**Workers Vanguard**

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**While NATO Beefs Up Death Arsenal, Liberals/Stalinists Protest Only N-Bomb Neutron Bomb Uproar**

For weeks preceding Jimmy Carter's April 7 decision to defer production of the U.S.' much heralded "enhanced radiation" weapon, the world was obsessed with the neutron bomb.

In the Netherlands, a Labor Party-led movement garnered one million signatures on an anti-neutron-bomb petition and the Minister of Defense resigned in a gesture of protest. The secretary general of the West German Social Democratic Party (SPD) denounced the weapon as a "symbol of perversion." In virtually every European country, thousands demonstrated while the media reported in banner headlines each relevant augury of Carter's expected decision.

Was it not public outcry against the grisly N-bomb—labeled the weapon which "destroys people and not property"—the politicking for a hot potato which they tried to pass on to someone else? Carter consulted his conscience and decided that explicit agreement by West European governments to deploy would have to precede a U.S. decision to produce the bomb. West German chancellor Schmidt, hearing the voices of his SPD ranks, insisted that the decision to produce must precede the agreement to deploy.

After this charade had run its course the imperialist war hawks began wringing their hands. Pentagon generals wondered anonymously what could have induced Carter to take this step—was he some kind of religious pacifist? NATO commander (and former Nixon advisor) General Haig threatened to resign. West European governments grumbled about the "erratic" U.S. policy. But when all is said and done Carter's postponement of production will barely affect the development of the new weapon, and the imperialist arms build-up is mounting despite all the talk of a SALT II arms limitation agreement with the Russians.

**What Is the Neutron Bomb?**

The neutron bomb is simply a very small atomic fission bomb that releases most of its energy in the form of highly penetrating subatomic particles (neutrons). According to published reports, blast damage from the neutron bomb is confined to an area of 300 yards radius, while the intense heat generated by the explosion extends out approximately another 100 yards. By way of comparison, a "small" one-megaton thermo-nuclear warhead has a blast damage radius of three miles and is capable of creating fires and inflicting third-degree burns as far as eleven miles from the center of the explosion.

Beyond the 400-yard radius, extending outward to a range of 1,400 yards the neutron bomb emits large quantities of energetic neutrons that readily penetrate buildings and armored vehicles without damaging their structures. The neutrons however cause massive damage to central nervous systems. People exposed to the radiation will be unable to function within half an hour and will die a lingering death, succumbing a day or so later to fits and heart failure.

Popular attitudes toward the neutron bomb are similar to the horror of chemical or bacteriological warfare. However, while the U.S. imperialists hypocritically refrain from widespread deployment of the latter agents because of their limited military utility, they are unlikely to renounce the neutron bomb, which lends itself to a wide variety of military uses, including "surgical" counterrevolutionary measures around the world and in the U.S. itself. In particular, NATO sees the N-bomb as its answer to the overwhelming superiority of the Soviet bloc (Warsaw Pact) in nuclear warheads.

"Compromise" All the while NATO has been inching toward a "compromise" which would seek to use the bomb to extract major Soviet concessions in the SALT talks. Thus the U.S. would mandate production of the N-bomb while threatening its deployment should the Soviet Union deploy its new SS20 intermediate range ballistic missile in Europe.

Carter, however, torpedoed the "compromise" and ordered the March 20 meeting which would have ratified this blackmail postponed. The White House has made much of the "strong personal beliefs and...doubts about the morality of nuclear warfare" which prompted Carter's hesitation. More to the point however was the U.S. president's demand for an assurance that having taken the rap for producing the unpopular Dr. Strangelove weapon he would have the OK of his NATO allies.

It seems the Italian Christian Democratic Communist-backed government wants Aldo Moro dead more than the Red Brigades do. Turning its back on Moro's desperate pleas, the Christian Democratic regime has refused to release the 13 anarcho-Maoists whose freedom the Red Brigades are demanding in exchange for the ex-prime minister's freedom. The Communist Party has been equally adamant in its call for no negotiations with Moro's captors.

The 13 imprisoned Red Brigade militants, however misguided their answer to the overwhelming superiority of the Soviet bloc (Warsaw Pact) in tanks deployed in Central Europe.

This places us on entirely different ground from the Stalinists, reformists and other enemies of class struggle who want to reform the U.S. military program to favor the "peace-loving" imperialists against Pentagon "hawks."

**Moro Kidnapping: Make the Deal!**

It seems the Italian Christian Democratic Communist-backed government wants Aldo Moro dead more than the Red Brigades do. Turning its back on Moro's desperate pleas, the Christian Democratic regime has refused to release the 13 anarcho-Maoists whose freedom the Red Brigades are demanding in exchange for the ex-prime minister's freedom. The Communist Party has been equally adamant in its call for no negotiations with Moro's captors.

The hard line is not designed simply to discourage future political kidnappings. If the Italian ruling class forces the Red Brigades' hand by refusing to negotiate, thus challenging them to kill Moro, the political climate will be prepared for massive repression of the "far left."

Notable among the self-serving appeals of ruling-class "humanitarians" is Pope Paul's appeal to the Red Brigades to release their prisoner in the name of "human compassion." Of course, the head of the Catholic Church made no such appeal to the Italian state for "human compassion" in dealing with its own leftist captives.

The 13 imprisoned Red Brigade militants, however misguided their program and activities, were seeking to struggle on behalf of the oppressed masses. We, as revolutionary proletarian communists, stand for their freedom.

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As the press was reporting massive opposition among TWU members to the proposed sellout contract on April 25, a federal district judge threw out the TWU contract ballots and ordered an entirely new vote.

The court action bought valuable time. The Mayor and those who run the Transit Workers Union (TWU) in their desperate effort to break down the opposition and head off a strike. Not only would a subway and bus shutdown paralyze the center of U.S. finance, but above all the city rulers fear a strike by the powerful TWU local 100 could open a new round of labor struggle here to reverse the dracmamic layoffs and job cuts forcibly extracted from the municipal unions in the previous round of "bargaining."

The March 26 rally and union meeting marking TWU members unanimously voted against to the numerous anti-contract rallies, demonstrations and meetings across the city which followed the April 1 sellout, the transit ranks have reportedly shown their support for the TWU lawsuit. Law week newspaper opinion polls of the Local 100 membership indicated there had been a change in attitude from rejecting the contract, but even though they have already been working a month without a contract, transit workers are now supposed to give their messieaders another chance to walk down opposition.

The Guinan Law bureaucrats of the TWU used every trick in the book to forestall this week's vote. The TWU's only stopped short of actually trying open the ballot boxes and forcing the votes when the courts came to their aid and by simply stealing the vote. But worst of all was the treacherous action of the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers, who brought the ballot-box to the case in the first place and then agreed with Guinan to throw out the vote!

