atmosphere of police repression, the sentencing of Attica Brothers Charley Joe Pernalice and Dacajeweah (aka John Hill) was postponed today until May 7 while Judge King considers motions argued by defense lawyers William Kunstler and Ramsey Clark that the April 5 convictions be reversed.

The two Brothers were convicted on charges of second-degree attempted assault and murder, respectively. Charley Joe faces up to 4 years in prison while Dacajeweah faces life.

In another courtroom, Judge Mattina reserved decision on defense motions to dismiss indictments against Attica Brothers Shango (aka Bernard Stroble), while outside the courthouse over 150 people expressed their support for the Attica Brothers by calling for unconditional amnesty for all the indicted Brothers.

The day's events took place under the close scrutiny of a massive display of police force designed to intimidate the Brother's growing support movement. The protesters were not phased, however, by the harassment of the police, and held a militant picket line with chants raising the demand for amnesty. The demonstrators hailed the victory of the Vietnamese people in their just struggle against the same oppressive state that the Attica Brothers are now facing.

### 10 ARRESTED AT UNIVERSITY DEMO

Just one week ago, another attempt to stifle support for the Brothers backfired when police

arrested 10 people involved in the takeover of the administration building at the University of Buffalo. The group was demanding funds (which rightfully belong to the students) to take busloads of people to Albany on April 28 for an amnesty demonstration. As police took the 10 people away they were stoned with mud and rocks. Students began to gather in larger numbers, surrounded the car, and began pounding it while chanting, "Let them go," which continued until the police waded into the crowd swinging their clubs. By then, over 500 people had gathered. Furious at the actions of the police, they marched to the campus security building to demand that the 10 be let go. There the police attacked again and arrested a few more people. Those arrested now face charges ranging from trespassing to felony assault and seven face suspension from the school.

### 600 MARCH ON ALBANY

Despite the attempt by the university officials to stifle UB students' participation in the April 28 amnesty demonstration by not allocating the necessary funds, enough funds were collected elsewhere to send six busloads of people to Albany. In Albany, over 600 people marched to the State Capitol demanding unconditional amnesty for all the indicted Attica Brothers.

The idea of unconditional amnesty is gaining support both locally and nationally as a result of the widespread governmental misconduct which is now coming to light in the Attica trials.

## CETA programs bypass poor to put rich on payroll

Special to WORKERS WORLD  
BUFFALO, April 29—Over 80,000 workers, out of a workforce of 547,000, are unemployed here, making the rate of unemployment officially 14.5 percent and rising. Buffalo is classified as an area of "substantial and persistent unemployment" and is qualified for priority in federal funds allocated to alleviate unemployment.

The primary source of federal funds up to this time, CETA (the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, Title II and Title VI), has recently received statewide attention as corruption in the distribution of jobs has come to light. Fewer than 3,000 out of 81,000 workers unemployed have been given jobs under the program!

### NEPOTISM AND MOONLIGHTING

CETA funds were to be used by local municipalities to hire and train workers 30 days or more unemployed, and "traditionally unemployed." The recent expose

of the misuse of these funds through nepotism in hiring practices, duo-employment, moonlighting, and non-residency, is only part of a story that leaves those most in need out in the cold as usual.

Investigations of CETA jobs in Buffalo revealed a \$15,000 job for a college dean already earning over \$15,000. Sons, daughters, nephews, and brothers of judges, councilmen, and an assortment of other local politicians were found to be earning anywhere from \$3.99 to \$8.89 an hour for full-time CETA jobs. Some of these "needy" relatives of well-to-do politicians have been dismissed, but what will this mean for the unemployed still without jobs?

The highest unemployment is in the Black and Puerto Rican communities, yet very few from minority communities in Buffalo are on CETA jobs, and those who are are concentrated in lower-paying classifications.

Rev. Fabio R. Auffant, director of one of the CETA programs for

the City of Buffalo, submitted his resignation earlier this month "as a protest of all the political game-playing involved in the way the city conducts the program."

Speaking generally, Fr. Auffant said the CETA program is structured in such a way that "nothing constructive can be accomplished in the Spanish-American community." He said the "city has a stranglehold on me and the community because of the way it operated the program."

### NO JOBS FOR WELFARE RECIPIENTS

In Erie County, welfare recipients are working for the amount of their monthly checks, but they are left out of the CETA program, where job training is available along with higher wages and a chance to get off welfare entirely.

In both the county and city, layoffs of civil service workers are mounting, with more than 1,500 city workers threatened. Workers in federally funded grant

programs that are being terminated by Ford's "belt tightening" of social services (but not military spending!) face the loss of benefits, including pensions, while their jobs are being replaced with CETA positions.

The grant programs often specified that the majority of workers had to come from the Third World communities the programs served. The CETA does not hold this guarantee and the abuses of the program by local politicians may restrict hiring even further if federal funds are cut back because of it.

### CETA NON-UNION

Under CETA guidelines, employees are restricted from joining the local bargaining agent of civil service workers. This seems to be a key factor in the use of CETA—to create a division between CETA and the civil service. More competition for the scarce jobs could weaken the already shackled

public employees' unions in the area. Without union protection, CETA workers have no grievance procedure against abuses from the city and cannot bargain for wages or benefits.

Workers in the program who are truly from the ranks of the unemployed are not even given work in their previous areas of employment to maintain any experience, because the program stipulates they must be trained in a new field, regardless of how useful the training may be.

### FULL EMPLOYMENT

If the federal government were serious about the problems of the unemployed, it would implement the Full Employment Act of 1946, forcing big business to give everyone a job. But only a few crumbs have been tossed to the area unemployed.

Firing a few city officials' relatives on the CETA program to cover up corruption won't satisfy the unemployed either. Buffalo workers want JOBS!!!