Transit workers! You have already shown this vote-rigging, anti-union, vote-stuffing plot is not intimidated. But the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers, who brought the ballot-box to the case in the first place and then agreed with Guinan to throw out the vote!

As it turned out the membership was not intimidated. But the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers was. Concerned Transit Workers' law Henry Lorenc, made this clear at the April 11 midtown rally where he announced: "We are not in any way, shape, or form calling for a strike. So rather than mobilize the rank and file to throw back the Guinan/Law sellout, these phony "militants" went running to the bosses' courts...

Certainly the lawyers had no problem finding a "slew of evidence to back up their fraud charges." The TWU's improper poll-watching procedures, the wording of the ballot and, most egregiously, the TWU's attempt to stuff the ballot boxes with the votes of the 25 percent of the TWU membership who do not even work under the TA contract, are by far the most important element of the action that adds up to the success of this week's vote.

At first hearing on April 24 the bureaucrats came out against the Concerned Transit Workers suit, insisting the counting procedures were completely fair. But something happened overnight — like a peek at the ballots which convinced the TWU officials it would be in their interest to call off the vote. Thus back in court the very next day Local 100 President John Law and TWU lawyer John F. O'Donnell announced the Concerned Transit Workers had caused "confusion" and "trouble" to the TWU and left a cloud over the earlier vote. "It is important members feel the vote was fair and that there was labor action," O'Donnell magnificently told the court as he recommended a brand new vote.

In welcoming O'Donnell's suggestion Judge Briant read Concerned Transit Workers lawyer James Reil. "You had a surprise victory," an opinion shared by all the labor reformists, black liberals and phony socialists. Thus the Amsterdam News (29 April) declared it a "stunning victory" while the Socialist Workers Party's Militant (5 May) announced the judge's decision was "A Victory for All New York City Workers." A victory! Instead of going out on an immediate strike in accord with the union's no-strike, no-work principle O'Donnell announced the new election would take "at least a month," and a full week later the New York Post reported that the TWU had yet to prepare the new ballots for printing and mailing! By dragging out the voting procedures as long as possible the bureaucrats seek to demoralize and beat down the opposition.

But far more important than the results of the second ballooting are the long-run effects of tying the future of the TWU to the whims of the capitalist courts — those same "neutral" bodies which just invoked the Taft-Hartley Act to try to break the miners' strike, who in conjunction with the banksters and Big MAC have been running the city unions for the past three years. In turning the growing rank-and-file opposition away from militant labor action toward reliance on the capitalist state, the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers sets up the unions for defeat. As one TWU member put it: "Mr. Mike Warren, even suggested in court April 24 that one candidate for "impar­ tial" election would be none other than Mayor Koch, who has been running around firing city workers like the trim.

In taking the union to court over the TWU contract Concerned Transit Workers made no "mistake" — the group has been in the business of doing just that for most of the past decade. In fact its predecessor, Joe Carnegie's Transit Rank and File group, became famous for its history of using the capitalist courts as a factional weapon against the union bureaucracy, sometimes with disastrous results. In 1969, for example, when thousands of TWU members were involved in a bitter struggle to turn down a sellout contract, Transit Rank and File played into the vicious anti-union sentiment of the time by going to court to decertify the TWU (for its 1970 failure to sign a no-strike pledge as part of its historic defiance of the Taft-Hartley Act or Taylor Law forbidding government workers to strike) At the present time the TWU is before the State Supreme Court with the TWU lawyers now using it as yet another reason to hold up the second ballot procedures.

In the late 1960's playing on the total alienation of the black ghetto popula­tion from the racist job-training com­ mission unions. Carnegie's associate John Haughton formed the TWU's Black Caucus. Back and started using the building trades unions to win forced hiring of black workers, including a clause in Nixon's hands as he was in the process of cooking up the Philadelphia Plan to slash transit jobs. Haughton turned the construction workers by using the hatering ram of "affirmative action" to try to stuff the TWU's scheme the TWU's schemes opened the construction unions up to government attack. For Carnegie to say: "The TWU's not only anti-labor but completely owned from the point of view of the TWU ranks. Certainly, the TWU leadership is a naive, labor-busting one, which could easily dump the bureaucracy if it had a leadership committed to mobilizing the rank and file to throw out the sellouts and unite the entire union around program to fight the TWU!

The new delay in the transit contract is especially significant in light of the increasing tensions between the City and the Municipal Labor Coalition, representing more than 200,000 union workers. Koch has a reliable ally in Coalition leader Victor Gotbaum, who has been running the city unions for the past three years. Every week Gotbaum insisted that city workers would settle for nothing less than "affirmative action" on the TWU. Then after the initial TWU settlement bargaining had been completed, city workers more than the 2-year 6 percent transit increase — the biggest joke of the season from the expert loser who could never win more of anything for anybody at any time. But as soon as Koch said he had "sold out" on the TWU settlement with the city workers, Gotbaum was back in the press saying: "We're willing to compromise. We didn't say we had to have the same as transit, just similar," [New York Times, 25 April].

The scheme to use the TWU to batter, social-democratic joke are by no means funny. For they spell wage freeze, speed-up and layoffs for the 100,000 municipal workers he is betraying.

A chilling example of the price of reformism was the recent tentative agreement between the Newspaper Guild and union-busting New York Post boss Rupert Murdoch. Thinking it could keep its hands looking clean, the Guild agreed to palm off Murdoch's demand for a 30 percent reduction of the editorial staff (by firing at management discretion, moreover its "voluntary" layoffs. Thus with Guild's "permission" the 145 affected members of the 450 reporters, editors and advertisers and editorial workers in the Post Guild unit now have until May 21 to go "voluntary." At the present time Transit Workers are being told. City workers can see the handwriting on the wall for another sellout if what happens when they have no more pension funds left to lose? As Gotbaum babbles on Post employees are already fighting back anyway as union-busting spreads in the news­ paper industry. Now the time is for action. The TWU with its rank and file through with both from the Guinan leadership and the treacherous union-servers of the Committee of Concerned Transit Workers and take the lead in a powerful joint strike of all transit, municipal workers and non workers which would reverse the inroads made during the bank-manipulated 1974-75 "fiscal crisis."

NYC Transit Ranks Said No to Contract—Strike Now!

Courts Throw Out TWU Vote

Demonstration called by Concerned Transit Workers outside TWU office April 11.

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WARL 70S
“Like alchemists of the old days, they are looking for the saving formula,” Christer F. told a recent Spartacist publication. Comrade Christer was talking about the current Socialist Worker (USee), of which he had been a long-time member before finally rejecting the USee's brand of get-rich-quick opportunism and solidarityizing with the radical Trotskyist politics of the international Spartacist tendency (iSt). Comrade Christer recounted the story of his oppositional struggle in the present, rightward-moving KAF, which culminated in the KAF's December purge of Tendency A and B. A worker current, Tendency C, remained to plague the KAF leadership's dreams of a peaceful trade-union work. While noting the difficulties that were acceptable before the 1968 insurrections, the KAF's current was far from possessing a coherent critical tradition. Though centrists must be wary, the left social democrats or Stalinists. “For a Trotskyist Program,” in November—December 1968, this is certainly no "democracy equals social­ism," the IMT can counterpose only a verbal sleight-of-hand which terms the SWP's strategy as a "new radicalization" of a "new vanguard." With all political discussion effectively blocked, with the organization in a shambles, with the IMT and SWP loyalists more than willing to join hands against any serious left opposition, Christer and Gunilla resigned from the KAF in February to pursue political discussion with the international Spartacist tendency. "Like alchemists of the old days, they are looking for the saving formula," he said. The SWP is seeking a formula, but the KAF's purge assault directed against Comrade Christer and Gunilla and the iSt, has been turned away. and "terrorists" who are harassed. political refugees who are turned away. The reaction of the KAF leadership to its purge assault was the question of the KAF's founder­ship. For a Trotskyist Program," was no political reply but an attempt to insti­gate organizational measures against the dissidents in the group. In this way, the USee's "forthcoming" body which was instructed to expel them "solely on the basis of our political views" was packed. The left social democrats or Stalinists. “For a Trotskyist Program," in November—December 1968, this is certainly no "democracy equals social­ism," the IMT can counterpose only a verbal sleight-of-hand which terms the SWP's strategy as a "new radicalization" of a "new vanguard." With all political discussion effectively blocked, with the organization in a shambles, with the IMT and SWP loyalists more than willing to join hands against any serious left opposition, Christer and Gunilla resigned from the KAF in February to pursue political discussion with the international Spartacist tendency. Tendency C retreated into passivity, and the reaction of the KAF leadership to its purge assault was the question of the KAF's founder­ship. For a Trotskyist Program," was no political reply but an attempt to insti­gate organizational measures against the dissidents in the group. In this way, the USee's "forthcoming" body which was instructed to expel them "solely on the basis of our political views" was packed. The left social democrats or Stalinists. “For a Trotskyist Program," in November—December 1968, this is certainly no "democracy equals social­ism," the IMT can counterpose only a verbal sleight-of-hand which terms the SWP's strategy as a "new radicalization" of a "new vanguard." With all political discussion effectively blocked, with the organization in a shambles, with the IMT and SWP loyalists more than willing to join hands against any serious left opposition, Christer and Gunilla resigned from the KAF in February to pursue political discussion with the international Spartacist tendency. Tendency C retreated into passivity, and the reaction of the KAF leadership to its purge assault was the question of the KAF's founder­ship. For a Trotskyist Program," was no political reply but an attempt to insti­gate organizational measures against the dissidents in the group. In this way, the USee's "forthcoming" body which was instructed to expel them "solely on the basis of our political views" was packed. The left social democrats or Stalinists. “For a Trotskyist Program," in November—December 1968, this is certainly no "democracy equals social­ism," the IMT can counterpose only a verbal sleight-of-hand which terms the SWP's strategy as a "new radicalization" of a "new vanguard." With all political discussion effectively blocked, with the organization in a shambles, with the IMT and SWP loyalists more than willing to join hands against any serious left opposition, Christer and Gunilla resigned from the KAF in February to pursue political discussion with the international Spartacist tendency.
Shut Down All IH Plants!

Mass Pickets Trounce Scabs at Louisville Harvester

It’s been a long time since the bosses tried to scab on an official strike at a major United Auto Workers (UAW)-organized plant. The strength of the union—built in the militant and often bloody, picket-line battles of the 1930s—has kept management scab-herding restricted to small and isolated UAW-organized feeder plants, such as the long light at Essex Wire in Indiana or the ongoing strike at the Fleck Manufacturing plant in southern Ontario.

So when International Harvester tried to keep production going at its major parts plant in Louisville, Kentucky through the use of management scabs, the company got a much deserved lesson. Last week 1,000 UAW members turned out to repel the strikebreakers and shut the plant down tight.

The strike began April 13, when 1,400 members of UAW Local 1336 walked out in a sanctioned strike against Harvester’s attempts to cut incentive pay nearly in half on certain production jobs and over accumulated health and safety grievances. Local president Larry Wells told WF that the workers were also angered about recent layoffs that were meted out of line with company policy. Some 1,250 members of UAW Local 817, who work in Harvester’s foundry at the plant, reported laying off the picket lines along with eight craft unions.

The Louisville plant supplies key parts for other plants throughout the Harvester chain, and within the days the strike began, rippling production company-wide. Management brazenly decided to try to keep the plant open. Following the UAW’s regular policy of allowing managerial personnel into struck plants, Harvester brought in hundreds of foremen, many from out-of-state plants and kept production rolling.

Instead of aiding the striking workers in beating back this outrageous and dangerous precedent, the UAW International lent a hand by ordering foundry workers to join in scabbing on their own union brothers, claiming that respect for the picket lines violated an agreement with the company! A Solidarity House directive threatened the loss of insurance benefits and company disciplinary action if the foundry workers refused to comply. The UAW bigwigs also ordered Local 1336 to pull down its pickets at one gate to let the foundry workers in.

But the striking Harvester workers were not about to simply knuckle under to company scabherding and bureaucratic sabotage. Determined that their picket lines would not be overrun and with what one local UAW spokesman termed “considerable hard feelings” toward the International, over 1,000 strikers massed at the plant gates early Monday morning, April 24. Thirty Louisville cops were rushed to the scene as scabs began showing up in their cars, but according to Local president Wells, “I don’t think over a couple of them got in the plant… When they tried to run into the pickets, that’s where the trouble began. We had three pickets injured by cars hitting them and, at that point, our people defended themselves.”

When the confrontation was over, company spokesmen whined that more than 20 cars had been seriously damaged and five scabs injured. A reporter that Wells said was “grossly exaggerated.” Whatever the exact extent of the damage, Harvester got the point. The next day the strikebreakers were sent home, and no parts have been made since.

Shut Down Harvester!

The battle in Louisville, which as Wells told WF has been inspired by the militancy and solidarity of the coal miners’ recent strike, is sparking a wave of “miners fever” throughout the Harvester chain. Critically short of parts, the company has laid off thousands of workers at its Melrose Park, East Moline and Farmall plants in Illinois. In each case, it has ignored seniority provisions and denied the laid-off workers both SUB and short-workweek benefits, trying to lay the blame on the Louisville strikers.

But Harvester’s schemes backfired—instead of dividing the workers, they have created a new mood of inter-plant solidarity in the union’s ranks.

At the company’s East Moline plant, the strike for the second Monday in a row of nearly a thousand workers, out of line of seniority and without benefits, sparked a walkout that has kept the plant shut down for a week. Pickets showed up early at the plant gates, wearing hoods so they would not be recognized and disciplined. No one in any of the three UAW locals at the plant went to work. At Harvester’s Fort Wayne, Indiana truck plant the firing of four workers two weeks ago led to an overwhelming strike vote. Likewise, strike authorization from the International has reportedly been requested.

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WV Hails Launching of Spartacist Britain

The Political Bureau of the Spartacist League/U.S. and the Editorial Board of Workers Vanguard salute the British comrades on the occasion of the first issue of Spartacist Britain. SpB is the new, soon-to-be-monthly paper of the Workers Socialist League (WSL) of Alan Thornett. Some two dozen supporters of the Trotskyist Faction (TF) emerged from the WSL in solidarity with the IS. These resolutions—a magazine-type document and two supplementary documents on the Irish question and on the WSL’s work in Turkey—demonstrate the principled basis for the fusion between the TF and the London Spartacist Group accomplished at the SL/B founding conference in early March. The “Tasks in Britain” document of the SL/B and a front-page article about the WSL’s fight (published simultaneously in WF) round out this special first issue of Spartacist Britain.

Subscriptions to SpB are available from Spartacist Publications, PO Box 185, London WC1H 8JE, England. In addition to a 12-issue subscription for £1, a joint subscription for £1.50 is also available for British readers at a rate of 64 Single copies of SpB No. 1 are $2.25. A subscription to the WSL’s Workers’ Vanguard can also be obtained by sending 25 cents to Spartacist Publishing Co., Box 1377, GPO, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Spartacist Britain

WSL left wing, London Spartacist Group fuse

The rebirth of British Trotskyism

In Defence of the Revolutionary Programme...
TORONTO—Last week the 38th convention of the Letter Carriers Union of Canada, LCUPW, met in Toronto. It was a landmark meeting under the ominous shadow of Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau's determination to smash the government's wage controls and increased restrictions on the right to strike for these workers is particularly related to the desire of postal workers who have been the target of a several-years' campaign by the government to neutralize the power of postal employees as a result of successive government attacks, the convention demonstrated that the membership of the LCUPW is intent on organizing a joint nationwide week-long strike protest to attack the government's anti-labor legislation.

The bosses well remember that government has planted the seeds of doubt in the minds of workers and the government's attempts to establish a harsh labor peace. It was therefore not surprising that the first measure taken by Trudeau to push through Parliament in his current anti-labor campaign was Bill C-45, which makes it illegal for postal workers to strike during a federal election. This bill, already passed, is patently ineffective program was a cynical attempt to remove the right of self-determination for these workers to strike during a federal election. This bill, already passed, is patently ineffective program was a cynical attempt to remove the right of self-determination for these workers to strike during a federal election. This bill, already passed, is patently ineffective program was a cynical attempt to remove the right of self-determination for these workers.

The immediate targets of the government's drive are the postal workers who have been a target of the government's wage controls and restricted right to strike. The government has created a wage controls for government workers is a part of his vicious anti-labor offensive. The government has been the target of a several-years' campaign to qualitatively and quantitatively strengthen the postal service for the benefit of the general public, with the substantial assistance of the government's wage controls program in 1975-77. Rather than mounting a defensive general strike to defeat wage controls, the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has all-organized a token "day of protest" on 20 October 1976 in order to dissuade the tremendous hostility to this anti-labor law among rank-and-file trade unionists. Having taken careful notice of the CPW... in support of this resolution when the vote was held. The Toronto CLC... and refusal of the trade-union bureaucrats to launch strikes against wage controls, the government workers have decided it can proceed with confidence against postal and other government workers.

McBurney's intervention set the stage for a real convention battle. When discussion was opened on the board's resolution on Bill C-45, a delegate from Toronto rose and put forward the bulk of the resolution introduced earlier by McBurney in Local 1 and passed there. The proposal put to the convention included the demand for a two-day general strike against the government's anti-labor legislation, and the floor fight which erupted proved to be the key struggle of the convention. Delegates from Quebec, Kingston and Toronto went to the mikes to speak in favor of it. Despite the staunch opposition of the union's executive a third of the delegates rose in support of this resolution when the vote was held. The Toronto CLC... and refusal of the trade-union bureaucrats to launch strikes against wage controls, the government workers have decided it can proceed with confidence against postal and other government workers.

The bosses well remember that government has been an all-out war on the trade-union leadership of the LCUPW. The LCUPW has attempted to organize a two-day general strike against the government's anti-labor legislation, and the floor fight which erupted proved to be the key struggle of the convention. but it has been catastrophic. The McBurney intervention set the stage for a real convention battle.

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Thus, last December Toronto—where it has been earmarked as the key initial target for the government's union-bashing smear—management... by the LCUPW members for almost a year without a contract while the federal government has spelt out the CUPW settlement (which formally expires this June) by refusing to pass through contractually guaranteed cost-of-living increases. The Post Office board at the Trudeau government and its antiunion warpath. The reactionary Toronto Sun, (16 January), whining about "communist infiltration", the paper... that the average citizen can't make sense out of the postal Janes—Revolutionary Marxists, Canadian Party of Labour, Spartacist group, and such. These guys make Moscow-line Communists seem staid patriots by comparison. The Canadian bourgeoisie has since increasingly fed off at Canadian postal workers, smear-mongering for every ill imaginable—featherbedding, resistance to automations, striking, socialist activity, etc. This culminated only a few weeks ago with the "study" of its Ritchie Report. The essential purpose of which is that strikes be banned outright in the Post Office.

Underneath the rabid campaign of the press and the capitalist politicians stands real fear of the postal workers' demonstrated traditions of militant fights to win and preserve union gains. The bosses well remember that government workers won even the restricted right to strike by only an electoral vote; it is a "illegal" postal strike which smashed existing no-strike legislation. And it is fundamentally the failure of the bosses' several-years' campaign to qualitatively cripple and demoralize the postal union, the trade-union bureaucrats in the union bureaucracy, that stands behind the new round of anti-union legislation.

While seeking to mobilize anti-labor in militant actions against the government's current and proposed reactionary laws, Canadian postal workers must prepare now for a nationwide strike of both unions. CUPW members have worked for almost a year without a contract while the federal government has spelt out the CUPW settlement (which formally expires this June) by refusing to pass through contractually guaranteed cost-of-living increases. The Post Office board at the Trudeau government and its antiunion warpath. The reactionary Toronto Sun, (16 January), whining about "communist infiltration", the paper... that the average citizen can't make sense out of the postal Janes—Revolutionary Marxists, Canadian Party of Labour, Spartacist group, and such. These guys make Moscow-line Communists seem staid patriots by comparison. The Canadian bourgeoisie has since increasingly fed off at Canadian postal workers, smear-mongering for every ill imaginable—featherbedding, resistance to automations, striking, socialist activity, etc. This culminated only a few weeks ago with the "study" of its Ritchie Report. The essential purpose of which is that strikes be banned outright in the Post Office.

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Since last June the value of the dollar has plummeted sharply against the so-called "strong" currencies—15 percent against the West German mark, 20 percent against the Japanese yen, 28 percent against the Swiss franc. This sharp devaluation has naturally accelerated a tendency to move away from the dollar as the basic currency of international capitalism. Thus the curtail of petroleum exporting countries (OPEC) is considering denominate the price of oil in its own currency rather than in dollars as it is at present. More significantly, at the Copenhagen Common Market summit in April, West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt proposed that member countries settle accounts with one another in their own currencies and also intervene to prop up weak currencies, like the Italian lira, only in Common Market denominations. In other words, Schmidt proposed to transform West Europe into a mark zone, using dollars only in extra-European transactions.

The Carter administration has blamed the huge U.S. balance of payments deficit and rising dollar devaluation on purely conjunctural factors—the high cost of oil imports, the stagnation of the West European economies which limits demand for American exports. However, far more profound factors are involved in the current and indeed recurrent dollar crisis. The "Great Dollar Slide of 1977-78" marks a further phase in the decline of American dominance in the capitalist world, a dominance achieved through its victory in World War II and the suppression of the post-war revolutionary wave in West Europe and Japan.

The Historic World Money Crisis

The recurrent devaluations of the American dollar since 1970 are not only an expression of the relative weakening of the American economy, but also of a fundamental crisis of the imperialist financial system. The continual international monetary "crises" are clear and dramatic proof of the Leninist assertion that since August 1914 the nation-state system has become a fundamental barrier to the expansion of production. World War I destroyed once and for all the gold standard, which fixed the value of national currencies in terms of gold. All imperialist powers financed the war through domestic inflation, eliminating the link between their currencies and a universal standard of value. After a period of international monetary chaos, the sterling standard was established in 1925 by making the British pound convertible into gold at a supposedly stable price. The sterling standard broke down under the impact of the Great Depression. The 1930's were a period of international financial anarchy, continual competitive devaluations and widespread trade protectionism. At the Bretton Woods conference in 1944 the U.S. established the dollar standard by making its currency convertible into gold for governments (not private parties) at $35 an ounce. This standard lasted until Nixon's 15 August (1971), when the U.S. was forced by its declining economic position among the imperialist powers to drastically devalue the dollar.

Fundamentally the gold standard cannot be replaced by a national currency. The "strong" key currency always eventually becomes the weakest in the system. Because its currency is "as good as gold," the key country can run large balance of payments deficits with little restraint. And the capitalists and government of the key currency country naturally exploit this advantage. The key country inevitably floods the world with its currency far in excess of its gold holdings and of foreign demand for exchange reserves. The other capitalist countries are then forced to pay the high price of devaluation of the key currency— which means sacrificing their own competitive advantage (making their exports relatively more expensive, thus threatening an adverse effect on their balance of trade), reducing the value of their reserves and (by abandoning the previous standard) throwing the system into chaos, accumulating ever more of the key currency, a policy which feeds domestic inflation. Eventually the contradiction becomes a critical point and the system collapses.

The British pound sterling standard lasted but six years (1925-31). Because of the overwhelming economic and military superiority of the U.S. as it emerged from World War II, the dollar standard lasted far longer, nonetheless, it too collapsed of its inherent contradictions. During the 1950's and 60's the U.S. ran a balance of payments deficit but a continual balance of payments deficit. This was due to massive capital investment in West Europe and Latin America as well as the colonial world. By accumulating dollars in the 1960's, the West European ruling classes were in effect subsidizing the American takeover of their own productive assets. Gaulist France sought to counter this by converting all of its dollar holdings into gold. By the late 1960's foreign dollar holdings exceeded many times over the U.S. gold reserves at the official gold price.

The gradual decline in the productivity of U.S. industry relative to West Europe and Japan was reinforced by the inflationary financing of the Vietnam War. In 1971 the U.S. ran a balance of trade deficit for the first time since 1893! In August of that year Nixon abolished the convertibility of the dollar at the official $35 gold price, devalued against the other major currencies and slapped on a tariff hike (the latter directly violating U.S.-sponsored international treaties). So...end of dollar standard.

One last attempt was made to preserve fixed exchange rates. This was the Smithsonian Agreement of December 1971, which Nixon hailed as "the greatest monetary agreement in world history." At the time we wrote: "...the differences are too irreconcilable for a return to a stable international monetary system. The next period will be one of international financial anarchy, quite similar to the 1930's. Managed fluctuating exchange rates, numerous ad hoc trade and capital controls, bilateral commercial and credit deals and the complete penetration of political and financial relations..." "American Empire Shaken," #1 No. 2, November 1971

Nixon's "greatest monetary agreement in world history" collapsed scanted 14 months later with another dollar devaluation. Since March 1973 exchange rates have been determined by market supply and demand speculation, influenced by various and conflicting efforts of government intervention. This system or rather non-system is called "managed fluctuating exchange rates" in official pronouncements and "dirty floating" by its wide spectrum of critics. Today exchange rates are governed not by purely market factors but by a kind of systematic and predictable government policy. Government intervention in the foreign exchange market, like all other economic policies, is the temporary outcome of conflicting capitalist interests (e.g., financiers versus industrialists), the pressure of the labor movement and anti-imperialist rivalries and alliances. Moreover, exchange rate policies are governed not only by narrow, short-term economic considerations but also by strategic political and military factors.

Some neanderthal right-wing economists like Milton Friedman advocate freely fluctuating exchange rates with no government intervention. Under this kind of laissez-faire regime, speculation would lead to such wilds' gyrating exchange rates that it would be impossible for importers or exporters to project prices, costs and profits. A true free market for foreign exchange would thus lead to a qualitative contraction of international commerce and an acceler-
Money as universal standard of value (gold) is not the promissory note of national state credit. Soviet Chervonets, South African Kruggerand, British New Sovereign (above) retain their value as the American dollar (right) plummets against other currencies.

stroved the trade unions, and might not be feasible even then. Although the dollar has fluctuated widely against other currencies and gold since the March 1973 devaluation, it has still remained the basic unit of international trade and finance. There has, however, been a gradual tendency for the West German mark to become the second reserve currency. While in 1970 foreign banks held only $700 million in marks as reserves, by 1976 the figure had risen to $7.7 billion (Business Week, 27 March). The present plunge in the dollar's value threatens to turn the retreat from the dollar as the world's basic currency into a rout.

Carter's "Malign Neglect" of the Dollar

The Carter administration has fo­
cused public attention on imbalances of payments deficit and falling dollar on the high cost of oil imports. Since the Arab oil boycotts and the oil embargoes are hardly popular with the American people, they are easy targets for all of the country's economic ills. While the fourfold increase in the world price of oil since 1973 has created serious problems for the U.S., this administration does not account for the exceptional U.S. trade deficit this past year. The U.S. deficit may have soared because of its oil than West Europe or Japan, the latter country now running a large trade surplus.

The basic cause of the present large American balance of trade deficit is that the U.S. has recovered in part from the 1972-75 world depression (although the unemployment rate is still higher than in 1973), while West Europe and Japan have not. In 1977 industrial production in the U.S. was 9 percent higher, in Japan 5 percent; it increased only 3 percent in Japan, remained more or less constant in West Germany, France and Britain and fell 5 percent in Italy. (U.S. Department of Commerce, International Economic Indicators, March 1978). Given this conjunctural pattern, it is natural that the U.S. would tend to pull in imports and find it hard to export.

However, in addition to the present standard "beggar my neighbor" measures of the 1930's Depression, European governments are finding it increasingly difficult to manipulate exchange rates for competitive advantage. For example, the conservative West German Bonner General-Anzeiger wrote: "The dollar's downward slide is the result of a manipulation to help balance continuing export weakness" (quoted in Wall Street Journal, 19 December 1977). In fact Washington has not actually intervened to devalue the dollar; it has just passively let the market and speculation take their course—straight down. This policy has been labeled "malign neglect" by Friz Leutewiler, head of the Swiss central bank. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal, the chief architect of the "malign neglect" policy, has denounced critics, who urge deflationary measures, as "defend" the dollar, for risking a recession: "We don't believe that a recession in the United States is the right way to deal with the dollar problem, I hope no one seriously suggests that the United States should follow policies getting us back to the depression years without some means of solving the dollar problem..." (Business Week, 3 April).

The Carter administration has told the critics of "malign neglect" that Carter's "Turnabout Toward Deflation" will be lower than it now is.

We need hardly add that for the Wall Street Journal the economic health of the United States is measured by the next quarter's profits of Chase Manhattan and Morgan Guaranty Trust.

The ruling-class dispute over Carter's "malign neglect" of the dollar is at bottom part of the continuing argument between inflationists and deflationists, the two basic currents of bourgeois economic policy since the Great Depression. The labor movement has generally supported liberal Keynesian inflationists who promise a higher growth rate and reduced unemployment. In reality, the working class has nothing to gain by tolerating inflation in the expectation of minimizing unemployment. Accelerating inflation, as in 1972-73, will always lead to a crisis and sharp downturn. As Leon Trotsky wrote over forty years ago: "In this period of social crisis, of economic shocks, inflation and deflation are two complementary instruments for throwing into on the cost of devising capitalism. Bourgeois power's original sin in this question is: it is better to cut the workers' throats with the saw of inflation or with the simple knife of deflation. Choosing between these two, the same energy against the saw and against the knife." [emphasis in original] (The Belgian Dispute and the New York Tribune, Writings 1914-15).

Carter's Turnabout Toward Deflation

Without admitting that the past defeated policy of Keynes was correct, Carter has recently reversed himself and seems half-seriously trying to prevent further damage in the dollar's value. There is widespread speculation that Blumenthal, the hardliner behind the "malign neglect" policy, will be axed as Wall Street has been screaming for his head for months. Carter's turnabout toward "defending" the dollar is probably motivated by real pressure from financial interests, worry about the accelerating inflation, desire continued on page 8

The claim of the liberal devaluationists, such as Blumenthal and Samuelson, that the recent plunge of the dollar is in the best interest of American working people is false. Even leaving aside the chauvinist attitude toward workers in Japan or West Germany, these liberals ignore or deny the inflationary impact of the sharp dollar devaluation. While the U.S. is less dependent on imports than any other major capitalist country, domestic prices are not insulated from exchange rate changes. Dollar devaluation means that the price of all foreign goods in the U.S. market must rise. Volkswagen, for example, has raised its prices five times since last April. Moreover, American products which compete with foreign goods will also raise their prices. For example, last December General Motors boosted the price of its sub-compact Chevette by $100 despite weak demand. Since this sub-compact competes mainly with Japanese and European models, GM could raise its price and still hold a competitive advantage. Competitive devaluation is, by itself, a protection trade protectionism, means inflation.

The American capitalist class is by no means mellowing down. Carter's "malign neglect" of the dollar. Far from it! If on the one hand the dollar devaluation gives General Motors a immence recovery of the West European economies. This "wait­­ing for the West German boom" scenario was presented, for example, in early March by Charles Schultze, head of the Council of Economic Advisers: "Our growth rate won't be much further ahead of our trading partners this year because they are going to be growing a lot faster." Wall Street Journal, March 3. This is not so much wishful thinking as a cynical cover argument to cover the lack of real devaluation in Schultze's prediction that the American and West European growth rates will be closer together this year may turn out to be the case, but in exactly the opposite direction than he projects. While there is no sign of a significant upturn in the West European economies, in the first quarter of this year the U.S. gross national product fell, albeit slightly, for the first time in three years.

While all administration officials, even Blumenthal, have to pay lip service to a "strong" dollar, liberal Democratic academicians can frankly defend competi­tive devaluation. Thus, Paul Samuel­­son, the country's leading liberal econo­mist, writes in his regular Newsweek (27 March) column: "Had Chancellor Schmidt and Prime Minister Fukuda been given their way by President Carter and Secretary Blumenthal, the U.S. interventions to stabilize the dollar would have left us tens of billions pounds today and we'd be having a 1978 crisis of sharp parity readjustments. Back up against the noose strings, the Fed would have clamped down on the money supply, nailing the forces of recovery in building and 

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Dollar Crisis... (continued from page 7)

To avoid a major fracture with its important West German ally and perhaps forestall possible friction with the other NATO members over international monetary arrangements.

The much publicized sale of $300 million of West German marks is a trivial matter, even though anything as a stopgap. However, it is being treated with the same panicky shift in economic policy. In the past few months there has been a significant downturn toward the dollar in Bonn's overall monetary policy. While in the last quarter of 1977 bank reserves increased at an annual rate of 4.4 percent, in the first quarter of this year the rate was down to 4.4 percent (Business Week, 1 May). The latest move of the Federal Reserve to defend the dollar serves only to drive the exchange in the opposite direction. It is a widely recognized fact that the dollar slide does not mean that this will necessarily happen in the near future. Capitalists must claim and indeed believe that they can control the economy through fiscal and monetary policy. The recent move of the Reserve Bank of New York to defend the dollar is an attempt to forestall a run for control of the dollar by saying that there is little, if anything, they can do about inflation or unemployment. The only basic direction of the economy not decided in Washington, is the sum total of all capitalist countries. Each capitalist country has to maximize its own profits or at least cut down Stalinist and capitalist policy, will not under all circumstances lead to a contraction in borrowing, consumption and investment, just as "easy money" and interest rates, tighter credit, a reduced budget deficit and tariffs or quotas on imported goods.

Despite much grousing, the West German government has in fact intervened in the exchange markets to keep the mark more stable than many other West European currencies. Between November and February the West German central bank purchased some $1 billion in foreign currency and short-term capital, although since then it has been more bargained in accumulating this unwanted paper. Oumar Emminger, head of the West German central bank, spoke nothing less than the truth when he stated: If we hadn't intervened, it would have fallen into the cellar and we would have had real turbulence in exchange markets. In our country, there wasn't an ounce for dollars, he said.

Wall Street Journal, 14 March

Why has the West German government, however, intervened in the dollar crisis in order to keep up the value of the pound? Bonn officials like the economists have seen only the loth of motives—a desire to maintain the stability of international financial arrangements. But this one and not the most important one of Bonn's motives for supporting the dollar. Since Bonn's dependence on the dollar mark increases the cost of West German goods in the world market, Bonn's rulers may be seeking a way to support the mark through an export subsidy, not different in principle from a tax rebate on export earnings. Thus it may be in Bonn's own economic interest to maintain a high value for the mark, and for this reason for lending (or giving) the U.S. billions is not in the narrow sense economic.

The German capitalist class aspires to reconquer the eastern part of their own country from the Soviet bloc. Hitler's state that is the central element in U.S.-German relations. It is just as simple as the fact that in order to reverse their defeat in the 1974-75 depression was fueled by personal consumption expenditure increases faster than total personal income. Since then the U.S. has meant an enormous rise in personal consumption expenditure. The increase in consumer spending is not only in the decline of the pound but in the marked change in consumer spending habits. In the past six months the expansion of bank reserves and a decline in the gross national product. Carter's tenured credit must lead to a tightening of credit must lead to a decline in the gross national product.

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Margolis... (continued from page 12)

....Margolis' leadership role has been nearly a decade old, and she has long been a steady, hard-working activist. She has fought for workers' rights and for social justice, and she is well respected in her community for her dedication and commitment. She is a leader in the union and is widely regarded as a respected and powerful voice for change.

....The strike at Stearns hit its peak in 1972, when miners went on strike for three months. The company fought back with violence, includingusing dogs and mounted police to keep the miners out of the mine. Despite the violence, the miners were able to win some important concessions, including a wage increase and an end to the use of dogs in the mines.

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Neutron Bomb...

(continued from page 1)

U.S. Beef Up NATO Forces

A 1977 U.S. government interagency study painted a very gloomy picture of NADT's forces in Central Europe. The study concentrated on the two-to-one advantage that the Warsaw Pact enjoys in tanks and in its three-to-one advantage in manpower. It also noted that superior Soviet supplies reduce the amount of warning time NATO forces would have in case of attack.

The study prompted an August directive by Carter that NATO forces be strengthened, a directive which was implemented in Defense Secretary Harold Brown's 1978 report to Congress and his 1979 budget. The latter is being touted as the "NATO budget." The 3 percent real increase in funds called for in the 1979 proposal is intended largely for expenditures in Europe—new weapons and for greater integration of imperialist military activities. Of particular import is the emphasis on tank warfare. Brown plans to spend $4.7 billion over nine years to produce a new tank, the XM-1, and projects additional massive expenditures on laser-guided anti-tank missiles, tactical intelligence devices and tactical aircraft.

More ominous than any specific budgetary item is the accompanying rhetoric. For the last year, in articles after article as the Atlantic Coast Quarterly and Orbis, major bourgeois political and military figures have been deprecating the rapidly deteriorating position of the West in Europe—and in increasingly threatening language the balance of forces in central Europe—and in increasingly threatening language the necessary response.

Thus a recent book by a Belgian general entitled Europe Without Defense holds that a conventional attack by the Warsaw Pact would place

architects of the Vietnam War, Sam Huntington.

Neutrons Over Nuremberg

For the military strategists of imperialism, obsessed with the vision of the war for the West being waged against Soviet Panzer divisions on West German or Belgian soil, development of an anti-tank weapon with minimum "collateral" damage became paramount. The neutron bomb seems ideally suited.

British tanks in West Germany.

However, as the Carter/Schmidt shenanigans demonstrate, the effort to hone the NATO sword is not all that simple. The U.S. capitalist, his dollar still declining against the West German mark, has repeatedly condemned the refusal of its European allies to increase military expenditures. The European bourgeois opinion has moved rightward, as the U.S. imperialists go on the offensive to possess 656 very mobile missiles aboard submarines. M.R.'s real selling point is that the neutron bomb will independently deliverable and extremely accurate warheads as compared to the independent nuclear arsenal deployed Minuteman III ICBM.

At the same time the Pentagon is intent upon developing a battery of ICBM warheads to attempt to eliminate both the Soviet submarine and land-based nuclear forces. The former is relatively easy, since the U.S. navy has numerous submarines designed to carry nuclear weapons, and the latter is considerably more difficult, since the U.S. submarine force is restricted, as are the Soviet submarine forces, by the Anti-Submarine Treaty.

In the case of the ICBM, the United States is trying to develop a new weapon, the MX, based on the MX, which is the only new ICBM to be fielded in the last decade. The MX, however, is the U.S. version of a French weapon, the SEP, which is being developed by France and Britain.

More significant is the inexorable movement of the Pentagon toward a "minimum usable force" concept. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sam Nunn recently stated that the abandonment of any weapons production for the "neutron bomb" is outlandish, as the U.S. nuclear arsenal consists of 3,100 warheads, 656 very mobile missiles aboard submarines. M.R.'s real selling point is that the neutron bomb will independently deliverable and extremely accurate warheads as compared to the independent nuclear arsenal deployed Minuteman III ICBM.

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strike instructors, the pope, pacifists and libertarians, is that the neutron bomb lowers the "nuclear threshold," i.e., its lesser cost and damage makes it more likely to be used.

If one is a Rand Corporation strategic analyst for whom war is simply the continuation of game theory by other means, perhaps this makes sense. But for the imperialist generals war is quite definitely a life-and-death matter, and there are no holds barred. In fact, the new army field manual dictates that tactical nuclear weapons are an American VATO battlefield strategy and calls for each commander to fire large numbers (500 or more) of high-yield nuclear devices.

It is a time-tested aspect of Stalinist mismanagement to concentrate on the currently least popular weapon for the focus as its "pro-peace" front groups and the US Congress. In May 1945, its May session on disarmament, the CPs are milking the neutron bomb for all it's worth. (A "weapon against people not property." Well, so is the bow and arrow.) What is forgotten in the "neutron bomb hysteria" is that what generally makes a weapon unpopular in the bourgeois circles of which Stalinists are bound to lose, is its effectiveness. The ABM "victory" gave us MIR; the B-1 "victory" gave us Cruise. After each of these "victories," its lesser neurotic bomb was launched.

SALT
Part and parcel of this is the criminal Stalinist hoax of the possibility of reforming the bourgeois arsenal of terror, of exchanging guns for butter—the "disarmament talks."

Contrary to the reformist illusion, disarmment agreements are either meaningless public-relations gimmicks or part of the imperialists' military offensive. Under the terms of the SALT I agreement the U.S. tripled its inventory of strategic warheads by MIRV'ing its 1,000 tactical nuclear weapons and last year called for a virtual cessation of Soviet strategic arms programs, and the outcome of this year's SALT II is to be finalized will allow the U.S. to let its B-52's (or 747's) with deadly Cruise missiles again take off. The Trident submarine and increase the number of its strategic launchers as well. Even under the terms of SALT I, Henry Jackson has vowed to lead a (probably successfully) fight against ratification.

Stalinists at the Mutual and Balanced Force Reduction negotiations, the United States is seeking to strengthen its military posture. These talks have stalled since 1975 when NATO proposed that in return for its removal of tactical nuclear weapons and 29,000 U.S. troops, the Soviets should remove an entire army from East Germany.

Giving buckedhod support to the Stalinist peace gimmicks are the reformists of the SWP. Last year, in an exchange with veteran SWPer Morris Starkis, SWP theoretician emeritus Joseph Hansen sought to place equal blame for the arms race on the USSR and the U.S.—essentially abandoning the Trotskyist call for unconditional demilitarization of the former. Perhaps somewhat embarrassed, the SWP has not-at-all-transparently sought to step back from this regrettable betrayal of Trotskyism in an article in the 17 March Militant entitled "U.S. versus USSR: Who is to Blame for the Threat of War?" In the article David Frankel attempted to place the "blame" on the U.S.

However, in the face of masses of pacifists and liberals even the slickest left reformist is prostrate. First, according to Frankel, a real reformist policy would accept "slight military disadvantages in the interest of the peace, tho the political issues facing the masses around the world." Such a government would, for example, encourage "a movement of hundreds of thousands in opposition to nuclear power."

What idiocy! Frankel is in effect shamelessly advocating that the USSR (and China) give up certain "slight" military advantages to cater to the pacifist anti-technological delusions of sections of the petty bourgeoisie, best exemplified by the motley Clammershi Alliance. Perhaps Comrade Frankel will someday inform us what "slight military disadvantages" the USSR should accept vis-a-vis the imperialists. Does he agree with his comrade Joe Moore that the SWP should "courageously begin disarming to "expose" the imperialists? Perhaps Frankel wants to "initiative" to continue until the imperialists can launch a successful nuclear first strike against the USSR. That would more concretely expose the predatory war aims of American imperialism, wouldn't it? Or would he join the other 700 or so who pass Jimmy Carter for past 120 years in vainly carrying out his anti Soviet "human rights campaign" that his "patience" shamelessly tails?

In fact, encouraging grossly reformist, pacific movements and accepting military disadvantage is precisely what Stalinism does—and in a big way—from its withdrawal of forces from the western borders of the USSR. That maps the way to SALT II to SALT negotiations.

To a revolutionist, Stalinism's crimes include the acceptance and promulgation of both the "disarmament" "detente" schemes which put the deformed and degenerated workers states at a military disadvantage. The integral part of the Trotskyist movement condemnation of the gains of the social revolutions embodied in the Soviet, the East European, Chinese, Cuban and Indo-Chinese, deformed workers states—revolutionaries have an obligation to denounce these schemes and expose those pseudo-realist reformists who foster them. Above all, the successful defense and extension of the gains of the 1917 October Revolution requires construction of Trotskyist parties in the Soviet Union and deformed workers states, to lead the working masses to a political revolution to oust the counter-revolutionary Stalinist bureaucracies.

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Moro... (continued from page 1)

without conditions. And Moro's execution by the Red Brigades would in no way serve the socialist cause, and would instead be used to justify increased reactionary state terror against leftist militants.

The abduction of Aldo Moro was a stupid act of individual terrorism. Nevertheless, the reactionaries, "anti-terrorists" hysteria being whipped up against the Red Brigades, with the complicity of various "far left" groups who refer (without a shred of evidence) to the kidnapping as a "rightist-manipulated plot" and "negligence" to demand freedom for the prisoners now being tried in Torino. The only people who today have an interest in opposing the exchange proposed by the Red Brigades are those who expect to gain by murder and continued imprisonment of their political prisoners.
UMWA Tops Oppose Mass Picketing

Stearns Miners Must Not Stand Alone!

WHITLEY CITY, Kentucky, April 29 - Striking coal miners, their families and supporters rallied today at a woodland campground a few miles north of here in the 21st month of a bitter fight for union recognition at the Stearns Justus mine. But in addition to their disappointment at the small turnout of 350, the embattled miners were frustrated when they heard leaders of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) termed the workers' union muscle "unbelievable," the only thing the UMWA officials have left to offer is the promise of a publicity campaign to "educate Blue Diamond stockholders." Esselstyn himself expressed the International's policy with unintended irony: "There is only one way to lead your people and that is to stand behind them."

Margolis Elected CWA Convention Delegate

SAN FRANCISCO, April 28 - Official election results for national convention delegates from Local 9410 of the Communications Workers of America (CWA), announced here tonight, reported the victory of Militant Action Caucus (MAC) candidate Jane Margolis. Margolis, a PBX installer and former Local 9415 (East Bay) executive board representative for traffic, received 299 votes and was elected as one of the three local officers. Significantly, 50 Local 9410 members "bulleted" their ballots, voting only for the MAC candidate.

Moreover, Margolis won in the face of constant company harassment throughout the election period. During this time the MAC candidate, alone among the nominees, was prevented by security guards from distributing her campaign literature in key traffic (operator) locations. This is not the first time the Bell System has tried to silence MAC candidates. Several times the company has tried to ban their literature on the grounds that it is hostile to AT&T. MAC calls for nationalization of the telephone company without compensation! Ma Bell was not wrong in singling out Margolis as the only candidate who represented a real threat, but its heavy-handed censorship did not intimidate the CWA ranks.

In an industry where the predominantly female traffic and largely male craft departments have been historically pitted against each other, it was significant that Margolis' support was evenly divided among both divisions. This reflected the long struggle of the Militant Action Caucus for union programs to defend and upgrade women workers, while giving no quarter to union-busting affirmative action schemes, and MAC's fight for strike action to protect the jobs of plant workers threatened by speed-up and automation.

In addition Margolis received much support from new hires in traffic, the high-turnover section traditionally most subject to company harassment and intimidation. While the union leadership is habitually lax in collecting the $2 initiation fee necessary to make new members of the union, Margolis was a real threat. But her opponent was not as busy with phone wires as with phone lines. She never had to go through the motions of distributing literature to women drivers and plant workers, and she never had to worry about being involved in a strike for recognition, as Belting was when he helped the Stearns picket lines twice during the national strike. Though Belting was recently reinstated by the company's management, the strike at the Stearns mine continued on page 9.